Coriell Recognized at SJ Chamber Awards Dinner

The Coriell Institute for Medical Research is pleased to announce its receipt of the South Jersey Chamber of Commerce Pinnacle Award for Wellness, which was presented at the 2009 Pinnacle Awards Dinner on May 11, 2009.

Awarded annually, the Chamber’s Pinnacle Awards recognize companies and individuals in five categories for their exceptional efforts on behalf of the Chamber and the community. Additionally, the Pinnacle Awards Dinner gives friends and business associates of the award recipients the opportunity to publicly honor them for their achievements.

Coriell was chosen to receive the Wellness Award in response to its outreach to the Delaware Valley community and beyond through the Coriell Personalized Medicine Collaborative (CPMC). The CPMC has enrolled close to 4,000 participants during the past 16 months, of which more than 3,700 individuals reside in the tri-state region. As a Camden, NJ-based institution, Coriell has made a tremendous local impact and works diligently to ensure that the population of CPMC study participants is truly representative of the demographics of the Delaware Valley.

Friends of Coriell and senior management attended the dinner in support of the institute.

President and CEO of AmeriHealth NJ, Judith L. Roman, presented the award to Dr. Christman.
Coriell research keeps eye on health

By KRISTY DAVIES
Courier-Post Staff

CAMDEN

The Coriell Institute for Medical Research in Camden is the recipient of the Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey’s new Wellness Award, one of the 15th Annual Pinnacle Awards.

Coriell was chosen for the wellness award because of the Coriell Personalized Medicine Collaborative, which is a research study that puts the institute at the forefront of personalized, or genome-informed, medicine.

“We like to bring in new awards to keep them current with what’s going on that year,” said Kathleen Davis, executive vice president and chief operating officer for the Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey. “We want to raise awareness of the importance of healthiness. They are on the cutting edge with an idea for participants to use this information in their own medical care.”

The program gathers genetic information on individual patients to analyze genetic history and risk.

“It’s about using personal genetic information in one’s medical care to see if it has any utility to improve people’s health,” said Courtney Sill, director of communications at Coriell. “During the last six months close to 4,000 people have signed on to the program.”

Davis is one of those volunteer participants.

“Coriell looks at your environmental information, genetics and history to assess risk factors for certain diseases,” Davis said. “I have genetic markers for something I would never have thought I’d be prone to. Now I can monitor it and always know it’s something I have to keep my eye on.”

The Coriell Institute for Medical Research was founded in 1953 and is an internationally known nonprofit, basic biomedical research institution. The Institute’s founder, Lewis L. Coriell, M.D., Ph.D., played a major role in bringing the Salk polio vaccine to the public by using cell cultures to study human viral diseases.

“This study puts health in a different perspective,” Sill said.

Davis said the chamber chose Coriell because “it’s about wellness, prevention and education.”

Reach Kristy Davies at (856) 468-2917 or at krdavies@camden.gannett.com