

## MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 17, 2014

### **Free Community Gynecologic Cancer Education Event Hosted by Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and the Essex-Passaic Wellness Coalition**

Join medical experts and cancer survivors at a **free symposium** on **Tuesday, July 22, 2014** to learn the facts about gynecologic cancer. All are welcome to join the Essex-Passaic Wellness Coalition, sponsored by Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS), at United Way, 60 South Fullerton Ave., Montclair, NJ 07042.

Event moderator, Stanley H. Weiss, MD, professor of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at NJMS and director of the Essex-Passaic Wellness Coalition, noted that “Gynecologic cancers remain a major disease in our community, with many preventable deaths. This free conference for the general public is designed to help our community prevent and control these devastating diseases.”

Following a **free dinner at 5:30PM**, there will be two brief lectures and a series of round tables focusing on prevention and detection, ending at 8:00PM. Gynecologic oncologist Robert R. Taylor, MD, FACOG, FACS, from Gyn Cancer & Pelvic Surgery, LLC (Barnabas Health) and Imelda De Vera Guimary, APN, (University Hospital Newark), will speak about the five main types of gynecologic cancer: cervical, ovarian, uterine, vaginal and vulvar. They will address the warning signs and symptoms, risk factors, screening and prevention methods, cervical cancer vaccines and treatment options. The round-table discussions will be led by medical experts as well as cancer survivors.

According to Ms. Carole Fagella, 7-year survivor of ovarian cancer, a patient educator with the Pathways Women’s Cancer Teaching Project and a U.S. congressional lobbyist for ovarian cancer initiatives, “It is very important for women to know their own bodies and the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer. There are no screening tests and no reliable biomarkers so women need to be educated to know how to detect potential disease early to gain medical help towards making a diagnosis at earlier stages.” Ms. Lesley Adams, project manager at Pathways, added, “As someone who works with brave women living with gynecologic cancers, I really believe in the power of and the need for education on this important women’s health issue. I believe we are truly making a difference.”

**If you wish to attend, please pre-register** and RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/gynca-eventrsvp>. Walk-ins are welcome, as long as space permits. This symposium is sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and SciMetrika, LLC as a part of a national campaign to educate individuals on gynecologic cancers. For more information about the campaign, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/Cancer/Knowledge>. The event is also co-sponsored by the Essex-Passaic Wellness Coalition, Pathways Women’s Cancer Teaching Project and Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.

For more information and for those without internet access, contact Mitchell Kim ([kimmt@njms.rutgers.edu](mailto:kimmt@njms.rutgers.edu)) at 1-(973)-972-4623.

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Founded in 1954, **Rutgers New Jersey Medical School** is the oldest school of medicine in the state. Today it is part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and graduates approximately 170 physicians a year. In addition to providing the MD degree, the school offers MD/PhD, MD/MPH and MD/MBA degrees through collaborations with other institutions of higher education. Dedicated to excellence in education, research, clinical care and community outreach, the medical school comprises 22 academic departments and works with several healthcare partners, including its principal teaching hospital, University Hospital. Its faculty consists of numerous world-renowned scientists and many of the region's "top doctors." Home to the nation's oldest student-run clinic, New Jersey Medical School hosts more than 50 centers and institutes, including the Public Health Research Institute Center, the Global Tuberculosis Institute and the Neurological Institute of New Jersey. For more information please visit: [njms.rutgers.edu](http://njms.rutgers.edu)