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## **Endometrial Cancer May be Preventable**

*Physician-Scientists at CINJ Investigating  
Use of a Birth Control Device as Method of Prevention*

**New Brunswick, N.J., January 3, 2005** – Researchers at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) are currently studying a new method of prevention for endometrial cancer. The study is testing whether Mirena®, a medicated intrauterine device (IUD), can prevent endometrial cancer and precancer in heavy women, who are at an increased risk for the disease. Women over 40 who are very heavy are considered at high risk for developing endometrial cancer.

Mirena® is an intrauterine system that contains the medication levonorgestrel and is usually used to prevent pregnancy. Mirena® has been used for more than 12 years in Europe and has minimal side effects, when used for birth control.

“Women who are very heavy have an increased risk of getting endometrial cancer and dying of the disease,” said Dr. Allison Wagreich, Instructor in Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at CINJ and Principal Investigator for the study. “It is our hope that through participation in this study, women can help reduce this statistic.”

To be eligible for the study, women must be between the ages of 40 and 50 and be very heavy. For example, a woman who is 5 feet 5 inches must weigh at least 240 pounds. Participants will have Mirena inserted and be asked to keep a record of vaginal bleeding for one year. They will be seen at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey approximately seven times during the study and will have regular pelvic exams and endometrial biopsies.

For more information about the Endometrial Cancer Prevention Study at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, please call 1-866-654-9898.

Endometrial cancer is a cancer that develops within the inner lining of the womb, or uterus. According to the American Cancer Society, it is the most common cancer found in women’s reproductive organs. Approximately 40,320 new cases of endometrial

cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year and more than 7,000 women will die from this disease.

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.

CINJ's Partner and Affiliate Network is comprised of twenty hospitals and institutions throughout the state and provides a mechanism to rapidly disseminate important, valid discoveries into the community. CINJ Partners: Atlantic Health System (Morristown Memorial Hospital, Mountainside Hospital, Overlook Hospital), New Brunswick Affiliated Hospitals, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, University of Medicine and Dentistry (UMDNJ), UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. CINJ Affiliates: 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, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School\*, University Medical Center at Princeton

\* Academic Affiliate

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