

New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research

Dedicated to Conquering Cancer Through Scientific Research

Annual Report 2003



James E. McGreevey
Governor



NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON CANCER RESEARCH

2003 ANNUAL REPORT

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Acknowledgment

It is evident that the progress and achievements detailed in this report were realized through the vision, dedication and hard work of many individuals, particularly Commissioner Clifton R. Lacy, M.D., and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR) also wishes to express its appreciation to Eddy A. Bresnitz, M.D, MS, New Jersey State Epidemiologist/Senior Assistant Commissioner, who brings a remarkable level of professionalism, commitment, and efficiency to his role as the Commissioner's designee to the NJCCR.

Message from the chair . . .



Dear Governor McGreevey:

I am pleased to introduce the 2003 Annual Report from the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR). This report provides a unique opportunity for us to share the exciting events and activities of the NJCCR, as well as to highlight the innovative research of scientists across the state.

Our successful year is due in large part to the leadership of Dr. Paul E. Wallner, who served as chair for the past three years. We would like to express deep appreciation for the great strides the NJCCR made during his tenure and fifteen year membership. Dr. Wallner is now Chief of the Clinical Radiation Oncology Branch in the Radiation Research Program, Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis at the National Cancer Institute. We wish him well and thank him for his service.

As we know, all citizens are touched by cancer, which has for decades taken a tragic toll among the people of New Jersey. The cost of this disease is measured in human suffering, in lives lost, in wasted potential, and in medical care dollars. In 2003 alone, an estimated 42,300 people in New Jersey were diagnosed with cancer and 17,600 succumbed to the disease. However, scientists are closer than ever before to fully understanding the complex factors involved in cancer initiation and progression. This knowledge, in turn, will lead to ever expanding opportunities for prevention and cure. At no time in the fight against cancer has the potential for significant inroads against this insidious disease been greater.

We are at a critical juncture where we must create and sustain mechanisms that allow scientists and health care professionals to apply this new understanding to the development of emerging technologies and new clinical treatments. Strong support for such efforts remains the key to the eradication of cancer. New Jersey has contributed to the national cancer research effort of our nation and can be proud of its accomplishments.

The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research has successfully pursued a course of action that seeks to bolster the state's research capacity. Its highly competitive seed grant program, pre-and postdoctoral fellowships and research development program have gained national recognition. While the NJCCR offers relatively small seed grants, this controlled investment has been used to effectively leverage major grants from national funding sources and has generated a return of \$4.64 for every dollar awarded.

Years ago, having cancer meant certain death. We have learned so much about cancer through the efforts of our research programs that today the future is much brighter. But we are not done. There is still much to learn if we are to realize our dream of a world without cancer and its devastating complications. Governor McGreevey, your continued help and support will bring us closer to making this dream a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frederick B. Cohen, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frederick B. Cohen, M.D.
Chairman



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Who We Are:

The mission of the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR) is to ensure that the citizens of New Jersey receive the fullest benefit of our nation's fight against cancer through the promotion and funding of research into the causes, prevention and treatment of cancer. To date, the NJCCR has provided more than \$25 million dollars for over 550 research projects on cancer.

Our Relationship to the State Department of Health and Senior Services:

The NJCCR is established in, but not of, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS). Within the NJDHSS, the office of the NJCCR is administratively assigned in the Center for Cancer Initiatives. Under the leadership of State Epidemiologist Dr. Eddy A. Bresnitz, the NJCCR collaborates with the Office of Cancer Epidemiology, the Office of Cancer Prevention & Control, and the New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection program to offer integrated cancer services to the citizens of New Jersey. The NJCCR also benefits from the strong support services available in the NJDHSS, including fiscal, human resources and information technology. The NJCCR works effectively with the NJDHSS to implement its mission of service to the public.

Why We're Here:

Current estimates show that 42,300 New Jersey citizens were diagnosed with cancer and 17,600 succumbed to this disease in 2003. Additionally, it is estimated that there are about 360,000 cancer survivors living in New Jersey today.

What We Do:

- Enhance the capacity of the State to use grant funding strategically to strengthen cancer research in New Jersey.
- Support, organize and promote meetings, workshops, conferences, and seminars to disseminate information on state cancer research activities, promote collaboration among scientists and highlight New Jersey's research capacities.
- Increase funding for cancer research in New Jersey.
- Open dialogues with biotechnology/pharmaceutical industry to improve translational research.
- Raise awareness about the value of quality of life, and pain and palliation components in patient care.
- Provide workshops, conferences, and educational opportunities for health professionals to learn about emerging issues in cancer research.
- Provide educational programs and materials to patients, family members, and the public.
- Reduce barriers to participation in clinical trials for minorities and medically under-served.
- Address emerging issues surrounding cancer and aging populations.



The Difference We're Making

In recent years, New Jersey has emerged as a national leader in cancer research. Excellence in basic laboratory research and a statewide expectation that fosters technology transfer have created an environment that is strongly supportive of innovative cancer research. Scientists within the state have gained worldwide recognition in cancer prevention, molecular biology, immunology, and drug resistance. Gone are the days when patients needed to leave our state to receive treatments because they were not available in New Jersey. Today, a growing network of medical centers and hospitals offer state of the art care at the community level. “Standard” therapies such as surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy have improved and are contributing to longer survival and more cures, while minimizing side effects. Behavioral, psychosocial, and epidemiological research efforts are expanding rapidly and collaboration has blossomed. Major initiatives have been launched that will reduce barriers to participation in clinical trials and a comprehensive approach to cancer control and risk reduction is in development.

With adequate support of cancer research, New Jersey will be poised to take full advantage of the new emerging technologies.

Status of Cancer

In 2003, an estimated 42,300 New Jersey residents learned that they have cancer and 17,600 died of this disease. New Jersey consistently ranks in the top ten among all states for cancer mortality and has higher incidence rates for colorectal, lung, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The financial costs for cancer in New Jersey are estimated at \$5.5 billion. The good news is that incidence and mortality rates for New Jersey are declining, and approximately 360,000 cancer survivors are living in our state. For the first time, there are real reasons to feel optimistic about making serious inroads against cancer.

Significant recent advances in understanding the cellular and molecular events that lead to cancer have led to rapid development and application in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. While much remains to be discovered about the cause-and-effect of cancer, the potential to unravel these unknowns has accelerated remarkably. Scientists are closer to fully understanding the more complex interplay among the myriad of factors involved in cancer progression. This knowledge will, in turn, lead to ever expanding opportunities for prevention and cure. New findings from laboratory research have already aided cancer specialists in the design of protocols for early diagnosis and improved treatment regimens. Important insights have been gained regarding the role of oncogenes, tumor suppressor genes, immunological factors, and carcinogenic agents in the cancer process. As a result of discoveries made in these areas, new frontiers have emerged including molecular epidemiology, gene therapy, genetic risk evaluation, immunodiagnosis, and immunotherapy that hold significant promise in furthering the battle against cancer.

