



ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON
MEDICAL SCHOOL

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey



Contact: Candace Botnick
Office of Communications
732/235-9871
botnicca@umdnj.edu

**Over \$725,000 Raised to Help Bring Research to Life at
The Cancer Institute of New Jersey During Annual Award of Hope Gala**
Event Honored Individuals Leading the Fight to Eradicate Cancer

Editor's Note: Photos of the honorees and other dignitaries who attended the Award of Hope Gala are available to download at http://www.cinj.org/aboutcinj/special_events.htm.

New Brunswick, New Jersey, November 6, 2006 – A spectacular evening at Pontefract Farm hosted by The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Foundation on October 7, 2006 raised over \$725,000 for cancer research, patient care and community outreach at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ). During the Eleventh Annual *Award of Hope Gala and Benefit Auction* breast cancer patient Trish O'Neill and cancer survivor Va'Nechia Simmons provided a moving tribute to their physicians, Dr. Deborah Toppmeyer (Skillman, NJ), Director of the New Jersey Comprehensive Breast Care Center and the LIFE Center at CINJ and Associate Professor of Medicine, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Dr. Thomas Kearney (Princeton, NJ), Director of Breast Care Services at CINJ and Associate Professor of Surgery, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, when they presented them with this year's *Leadership in Patient Care Award*. While Drs. Toppmeyer and Kearney were presented the Award for their dedication to their patients, their research, and the community, they both agreed that the true heroes in the battle against breast cancer are the patients and survivors.

Also during the evening, Governor Christine Todd Whitman and John R. Whitman (Oldwick, NJ) were presented with the *Award of Hope* for their years of support to bring a cancer center of extraordinary quality to the citizens of New Jersey and for their leadership to continue to advance cancer care and discovery. Over the past several years, the Whitman's have played an integral role in building, nurturing and leading CINJ to its position as one of the nation's leading cancer research and treatment centers.

The CINJ Foundation is grateful to the following sponsors for their leadership role in making the 2006 Award of Hope Gala such a success: Gala Presenting Sponsor - Arshad and Ann Zakaria; Tribute Journal Sponsor - Merrill Lynch; Award of Hope Circle Sponsors - Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, Clearview Projects, IDT Foundation, Johnson & Johnson, Matrix Real Estate Services and The Robert E. Campbell Family; and Silent Auction Sponsor - Hoffman-La Roche Inc.

Since its inception, the Gala has raised close to \$7,000,000 for cancer research, patient care, and education programs at CINJ. Established in 1997, the *Award of Hope* was created to recognize individuals, corporations and foundations that make extraordinary contributions to the cancer care of New Jersey citizens.

About CINJ

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

###