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 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.