We are truly making progress, but for those who are touched by this disease, we are not making progress quickly enough. Furthermore, other recent negative trends threaten to overshadow our hard-won victories. The incidence of melanoma has been rising about 3% per year, adolescents are smoking and using tobacco products more, and certain racial, ethnic and underserved groups continue to be disproportionately burdened by cancer.

How then can we continue to build on our recent accomplishments to make further much-needed progress against cancer? Foremost, we must sustain the proven research programs that have enabled us to pursue a path of scientific excellence and discovery in cancer research even in difficult fiscal times. We must also ensure that the full promise of our research findings is realized by translating these discoveries rapidly from the laboratory into practical solutions that will benefit everyone.

Achieving these goals demand enormous investments in recruiting new scientists, acquiring new technologies and forging partnerships at all levels. The exciting possibility of making progress toward "eliminating cancer as a cause of human suffering and death" is making us impatient.

Governor James E. McGreevey is committed to seeing that these advances in cancer care and research improve life and hope for all cancer patients. The Governor has promised to create new partnerships between government and the health care industry to make New Jersey a national leader. To date, Governor McGreevey has invested over \$90 million to support cancer research, tumor registries, cancer cluster investigations, cancer education and screening services for women in all 21 counties, a Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan for New Jersey, and two international cancer conferences.

In particular, the NJCCR strives to ensure that the citizens of New Jersey receive the fullest benefit of our nation's fight against cancer through the promotion and funding of research into the causes, prevention and treatment of cancer. To date, the NJCCR has provided more than \$25 million dollars for over 550 research projects on cancer.

Since 1983, the NJCCR has created an infrastructure that promotes discovery, works with some of the most innovative and productive scientists in the Nation, and has initiated ground-breaking programs that have yielded critical knowledge, relevant to the quality of life for many cancer survivors.

To stay on this path, we need your support. As long as the army of dedicated researchers, patients, volunteers, donors, and doctors remain strong, a cure for cancer, once and for all, is at hand.



Research Highlights

During its history, the NJCCR has successfully pursued a course of action that has brought it national recognition. Its highly competitive grant program, which relies upon systematic scientific peer review, assures that state monies for cancer research are awarded to those programs and scientists that offer the greatest potential for success. While providing immediate assistance to highly promising scientists, these seed grants also represent a sound long-term investment in the health of all New Jersey citizens. Through awards, researchers are able to establish themselves in the rigorous world of national scientific competition as well as position themselves for national grants for their projects. With additional funding coming from outside sources, scientists working in New Jersey are building a research infrastructure to deal satisfactorily with the critical problems posed by cancer for the citizens of New Jersey.

The funds that the NJCCR directs to research on the causes, prevention, detection, and cure of cancer are not just monies spent, but are investments in the future of New Jersey citizens. By encouraging and identifying innovative research on cancer, and attracting and training some of the most talented and gifted scientists into this area of research, New Jersey is making a research investment that can pay vital dividends for all in years to come. These funds provide critical leverage in developing new scientific infrastructure and networks crucial for a broad-based and comprehensive approach to the fight against cancer. The NJCCR's challenge is to allocate funds rapidly and flexibly to assure that the new and promising ideas are brought quickly to bear on the understanding and prevention, detection, and cure of cancer.

Overall, applications for funding to the NJCCR have substantially increased in number. As a consequence, while the NJCCR has been able to fund a good percentage of meritorious research proposals, some deserving applications have gone unfunded. Nevertheless, this highly competitive grant program was able to award 8 grants for over \$690,000.

TWO YEAR AWARDS

Khew-Voon Chin, Ph.D., Rutgers, The State University
Mechanisms of RI-alpha and RIAZ in Cell Growth Regulation
\$97,900

Huizhou Fan, Ph.D., UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Regulation of TGF-alpha Release in Cancer
\$99,000

Stuart Lutzker, M.D., Ph.D., UMDNJ-The Cancer Institute of New Jersey
Mitotic Checkpoint Function and Cancer Cell Chemosensitivity
\$100,000

Carlos Molina, Ph.D., UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School
Ras-mediated Proteasomal Degredation of ICER in Melanoma
\$98,865

Xi Zheng, Ph.D., Rutgers, The State University
TPA-Induced Apoptosis in Myeloid Leukemia Cells
\$99,000

ONE YEAR AWARDS

Roderich E. Schwarz, M.D., Ph.D., UMDNJ-The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Targeting TGF-beta in Pancreatic Cancer

\$49,500

BREAST CANCER

Garth Patterson, Ph.D., Rutgers, The State University

Functional Genomic Study of Breast Cancer-Related TGF-beta Target Genes

\$99,000

Tsafi Pe'ery, Ph.D., UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

Granulin: Cyclin T1 Interactions in Breast Cancer

\$50,000 (1 year extension)

New Cancer Initiatives

Governor James E. McGreevey is committed to seeing that the advances in cancer care and research improve life and hope for all cancer patients in New Jersey. The Governor has promised to create new partnerships between government and the health care industry to make New Jersey a national leader. To date, Governor McGreevey has invested over \$90 million to support cancer research, registries, cancer cluster investigations, cancer education and screening services for women in all 21 counties, a Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan for New Jersey and two international cancer conferences.

The NJDHHS and the NJCCR are committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives in Healthy New Jersey 2010 and the New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. With this in mind, the NJDHSS collaborated with the NJCCR under a special funding initiative to stimulate cancer prevention and control research projects throughout New Jersey that support these objectives. The NJCCR would like to thank Governor James E. McGreevey, Commissioner Dr. Clifton R. Lacy and State Epidemiologist Dr. Eddy A. Bresnitz for their support of this important program.

The following grants were funded under this initiative:

Karine Cohen-Solal, Ph.D., Rutgers, The State University

Oncogenicity of Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor in Melanoma

\$49,500

Lawrence Coia, M.D., Community Medical Center

Elderly and Clinical Radiation Trials

\$98,278

Michael Dabrow, D.O., UMDNJ-School of Osteopathic Medicine

Age as a Factor in Tolerance of Chemotherapy

\$98,635

Susan Goodin, Pharm.D., UMDNJ-The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Pilot Trial of Dextromethorphan in Cancer Related Fatigue

\$32,437

Shawna Hudson, Ph.D., UMDNJ-The Cancer Institute of New Jersey
Addressing Cancer Disparities in a Family Practice Setting
\$100,000

Elise Lev, Ed.D., RN, Rutgers, The State University
Prospective Study of Quality of Life of Men Receiving Brachytherapy for Prostate Cancer
\$49,143

Linda J. Partrick-Miller, Ph.D., UMDNJ-The Cancer Institute of New Jersey
The Impact of a Relative's Mammogram: A Teachable Moment
\$34,249

Lorna Rodriguez-Rodriguez, M.D., Ph.D., UMDNJ-The Cancer Institute of New Jersey
Prevention of Carboplatin Drug Resistance by Selenium
\$99,000

Fellowships

Since 1988, the NJCCR has helped to attract and retain promising scholars pursuing careers in cancer research through its most successful fellowship program. Attracting a core of outstanding scientists to our research institutions not only brings in additional research dollars from other sources; it attracts promising investigators. Jobs are created, our technological base is enhanced, and the quality of science education is improved. As promising students come to New Jersey for their training, a continual source of scientists is also available for the pharmaceutical / biotechnology industries.

