The LIFE Center at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is dedicated to addressing the unique needs of young women regarding breast health, screening, prevention, and treatment.
As one of the nation’s 40 National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers and the only one in New Jersey, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) delivers advanced comprehensive care to adults and children, and conducts cutting-edge cancer research. CINJ researchers and physicians translate discoveries into clinical practice and provide education and outreach regarding cancer prevention, detection and treatment. Through our network of affiliate hospitals, CINJ’s reach extends throughout New Jersey to provide the best cancer care and the most advanced treatment options, quite literally bringing research to life.

Statewide Network of Hospitals

The CINJ Network includes hospitals spans the state and provides a mechanism to rapidly disseminate discoveries from CINJ’s laboratories into clinical practice and provide new treatment options to the community. Together, the CINJ Network institutions are creating initiatives to improve cancer-related care across the state in areas ranging from cancerscreening to patient safety and survivorship.

Flagship Hospital: Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Affiliate Hospitals:
- Bayshore Community Hospital
- CentraState Healthcare System
- JFK Medical Center
- Mountainside Hospital
- Raritan Bay Medical Center
- Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton (CINJ at Hamilton)
- Saint Peter’s University Hospital
- Somerset Medical Center
- Southern Ocean County Hospital
- The University Hospital/UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School*
- University Medical Center at Princeton

Major Clinical Research Affiliate Hospitals:
- Carol G. Simon Cancer Center at Morristown Memorial Hospital
- Carol G. Simon Cancer Center at Overlook Hospital
- Cooper University Hospital
- Jersey Shore University Medical Center.

*Academic Affiliate

Life

After losing her dear friend and rising LPGA golf star, Heather Farr, at age 28 to breast cancer, Val Skinner, a member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA), embarked on a mission to increase breast cancer awareness among young women.

To achieve this goal, Val established The Val Skinner Foundation and launched the Young Women’s Initiative, providing outreach and education to women in their 20s and 30s.

To fund this mission, Val Skinner created the LIFE Event (LPGA Pros In the Fight to Eradicate breast cancer). Since its inception, The LIFE Event has raised millions of dollars for breast cancer research and education.

In 2002, The Val Skinner Foundation partnered with The Cancer Institute of New Jersey to establish the The LIFE Center, named in honor of Val’s advocacy efforts. Directed by Dr. Deborah Toppmeyer, The LIFE Center has brought together a multidisciplinary team of breast cancer experts, including genetic counselors, medical oncologists, surgeons, nurse practitioners, and mental health specialists.

The LIFE Center at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is committed to empowering young women to be proactive about their health, and promoting awareness about the risk of breast cancer and the importance of early detection. The LIFE Center is a place where young women can come to better understand their risk and receive personalized management strategies.

Through the support of The Val Skinner Foundation, multiple satellite locations have been established throughout New Jersey, providing young women access to healthcare professionals trained in recognizing, understanding, and reducing the risk of breast cancer.

Services Provided by the LIFE Center:
- Genetic Counseling
- Genetic Testing
- Educational Programs
- Medical Oncology
- Surgical Oncology
- Psychosocial Services

For additional information about The LIFE Center, its locations, or to schedule an appointment, please call 732-235-7110.

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

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