

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON CANCER RESEARCH

*Dedicated to
Conquering Cancer
Through Scientific Research*



2006 ANNUAL REPORT



The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR) promotes significant and original research in New Jersey into the causes, prevention and treatment of cancer and serves as a resource to providers and consumers of cancer services.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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 Fred M. Jacobs, M.D., J.D., and Deputy Commissioner/State Epidemiologist Dr. Eddy A. Bresnitz.

The NJCCR is established in, but not of, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). Within the DHSS, the office of the NJCCR is administratively assigned in the Center for Cancer Initiatives. The NJCCR collaborates with the Office of Cancer Epidemiology Services, the Office of Cancer Prevention & Control, and the New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection program to offer integrated services to the citizens of New Jersey.

The NJCCR also benefits from the strong support services available in the DHSS, including fiscal, human resources, and information technology. The NJCCR works effectively with the DHSS to implement its mission of service to the public.



A Message from the Chair

Dear Governor Corzine:

The mission of New Jersey's pioneering 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. Our accomplishments have distinguished the NJCCR as one of the most progressive and effective agencies within state government. Yet, much more remains needs to be done if we are to find answers to the many unresolved questions that remain concerning cancer. Finding such answers requires continued scientific research.



As you know, it is important to make sure that leading-edge cancer research is carried on throughout our state. A vibrant research community in New Jersey has a significant impact on the health care received at the local level. As a result of researchers working closely with community physicians and healthcare providers, the most modern procedures and technologies become available faster. This is especially true in New Jersey, which is home to so many leading academic, pharmaceutical and biotechnological institutions.

There are also substantial economic benefits to having strong cancer research concentrated in New Jersey. Through our training programs, highly skilled workers are available for our pharmaceutical companies and the health care industry. Currently, there are over 15,000 scientists active in research and development in New Jersey.

The NJCCR's competitive seed grant program, which supports these efforts, continues to gain national recognition. For example, **NJCCR grant recipients are four times more successful in obtaining major national research grants** than the average applicant across the nation. Additionally, **grantees leveraged an average \$10.44 in new research funding** for New Jersey laboratories for every dollar (\$1) of NJCCR (state) money received.

This competitive grant program represents a proven and effective strategy to reduce the gap in research dollars returned to the state and strengthens the research infrastructure within New Jersey. At the same time it addresses your commitment to establishing a government that is outcome-driven. The NJCCR is the only agency receiving state-appropriated cancer research funds that can demonstrate this type of return on investment.

Despite our great successes over the past two decades, there is still much work to be done. We must continue to raise funds, invest them wisely, and rely upon the cornerstones that have brought us this far and will continue to do so in the future: insight, dedication, and a commitment to maximize value. We look forward to your strong support in these important endeavors: together there is much that we can accomplish.

Respectfully yours,

Anna Marie Skalka, Ph.D.
Chairwoman



State of New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research

New Jersey's Cure for Cancer Starts Here

Founded in 1983 (Cancer Research Act – P.L.83, Ch.6), the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR) promotes and funds significant cancer research projects proposed and carried out by New Jersey scientists. The Act dedicates annually a sum of no less than \$1 million to the NJCCR to fund research into the causes, prevention and treatment of cancer. For over two decades, the NJCCR has provided more than \$29 million in support of discovery-oriented basic science cancer research.

The NJCCR has worked closely with experts throughout the state to achieve significant advances in understanding the cellular and molecular events that lead to cancer. Only by understanding the molecular and genetic properties of cancer cells can we understand what causes them to become malignant and how to reverse or prevent these changes.

While much remains to be discovered about the etiology 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 procedures 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 immunocytotherapy, that hold significant promise in furthering the battle against cancer.

That is why for over 20 years, our strategy has been to support New Jersey scientists by providing "seed" money for creative new research into the causes, prevention and treatment of cancer. Our goal has been to fund promising ideas from top scientists, which enables us to excel in recognizing and supporting many important cancer research breakthroughs from their infancy.