Over the years, the fellowship program has proven to be a sound and promising investment that has helped establish the foundation for the kind of scientific investigation that will keep New Jersey at the forefront in the war against cancer.

This year, the NJCCR was able to award 32 fellowships, to students of outstanding merit, for over \$633,000.

POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS (\$58,050 EACH)

Gabriella Alexe, Ph.D., Rutgers, The State University
Collective Biomarkers in Breast and Prostate Cancer

Rimma Belotserkovskaya, Ph.D., UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Cellular and Molecular Mechanism of FACT

Jean-Baptiste Boule, Ph.D., Princeton University
Functional Study of the Yeast Telomerase Heloenzyme

Sankarasharma Devipiriya, Ph.D., UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Role of Hmga2 in Colon Cancer

Bogdan I. Gerashchenko, M.D., Ph.D., UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School
Effects of Radiation on Unirradiated Bystander Cells

Anders E. Lilja, Ph.D., Princeton University
Interaction of Cytomegalovirus with Tumor Cells

Hao Liu, Ph.D., UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
An Expression-Based Predictor for Colorectal Cancer

PRE DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS (\$33,000 EACH)

Kristina T. Lu, Rutgers, The State University
Analysis of a CD40 Related B Cell Proliferation Defect

Brendan B. Rickards, Princeton University
Identification of Partners of Fra-1

Luis C. Muniz, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School
Regulation of ICER in Melanoma Development

Katherine N. Clouse, Princeton University
Restricted Gene Expression of EGFR Ligands

Mateusz Oprychal, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School
Regulation of Stability of Proto-Oncogene mRNAs

SPECIAL FELLOWSHIPS (\$2,800 EACH)

Tara L. Broccoli, Rutgers, The State University
Screening for Psychosocial Distress Among Oncology Patients

Kerry A. Hennessy, Rutgers, The State University
New Jersey Oncologists: Understanding and Use of Quality of Life Assessment

Natasha Henry, Rutgers, The State University
Assessing the Proportion of Minority Enrollees in Cancer Clinical Trials in New Jersey

Mario E. Urena, Seton Hall University
Website Development for Psychosocial/Nursing Professionals

Theresa M. Viggiano, Rutgers, The State University (\$8,500)
Aging and Cancer: A Call to Action

Dan Wang, Rutgers, The State University
Assessing Burden of Cancer on Older Adults in New Jersey

Jinling Wei, Rutgers, The State University
Improving Cancer Care and Quality of Life on the Older Adult

Weiman Zhang, Rutgers, The State University
Cancer Epidemiology Services and Surveillance Program

SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS (\$2,800 EACH)

Leah Alabanza, Rutgers, The State University

Roshan Desai, UMDNJ-The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Rosemary Ku, Princeton University

Khen-Jim Lim, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Michael Lindy, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

Elaine Liu, UMDNJ-The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Hari Narayan, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Patrick O'Keefe, Rider University

Jay Oza, Rutgers, The State University

Ruth Tennen, Princeton University

Mahesh Yaragatti, CABM

Roberto Zoino, Garden State Cancer Center



2003: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Quality of Life Roundtable

APRIL 9, 2003

“Quality of life is defined as a patient’s sense of well being which includes the perception of physical, psychological and spiritual functioning.”



L to R: NJCCR fellowship award winner, Kerry A. Hennessy, discusses her Quality of Life poster at the 9th Annual Public Health Symposium with keynote speaker Stephen B. Thomoa, Ph.D., Director, Center of Minority Health, University of Pittsburgh.

During the past two decades New Jersey has been widely recognized as a pioneer in advancing complex healthcare issues: the rights of dying patients; managed care support for clinical trials; privacy rights for genetic testing; and reimbursement for screening mammography, among others. More recently significant concerns about health related *Quality of Life* (QOL) have arisen. As the population ages and more citizens face catastrophic illnesses, advanced technologies now offer treatment for diseases formerly considered fatal. The choices facing patients and families are considerably more complex and require timely and comprehensive information about both the benefits and the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial toll of treatment. These challenges were the driving force that led the NJCCR, Psychosocial/Nursing Advisory Group to design and conduct an invitational multidisciplinary “roundtable” aimed at integrating the assessment and measurement of quality of life concepts in the delivery of cancer care in New Jersey.

Integrating QOL outcomes requires effective and reliable assessment and measurement of accepted parameters of *quality*. While considerable national and local debate continues about the precise definition and “best practices” in the assessment and measurement of QOL outcomes, participants voiced strong support for initiating or strengthening such assessment in all healthcare settings. Some of the challenges apparent in this approach include:

- A lack of understanding about the concept of quality of life among both professionals and the public;
- Identifying assessment tools appropriate to the cancer population at milestones in the course of treatment or disease progression and providing training for their administration;
- The perception that QOL assessment requires skills, time and resources not available in most settings; and assisting patients in exercising their “right” to information and partnership in QOL decisions in a culturally competent and sensitive environment.

Although QOL outcomes are often included in many newer clinical trials, consistent assessment of such outcomes has not been as readily adopted into the delivery of clinical care. Roundtable participants acknowledged that integrating the assessment and measurement of QOL in the delivery of cancer care in New Jersey would require:

- The design, validation, and adoption of assessment instruments;
- Knowledgeable participation by multi-disciplinary clinicians;
- Institutional strategic planning, support, and incentives;
- Community and professional education, advocacy, and participation in large-scale studies; and
- A broad-based role for *all* healthcare professionals, institutions, organizations, and consumers.

Specific steps were proposed to expand QOL assessment in New Jersey. Chief among the recommendations was the establishment of a **Quality of Life Task Force** under the aegis of the NJCCR. This broad-based group would be charged with ensuring a collaborative, comprehensive approach incorporating the concerns and needs of patients, practitioners, institutions and community organizations. The Task Force mandate includes identifying appropriate model instruments and institutional policies, educating professionals and consumers, and advocating for regulatory support for inclusion of QOL assessment in the delivery of healthcare.

Individuals, institutions and organizations can participate in integrating the assessment and measurement of QOL concepts in the delivery of cancer care in New Jersey. *Quality of Life* is an important outcome in healthcare.

This is an extract from the "Report of the Quality of Life Roundtable", April 9, 2003, edited by Denyse L. Adler, The Adler Group, Montville, NJ.

