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**CODEY HELPS HISPANIC COMMUNITY ACCESS
CUTTING-EDGE CANCER TREATMENTS**
Acting Governor Unveils Spanish Version of Clinical Trials Website

(NEW BRUNSWICK) – Acting Governor Richard J. Codey today unveiled the Spanish version of New Jersey Cancer Trial Connect (www.njctc.org), a unique Internet-based resource that allows users to search for cancer clinical trials throughout the state in order to find the most cutting-edge treatments available. Now, New Jersey’s growing Hispanic population can navigate the site and access all of its contents in Spanish.

“An important part of medicine is making sure everyone has access to the latest treatments,” Codey said. “This website – the first and only of its kind in America – is a part of our larger effort to make care more accessible for all New Jersey residents.”

New Jersey Cancer Trial Connect, which received national acclaim in the medical journal “Cancer”, links cancer patients with more than 400 clinical trials underway throughout New Jersey. Since its launch in April 2003, the site, funded by the state and operated by The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, has received more than 4.4 million hits.

“The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is committed to offering education and outreach to all of New Jersey’s communities,” said William N. Hait, M.D., Ph.D., Director of CINJ, Associate Dean, Oncology Programs and Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. “Making the information on New Jersey Cancer Trial Connect available in Spanish is a step in the right direction.”

Each year, cancer strikes more than 45,000 New Jersey residents. Nearly 18,000 New Jersey residents die from cancer annually.

For Hispanics, cancer is particularly devastating. Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among Hispanic women, and lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among Hispanic men. Approximately 67,000 Hispanics were diagnosed with cancer in 2003, and about 22,100 died from the disease, according to the most recent statistics available from the American Cancer Society.

(more)

“Computer usage among Hispanics is increasing 30 percent faster than that of the entire population,” said Susan Goodin, PharmD, Director of the Division of Pharmaceutical Sciences at CINJ and administrator of New Jersey Cancer Trial Connect. “That makes it even more important to provide access to this valuable resource to the Hispanic community, a population that is disproportionately affected by the burden of cancer.”

As part of the state’s commitment to improving access to care Codey in March, signed the “cultural competency” bill. The new law provides equality in medical care by requiring that physicians take special training to diagnose and treat conditions that are prevalent among minorities.

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 and bringing research to life. The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is a Center of Excellence of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

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. CINJ partner hospitals include: Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and Atlantic Health System (Morristown Memorial Hospital, Mountainside Hospital and Overlook Hospital). CINJ affiliate hospitals are: Bayshore Community Hospital, CentraState Healthcare System, Cooper University Hospital*, Jersey Shore University Medical Center, JFK Medical Center, Monmouth Medical Center, Raritan Bay Medical Center, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at 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.

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Photos and audio and video clips from Acting Governor Codey’s press conferences are available in the Governor’s Newsroom section on the State of New Jersey web page, <http://www.nj.gov/>.

* Academic Affiliate-includes The Cancer Institute of New Jersey at Cooper and the UMDNJ-NJMS/University Hospital Cancer Center.