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More treatment options for patients

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COMPASSIONATE CARE
Karmanos helps patients and families cope
Dear Friends,

A few months ago we made an interesting observation about what people think. After researching consumer thoughts and opinions, we learned that non-Karmanos patients do not fully understand what it means to be the only hospital in Michigan dedicated exclusively to beating cancer.

On the other hand, Karmanos patients knew exactly how significant it is to be treated at our cancer hospital. They knew the difference between a cancer wing or a cancer center within a community hospital, and Karmanos, a National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center, where all we do is fight cancer. And they knew that at Karmanos our physicians are cancer specialists, not generalists, who are laser-focused on a particular type of cancer.

There are many reasons why Karmanos is known for world-class cancer care. For people like Lillie Manns, who’s fighting breast cancer for the third time, it’s because Karmanos has access to 130 cancer treatments that no other local hospital has. You can read about her cancer journey and other stories of hope and survival in this issue of Karmanos Hope.

Does it make a difference where you go for cancer care? Without a doubt.

Gerold Bepler, M.D., Ph.D.
President & Chief Executive Officer

ON THE COVER

Shelby Township resident Cassie Hines, 19, knows first-hand that cancer presents particular challenges for teenagers. But thanks to a remarkable attitude, a loving family and support from her Karmanos team, she’s doing well and pursuing a degree in speech pathology.

Read her inspirational story on page 2.

Cover image by Stephen Langrock, Plum Street Studio
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Supportive Services Help Patients and Families Cope with the Disease

CASSIE AND KAREN HINES
All cancer patients deal with different stressors as they undergo treatment. But cancer can present a particular set of burdens for teenage patients. They may not be able to attend school, have a job or enjoy as many social activities with their friends. The disease can also disrupt their dating lives or interfere with their need to become more independent.

Cassie Hines, a 19-year-old metastatic renal cancer patient from Shelby Township, can identify with some of these challenges. With the help of Kathleen Hardy, LMSW, an oncology social worker at the Karmanos Cancer Center, Hines and her family are learning some valuable coping skills.

“Dealing with cancer can be a struggle,” Hines says. “Your friends may not always understand what you’re going through. At times I felt like I had lost control. But Kathleen has helped me a lot. Cancer isn’t as much of a burden as I thought it would be.”

Hines was just 17 when doctors first diagnosed her with kidney cancer. Surgeons removed a grapefruit-sized tumor from her kidney, but the cancer returned three months later in her pelvic area. She then had a pelvic resection, a hip replacement and a long recovery. She spent several months relearning how to walk.

Just as Hines was making progress, the cancer returned again in her kidney, liver, vertebrae and several other locations. At that point, Hines and her family decided to seek treatment from the oncology specialists at Karmanos.

Under the care of Karmanos’ Ulka Vaishampayan, M.D., multidisciplinary team leader of Genitourinary Oncology, and Peter Littrup, M.D., medical director of Interventional Oncology and director of Radiology Research and the Human Imaging Core, Hines has had a combination of chemotherapy, cryotherapy and drug therapy. She and her family also began meeting with Hardy.

“Oncology social workers provide counseling support for patients and family members as they’re dealing with cancer diagnosis, treatment or other long-term issues related to the disease,” Hardy says. “Cancer doesn’t just affect one person, it affects the entire family. It also affects each patient and family differently, so we provide a customized level of support to meet their needs.”

Hardy helped Hines overcome some of her anxieties before Hardy met with her siblings and parents.

“Cancer began to wear on my family,” Hines says. “My brother and sister were very quiet around the house and didn’t talk with me as much. Kathleen helped us learn how to communicate better. I also had to leave college for treatment. Living at home again after being independent was hard at first but I’ve learned to rely on others for support.”

Hardy also connected Hines with Camp Make-A-Dream, which offers medically-supervised, cost-free camps to children, young adults and families affected by cancer. Hines attended a week-long teen camp last June at a picturesque, mountainside setting in Gold Creek, Mont.

“It was nice to get away from all the treatments and hang out with other people my age who are having similar experiences,” Hines says. “I’m still in touch with the friends I made at camp.”

Hines recently resumed classes this summer at Macomb Community College and plans on completing her degree in speech pathology at Michigan State University.