Distinguished Faculty

David Cella, PhD, Director, Center on Outcomes, Research and Education, Evanston Northwestern Healthcare
Jane Weeks, MD, Director, Center for Outcomes and Policy Research, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Bonnie Teschendorf, PhD, Director, Quality of Life Science, Cancer Control Science

Program Facilitators

Denyse Adler, MA, President, The Adler Group
Wendy Budin, PhD, RN, Professor of Nursing, Seton Hall University
Ann Marie Hill, MBA, Executive Director, New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research
Linda Patrick Miller, PhD, Director, Division of Behavioral Sciences, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey
Barbara Rabinowitz, PhD, Administrative Director, Oncology Services, Meridian Health Systems

Program Participants

Gloria Boseman, PhD, New Jersey City State University
Victor Chang, MD, VA New Jersey Health Care System
Regina Cunningham, RN, MS, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey
Luis Espinosa, Ortho Biotech Products, LP
Susan Goodin, PharmD, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey
David Gordon, MS, Tomorrow's Children's Institute, Hackensack University Medical Center
Christopher Hanson, MA, Rutgers University
Shirley Hwang, MS, RN, VA New Jersey Health Care System
Jung Kim, Student Assistant, UMDNJ-SPH
Kim Kinner, MA, American Cancer Society
Betsy Kohler, MPH, NJ Dept of Health & Senior Services
Mildred Kowalski, RN, MPA, Novartis Oncology
Larissa LaBay, PsyD, Tomorrow's Children's Institute, Hackensack University Medical Center
Ruth Lin, RN, MS, Morristown Memorial Hospital
Lois Lorenz, LCSW, American Cancer Society
Richard Michaelson, MD, Saint Barnabas Health Care System
Judie Much, RN, MSN, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey
Lissa Parsonnet, PhD, Private Practice
Courtney Regula, Seton Hall University

Donna Rider, American Cancer Society
Patrick Sabino, Amgen
Joseph M. Sanzari, Hackensack University Medical Center
Dona Schneider, PhD, MPH, Edward J. Bloustein School, Rutgers University
Roderich Schwartz, MD, PhD, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey
Shari Short, MD, Cancer Information Service
Elizabeth Tarr, American Cancer Society
Lydia Tarta, RN, Atlantic Health System
Deborah Toppmeyer, MD, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

MANAGING ADULT SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD CANCER: FERTILITY AND SEXUAL FUNCTIONING CHALLENGES

APRIL 9, 2003

The New Jersey Pediatric Hematology Oncology Network (NJPHON), in collaboration with the NJCCR, hosted a roundtable April 9, 2003. A multidisciplinary assembly of leading experts in reproductive endocrinology, urology, internal medicine, psychosocial oncology, and oncology discussed the fertility and sexual functioning issues that confront many adult survivors of childhood cancer.

Since the 1980's, survivorship from pediatric cancers has soared, and it is estimated that in the year 2010, 1 in 250 young people will be a survivor of a childhood cancer. Studies indicate that many of these individuals are at risk of infertility, gonadal dysfunction, and both physical and psychosocial difficulties with aspects of sexuality. As a consequence of the changing referral patterns necessitated by managed care, primary care practitioners will be presented with an increasing population of adults who are long-term survivors of cancer and these physicians may play a key role in identifying, assessing, and referring patients at risk for reproductive or sexual problems.

While a large percentage of survivors of childhood cancers do retain their reproductive and sexual functioning, for some, infertility and impaired sexual functioning is "adding insult to injury." When young adults are surveyed, it is diminished or compromised fertility, premature menopause, and issues related to sexuality that rank high on the list of concerns with which they struggle. Therefore, it is essential that primary care physicians identify survivors at especially high risk for infertility and psychosocial sequelae and refer them to appropriate specialists.

A special report reflecting the content of the roundtable was published by the NJCCR. Some convergence of views is clearly in evidence. For example, raising issues of fertility and sexuality is often difficult for both patient and physician. An open, attentive attitude is essential and it is important to review the potential for premature menopause, infertility, and sexual problems with the patient so that a program of surveillance and intervention can be designed to address these concerns.

Sexuality encompasses many aspects and patients should be encouraged to seek both medical advice and psychosocial counseling, and/or to participate in appropriate support groups when they express these concerns.

This is an extract from the "Update for Primary Care Physicians" report edited by Denyse L. Adler, The Adler Group, Montville, NJ.

Distinguished Panel Members

Javier Aisenberg, MD, Pediatric Endocrinology
Hackensack University Medical Center

Donna Astiz, MD, Department of Medicine
Morristown Memorial Hospital

Jeanne Carter, PhD, Psychiatry
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Alice Cohen, MD, Adult Oncology
SBHCS at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center

Alice Ettinger, RN, Pediatric Oncology Nursing
Saint Peter's University Hospital

Maragret Garrisi, Fertility & Reproductive Medicine
Saint Barnabas Medical Center

Darleen Gibbons, MD, Gynecologic Oncology
The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Allison Grann, MD, Radiation Oncology
Saint Barnabas Medical Center

Michael B. Harris, MD, Pediatric Oncology
Tomorrows Children's Institute at Hackensack University Medical Center

Libby Klein, LCSW, Social Worker
Tomorrows Children's Institute at Hackensack University Medical Center

Susan Murphy, MD, Pediatric Oncology
Saint Barnabas Medical Center

Barbara Rabinowitz, PhD, Sex Therapist Private Practice and Administrative Director,
Oncology Services, Meridian Health Systems

Beverly Ryan, MD, Pediatric Oncology
Tomorrows Children's Institute at Hackensack University Medical Center

Eric Seaman, MD, Male Infertility & Reproductive Medicine
Morristown Urology Associates

Paulette Stanford, MD, Development of Adolescents
UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

2003 ANNUAL RETREAT ON CANCER RESEARCH

June 11, 2003

The 2003 Annual Retreat on Cancer Research was held on June 11, 2003 in Princeton, New Jersey. Sponsored by the NJCCR and The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, the purposes of the retreat are to promote interaction among investigators, provide a forum for the presentation of original research, aid in career development and training through presented lectures and focus groups, and increase awareness of resources available within New Jersey.

The retreat has come a long way since its inception. Incorporating suggestions from past retreats, the planning committee strives to make each annual retreat better than the last. One mark of its success is the fact that this year, the conference brought together over 500 researchers, allied health professionals, nurses, students, patients and advocates. This level of participation was especially exciting because it provides

many opportunities for networking among participants and with the invited speakers throughout the retreat. In addition, the retreat provides a setting for impromptu discussions during the poster sessions and oral presentations.

