



Contact: Kathleen Roberts
Somerset Medical Center
(908)595-2319
kroberts@somerset-healthcare.com

Jennifer Ryan
CINJ Office of Communications
(732)235-9891
ryanje@umdnj.edu

**THE CANCER INSTITUTE OF NEW JERSEY WELCOMES SOMERSET
MEDICAL CENTER AS ITS NEWEST CLINICAL RESEARCH AFFILIATE**

Patients Gain Greater Access to State-of-the-Art Cancer Care Close to Home

SOMERVILLE, N.J., OCTOBER 21, 2003 – Somerset Medical Center has become a clinical research affiliate of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ), in New Brunswick, NJ, expanding its patients' access to the latest cancer research and enabling patients to receive the most promising cancer treatments close to home. The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, which is a major institute of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, is the state's first and only cancer center to earn the prestigious designation of Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute.

"This new affiliation ensures that our cancer patients can receive the highest quality care right here in New Jersey, giving them the best chance for a complete recovery," said Dennis C. Miller, FACHE, president and chief executive officer of Somerset Medical Center.

The new affiliation agreement between Somerset Medical Center and The Cancer Institute of New Jersey follows an agreement announced in July 2003 between UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Somerset Medical Center, which enhanced the institutions collaborative residency programs in the areas of surgery and obstetrics & gynecology.

“These agreements advance our commitment to excellence in education, research, patient care and community health,” said Harold L. Paz, M.D., Dean, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

“Somerset Medical Center has developed a reputation of excellence in cancer care and has demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing the health care needs of its community,” said Dr. Mary Todd, deputy director of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Professor in the Department of Medicine, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. “We are pleased to welcome the medical center to our affiliate network to help bring the latest, most advanced cancer treatments to the Central New Jersey region.”

As one of CINJ’s twenty institutional affiliates, Somerset Medical Center will offer patients greater opportunities to participate in cancer research studies. Patients may enroll in CINJ’s clinical trials and cooperative group protocols, but still receive their care and treatment at Somerset Medical Center. Somerset Medical Center patients can also access clinical trials through New Jersey Cancer Trial Connect (NJCTC), a web-based cancer resource designed to provide information about innovative cancer clinical research trials to patients, funded by the state and operated by The Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

In CINJ's research laboratories, which are supported by more than \$82 million annually in research grants, investigators conduct studies on all forms of cancer. Research areas include oncogenes, epidemiology, chemical carcinogenesis, tumor virology and immunology, drug development and resistance, the relationship between cellular and genetic mechanisms and tumor development and cancer genomics.

"Increased access to clinical trials will be extremely beneficial to our patients," said oncologist Kathleen C. Toomey, M.D., who chairs Somerset Medical Center's Institutional Review Board, which approves new clinical trials conducted at the medical center. "These studies help provide critical knowledge about ways to manage cancer that can help improve patients' quality of life and also impact the lives of generations to come."

The new affiliation will enable Somerset Medical Center's cancer patients to receive second opinions from specialists at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. CINJ will also provide community education programs on cancer-related topics at Somerset Medical Center and will offer continuing education courses for Somerset Medical Center's physicians, nurses and staff.

Faculty and staff of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey will also serve as an important resource as Somerset Medical Center expands its cancer care services and develops plans for a new comprehensive cancer center.

For more information about the Cancer Center at Somerset Medical Center, visit www.somersetmedicalcenter.com. For a physician referral, call 1-800-443-4605.

Somerset Medical Center is a nationally accredited 355-bed acute care and teaching hospital providing comprehensive emergency, medical/surgical and rehabilitative services to Central New Jersey residents. In addition to inpatient, same-day and outpatient care, the medical center offers a broad range of community programs ranging from health fairs and screenings to seminars and support groups. Somerset Medical Center is a major clinical affiliate of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Leading the war against cancer is The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, the state's first and only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. CINJ is dedicated to improving the prevention, detection, treatment and care of patients with cancer, through the transformation of laboratory discoveries into clinical practice. CINJ's Providers' Network is comprised of twenty Partner and Affiliate institutions throughout the state and provides a mechanism to rapidly disseminate important, valid discoveries into the community.

As one of the nation's leading comprehensive medical schools, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School with campuses in New Brunswick, Piscataway and Camden, is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in education, research, health care delivery and the promotion of community health for the residents of New Jersey. With 2,500 full-time and volunteer faculty, the medical school maintains educational programs at the undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels for more than 1,500 students, as well as continuing education courses for health care professionals and community education programs. The medical school encompasses 21 basic science and clinical departments and also integrates diverse clinical programs conducted at its 34 hospital affiliates and numerous ambulatory care sites in the region. UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School also hosts 85 centers and institutes; among them are The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, the Cardiovascular Institute, the Child Health Institute of New Jersey, the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine, and the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute.

###