“Cassie is a remarkably inspirational person,” Hardy says. “At first, she felt she could manage her disease by herself. But once Cassie realized that her condition is chronic, she became much more open. Now she asks for what she wants and needs. She’s learned that you don’t have to deal with cancer alone.”

For more information about supportive oncology services and programs, visit Karmanos.org or call 1-800-KARMANOS (1-800-527-6266).
Clinical Trials Give Cancer Patients More Treatment Options

To say that Lillie Manns is an upbeat person is an understatement. Although she’s still receiving treatment for breast cancer five years after her initial diagnosis, she faces her foe with great courage and tenacity.

“I’ve beaten breast cancer twice already,” says Manns, a 71-year-old retiree from Southfield. “It came back a third time, but I’ve never allowed it to get to me. From the very beginning, I’ve felt cancer is something I can overcome. And the care I’m receiving at Karmanos makes me want to fight the disease even more.”

Manns’ partner in her battle against cancer is Patricia LoRusso, D.O., director of the Phase I Clinical Trials Program at the Karmanos Cancer Center. Dr. LoRusso and her team are developing better ways to treat cancer patients by evaluating the effectiveness of how new cancer-fighting drugs affect humans. Patients usually enter the program after conventional treatment has failed or when effective treatment is no longer possible.

“The oncologist I had been seeing didn’t feel that chemotherapy was working for me, so he referred me to Karmanos,” Manns says. “Once I met Dr. LoRusso, I immediately felt reassured. With my faith and Dr. LoRusso’s help, there’s no way cancer will take control of me.”

AMONG THE WORLD’S BEST

Through its Clinical Trials program, Karmanos offers about 130 investigational drugs that are in various stages of clinical development and are not commercially available. Its Phase I program is one of just 14 National Cancer Institute-funded programs in the U.S. and Canada, and the only such program in Michigan. “Under the leadership of Dr. LoRusso, Karmanos’ Phase I program has become one of the best in the world,” says Gerold Bepler, M.D., Ph.D., Karmanos president and chief executive officer.

“We offer newly-developed drugs that simply cannot be obtained at regional medical centers,” Dr. Bepler says. “Dr. LoRusso is also a recognized leader in her field. She is on multiple National Cancer Institute panels and pharmaceutical companies regularly seek her for consultations. We also have a highly-skilled research team that can match patients to a particular clinical trial that will work best for them.”

Although all clinical trials have an experimental component, patient care and safety are the top priority. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) must approve a trial before patients are enrolled. If a study shows that a particular drug is safe and effective, the FDA may eventually approve it for commercial use. With the advent of more targeted drugs against select tumor targets, there is excitement among researchers that a new era of drug development could bring increasingly better patient response rates.

“I tell all my patients that the drugs are investigational, but the treatment protocol has been thoroughly evaluated by the FDA,” Dr. LoRusso says. “We monitor our patients very closely for safety. We may not know how a particular patient will respond to the drug or what the side effects will be, but, depending on the tumor, the response may be better.

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Recruiting patients to trials helps researchers translate the science from the lab into a clinical setting where it can make the most impact: on humans!

— PATRICIA LORUSSO, D.O.
than with conventional drugs, particularly if that patient has already failed several treatments.”

Because of the breadth of drugs available, Karmanos’ Phase I program is a valuable resource for patients locally and throughout the country. At any one time, about 100 patients are enrolled in Phase I trials at Karmanos. The majority of these patients come from 50 miles away or farther for treatment.

Assisting Dr. LoRusso are additional physicians and a team of experienced personnel. Denise Weiss, FNP, BC, nurse practitioner within the Phase I Clinical Trials program, is just one of a team of professionals who guides cancer patients through the Phase I clinical trials process. Phase I team members assess patient eligibility to take part in a specific trial; manage patient case data; provide patients with trial information; review medical scans; and follow up with patients regularly while they are on a clinical trial. Not only that, Phase I team members also get to know the patients personally.

Weiss, who works primarily with the breast cancer patients, including Manns, said these women are inspirational to her.

“They make you realize that what you may have been worrying about is absolutely nothing compared to the obstacles that they have to overcome themselves,” she said. “To see some of these people and see what they endure, it really wows you.”

**HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**

Most investigational drugs are not given a name until just prior to FDA approval. After consulting with Dr. LoRusso in January 2009, Manns enrolled in a clinical trial and began taking an investigational chemotherapy drug called “T-DM1,” which has shown promise for some breast cancer patients. Recent national and international studies with this drug demonstrate a tumor response rate of at least 40 percent in patients who have failed many other treatments, similar to Manns’ situation.

“I wasn’t sure if I wanted to take the drug at first, but Dr. LoRusso took the time to explain everything to me in great detail,” Manns says. “I learned that the doctors are really concerned about their patients and they can stop the trial at any time. For me, the drug has worked out well. I feel fine and continue to take it as prescribed. I see Dr. LoRusso each month and she watches my blood count very carefully.”

“Karmanos has been a great resource for me, because there’s no other place in the area where I can get this medication. And it makes me very happy to know that my trial will help other patients in the future.”

Dr. LoRusso says patients in clinical trials are the true heroes of her profession. She hopes that more patients will seek out opportunities to enter a clinical trial and contribute to the growing body of knowledge that will eventually end cancer.

“Less than three percent of all cancer patients enter clinical trials,” Dr. LoRusso says. “It takes a lot of time to recruit patients and conduct the trials, but it’s the only way we’re going to make advancements against this disease. It is critical that we study how these therapies work in patients in a controlled setting. Recruiting patients to trials helps researchers translate the science from the lab into a clinical setting where it can make the most impact: on humans!”

*For more information about the Phase I Clinical Trials program at Karmanos, call (313) 576-8749 or visit Karmanos.org/Phase I.*
During his off-hours, Adam Wais often helps family and friends with home improvement projects. Last spring, he was remodeling his mother’s bathroom when he began having trouble breathing.

“I was suddenly short of breath,” says Wais, a 35-year-old journeyman electrician from Canton. “I had a feeling something wasn’t right.”

Wais made an appointment with his family doctor, who diagnosed him with a sinus infection. When the medication didn’t help, Wais took the next step.

“I’ve suspected for a long time that I’ve been exposed to concrete dust and asbestos at various job sites,” he says.

“I’m a third-generation building tradesman who knows a thing or two about the dangers of asbestos. I became very concerned and wanted to take control of the problem, so I called Karmanos.”

Wais visited Michael Harbut, M.D., MPH, FCCP, director of Karmanos’ National Center for Vermiculite and Asbestos-Related Cancers, and professor of internal medicine at the Wayne State University School of Medicine. A breathing test showed that Wais, a non-smoker, was transmitting a low percentage of oxygen from his lungs to his blood. A subsequent CT scan revealed scar tissue and an infection in Wais’ right lung. Dr. Harbut immediately placed Wais on an appropriate medical regimen.

“Dr. Harbut is keeping a close eye on my condition,” Wais says. “We don’t know for sure if it’s asbestosis, but I feel more confident about my situation, knowing that I have an expert to go to for help.”

A GROWING CONCERN

Unfortunately, the number of cancer patients who have been exposed to environmental toxins is growing. Now, the U.S. government is taking a closer look at the problem.

The President’s Cancer Panel released a report earlier this year stating that the true burden of environmentally-induced cancer has been grossly underestimated. It also says health care providers often fail to consider occupational and environmental factors when diagnosing their patients.

“People who have been exposed to environmental toxins often
have difficulty getting an accurate medical diagnosis,” says Gerold Bepler, M.D., Ph.D., Karmanos president and chief executive officer. “It’s not always clear if a patient’s problem is related to toxin exposure or another condition. Karmanos’ National Center for Vermiculite and Asbestos-Related Cancers is a great resource for patients with these concerns. Dr. Harbut is a nationally recognized physician who specializes in diagnosing and treating patients with cancers caused by toxins.”

Dr. Harbut says the report issued by the President’s Cancer Panel further confirms his belief that there is a significant link between environmental toxins and cancer.

“Earlier studies suggested that only about four percent of cancers were related to environmental toxins,” Dr. Harbut says. “Today that number is believed to be between 30 and 80 percent. There may be less coal and sulfur dioxide in the air we breathe today, but there are still other chemicals out there that contribute to the problem.”

