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**Faculty Recognized for Cutting-Edge Research**

*The Breast Cancer Resource Foundation Honors Researchers During  
Annual Luncheon in New York City*

**New Brunswick, New Jersey, December 1, 2005** -- Three faculty members from The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) and UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School were honored recently with research grants totaling \$670,000 by The Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) for their efforts in the fight against breast cancer.

Arnold J. Levine, Ph.D., Professor of Pediatrics and Biochemistry, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Resident Member, CINJ, and Sandra L. Harris, Ph.D., Instructor, Department of Pediatrics, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and CINJ researcher, received \$500,000 for their research on gene mutations and cancer.

Research being conducted by Drs. Levine and Harris focuses on a novel experimental approach to detect genetic variations that increase the risk of cancer and/or lower the age at which cancers may develop in people. This slight variation, which involves only one “letter” within the gene, is called a single nucleotide polymorphism, or SNP. If certain SNPs correspond to the likelihood of having a specific disease, the single-letter variations may play an instrumental role in the future of genomic medicine. The study focused on a relatively small group of women who, with this specific variation developed breast cancer on an average nine years earlier than patients without the variation.

Antoinette R. Tan, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Medical Oncologist, CINJ, received \$170,000 for her research on newly diagnosed breast cancer patients.

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A pilot study being conducted by Dr. Tan will examine the effects of short-term treatment with an angiogenesis inhibitor in newly diagnosed breast cancer patients. The research involves examining the affected tissue to see how new blood vessels are formed, how quickly cells multiply and how soon they die. Optical imaging of the breasts will be obtained before and after treatment to determine whether a non-invasive digital imaging system can be used to monitor the activity of the angiogenesis inhibitor. Ultimately, the goal is to characterize which tumors are most likely to respond to antiangiogenic agents which will help in the design of future breast cancer trials that integrate these compounds with chemotherapy.

“This is a great honor for CINJ and having more than one researcher awarded from a single institution is a strong testament to the top-notch research being conducted by our faculty,” said William N. Hait, M.D., Ph.D., Director of CINJ and Associate Dean of Oncology Programs and Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. “We are extremely proud of Drs. Levine, Tan and Harris and congratulate them on their awards.”

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation was established in 1993 by Evelyn H. Lauder, current Chairman of the BCRF and Senior Vice-President, The Lauder Companies, Inc. The Foundation is dedicated solely to supporting outstanding clinical and genetic research on breast cancer. The research grants were awarded during the BCRF’s recent Signature Symposium and Awards Luncheon held in New York City.

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 732/235-8614.

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 Hospitals: Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Atlantic Health System (Morristown Memorial Hospital, Mountainside Hospital, Overlook Hospital). Affiliate Hospitals: Bayshore Community Hospital, CentraState Healthcare System, Cooper University Hospital (CINJ at Cooper),\* Jersey Shore University Medical Center, JFK Medical Center, Monmouth Medical Center, 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\*, and University Medical Center at Princeton.

\*Academic Affiliate

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