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Clinical Trials Research to Benefit from Collaboration

*First State Program will Join Cancer Center and School of Nursing
to Improve Standard of Care*

New Brunswick, N.J., March 13, 2006 – As part of the nation’s largest health sciences institute and the only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in New Jersey, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) is continuing to make progress as a leader in cancer care, research and education, by becoming the primary clinical site for a new nursing program focusing on clinical trials research, implementation and management.

The Clinical Trials Research Nurse program at the UMDNJ-School of Nursing in Newark and Stratford, will help establish nursing standards of care for scientifically valid clinical trials. Developed in collaboration with CINJ, the Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degree gives nurses didactic and clinical experience that will prepare them for positions in health systems, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, and federal agencies. Curriculum focuses on understanding the latest treatments, and improving the quality of patient care and patient outcomes. UMDNJ is the only university in the state to establish a graduate degree program for nurses who want to specialize in clinical trials research.

“We are proud that our faculty is involved in research at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and in a variety of basic sciences and clinical settings,” said Dr. Sara Torres, dean of the UMDNJ-School of Nursing. “Clinical Trials Research Nurse students will benefit from their mentorship during fieldwork. As graduates, our students will be prepared to serve in leadership roles and participate in research from conception to completion.”

“While a Clinical Trials Research Nurse’s main responsibilities are patient care and patient safety, this individual also manages studies and monitors compliance with federal standards,” said Rita Musanti, an instructor at the UMDNJ-School of Nursing and an advanced practice nurse at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. “The nurse’s value will be evident across the spectrum of care for the clinical trial participant. Nurses will be involved in many areas such as in providing patient care, designing databases, monitoring regulatory adherence, evaluating data, and managing budgets.”

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This 38-credit program can be completed in three semesters of full-time study; part-time study is also available. Classes in the core curriculum are available online and via distance learning technology. During their final semester of study, students will pursue clinical trials fieldwork that will include work in settings such as hospitals, research institutes, and pharmaceutical companies. Fieldwork may focus on various specialties including, but not limited to, cardiology, pharmacology, and oncology.

“Historically, nurses have held a variety of significant roles in clinical trials research,” said Dr. Regina Cunningham, chief nursing officer at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. “Through this degree program nurses who are interested in oncology research, for example, can complete their fieldwork at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey.”

Applications are now being accepted for admission to courses at the UMDNJ-School of Nursing in Newark and Stratford. For more information, contact Debra Savage, RN, BA, Nurse Recruiter at the UMDNJ-School of Nursing, at 973-972-9245. Ms. Savage can also be reached via e-mail at savageda@umdnj.edu.

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is the state’s first and only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, and is dedicated to improving the prevention, detection, treatment and care of patients with cancer. CINJ’s physician-scientists engage in translational research, transforming their laboratory discoveries into clinical practice—quite literally bringing research to life. The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is a Center of Excellence of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. To support CINJ, please call 732/235-8614.

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Network is comprised of hospitals throughout the state and provides a mechanism to rapidly disseminate important discoveries into the community. Partner Hospitals: Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Atlantic Health System (Morristown Memorial Hospital, Mountainside Hospital, Overlook Hospital). Affiliate Hospitals: Bayshore Community Hospital, CentraState Healthcare System, Cooper University Hospital (CINJ at Cooper),* Jersey Shore University Medical Center, JFK Medical Center, Monmouth Medical Center, Raritan Bay Medical Center, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton (CINJ-Hamilton), Saint Peter’s University Hospital, Somerset Medical Center, Southern Ocean County Hospital, The University Hospital/UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School*, and University Medical Center at Princeton.

* Academic Affiliate

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