Looking back over our 20 years of progress, we are proud of how far cancer research has advanced as a result of the NJCCR's efforts. We are also proud of the proven success on our investment strategy, which has resulted in a return of over \$10 dollars in federal, peer-reviewed funding for every dollar provided through the NJCCR. Looking ahead, the NJCCR is more committed than ever to funding innovative research and accelerating the pace at which new therapies and drugs are brought to the patients who need them most. We are also committed to continuing our efforts to bring together New Jersey laboratory and clinical investigators, legislators, and citizens, to advance our important mission.



2006 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 reviewer's evaluations, assessment of responsiveness to program priorities, and available funds.

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

Anna Marie Skalka, Ph.D. – Chairwoman

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 for 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 former Commissioner Dr. Lynn Enquist, she is coauthor of the leading virology textbook. Dr. Skalka resides in Princeton, New Jersey.

Kenneth R. Adler, M.D., FACP – Vice Chairman

Dr. Kenneth Adler is currently an attending physician in Hematology-Oncology at Morristown Memorial Hospital and an assistant clinical professor at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He attended the University of Pittsburgh and graduated from Albany Medical College in New York. In addition, his internal medicine residency and Hematology-Oncology fellowship was completed at Albany Medical Center. In 2002, Dr. Adler was awarded the American Cancer Society of St. George National Award for his volunteer work on the local, state, and national level. He has served as a volunteer of the American Cancer Society since 1981 and has served on the National Oversight committee for the I Can Cope national program and chaired the state committee for patient and family services. He is active on the board of Cancer Hope Network and Gilda's Club and serves on the medical advisory board of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Dr. Adler was recently appointed to the National Clinical Practice Committee of the American Society of Hematology. Furthermore, Dr. Adler has been recognized as one of the leading oncologists/hematologists in the Metropolitan New York/New Jersey area, in the Castle-Connolly Top Doctors in the Northeast Region and has also been

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named in New Jersey Monthly for the past eight years. He was named Physician of the Year by the American Cancer Society, and was honored by the New Jersey State Assembly for this award. He also received the Physician Home Care Award for Somerset County and was honored at the 2003 Pink Tie Ball by the Susan G. Komen Foundation of Northern New Jersey for his care of women with breast cancer. Dr. Adler was honored to receive the Community Service Award from the VNA of Northern New Jersey in 2004. He recently wrote and helped edit the introduction to the book *I'm Sorry You Have to Be Here*, by his patient Lois Cappetta-Bhatt, a mother's story on cancer, family, and support. In December, 2006 Dr. Adler received the American Society of Hematology National Public Service Award for the work he did on Pay-for-Performance for the society.

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 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

Eddy A. Bresnitz, M.D., MS is an internist and preventive medicine physician and serves as the Deputy Commissioner for the Public Health Services Branch in the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. Dr. Bresnitz joined the Department as Assistant Commissioner/ State Epidemiologist in 1999 and became Senior Assistant Commissioner in 2003 and Deputy Commissioner in 2005. In his role as Deputy Commissioner/State Epidemiologist, Dr. Bresnitz oversees the Divisions of HIV/AIDS Services, Family Health Services, Public Health and Environmental Laboratories, and Epidemiology, Environmental and Occupational Health Services. The Branch includes the Cancer Epidemiology Service, the Office of Cancer Control and Prevention, the Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program and New Jersey CEED program. Dr. Bresnitz received his M.D. degree in 1974 from McGill University in Montreal, followed by an internship and residency in internal medicine at Montefiore Hospital in New York City. He completed fellowships in pulmonary medicine and clinical epidemiology in the early 1980s at the University of Pennsylvania, where he also received an MS in clinical epidemiology. Prior to joining the Department of Health and Senior Services, Dr. Bresnitz was Professor and Chairman of the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine at the MCP Hahnemann (now Drexel University) School of Medicine in Philadelphia. Dr. Bresnitz is currently the President of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. Dr. Bresnitz serves as an ex-officio member representing the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services. Dr. Bresnitz resides in Lawrenceville, NJ.

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James Broach, Ph.D.