EARLY IDENTIFICATION

Dr. Harbut also says that people with asbestos exposure have a five to 90 times increased risk of developing lung cancer, depending on other hazardous exposures in their life. “By definition, these individuals face a very high cancer risk,” he added.

To help doctors discover lung tumors at an earlier stage when more treatment options are available, Dr. Harbut is developing a new blood test that can help identify mesothelioma and other deadly cancers that form in the lining of the chest. He also launched Karmanos’ Environmental Cancer Program, in partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Labor and management are taking notice. In May, officers from the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators, on behalf of their contractors and the “Breath of Life Foundation,” presented Karmanos with a $70,000 check to support Dr. Harbut’s ongoing research. The union also named the National Center for Vermiculite and Asbestos-Related Cancers a recommended treatment site for workers in its Central States region, which includes Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia.

“It’s all about finding a cure for mesothelioma, and getting the word out about early detection of the symptoms for the disease,” said John Martin, president of the West Virginia Master Insulators Association and a trustee of the Breath of Life Foundation.

“Nearly everyone in our union knows someone who has died from asbestos exposure,” says Heat and Frost Insulators International Vice President Greg Revard. “Our goal was to help fund a center that will help our members get the correct medical diagnosis and proper treatment from day one. Karmanos is a perfect fit for our members. Dr. Harbut understands the problems we have with asbestos exposure, and his research is the key that will not only help workers in our trade, but also help the general public.”

Other Karmanos researchers are also dedicated to battling mesothelioma. Larry Matherly, Ph.D., associate director of the graduate program in Cancer Biology at Karmanos and professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Wayne State University School of Medicine, recently received a $100,000 grant from the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation to support his work in developing new chemotherapy drugs that target malignant mesothelioma cells.

To learn more about cancer screening and diagnosis, or to make an appointment, call 1-800-KARMANOS or visit Karmanos.org.

WHAT CAN I DO TO AVOID EXPOSURE?

Dr. Michael Harbut suggests some relatively simple ways people can reduce their chance of exposure to environmental toxins in their homes:

ARSENIC: Thousands of southeast Michigan residents who drink well water are exposed to arsenic. A urine test can determine if it’s present in your system. Many home water filters are not able to remove arsenic from drinking water. To avoid potential exposure, switch from drinking well water to distilled water.

ASBESTOS: Asbestos has never been banned in the U.S. and is still used in some products today. Up until the 1970s, asbestos was a material commonly used in attic insulation because of its fire-retardant properties. Up to 300,000 homes in southeast Michigan still have insulation containing asbestos. To avoid exposure, do not disturb attic insulation – handling the material can cause asbestos to become airborne. Better yet, do not go into your attic if it has vermiculite insulation.

RADON: Radon is a naturally occurring gas that can seep through basement walls. It’s caused by decomposing uranium in the soil. With a radon test kit, you can find out if dangerous levels are present in your basement. Karmanos is making discounted kits available through a joint venture with Air Check, Inc., (www.ECPdiscount.radon.com). You can effectively remove radon from your basement by using a vented fan or a more sophisticated off-gassing system.
As part of its goal to provide the highest quality cancer care, the Karmanos Cancer Center continually seeks new and better ways to treat cancer. An important part of that effort is providing Karmanos physicians with the most advanced medical equipment available.

Within the past year, Karmanos took delivery of state-of-the-art, image-guided radiation therapy machines with the newest technology available to deliver cancer killing radiation. Karmanos physicians can target tumors with great precision and eliminate or minimize the damage to healthy surrounding tissue. The new “linear accelerator” equipment includes two Varian iX machines, available at Karmanos’ main campus in midtown Detroit and at the Karmanos Cancer Center in Farmington Hills. Physicians at the Karmanos-Crittenton Cancer Center in Rochester Hills treat patients with Varian’s Trilogy machine.
“The Varian linear accelerators can be used to treat any type of cancer requiring image guidance,” says Andre Konski, M.D., MBA, MA, FCR, service chief for Radiation Oncology at Karmanos and chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Wayne State University School of Medicine. “The Varian Trilogy provides very precise treatment for tumors in areas such as the brain, lungs or abdomen, allowing physicians to treat patients with stereotactic body radiotherapy. Since both machines allow us to obtain better images, we can reduce the margin of normal tissue receiving radiation and deliver radiation more precisely than ever before.”

