

collection and management, safety monitoring, and other essential functions that safeguard patient care and trial integrity throughout the process.

Dr. Hepel is now leading his second BrUOG-supported trial in which he's studying a noninvasive but precise means of delivering radiation to the site of breast lumpectomies. Rather than delivering radioactive material via catheters or other implants, the technology he's studying, called AccuBoost, essentially zaps the tumors. It's precise because it targets imaging markers left in the surgical area and because the breast is held firmly in place during radiation (but with much less pressure than in a mammogram).

The current trial "BrUOG 291," is meant to assess how patients tolerate a five-session course of treatment that conveniently can be performed in less than a week. Dr. Hepel expects the dose to be as effective as standard care, but he is checking for cosmetic outcomes, skin irritation or other possible side effects.

Meanwhile, **DR. KIMBERLY PEREZ**, assistant professor of medicine and a physician at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital, has been working through BrUOG to understand the underlying genetics of rectal cancer and to develop better treatments. She said the group's support is part of what convinced her to practice in Rhode Island.

"The Brown University Oncology Research Group was a significant factor in my decision to take the job at RIH/TMH Cancer Center," she said. "It has provided me with opportunities to ask critical questions in GI oncology clinical care and develop protocols in which to answer them. As a result it has provided me with the opportunities for growth as a clinical scientist locally and on the national stage in cancer clinical research."

She means that literally. Later this spring she'll speak about some of her BrUOG-supported results at the American Society of Clinical Oncology Conference in Chicago. ♦

Board of Ed OKs RIC/URI Shared Nursing Education Center at South Street Landing Would become co-tenant with Brown University

PROVIDENCE – At the May 12, 2014 board meeting, the Rhode Island Board of Education unanimously endorsed draft legislation that would enable the University of Rhode Island (URI) and Rhode Island College (RIC) to locate a shared nursing education facility in the former South Street Power Station. The draft legislation will be delivered to the Rhode Island General Assembly for consideration.

As proposed, URI and RIC would occupy approximately 50 percent of the abandoned power station and would be a co-tenant with Brown University, which would occupy the remaining half of the facility for administrative offices. The proposed legislation for the state's investment entails the construction, outfitting and occupancy of approximately 130,000 SF to be shared by the state's two public nursing education programs.

All other components of the \$206M development project, including construction of a residential and retail building and construction of a new garage, will be developed and financed privately.

Shared sim centers, labs

The design of the shared nursing education center respects the uniqueness of both programs, which will remain separate, while allowing each program to expand and share state-of-the-art simulation laboratories and equipment, enhancing educational opportunities for students and faculty. The Shared Nursing Education Center will also serve as a focal point for inter-professional education and collaborative research in the area, particularly with its proximity to the Brown University Warren Alpert Medical School and the state's major hospitals.

The legislation mirrors the lease that is currently in final negotiations between the State and Commonwealth Venture Properties (CV), a private developer. A team comprised of members of the Department of Administration, led by Director Richard Licht; the URI and RIC administrations representing each institution's academic, finance and facilities interests; the deans and faculty of the two nursing programs; and the Board of Education have been working on the development of this project over the past ten months.

The submittal of draft legislation is one step in the approval process. The General Assembly must pass legislation enabling the state to enter into the lease.

The final lease must be approved by the Board of Education and the State Properties Committee.

"Simulation laboratories are a critical component of our education strategy, and this project greatly expands the opportunities for integrating technology into the curriculum," said **DEAN JANE WILLIAMS**, Rhode Island College School of Nursing.

"The shared center is an opportunity to enhance the classroom and laboratory teaching for our students at all levels of nursing preparation in a facility with advanced learning environments that will be unique in our region. We are excited about the proximity to the hospitals and peoples with health inequities in the urban core, the Alpert Medical School, and the health and life science research initiatives that hold the potential for fruitful collaborations aimed at tackling some of our state's most pressing health care challenges," said Interim Dean Mary Sullivan, College of Nursing at the University of Rhode Island. ♦