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Nurse Empowerment Grips CINJ During this National Oncology Nurses Month
Top Nursing Professional Talks of Communication and End of Life Issues During Lecture Program

New Brunswick, N.J., May 09, 2008 –“I’ll take therapeutic communication for 200, please!” No, it’s not a plea for Alex Trebek, but rather the sub-title of an empowering discussion called “Crisis Resolution Jeopardy,” which was presented by a long-time nurse and educator at the 2008 Nurse Day Distinguished Lecture Program at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ). The annual event spanned over a three-day period this year ending last evening with the Elizabeth Gibby Osborne Lecture and the Oncology Nursing Excellence Awards, which are scholarships awarded to a pair of outstanding nurses at CINJ. The event aims to acknowledge the CINJ nursing staff for the great strides it continues to make in caring for, communicating with and educating patients and their families. CINJ is a Center of Excellence of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

This year’s theme was “Nurse Empowerment,” an idea that CINJ’s Chief Nursing Officer Regina Cunningham, PhD, RN, AOCN, and assistant professor of family medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, says is vital to this profession, “In an effort to provide the best level of care for their patients, oncology nurses often benefit from hearing from other seasoned professionals about the day-to-day challenges in this field. It is through such educational opportunities that our nurses will be afforded the necessary tools to make a difference in a patient’s life.”

Featured during the lectureship portion of the event was Deborah A. Boyle, RN, MSN, AOCN, FAAN, program leader, Gero-oncology and Survivorship Nursing Studies Program at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona who is known in the nursing community for co-authoring the first national text on nursing issues related to the administration of chemotherapy in the United States, and presenting discussions around the world on the issue of cancer patient care. She spoke on the topics of communication difficulties, end of life care, and teamwork. The lectureship and Nursing Excellence Awards are underwritten in part by the Elizabeth Gibby Osborne Lecture and Scholarship Fund.

The fund bearing Osborne’s name was established immediately following her death from cancer in 2004. “Liz”-- as she was affectionately known by the nurses at CINJ who treated her -- was a long-time resident of Central Jersey. Due to Liz’ strong belief in education, her husband Bill created the fund in an effort to give oncology nurses at CINJ an opportunity to learn more about their profession from experts across the nation.

Along with the lectureship, the other highlight of this year’s celebration was the awarding of the second-annual CINJ Nursing Scholarships to two recipients.

For “Excellence in Advanced Oncology Nursing,” Loleta Samuel-O’Garro, MSN, RN, APRN, BC, AOCN, was honored. Samuel-O’Garro, started at CINJ nine years ago, and currently sees patients in CINJ’s melanoma/sarcoma group, but also has worked in the breast group. At CINJ, she has worked in both medical and surgical settings, and she is known for integrating research findings into her clinical

practice. She is also recognized for taking the time to get to know her patients on a personal level in order to “make the cancer experience an easier process” for them. One of the ways Samuel-O’Garro has done this is by developing educational materials for patients and by providing them with in-depth preoperative instruction. Such statements from colleagues as “excellent educator and clinician” supported her nomination. Other nominees in this category were Susan Pillet, RN, CPNP and Jayne Camporeale, MSN, RN, APN-C, OCN.

Carla Schaefer, BSN, RN, OCN, a treatment nurse who has worked mainly with patients with hematologic malignancies for the last six years at CINJ, was honored for "Excellence in Basic Oncology Nursing." Improving patient education is a long-standing goal of Schaefer’s. She has developed patient information on “Understanding your Complete Blood Count,” and is currently working on an education sheet entitled “Understanding your Complete Metabolic Panel.” Schaefer’s nomination application described her as being “an effective communicator,” “a mentor” to new and fellow treatment nurses and “excelling in critical thinking.” Also nominated in this category were Terry Capanna, BSN, RN, OCN and Joyce Herrera, BSN, RN, OCN.

CINJ’s nurses are often called upon as a valuable resource throughout the state of New Jersey. Many of them – especially the Advanced Practice Nurses – are involved in research and education. As the nursing staff at the only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in the state, they also participate in the training of oncology nurses at CINJ’s Partner and Affiliate hospitals.

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 Hospital: Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Affiliate Hospitals: Bayshore Community Hospital, CentraState Healthcare System, Cooper University Hospital*, Jersey Shore University Medical Center, JFK Medical Center, Morristown Memorial Hospital, Overlook 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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