Dr. Broach is currently serving as Associate Director of the Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics and Professor at Princeton University, Department of Molecular Biology. He completed his undergraduate studies at Yale University and was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry in 1969. In 1973, he was awarded a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, where he also completed his Predoctoral fellowship in Biochemistry, and Postdoctoral Fellowship in Medical Physics. In addition, he completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, upon which he was employed in the capacity of a Staff Scientist. Subsequently, he joined the State University of New York at Stony Brook as an Assistant/Associate Professor, a position he held just prior to serving in his current position at Princeton University. In the past, Dr. Broach has served as a Postdoctoral Fellow with the American Cancer Society, an Investigator for the American Heart Association, a Fellow with the American Academy of Microbiology, and a Member of the National Institutes of Health's Genetics Section. He also served as an Associate Editor for the Journal *Molecular and Cellular Biology* and Associate Editor for the Journal *Cell*. He also served as Co-Chairman of the 1991 Gordon Conference on Extrachromosomal Elements and Chairman of the 1993 Gordon Conference on Plasmid and Chromosome Dynamics. Dr. Broach was on the Scientific Review Board of the Frederick Cancer Center, Co-Founder/Director of Research for Cadus Pharmaceuticals, Co-Director/Review Board Member for the Life Sciences Research Foundation, he is a retired Editor of *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, and has published numerous articles in the field.

Barton A. Kamen, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Kamen received his M.D. and Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University. He then did a residency and fellowship in Pediatrics and Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and Pharmacology at Yale University. After spending 15 years at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center as a Professor of Pediatrics and Pharmacology and as the Carl B. and Florence E. King Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics, he moved to the Cancer Institute of New Jersey at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in 1999. He is a Professor of Pediatrics and Pharmacology, Director of Pediatric Oncology and an Associate Director of the Center. During his career he has been a recipient of a Leukemia Society Scholar Award, a Damon Runyon Walter Winchell Fellow and a Burroughs Wellcome Clinical Pharmacology Award and is one of only ten American Cancer Society Clinical Research Professors. He has authored approximately 250 papers and is the current Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Pediatric Hematology Oncology*. Dr. Kamen resides in Princeton Junction, NJ.

Marie T. Leithauser, MBA, MS

Marie Leithauser is Group Director of Planning and Management, Discovery and Exploratory Clinical Research, Research and Development, Bristol-Myers Squibb. Previously, Ms. Leithauser was the Departmental Administrator and Adjunct Professor for the Laboratory for Cancer Research at Rutgers, The State University. In addition, her past experience includes positions as a Research Assistant at Vanderbilt University, and as a Laboratory Manager/Research Assistant in the Department of

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Biochemistry at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Ms. Leithauser earned her Masters of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a Masters of Science degree in Oncology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She resides in Lambertville, NJ.

Harvey L. Ozer, M.D.

Dr. Ozer is Associate Dean for Oncology Programs at New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), and Director of the NJMS-University Hospital Cancer Center of UMDNJ in Newark. He previously served at NJMS as Chairman of the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, where he remains Professor, and as Senior Associate Dean for Research. His research on molecular mechanisms of carcinogenesis and of aging has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health for over 30 years. An internationally recognized expert on molecular genetics and cell biology of DNA tumor viruses and their cell interactions, Dr. Ozer has served on multiple National Institutes of Health and foundation training and research review panels as well as on editorial boards of scientific journals and on advisory committees to academic programs. He received his M.D. and initial research training at Stanford Medical School. Dr. Ozer resides in Hoboken, 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. She is also the recipient of the national American Cancer Society St. George Award for leadership. 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. Mr. Warren's past experience includes a 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 on the board of the Adler Aphasia Center and is on the board of the Institute for Medication Access and Compliance. 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, NJ.



COMMISSION STAFF:

ANN MARIE HILL - *Executive Director*

MICHAEL C. TOLENO - *Assistant Director*

KELLY KIRKPATRICK - *Grant Coordinator*

KAREN SCHAEFER - *Secretarial Assistant*

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Research and Grant 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 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 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, New Jersey is making a research investment that can pay vital dividends in future years. These funds provide critical leverage in developing new scientific infrastructures 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 reasonable percentage of meritorious research proposals, some deserving applications have gone unfunded. Nevertheless, this highly competitive grant program was able to award 11 grants in 2006 for \$887,850.