Varian iX and Trilogy linear accelerators use X-ray and cone-beam CAT scan technology to identify exactly where the treatment volumes are located. The machines also provide faster treatment through “volumetric arc therapy,” which delivers radiation in a continuous arc around the patient in less than two minutes. Faster treatment helps reduce patient discomfort and limit potential treatment side effects.

Of course, advanced medical technology is only as good as those who use it. The Karmanos Radiation Oncology Team is board-certified and actively involved in radiation oncology education and clinical training, as well as national efforts to assure safety and accuracy in radiotherapy delivery. The team worked tirelessly over several months to calibrate the Varian equipment to perform to the level of its rigorous standards.

“The Varian equipment replaces earlier technologies and furthers our ability to target cancer cells,” Dr. Konski says. “It’s just another tool in our arsenal that gives Karmanos patients their best chance at beating cancer.”

For more information about cancer services, call 1-800-KARMANOS or visit Karmanos.org.

PATIENT BENEFITS
• More precise targeting helps medical experts deliver enough radiation to a moving tumor to eliminate it, while minimizing the amount of healthy tissue exposed to the radiation.
• The ability to provide faster treatment reduces patient discomfort.

CANCERS TREATED
• The Varian iX and Varian Trilogy can be used on any cancer disease site treated with radiation therapy.

KARMANOS RADIATION ONCOLOGY TEAM
• Leaders in education and clinical training in radiation oncology.
• Actively involved in national efforts to assure safety and accuracy in radiotherapy delivery.
• Passed all of the criteria for the credentialing process for national cooperative clinical trials from the Radiological Physics Center, an organization sponsored by the National Cancer Institute to monitor consistency in radiotherapy delivery.
Q: I’ve heard a lot about a possible link between cell phones and cancer. Some studies say cell phones can cause tumors; others say they do not. How do I know what to believe?

A: "Studies that have made a link between cell phones and brain cancer have been inherently flawed in their design. In contrast, the studies that have had the largest patient samples and the longest follow-up periods have shown that there is no link. Cell phones use electromagnetic radiation in the microwave range. Experimental studies in animals and epidemiological studies in humans have not shown any evidence of harmful effects of microwave radiation. In May 2010, the 13 nation INTERPHONE project, the largest study ever undertaken, published their findings that there is no solid association between cell phone usage and brain tumors."

Sandeep Mittal, M.D., FRCSC, FACS
Co-Leader, Neuro-oncology
Multidisciplinary Team

These answers are meant only to be educational and informative and do not represent a complete health analysis or diagnosis. If you have questions about your specific medical case, please check with your health care practitioner.
Q: Is it true that tanning salon beds cause skin cancer?

A: “Tanning beds produce ultraviolet rays that can cause damage to skin cells. This damage can result in errors or mutations in the DNA of the cells and lead to cancer. It’s human nature for some people to think ‘I can still tan without fear of getting skin cancer.’ But the truth is the incidence of melanoma is rising faster than any other type of cancer. It’s best to avoid tanning beds altogether, as well as excessive sun exposure.”

AMY WEISE, D.O.
Medical Oncology, Melanoma and Phase I Multidisciplinary Teams
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Wayne State University School of Medicine

Q: Why does chemotherapy make your hair fall out?

A: “Many chemotherapeutic drugs are chosen to kill rapidly growing cancer cells, but they also can kill normal cells that are growing rapidly. These treatments can affect cells in the bone marrow, those lining the gut and hair follicles. Fortunately, not all drugs cause hair loss – it may depend on the dose of the drug, dosing schedule and how drugs are combined. Hair will usually grow back within a few months of treatment. Sometimes it will start to grow while the chemotherapy continues and the first hairs may be very fine. The hair may come back with more curls.”

ANTHONY SHIELDS, M.D., PH.D.
Associate Center Director, Clinical Services Program Leader, Developmental Therapeutics Professor of Medicine and Oncology, Wayne State University School of Medicine

Q: Should I be concerned about the pesticides commonly used on fruits and vegetables?