No scientific meeting is complete without distinguished speakers, and this event was no exception. Each year the retreat has included presentations by invited world-renowned researchers specifically chosen for their scientific accomplishments. This year, **Robert S. Kerbel, Ph.D.**, Head, Molecular and Cell Biology Research, Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Center, Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, University of Toronto, provided the keynote address by guiding the audience through his research on molecular and cellular aspects for the antiangiogenic effects of low dose metronomic chemotherapy.

The retreat also included several satellite symposia designed to address emerging issues of importance in New Jersey. The public forum session of the retreat focused on the issues and complexities of the clinical trial process. Presentations by **Eric Rubin, M.D.**, Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey; **Susan Goodin, Pharm.D.**, Associate Professor of Medicine, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Director, Division of Pharmaceutical Sciences, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey; **Barbara Rabinowitz, Ph.D.**, Director of Oncology, Meridian Health System, discussed the process of bringing bench discoveries to the market, new ways of finding a cancer clinical trial in New Jersey and an open and candid discussion of cancer clinical trials.

A satellite symposium, honoring Dr. Harold Newmark for 50 years of outstanding work in colon cancer prevention, followed. Presenters included **Harold Newmark, Hon, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor, Department of Chemical Biology, Rutgers, The State University and **Martin Lipkin, M.D.**, Director of Clinical Research, Strang Cancer Prevention Center, Professor of Medicine, Weill Medical College of Cornell University.

In connection with the retreat, a special breast cancer research symposium was held to showcase the innovative research being conducted within New Jersey and provided approximately 100 researchers and health professionals the opportunity to open channels of communication and develop closer collaborations. Keynote speakers included: **Mina Bissell, Ph.D.**, Director, Life Sciences Division, Senior Staff Scientist, Lawrence Berkely National Laboratory; **Joe Gray, Ph.D.**, Professor, Laboratory Medicine and Radiation Oncology, Leader, Breast Oncology and Cancer Genetics Program, University of California San Francisco Comprehensive Cancer Center; **Harry Bear, M.D., Ph.D.**, Walter Lawrence, Jr. Distinguished Professor in Oncology, Chairman, Division of Surgical Oncology, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

To keep New Jersey on the cutting edge, a session on clinical oncology and quality of life issues was held. **Tim A. Ahles, Ph.D.**, Professor and Program Director, Center for Psycho-Oncology Research at Dartmouth Medical School discussed his findings on the cognitive effects of chemotherapy on cancer patients.

Poster presentations were held throughout the day featuring the excellent work being conducted in New Jersey. Each year, talented graduate and postdoctoral students compete for the New Jersey Cancer Research Award for Scientific Excellence. Eli Lilly, major sponsor of the program, along with several other major pharmaceutical companies, sponsored the following awards for outstanding presentations:

1. Eli Lilly award to **Diana Palmeri**, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, for "*Identification Of A Cellular Transcriptional Repressor That Inhibits Transactivation By The Lytic Switch Protein Of KSHV*"
2. Eli Lilly award to **Marlene Healey**, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, for "*Ras-Mediated Proteasomal Degradation Of Inducible Camp Early Repressor In Melanoma Genesis*"
3. Eli Lilly award to **Rajeev Rajendra**, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, for "*Topors Is A Dual Sumo And Ubiquitin Ligase And Sumoylates P53 In Vitro*"
4. Eli Lilly award to **V.R. Sunil**, Rutgers, The State University, for "*Potential Role Of ETS And CREB Transcription Factors In Regulating Neu-Related Lipocalin (NRL) In Rat Lung*"
5. Eli Lilly award to **Nirupa Ghai**, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, for "*Dietary Folate, Alcohol And The Risk Of Breast Cancer*"
6. Aventis award to **Yan Ji**, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School for "*Regulation By MAPK Pathways Of Retinoblastoma Protein Expression And Monocytic Differentiation Induced By Analogs Of Vitamin D In HL60 Leukemia Cells*"
7. Aventis award to **Hui-Yun Wang**, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, for "*Detecting Loss Of Heterozygosity In Breast Cancer By High-Through Genotype Analysis With A Large Number Of SNPS*"
8. Bristol-Myers Squibb award to **R.J. Major**, Rutgers, The State University, for "*Notch Dependant Morphological Characteristics At The Dorsal-Ventral Boundary In The Drosophila Wing*"
9. Bristol-Myers Squibb award to **Deirdre A. Nelson**, Rutgers, The State University, for "*E1B 19K And BCL-2 Antagonize BAX And BAK To Promote Tumorigenesis*"
10. GlaxoSmithKline award to **Shyamal D. Desai**, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, for "*Elevated Expression Of Ubiquitin-Like Protein ISG15 In Tumors*"
11. GlaxoSmithKline award to **M.R. Zaidi**, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, for "*Expression Of HMGA2 Is Associated With Invasion And Metastasis Of Human Colorectal Cancer*"
12. Ortho Biotech award to **Sonia M. de Toledo**, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, for "*Expression Of Connexin43 Is Highly Sensitive To Ionizing Radiation And Other Environmental Stresses*"
13. Ortho Biotech award to **A. Bhattacharya**, Rutgers, The State University, for "*A Phosphatase1 And Its Inhibitor-3 Function In The NF-KB/REL Pathway*"
14. Pfizer award to **M.R. Wolf**, Princeton University, for "*Squid And FS(1) K10 Regulate The Drosophila ORB Gene*"
15. Pfizer award to **Hao Wu**, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, for "*Sirna-Induced Suppression Of MDR1 (P-Glycoprotein) Restores Sensitivity To Multidrug Resistant Cancer Cells*"

SHARING PERSPECTIVES ON CANCER RESEARCH

NOVEMBER 15, 2003

The “Sharing Perspective on Cancer Research” conference was held Saturday, November 15, 2003 at the Newark Museum. Usually, conference planning for an event like this is executed through one of the NJCCR’s advisory groups. However, this year’s conference was especially planned and supported by the Cancer Support Group at University Hospital in Newark. The spectacular event was the largest event ever organized by the support group and brought together over 200 patients, survivors, researchers, and advocates.

This interactive seminar educated the audience about the emerging developments in cancer research in New Jersey. The program opened channels of communication and built bridges between researchers and survivors. Highlights of cancer research available in New Jersey were emphasized as well as helpful strategies to improve personal care and well-being.