TWO YEAR AWARDS

Dessislava Dimova, Ph.D., Rutgers, The State University

Genomic Study of CDK-independent Functions of Retinoblastoma Proteins

\$99,000

Estela Jacinto, Ph.D., UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Phosphorylation of Target of Rapamycin Complexes in Growth Regulation

\$97,500

Research and Grant Highlights

Grace Lu-Yao, Ph.D., UMDNJ-The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Testosterone Supplementation and Risk of Prostate Cancer

\$99,000

Yi Lyu, Ph.D., UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Role of Topoisomerase II Isozymes in Carcinogenesis

\$99,000

Lorna Rodriguez, M.D, Ph.D., UMDNJ-The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Regulation of Multidrug Resistance by CD44

\$97,900

RuiRong Yuan, Ph.D., Veterans Biomedical Research Institute

Immunotargeting Therapy for Small Cell Lung Cancer by Anti-HuD-Toxin Complexes

\$97,900

ONE YEAR AWARDS

Rebecca Burdine, Ph.D., Princeton University

Analysis of the Zebrafish Cystic Kidney Mutant Switch Hitter

\$49,500

Huizhou Fan, Ph.D., UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Control of TACE-mediated TGF α Release in Cancer

\$49,500

BREAST CANCER RESEARCH FUND

Hillary Collier, Ph.D., Princeton University

Tissue Quiescence in Homeostasis and Breast Cancer

\$49,500

Celine Gelinas, Ph.D., UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Role of CAPER in ER and NFkB Activity in Breast Cancer

\$99,000

Kim Hirshfield, M. D, Ph.D., UMDNJ-The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Clinical Impact of SNPs in the P53 Pathway

\$50,050



Fellowships: A Commitment to the Future

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 and biotechnology industries when these students graduate.

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 31 fellowships totaling \$640,000 to students of outstanding merit.

POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Guohong Hu, Ph.D., Princeton University
Metastasis Regulatory Programs of Breast Cancer
2 years, \$70,500

Hwa Jin Lee, Ph.D., Rutgers University
Therapeutic Strategies for Melanoma
2 years, \$70,500

Akira Sato, Ph.D., UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
A New Factor in Canonical Wnt Signaling
2 years, \$70,500

Wendy Shaw, Ph.D., Princeton University
Identification of Genes Required for Reproductive Aging
2 years, \$70,500

PRE DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS (\$40,000 each)

Humayra Ali, Princeton University
Optimization of an Adenoviral Vector for Cancer Therapy

Emmanuel Gabriel, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Effects of Treg Modulation on Vaccine Immunotherapy

Fellowships: A Commitment to the Future

Jane Phillips, Princeton University

The Role of Pif1p in Telomerase Inhibition

Sonia Picinich, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Mechanisms of Mesenchymal Stem Cell Homing to Tumors

Vincent Shen, Rutgers, The State University

Regulation of mRNA Decay Pathways & Cancer

Victoria Swiss, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Direct Discovery of Msx1 Target Genes in Breast Tissue

VIRGINIA KOEHLER LYMPHOMA AWARD

The NJCCR received a significant amount of contributions in memory of Ms. Virginia Koehler. As a result, the NJCCR was able to match these funds and offer one award that examined the causes, prevention or treatment of lymphoma.