A: “Pesticides have been associated with the development of some cancers, as well as Parkinson’s disease. General studies of people with high exposure to pesticides, such as farmers and crop dusters, have found high rates of blood and lymphatic system cancers, melanoma and other cancers. To reduce the potential health risks, peel fruits and vegetables before eating, or at least scrub them as much as possible.”

Q: I’ve heard that hair dye can cause cancer. Is that true?

A: “Some studies have indicated that materials used in hair dyes in the U.S. up until about 1980 were associated with the development of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Because these hair dye formulations were found to cause cancer in animals, manufacturers changed their ingredients to eliminate some of these chemicals. We don’t know whether some of the chemicals still used in hair dyes can cause cancer. Research on hair dye use and the risks of other cancers is more limited and has produced conflicting results.”

MICHAEL HARPUT, M.D., MPH, FCCP
Director, Environmental Cancer Program, Karmanos Cancer Institute
Professor of Internal Medicine, Wayne State University School of Medicine
A SURVIVOR’S Story

RENEE WILKINS WITH HUSBAND, JAMIE, AND DAUGHTER, LAUREN
When Renee Wilkins of Livonia planned a routine trip to the dermatologist seven years ago, her husband suggested that she ask about an odd-looking mole on her shoulder.

“The doctor instantly knew it was melanoma – a type of skin cancer,” says Wilkins, now age 35. “The biopsy came back positive, so I had surgery to remove the mole and the tissue around it.”

As a child, Wilkins spent a lot of time outdoors and endured many sunburns. She often wore a T-shirt over her swimsuit to try to prevent burns. She also went to tanning salons for what she thought was a safer tanning alternative.

After the surgery, Wilkins remained cancer-free until it returned last year in her lymph nodes as stage III melanoma. That’s when she made an appointment to see Amy Weise, D.O., a medical oncologist and skin cancer expert at the Karmanos Cancer Center, who is also an assistant professor of internal medicine at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

“I was devastated that the cancer returned,” Wilkins says. “I’ve lost both my parents to cancer. Now I have a three-year-old daughter. I worried about being there for my family.

“Dr. Weise spent a lot of time explaining everything in detail to me during my initial consultation. She helped me feel calm. I chose Karmanos because she was able to see me right away and I felt very comfortable with her.”

Melanoma accounts for about two percent of all cancers, but its rate of incidence is increasing faster than any other cancer. It’s also very aggressive and often affects younger patients.

“People should avoid excessive sun exposure; use sunscreens with a SPF rating of 30 or higher; watch for new, irregularly shaped moles; and see a dermatologist for an annual skin exam,” Dr. Weise says. “When caught early, the melanoma cure rate is about 95 percent. The median survival rate for patients with Stage 4 melanoma is six to nine months. However, scientists have developed new drugs within the past two years that will help dramatically alter that statistic.”

Wilkins underwent surgery to remove her lymph nodes before receiving injections of a cancer-fighting drug called Interferon.

“Interferon is a chemical our bodies normally secrete in response to a viral illness,” Dr. Weise says. “It boosts the immune system to fight a foreign invader. For some patients with stage III melanoma, we administer Interferon in high doses to boost the immune system so it can destroy any remaining cancer cells and prevent reoccurrence.”

After 12 months of treatment, Wilkins completed her Interferon regimen with no sign of cancer. She participated in this year’s Komen Detroit Race for the Cure® and is preparing for this fall’s 5K race at the Detroit Zoo.

“Everybody at Karmanos has been wonderfully supportive throughout my treatment,” Wilkins says. “Going above and beyond is the norm for their doctors, nurses and staff. I would definitely recommend Karmanos to others seeking cancer treatment.”

To learn more about skin cancer screening and diagnosis or to make an appointment, call 1–800–KARMANOS (1–800–527–6266).
At first, the problem seemed minor. In 2004, Allan Knake began receiving treatment for acid reflux. When the medication didn’t help, subsequent tests indicated a possible problem with Knake’s gall bladder. Then, an endoscopy revealed the true cause of his illness.

“The doctors found a tumor on my pancreas,” says Knake, 58, a dyno technician from Waterford. “I learned that most pancreatic cancer patients don’t survive. Frankly, I didn’t plan on coming out of this.”