Ms. Octavia Edwards discusses cancer research findings with Dr. William Hait, Director of the Cancer Institute of New Jersey

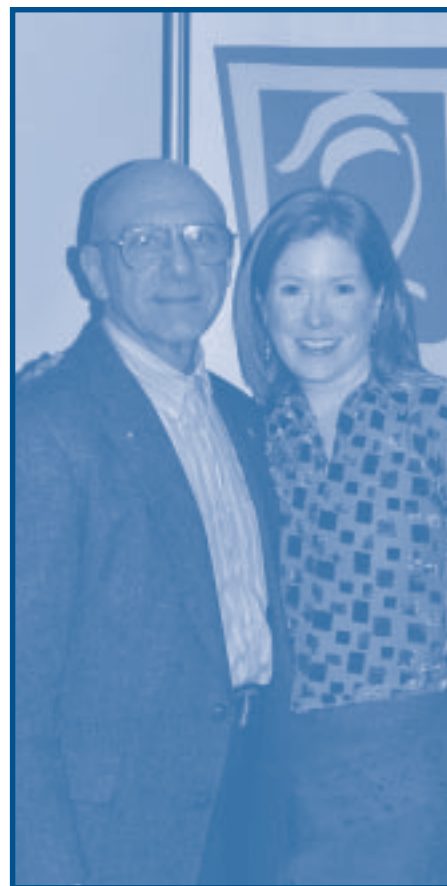


Saranne Rothberg, Roselle Burney, Dr. Margarette Bryan, Rick Younger and Francine Kerr

Speakers included **William Hait, M.D., Ph.D.**, Director, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, **Jamie S. Ostroff, Ph.D.**, Chief, Behavior Sciences Service, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, **Faith Ottery, M.D., Ph.D.**, Director of Clinical Research, Savient Pharmaceuticals, **Jayne Craig, MS, RN, OCN**, Associate Director-Oncology Group, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, **Lois Greene, RNC**, Director of Cancer Screening, St. Michaels Medical Center-Newark, **Bernie Siegel, M.D.**, world renowned author & lecturer, **Janet Harris Smith, MS, CT**, Palliative Care and Trauma Counsler, University Hospital-Newark, and **Saranne Rothberg**, Executive Director, Comedy Cures Foundation.

The audience enjoyed the benefits of a conference setting where they could interact with cancer experts on such topics as; promising cancer research and practice in New Jersey, strategies for personal care and well being, nutritional strategies, access to clinical trials, improving care through self advocacy, the art of healing, and issues surrounding end of life decisions. Comedy Cures, a joy, laughter, and therapeutic program was enjoyed by all and was the perfect ending to this special day.

The conference was hosted by the Cancer Support Group of University Hospital, Newark, sponsored by the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, The Newark Museum in partnership with Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and St. Michael’s Medical Center, Newark.



Dr. Bernie Siegel, world-renowned author & lecturer with Saranne Rothberg, Executive Director of the Comedy Cures Foundation

IMPACT NJ

Improving Minority & Medically Underserved Participation & Access to Clinical Trials

Advances in cancer research depend on you!



Significant gains have been made in the fight against cancer. Despite these gains, morbidity and mortality has continued a relentless march amongst minorities and the medically underserved communities in New Jersey. The increased number of treatment options, as well as the expanding number of clinical trials, has not significantly altered the cancer statistics in these communities. The interplay of cultural, economic, political, individual, and societal factors in general, especially within minority and the medically underserved communities, requires comprehensive and innovative interventions. These interventions must include greater emphasis on the training of physicians, as well as a long-term commitment from health professionals to these communities.

For that reason, the NJCCR and the 100 Black Men of New Jersey launched a new campaign in 2003, named **IMPACT New Jersey**, that will seek to reduce the barriers to enrollment in cancer clinical trials by addressing myths and building trust within communities.

Participation of minority and the medically underserved communities in clinical research can only serve to broaden scientific knowledge about cancer. This would include identifying the impact, or lack thereof, of specific racial factors upon susceptibility, disease progression, and disease manifestation. To impact the participation rate amongst minority and medically underserved communities, recruitment and retention strategies for clinical studies must be appropriate for the target population.

Cultural competency, or the ability to see the world through the lens of a particular culture, not just cultural awareness, is a critical skill in understanding the context of cancer in racial and ethnic minority communities. In addition to understanding the cultural context of cancer, these skills can help in designing clinical research that can produce outcomes that have relevance for these communities. It has been repeatedly demonstrated that initiatives conducted with communities, rather than “for” or “on” communities are those that will be successful to the members of the communities.

In 2003, the IMPACT advisory board organized a statewide network of links and partnerships that have worked together to develop strategies to improve enrollment of ethnic minorities, medically under-served, and the elderly populations in clinical trials. Leading community-based organizations, health agencies, and research institutions from across the state have also been involved. In addition, several training sessions for community leaders have been held to provide education and outreach on clinical trials to their citizens.

Ongoing partnerships with community leaders, research institutions, voluntary health care organizations, and faith based groups, continue to develop to implement this major educational initiative that will hopefully increase the numbers of enrolled patients in clinical trials in New Jersey.

*Photo: Dr. Frederick Cohen, NJCCR Chair, speaks at a press conference to launch **IMPACT NJ** in Newark.*

WHITE BEECHES SPONSORS ANNUAL BENEFIT EVENT TO AID CANCER RESEARCH

PEOPLE + PASSION = POWER *That is the motto of cancer advocates in New Jersey.*

An annual event, this year's Ladies of White Beeches Golf and Country Club Benefit Luncheon along with the Mens Rider Cup Tournament, on July 16, 2003, raised over \$18,000 for cancer research in New Jersey. The daylong event brought together over 250 people who competed in bridge and golf tournaments. A Chinese auction was held during the luncheon and award ceremony.

This event has become the NJCCR's largest single-day fundraiser for cancer research and education. Over the past several years, "The Ladies" have raised more than \$114,000, of which, one hundred percent of the proceeds supported cancer research at non-profit institutions in New Jersey.

The NJCCR is fortunate to have hundreds of talented volunteers, such as The Ladies, who unselfishly contribute their time and expertise. Their skills, coupled with a passion to fight the war against cancer, provide an incredible power and energy to help people cope with cancer and fund research.

As more funding for cancer research is needed to support the many deserving and promising programs in New Jersey, the NJCCR is very grateful and fortunate to be the beneficiaries of this very successful event.



Joan Shaloub, Chair, Bridge Tournament with daughter Donna.



Sopranos Star Joins the Fight Against Cancer

Vincent Curatola, a New Jersey native and actor who portrays the character of the New York boss Johnny Sack on the HBO series, *The Sopranos*, graciously volunteered to help the NJCCR in its fight against cancer.

Like so many in New Jersey, cancer has profoundly affected Mr. Curatola's family. For that reason, Mr. Curatola met with NJN Public Television Studios to tape two thirty-second public service announcements (PSAs) for the Breast Cancer Research Fund (BCRF) and the Conquer Cancer License Plate.



*Ann Marie Hill, NJCCR Executive Director, with
Mr. Vincent Curatola of the HBO series "The Sopranos"*

It is the NJCCR's hope, that many New Jersey media outlets will hear Mr. Curatola's plea to help raise funds for researchers in New Jersey. When these funds are combined with private donations and other special project revenues, the NJCCR will be able to award more grants, fellowships, and scholarships to deserving cancer researchers.