Nicole Pannucci, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

c-Myc in Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia

\$38,000 (pre-doctoral fellowship)

Fellowships: A Commitment to the Future

SUMMER FELLOWSHIP (\$4,000 each)

Lili Chan, Rutgers, The State University

Robert Chong, Princeton University

Eugene Fan, Princeton University

Alicia Hayes, Princeton University

Daniel Hess, Rutgers, The State University

Paul Kirkpatrick, Rutgers, The State University

Olga Kravchuck, Rutgers, The State University

Boran Li, Rutgers, The State University

Mili Mandal, UMDNJ- New Jersey Medical School

Timothy McCarthy, UMDNJ-The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Shruti Parikh, Rutgers, The State University

Elizabeth Pollina, Princeton University

Danielle Ponzio, Princeton University

Joanna Sesti, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

Daniel Silberman, Rider University

Christian Theriault, Princeton University

Eva Vertes, Princeton University

Amy Wasterlain, Princeton University

Melony Williams, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Carol Yan, Princeton University



2006 – The Year's Highlights

This report of the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research's major activities for the year 2006 is only a partial overview of the high quality work that is carried out every day in New Jersey in support of our mission.

10 Years of the Breast Cancer Research Fund: A Celebration of Survivorship

Patients with breast cancer, survivors and their families learned about the emerging issues in breast cancer research in a day-long conference on February 11, 2006 at Rider University.

Upholding the theme, "10 Years of The Breast Cancer Research Fund: A Celebration of Survivorship," the conference was sponsored by the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR) and Rider University.

"This informative and heartfelt gathering brought together up-to-date research information with inspiring testimonials from breast cancer survivors," said Dr. Jonathan Yavelow, Professor of Biology at Rider. The program was organized by the NJCCR in conjunction with Dr. Yavelow.

Special highlights of the day included "A Son's Perspective on Breast Cancer," presented by Vincent Curatola (aka Johnny Sacks) of the HBO show, "The Sopranos". Also, the keynote presentation, "Ten Years of Progress in the Fight Against Breast Cancer," was given by Dr. V. Craig Jordan, known as the "father" of Tamoxifen. Dr. Jordan is Vice President and Scientific Director for Fox Chase Cancer Center.

Among the other speakers featured were: Betsy Kohler, Director of Cancer Epidemiology Services for the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services,

who spoke on "Cancer in New Jersey;" cancer specialists on "Advances in the Care of Patients with Breast Cancer," and patients on "How Breast Cancer Changed My Life."



Actor Vincent Curatola, from the HBO series *The Sopranos*, with participants at the 10 year Breast Cancer Research Fund Celebration Conference.



(L to R) Drs. Jonathan Yavelow, James Broach and V. Craig Jordan, stand with Judi Mason Klein and Joyce Maso. Judi and Joyce were honored for their work in founding the Breast Cancer Research Fund of NJ.

2006 – The Year's Highlights

2006 Annual Retreat on Cancer Research

The **2006 Annual Retreat on Cancer Research** was held on May 25, 2006 at the UMDNJ- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Piscataway, New Jersey. The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research and The Cancer Institute of New Jersey hosted the retreat 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 progressed since its inception in 1987. One mark of its success is the fact that the conference brought together over 550 researchers, physicians, allied health professionals, nurses, students, patients and advocates. This level of participation was especially exciting because it provided many opportunities for networking among participants and with the invited speakers throughout the retreat. In addition, the retreat provided a setting for impromptu discussions with researchers 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. **Dr. Joan Massague**, Alfred P. Sloan Chair, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, and Chairman of the Cancer Biology and Genetics Program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, provided the morning keynote address on "Site-Specific Metastasis Genes and Functions." The afternoon keynote address featured **Dr. Max Wicha**, Director of the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, who presented on "Cancer Stem Cells: Implication for Prevention and Therapy."

Poster sessions were held throughout the day featuring the excellent work being conducted in New Jersey. Each year, talented graduate and postdoctoral students compete for the NJ Cancer Research Awards for Scientific Excellence. Below are the winners of the awards, which are sponsored by the following major pharmaceutical companies:

1. Biogen Idec award to Mousumi BOSE, Rutgers, The State University, for "Inhibition of Intestinal Tumorigenesis in APC MIN/+ Mice by a Combination of (-)EGCG with Fish Oil or Calcium"
2. Biogen Idec award to Denise C. Fyffe, UMDNJ-Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities, for "The Interface Between Race and Age Disparities among Advanced Stage Breast Cancer Patients"
3. Bristol-Myers Squibb Company award to Yen-Hong KUO, Jersey Shore University Medical Center, for "Predictability of Cancer Status on Blood Transfusion in Patients with Right Hemicolectomy"

