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**GOVERNOR MCGREEVEY PROMOTES BETTER PARTNERSHIPS AMONG
ACADEMIA, INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT AS PART OF KEY
TRANSLATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS**

New Jersey is Leading the Way to Innovation and Discovery

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J., JUNE 18, 2003 – The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ), in conjunction with Governor James McGreevey and the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR), today released the interim report from *The Governor's Conference on Effective Partnering in Cancer Research*.

The goal of the Governor's Conference, held April 27-29, 2003, was to examine in greater depth the barriers to translational cancer research and ways to overcome them. Translational research is the process of moving scientific discoveries into medical practice. Six workshops, each led by a chair, co-chair and a panel of experts, generated concrete solutions to problems with partnership building; policy development; resource enhancement; training; social, ethical and legal implications; and involving patients and the public in cancer research translation.

"New Jersey has unique resources and strengths that make our state an essential venue for expanding this frontier," said Governor James E. McGreevey. "As the host of the first of what promises to be many result-yielding symposiums on translational cancer research, we look forward to serving as a model for improved cancer therapy development."

A copy of the complete report is available by contacting Jennifer Ryan at 732/235-9891. The recommendations from the Conference are highlighted below:

- Provide cross training to basic and clinical cancer researchers to foster better partnerships among academia, industry and government.
- Increase the pool of experts in translational research that links scientific discovery to the practice of medicine, using the resources of academia, industry and government.
- Devise a method of linking the tissue banking process to the New Jersey State SEER Cancer Registry, allowing for better collaboration among principal players in translational research.

- Simplify the “informed consent” process so that patients not only receive the information they need to make this important decision but understand it as well and involve patients earlier in the research planning process so that their perspectives are included throughout clinical trial development.
- Create innovative models for referral, reimbursement and management of high mortality cancers; improve local access to clinical trials by building upon such innovative initiatives as NJ Cancer Trials Connect; launch “patient navigator” and support services so that no patient in New Jersey is left behind and; promote open and frank dialogue among patients, advocates, researchers and health care providers
- Establish a task force consisting of key members of the pharmaceutical, academic and government sectors to examine differences in thinking and in research practice to improve cross-communication and ultimately produce stronger partnerships and linkages.
- Move towards centralized Institutional Review Boards.
- Improve the efficiency of the clinical trial process by developing standard contractual agreements to facilitate industry/academic collaborations.

“New Jersey is a powerhouse of intellectual capital, scientific achievement, and enormous productivity in its academic, pharmaceutical, and government sectors,” stated Dr. Clifton R. Lacy, Commissioner, NJ Dept. of Health and Senior Services. “The recommendations from the Governor’s Conference on Effective Partnering in Cancer Research provide the strategy to enhance movement of discovery and innovation from the laboratory to patients with cancer in New Jersey,” he continued

“Developed by top cancer research experts from around the country, these recommendations will be instrumental in facilitating the translation of new cancer discoveries into practice,” said William N. Hait, M.D., Ph.D., Director, CINJ. “We have already begun responding to the suggestions from the Governor’s Conference and are anxious to see the results and receive feedback.”

An in-depth review of all workshops, the resulting recommendations and initial progress will be incorporated into a white paper in the coming months.

Leading the war against cancer is The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, the state’s first and only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. CINJ is dedicated to improving the prevention, detection, treatment and care of patients with cancer, through the transformation of laboratory discoveries into clinical practice. CINJ’s Providers’ Network is comprised of twenty Partner and Affiliate institutions throughout the state and provides a mechanism to rapidly disseminate important, valid discoveries into the community.

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