New Jersey Breast Cancer Research Fund

Former Governor Whitman signed The New Jersey Breast Cancer Research Fund (BCRF) into law (P.L. 1995, Chapter 26) on January 26, 1995. The NJCCR administers this fund to award breast cancer research grants and training fellowships, and to conduct breast cancer educational programs. Through a competitive scientific peer review process, the NJCCR makes awards from the BCRF for research projects focusing on the causes, prevention, screening, treatment or cure of breast cancer and may include, but is not limited to, basic, behavioral, clinical, demographic, epidemiological and psychosocial research. The BCRF is fueled through individual contributions and a check-off box on the New Jersey State Income Tax Return (Line 56), which allows citizens to voluntarily contribute a portion of their income tax refund or payment. The BCRF finished number two among income tax choices, raising over \$235,000 for breast cancer research.

In order to administer the BCRF most effectively, the NJCCR formed a Breast Cancer Advisory Group and enlisted the assistance of experts from all related disciplines, as well as breast cancer advocates. By contributing its unique perspective, this volunteer group helps the NJCCR formulate strategies to combat breast cancer at all levels. The advisory group and the NJCCR have determined that breast cancer research includes: projects that focus on the genetic, biochemical, viral, environmental, behavioral, economic, hormonal, demographic and psychosocial aspects of breast cancer prevention, causes, development and/or treatment. Such research may include studies that relate to fundamental issues of cancer but these must use biologic systems, tissues, cells, human subjects or other materials that have a direct relationship to breast cancer.

Since New Jersey has some of the highest breast cancer rates in the country, a low rate for participation in clinical studies, and does not receive its fair share of federal research dollars (based on National Cancer Institute and Department of Defense spending per capita), there are a large number of New Jersey breast cancer issues that must be addressed. Investigating in the state's specific breast cancer issues is exactly what the BCRF is designed to do.

ALERT! Check Line 58, Code 6 for the **NEW** Prostate Cancer Research Fund on your state income tax form.

Conquer Cancer License Plate _____

The Conquer Cancer specialty license plate is making good on its promise to 'take the fight against cancer to the streets of New Jersey'. Since its inception in 1998, over 37,000 license plates have been sold and more than \$1.8 million dollars has been raised for cancer research in the state.

The NJCCR uses one hundred percent of the monies from the license plates to fund talented scientists at New Jersey research institutions. All grants and fellowships are competitive and subject to stringent scientific review. This nonpartisan approach ensures projects with the best chance for success are funded. The majority of seed grants awarded by the NJCCR have been very successful in attracting national funds for continued research in New Jersey. For every dollar the NJCCR has awarded, over \$4.64 on average, has been returned to the state for continued research. With a return like this, the purchase of one license plate provides the same benefit for cancer research, as would a \$200 contribution.

New Jersey motorists can purchase the plate at any time during the registration cycle, for \$50 (\$42 goes to cancer research), with a \$10 annual renewal fee (100% of the renewal fee goes to cancer research projects), at all Motor Vehicle Commission offices or through its website www.accessdmv.com.



NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON CANCER RESEARCH

2003 Revenue Summary

Revenues

Cancer Research Fund	\$1,000,000
Governor McGreevey's New Cancer Initiatives	711,557
Breast Cancer Research Fund	235,384
Conquer Cancer License Plate	535,911
Gifts, bequests, donations, grants	74,113
Total Revenues	<u>\$2,556,965</u>

Expenses

FY03 First Year Award Funding	
Grants, Fellowship, Meetings/Programs	877,547
FY03/04 Second Year Award Funding/Carryover	773,676
New Cancer Initiatives Awards	610,742
Research management & support	295,000
Total Expenditures	<u>\$2,556,965</u>

Monies raised through the Breast Cancer Research Fund, the Conquer Cancer License Plate or from contributions do not finance the NJCCR's operating expenses. One hundred percent of these contributions go directly to an approved cancer research project in New Jersey and are tax deductible.

Furthermore, what this information does not show, is the value of the tremendous amount of volunteer time that goes into these activities – the human element that makes the work of the NJCCR possible.

The NJCCR would like to thank everyone who has contributed time or money towards the fight against cancer.



2003 Commission Members and Staff

The overall objectives, strategies and priorities of the NJCCR are set by the Commissioners, who actively participate in overseeing the program and make final recommendations on the research projects to be funded. In each Grant Cycle, the NJCCR awards grants based on the member's recommendations, following peer reviewers' evaluations, assessment of responsiveness to program priorities, and available funds.

The NJCCR currently consists of eleven members appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate: three scientists/clinicians; one member from a non-profit health organization, two members from private industry; one ex-officio member from the Department of Health and Senior Services, one ex-officio member from the Department of Environmental Protection and three unfilled vacancies.



Frederick B. Cohen, M.D. - Commission Chair

Dr. Cohen has intermittently served as Chairman of the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research for over fourteen years. In addition, he was the Director of Medical Oncology from 1970 to 1999 and is past president of the medical staff of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. He is recipient of the Edward J. Ill Award, one of the highest honors bestowed on a physician in New Jersey, and the New Jersey Pride Award in Health. He is past president of the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey and served as past president for the American Cancer Society, New Jersey Division, Inc. Dr. Cohen now serves as a principal investigator for the STAR project in addition to several clinical studies by national cooperative groups. He resides in South Orange, New Jersey.



Anna Marie Skalka, Ph.D. - Commission Vice-Chair

Dr. Skalka has been the Senior Vice President for Basic Science and Director of the Institute for Cancer Research at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia since 1987. Previously, she chaired the Department of Molecular Oncology at the Roche Institute for Molecular Biology in Nutley. Dr. Skalka has served on a number of national and international scientific advisory committees, and on the editorial boards of several scientific journals. She was a recipient of an Outstanding Investigator Grant from the National Cancer Institute and an unrestricted grant for research in infectious diseases from the Bristol Myers Squibb Co. In 1994, in recognition of her outstanding achievements, Dr. Skalka was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and in 1996 she was elected to the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Microbiology (AAM), serving on the Board of Governors from 1999-2002. Dr. Skalka is an internationally recognized expert on molecular genetics and the molecular biology of RNA tumor viruses. Together with Dr. Enquist, she is coauthor of the leading virology textbook. Dr. Skalka resides in Princeton, New Jersey.



Thomas Atherholt, Ph.D.

Dr. Atherholt is a member of the Division of Science, Research and Technology of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) where he is a research microbiologist. Dr. Atherholt received his doctorate in microbiology from Rutgers University. He performed environmental research at the Coriell Institute for Medical Research in Camden, NJ, for 10 years prior to joining the DEP in 1990. Dr. Atherholt serves as an ex-officio member representing the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection. He was awarded a Professional Achievement Award by the State of New Jersey for award-winning drinking water research, in May 2001. He resides in Moorestown, New Jersey.



