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## **CINJ Researchers Studying New Ways to Prevent Prostate Cancer**

### *Vitamin D Derivative May Protect Against Prostate Cancer*

**New Brunswick, N.J., November 4, 2004** – Researchers at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) are studying new ways to prevent prostate cancer in men who are at high risk for developing the disease. Calcitriol, a Vitamin D derivative, is being examined as a possible preventative agent for prostate cancer.

The study, currently underway at CINJ, is looking at men with High Grade Prostatic Intraepithelial Neoplasia (HGPIN), a condition, found by a prostate biopsy, which can lead to the development of prostate cancer. Men enrolled on the study will take Calcitriol, a derivative of Vitamin D, for approximately 32 weeks. During this time, physicians will monitor patients' Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) levels and evaluate the effects of Calcitriol in the treatment of HGPIN and the prevention of prostate cancer.

“While the PSA test is an effective screening tool for prostate cancer, there is still a need to find new therapies to prevent the disease if you are at an increased risk,” said Robert DiPaola, M.D., Executive Director of the Dean and Betty Gallo Prostate Cancer Center at CINJ, Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Principal Investigator for the study. “It is our hope that Calcitriol will prove to be an effective method to delay the rate of progression in men diagnosed with HGPIN, or perhaps even prevent the onset of prostate cancer in those at high-risk.”

Prostate cancer is a devastating disease in men that accounts for nearly one-third of newly diagnosed cases of cancer and 10% of cancer deaths, and is predicted to affect nearly 8,000 New Jersey men this year. Currently there is no established regimen for the treatment or prevention of HGPIN. Finding an effective treatment for HGPIN could help to lower these statistics and reduce the incidence of prostate cancer.

For more information about the Calcitriol prostate cancer prevention study and other cancer prevention clinical trials at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, please call 1-866-654-9898.

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 part of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

CINJ's Partner and Affiliate Network is comprised of twenty hospitals and institutions throughout the state and provides a mechanism to rapidly disseminate important, valid discoveries into the community. CINJ Partners: Atlantic Health System (Morristown Memorial Hospital, Mountainside Hospital, Overlook Hospital), New Brunswick Affiliated Hospitals, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, University of Medicine and Dentistry (UMDNJ), UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. CINJ Affiliates: Bayshore Community Hospital, CentraState Healthcare System, Cooper University Hospital\*, Jersey Shore University Medical Center, JFK Medical Center, Monmouth Medical Center, Raritan Bay Medical Center, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton, Saint Peter's University Hospital, Somerset Medical Center, Southern Ocean County Hospital, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School\*, University Medical Center at Princeton

\* Academic Affiliate

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