



ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey



**ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON**  
**UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

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**Department of Radiation Oncology Expanded at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey  
and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital**

*Dr. Atif Khan Joins UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Faculty  
and Heads up New Brachytherapy Unit*

**New Brunswick, N.J., March 6, 2008** – The Department of Radiation Oncology at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) is pleased to announce the arrival of its latest radiation oncologist, who is leading the department's new brachytherapy unit. Atif Khan, M.D., M.S., who also is an assistant professor of radiation oncology at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, recently completed a fellowship in brachytherapy at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School in Boston.

Brachytherapy involves the placement of radioactive “seeds” or sources directly into or around tumors, allowing for a high dose of radiation where it is needed while sparing other normal tissues. And while Dr. Khan has a special interest in breast brachytherapy, he and his colleagues focus on all tumor types.

In keeping with its mission of offering the latest in radiation technology, the Department recently opened its brachytherapy suite, which Khan says is unique, “We’re the only radiation oncology program in the state to sub-specialize in this treatment, and we hope to become a center of excellence in brachytherapy in New Jersey and in the greater Mid-Atlantic region. Fellowship trained brachytherapists are a rare breed, and we believe the majority of these cases should be referred to centers where a dedicated and experienced brachytherapy team can provide appropriate care.”

Khan notes brachytherapy carries less of a risk of normal radiation side effects, as the fall off from the implanted radiation is more rapid, thus preserving healthy tissue. He also states that because brachytherapy implants are often placed immediately after a tumor has been surgically removed, it is easier to identify the targeted treatment site.

Bruce G. Haffty, M.D., chair, radiation oncology at CINJ; professor and chair, Department of Radiology Oncology at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; and chief, radiation oncology at RWJUH, is pleased that they continue to attract top recruits in this field, “The expertise of Dr. Khan in the area of brachytherapy will only help further our standing as a sub-specialty leader in the area of radiation oncology. We are pleased to have such a professional on our team.”

Khan is currently accepting patients. Patients, family members, or caregivers wishing to schedule an initial visit with any of the department's physicians can call the CINJ New Patient Access Center at 732/235-8515 or the RWJUH radiation oncology line at 732/253-3939.

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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

### **About Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital**

Selected as one of three hospitals nationwide to offer the world's first self-contained implantable artificial heart and named by Solucient as one of America's top 15 teaching hospitals, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital ([www.rwjuh.edu](http://www.rwjuh.edu)) is a 600-bed academic medical center and the principal teaching hospital of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, NJ. Robert Wood Johnson is an innovative leader in advancing state-of-the-art care in medicine. Its Centers of Excellence include cardiovascular care from minimally invasive heart surgery to transplantation, cancer care and women's and children's care including The Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital ([www.bmsch.org](http://www.bmsch.org)). The hospital is also a Level 1 Trauma Center and serves as a national resource in its ground-breaking approaches to emergency preparedness. The hospital has earned significant national recognition for clinical quality and patient safety. Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital was ranked number 26 in the nation for heart care according to *U.S. News & World Report's* 2007 ranking of "America's Best Hospitals," as well as best in the state for Respiratory Disorders (#26) and Urology (#50), and among the nation's best for Geriatrics (#40). The American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer has rated Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital among the nation's best comprehensive cancer centers. The Leapfrog Group rated Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital as one of the 50 exceptional U.S. hospitals, as published in Consumers Digest magazine. Harvard University researchers, in a study commissioned by The Commonwealth Fund, identified Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital as one of the top 10 hospitals in the nation for clinical quality. Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital is also a recipient of the prestigious Magnet Award for Nursing Excellence for 10 consecutive years.

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