Eddy A. Bresnitz, M.D., MS

Dr. Bresnitz is the New Jersey State Epidemiologist/Senior Assistant Commissioner in the Department of Health and Senior Services. He oversees the Center for Cancer Initiatives, which coordinates all cancer activities in the Department. He also chairs the state's Cancer Cluster Task Force. He is also Professor of Medicine in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Medicine in the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the School of Public Health of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Dr. Bresnitz received his undergraduate and medical degrees from McGill University and a Master's of Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Pennsylvania. He completed postgraduate training at Montifiore Hospital in New York City and at the University of Pennsylvania and is board certified in internal, pulmonary, and preventive medicine. Dr. Bresnitz has been principal investigator or co-principal investigator on a variety of NIH, foundation, and state grants, and has published extensively, principally in the area of epidemiology and disease surveillance. Dr. Bresnitz serves as an ex-officio member representing the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services. Dr. Bresnitz resides in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.



George E. Dunaif, Ph.D.

Dr. Dunaif is the Senior Director – Toxicology, Analytical Services and Quality Systems at the Campbell Soup Company, Camden. Dr. Dunaif directs the corporate and international toxicology, analytical laboratory, and quality systems programs and staff. In addition, he is the co-coordinator of the Campbell Integrated Pest Management Program. Dr. Dunaif received his Ph.D. in environmental toxicology from Cornell University. He is a diplomat of the American Board of Toxicology and has served on a number of national and international committees on nutrition and toxicology. He resides in Mount Laurel, New Jersey.



Lynn W. Enquist, Ph.D.

Dr. Enquist is a Professor of Molecular Biology and Chair of the Department of Molecular Biology at Princeton University. Previously, he was a Research Leader in Molecular Biology at Dupont and a Senior Research Fellow at DuPont-Merck Pharmaceutical Company. He was responsible for the DuPont-Merck Postdoctoral Fellowship Program and served as scientific advisor for senior management. In addition to teaching virology at Princeton, Dr. Enquist has published over one hundred seventy scientific papers and books. Together with Dr. Skalka, he is coauthor of the leading virology textbook. He has served on major scientific committees including the National Institutes of Health Experimental Virology Study Section and the Microbial Physiology and Genetics Study Section. Dr. Enquist is the Editor in Chief of the Journal of Virology, a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has lectured at numerous seminars and universities around the world. Dr. Enquist received his doctoral degree in Microbiology from the Medical College of Virginia. He resides in Princeton, New Jersey.



Barbara Rabinowitz, Ph.D.

Dr. Rabinowitz is the first Commission member with expertise in the psychological and psychosocial aspects of cancer. She completed her doctorate in Social Work at Rutgers University and is also a registered nurse. Dr. Rabinowitz has published chapters in textbooks for physicians on the psychosocial aspects of cancer care as well as numerous articles on this and related topics. She has completed two important cancer research projects and is a frequent invited presenter for professional organizations nationwide. Dr. Rabinowitz is the Director of Oncology Services for Meridian Health. In addition, she maintains a private practice in psychotherapy and sex therapy and resides in Lakewood, New Jersey.



Jeffrey A. Warren, M.P.A.

Jeffrey Warren is a Senior Advisor to the National Pharmaceutical Council and a Principal with JR Market Strategies, Inc., a healthcare consulting firm. Previously, Mr. Warren was responsible for Strategic Marketing and Media Relations for Pfizer Health Solutions. Earlier in his career, he served as Executive Vice President, Corporate Development for Cathedral Healthcare System. During his tenure with Cathedral, Mr. Warren was a National Program Director for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's New Jersey Health Services Development Program. Warren's past experience includes tenure as Vice President, Corporate Development with Hackensack Medical Center and serving as the first Executive Secretary of the New Jersey Hospital Rate Setting Commission. He is President of the Board of Gilda's Club, Northern NJ and a member of the board of Health Decisions. Mr. Warren serves on the Editorial Task Force Committee of AMGA's "Group Practice Journal". Jeff has a Masters Degree (MPA) in Health Policy, Planning and Administration from the Wagner School of Public Service at NYU. He resides in Parsippany, New Jersey.





Commission Staff:

ANN MARIE HILL: *Executive Director*

MICHAEL C. TOLENO: *Assistant Director*

SHANE LETEZIA: *Grant Coordinator*

KAREN SCHAEFER: *Secretarial Assistant*

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2003 ADVISORY GROUPS

The NJCCR has been fortunate in being able to work with a large number of health professionals, researchers, policy makers, and advocates from throughout New Jersey as part of its Advisory Group structure. The NJCCR wishes to thank all advisory group members for their support and to record its deepest appreciation for the contributions and services of members of the various Sub-Committees and Working Groups throughout the year.

Advisory Group Highlights

- The **BASIC RESEARCH ADVISORY GROUP** to the NJCCR continues to play a very active role in opening channels of communication and interaction within the scientific community and the public at large.
- The **BREAST CANCER RESEARCH ADVISORY GROUP** is working diligently in 2003 on the 2004 Breast Cancer Calendar Campaign and raising awareness of the Breast Cancer Research Fund. The NJCCR applauds the members for their outstanding efforts in raising public support for breast cancer research in New Jersey and deeply thanks the citizens of the state for their generous contributions.
- The **CANCER CONTROL AND PREVENTION ADVISORY GROUP** embarked on a project that addressed the role of nutrition and cancer. This study provided the baseline information needed to coordinate efforts in this area. A statewide nutrition and cancer program publication was developed, printed and featured on the NJCCR website.
- The **IMPACT NJ ADVISORY GROUP** seeks to reduce the barriers to enrollment in cancer clinical trials by addressing myths and building trust within communities. In 2003, the program organized a statewide advisory board that worked together to develop strategies to improve enrollment of ethnic minorities, medically under-served, and the elderly populations. Leading community-based organizations, health agencies and research institutions from across the state have also been involved. In addition, several training sessions for community leaders have been held to provide education and outreach on clinical trials to their citizens.
- The **NEW JERSEY PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY NETWORK (NJPHON)** is focusing on cancer survivorship and long-term effects of childhood cancers. A report for primary care physicians was mailed to doctors throughout NJ explaining the findings from the event. Additional roundtables are planned for the future.
- The **JOINT PSYCHOSOCIAL & NURSING ADVISORY GROUP** has worked on the results of the Quality of Life survey and may publish the findings in a report. In addition, this group is working towards updating The Resource Book for Cancer Patients.
- The **CANCER & AGING TASK FORCE** has met with key leaders in the field and a draft white paper is expected in the summer of 2004.
- The **PROSTATE CANCER ADVISORY GROUP** is working in collaboration with the Prostate Cancer Coalition of New Jersey.

Basic Research Advisory Group

CHAIR:

Jonathan Yavelow, PhD
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Princeton University
Princeton, NJ

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Rutgers, The State University
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(Improving Minority & Medically Underserved Participation & Access to Clinical Trials)

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Catherine Cuomo-Cecere

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