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New Jersey Cancer Researcher Chairs Session at International Conference

American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting Features CINJ Expert on Breast Cancer

New Brunswick, N.J., June 7, 2007 – Joining more than 25,000 cancer specialists from around the globe, Antoinette R. Tan, M.D., Medical Oncologist at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Assistant Professor of Medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, chaired a case-based panel discussion on the *Dilemmas in the Management of HER2/neu-Positive Breast Cancer* at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) in Chicago this week.

It's estimated one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. This year alone, the American Cancer Society puts new cases of breast cancer in the United States at nearly 178,500 with nearly 40,500 dying from their disease. Nearly 6,100 new cases will be diagnosed in New Jersey, with nearly 1,400 of those cases resulting in death.

It is those sobering statistics that Tan's work aims to dismantle. Her session focused on treatment of early stage breast cancer patients with HER2-positive disease and also treatment options for patients with HER2-positive-metastatic breast cancer (cancer that has spread from the breast to other parts of the body). HER2 is part of a family of receptors found on both normal and cancerous cells. Tan noted this family of receptors is important for cell growth and is found in many tumor types. "Because 25 to 30 percent of breast cancers express HER2, there are several issues unique to the management of this subtype of breast cancer," she said. Session participants used keypad technology to ask questions of the panel, which included Tan. "It is by engaging in such dialogue with other oncologists in this fashion that my colleagues and I at CINJ will be able to work on new and innovative ways to manage and advance the treatment of breast cancer," said Tan.

Tan facilitated two such sessions at the ASCO meeting, which according to Association literature, aims to foster communication among oncology-related subspecialties and the exchange of a wide-range of ideas related to cancer. The five-day event is attended by international clinical researchers, doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other related health professionals. This year's conference focused on advances in research in breast, lung, and head and neck cancers among others.

About The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

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 The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Foundation at 1-888-333-CINJ.

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 (Morristown Memorial Hospital, Overlook Hospital). Affiliate Hospitals: Bayshore Community Hospital, CentraState Healthcare System, Cooper University Hospital,* Jersey Shore University Medical Center, JFK Medical Center, Mountainside Hospital , 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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