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4. Glaxo Smith Kline award to Ahmed Lasfar, UMDNJ-RWJMS-Cancer Institute of New Jersey, for “Novel Type III IFNS (IFN-Lambdas) Display Anti-Tumor Activity with Restricted Cell Targeting”
5. Johnson & Johnson award to Diptee Malegaonkar, UMDNJ-RWJMS-Cancer Institute of New Jersey, for “The Putative Tumor Suppressor Topors Functions as a Dual Ubiquitin and SumoE3 Ligase for p53”
6. Pfizer, Inc. award to Jin Namkoong, Rutgers, The State University, for “Aberrant Expression of Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor 1 (GRM1) in Human Melanoma”

White Beeches Sponsors Annual Benefit Event to Aid Cancer Research

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

On July 25, 2006 the Ladies of White Beeches Golf and Country Club hosted a benefit luncheon in Haworth, New Jersey. The benefit raised over \$14,000 for cancer researchers in New Jersey. The daylong event brought together over 250 people who competed in bridge and golf tournaments. A wonderful luncheon and award ceremony followed, which also featured a Chinese auction.

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 \$160,000, of which one hundred percent of the proceeds supported cancer research at non-profit institutions in New Jersey.

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.

2006 – The Year's Highlights

The New Jersey Breast and Prostate Cancer Research Funds

The NJCCR administers the New Jersey Breast Cancer Research Fund (BCRF) and the Prostate Cancer Research Fund (PCRF). The BCRF and PCRF are replenished through individual contributions and a check-off box on the New Jersey State Income Tax Return, which allows citizens to voluntarily contribute a portion of their income tax refund or payment. The BCRF finished number one among tax choices in tax year 2005, raising over \$219,000 for breast cancer research. Additionally, the PCRF generated over \$23,500 for tax year 2005. These funds award breast and prostate cancer research grants and fellowships and cancer educational programs respectively.

Through a competitive scientific peer review process, the NJCCR makes awards for research projects focusing on the causes, prevention, screening, treatment or cure of breast or prostate cancer. Grants may also be awarded to support basic, behavioral, clinical, demographical, epidemiological and psychosocial research.

As 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 breast and prostate cancer researchers throughout the state.



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 49,300 license plates have been sold and more than \$3.7 million dollars have 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 that the very best research is 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 \$10 has been returned to the state for continued research. With this return on investment, the purchase of one conquer cancer license plate provides the same benefit for cancer research as would a \$500 contribution.

In 2006, over 3,300 plates were sold. When the proceeds from these sales were combined with renewal fees, more than \$440,000 was raised for cancer research. With the consistent success of the license plate, New Jersey cancer researchers and the public can look forward to additional grant and fellowship awards.

New Jersey motorists can purchase the plate at any time during the registration cycle for \$50, with a \$10 annual renewal fee, at all Motor Vehicle Commission offices or through its website www.accessdmv.com.



2006 Financial Summary

FUNDING

Cancer Research Fund	\$1,000,000
FY05/06 Second Year Award Funding/Carryover	704,239
Conquer Cancer License Plate	445,226
Breast Cancer Research Fund	219,881
Prostate Cancer Research Fund	23,619
Gifts, bequests, donations, grants	93,313

Total Revenues	\$2,486,278
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EXPENSES

FY06 First Year Award Funding	
Grants, Fellowship, Meetings/Programs	\$853,700
FY06/07 Second Year Award Funding/Carryover	674,150
FY05/06 Second Year Award Funding	704,239
Research management & support	254,189

Total Expenditures	\$2,486,278
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Monies raised through the Breast Cancer Research Fund, Prostate Cancer Research Fund, and the Conquer Cancer License Plate or from contributions, do not finance the Commission's operating expenses. 100% 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 New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR) possible. On behalf of the NJCCR, we would like to thank everyone who has contributed time or money towards the fight against cancer.



2006 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.

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Dedicated to Conquering Cancer Through Scientific Research



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