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Patient Education Reaches New Heights at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

New Web-Based Resource Now Available to Make Vital Part of Cancer Journey More Accessible

New Brunswick, N.J., November 5, 2008 – Picture this. You’ve just been diagnosed with cancer and are being flooded with information regarding your treatment and care. You want your loved ones to understand what you’re going through as well, but patient orientation classes don’t fit into everyone’s schedule. The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) understands that scenario and has just unveiled its web-based, self-learning program that allows a patient and their family to view at their convenience. CINJ is a Center of Excellence of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

The program was developed by CINJ Nurse Educator Leah Scaramuzzo, MSN, RN, C, AOCN, and CINJ Social Worker Julie Murphy, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C, in an effort to provide 24-hour, seven-day a week access to a formal, in-person orientation course that is currently offered at the facility. The course -- which is designed to educate patients who will receive treatment at the cancer center -- is now available online, on DVD and on VHS. Patients and family members can learn about the process of receiving cancer treatment, what to expect, and what resources and services are available at CINJ.

CINJ team members are shown in a classroom setting giving a presentation as they would to an in-person audience. During the program, the attendees ask many of the same questions often asked by new patients. But even though patients may be watching the taped program at home, they still will have every opportunity to have their specific questions answered during their next visit to CINJ. The webcast also features highlighted talking points of documents that would be handed out and slides that would be shown at the in-person session.

Scaramuzzo notes, “As New Jersey’s only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, we have an obligation to provide educational material to our patients in various formats. We continually keep our finger on the pulse of patient needs and aim to deliver on those needs in such a way that sets the example for other facilities across the state. While we are pleased to be able to offer this service at this time, we are always exploring how we can expand and improve on such services in the future.”

Murphy says with the latest advances in technology, making the program available through the CINJ website and other modes was a natural next step, “Newly diagnosed patients are often overwhelmed with making appointments, arranging for time off from work and taking care of their every day needs. Every opportunity we can give them to provide resources in a way that is convenient for them will afford them a better quality of life through their cancer journey.”

The CINJ Treatment Patient Orientation Program is now available for viewing online at <http://www.cinj.org/treatment/CINJTreatmentOrientation.html> and can be checked out by patients and their loved ones at CINJ’s Resource and Learning Center on either DVD or VHS.

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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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