CINJ Researcher Receives ‘Stand Up To Cancer’ Grant

Estela Jacinto, PhD, a research member at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and assistant professor of physiology and biophysics at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, has been named as one of 13 young scientists to share in a $9.74 million grant from ‘Stand Up To Cancer’ (SU2C), an organization formed by leaders in the film and media industries devoted to raising public interest in new avenues of cancer research. The honor comes as part of the second round of awards for SU2C’s Innovative Research Grants (IRG) Program, which will focus on high-risk/high-reward translational cancer research. The grants were announced during an event at the 2011 American Association for Cancer Research 102nd Annual Meeting being held this week in Orlando. Over a three-year period, each of the 13 recipients will receive a total of up to $750,000 as part of the IRG Program. Dr. Jacinto is being recognized for her work in “Targeting Protein Quality Control for Cancer Therapy,” which could have implications in a number of cancer types, and ultimately reveal new modes of therapy for breast cancer and other malignancies.

Meridian Health Welcomed as CINJ’s First ‘System Partner’

Continuing to build on their collective strength in the areas of oncology research, teaching and clinical care, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Meridian Health have announced a new level of collaboration benefitting patients across the state through increased access to clinical trials. The high quality programs at Meridian, whose specialists treat more than 4,000 newly diagnosed cancer patients each year, will now have additional support from CINJ’s clinical and academic researchers. Meridian Health includes Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Ocean Medical Center, Riverview Medical Center, Southern Ocean Medical Center, and Bayshore Community Hospital. Each of Meridian’s hospitals has a Commission on Cancer accredited cancer program and a very strong commitment to quality cancer care and cancer clinical research. “Meridian’s new affiliation, currently as the only System Partner of CINJ, reflects its value to the CINJ Network of affiliated hospitals and its close working relationship with CINJ,” said Molly Gabel, MD, director of the CINJ Network and associate professor of radiation oncology at UMNDJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

CINJ Chief Scientific Officer Receives Cancer Research Award

In recognition of efforts made in cancer therapeutic research, Joseph R. Bertino, MD, chief scientific officer at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, has been honored with The Jeffrey A. Gottlieb Memorial Award sponsored by The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. The Jeffrey A. Gottlieb Memorial Award, established in 1975, recognizes physicians and scientists who have made outstanding contributions to cancer therapeutic research. The award was created to honor the memory of Dr. Jeffrey A. Gottlieb, who made exceptional advances in the field of chemotherapy before losing his personal battle with cancer in 1975. Dr. Bertino, a university professor of medicine and pharmacology at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, is the author or co-author of more than 400 scientific publications. He is currently leading his laboratory in developing new treatments for patients with cancer, and in particular, drugs that specifically target tumor stem cells.