According to the National Cancer Institute, the three-year survival rate for pancreatic cancer patients is just five percent. It’s particularly deadly because its symptoms are initially subtle and often attributed to other ailments. In many cases, by the time the disease is correctly diagnosed, the cancer has spread to the patient’s lymph nodes, liver or lungs.

“I had significant weight loss, abdominal pain and jaundice – the doctors wanted me to undergo surgery as soon as possible,” Knake says. “But because the tumor was located so close to nerves and blood vessels, they wanted me to see a surgical specialist. They referred me to Karmanos.”

At the Karmanos Cancer Center, Knake met with Donald Weaver, M.D., professor of surgery and chair of the Department of Surgery at Wayne State University School of Medicine. Knake learned that his best option was to undergo a complex surgery called a “Whipple procedure.”

“The Whipple procedure is for tumors that arise at the junction of the pancreas, bile duct and intestine,” says Dr. Weaver, who’s performed more than 650 Whipple procedures in his 30 years of surgical experience. “Under those circumstances, we have to remove that area of the anatomy and rebuild it. The procedure is complex and can take four to five hours. Unless you’re a surgeon who works in a specialty area, you’re not likely to be called upon to do that procedure very often.”

Dr. Weaver removed Knake’s tumor and 19 surrounding lymph nodes. After a 10-day hospital stay, he underwent six weeks of radiation and chemotherapy to destroy any remaining cancer cells. Five years after the surgery, Knake remains cancer-free.

“I feel awesome,” Knake says. “I just have to watch my diet closely, but there’s nothing I can’t eat or drink. The physicians and nurses at Karmanos are the best people you’d ever want to meet. Because they have great experience dealing with all types of cancer, it’s the only place I’d recommend to patients.”

Knake’s children recently created the Hero Foundation to honor their father and support the research of Michael Tainsky, Ph.D., leader of Karmanos’ Molecular Biology & Genetics Program. Dr. Tainsky is researching diagnostic biomarkers for pancreatic cancer and working on developing an early detection blood test.

“We created the foundation to help other people,” Knake says. “Dr. Tainsky’s research will help catch this disease before it reaches a late stage. My message is, ‘Don’t give up hope. It’s there at Karmanos.’”

To learn more about the Hero Foundation, visit www.herofoundation.webs.com or contact theherofoundation@att.net. For more information about cancer services, call 1–800–KARMANOS or visit Karmanos.org.
As a tool for detecting breast cancer, traditional mammography is effective and it remains your best option for getting an early diagnosis. But mammograms aren’t perfect. Scans sometimes present a false positive or miss cancers that are present. Mammography units expose patients to low doses of radiation. And because scans involve compression of the breast, some patients find the process uncomfortable.

As part of its mission to continually develop new methods of detecting and treating cancer, Karmanos Cancer Institute researchers invented an enhanced breast cancer imaging device called SoftVue.

“We believe SoftVue is better able to determine whether a breast lesion is benign or cancerous,” says Neb Duric, Ph.D., co-leader of Developmental Therapeutics Program at Karmanos, and professor of Radiation Oncology at Wayne State University School of Medicine. “Patients find the scanning process very comfortable. And because SoftVue uses ultrasound instead of radiation, there are no exposure risks to patients.”

With SoftVue, the breast is submerged in warm water and surrounded by an ultrasound ring, which captures detailed, three-dimensional images through the use of sound waves. With its three-dimensional capabilities, SoftVue can accurately measure breast density, a known factor for developing breast cancer. The scanning process takes about one minute, does not involve breast compression and is a fraction of the cost of breast Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).

A team of researchers led by co-creators Dr. Duric and Peter Littrup, M.D., Karmanos’ director of Interventional Radiology/Oncology, and professor of Radiology, Urology and Radiation Oncology, Wayne State University School of Medicine, have developed and refined the SoftVue technology over the past 10 years. So far, Karmanos has completed more than 500 patient scans using SoftVue as part of an ongoing clinical study. Karmanos is the only cancer center in the world with the SoftVue technology.

“Right now we have an experimental SoftVue prototype,” Dr. Duric says. “The next step is to create a commercial prototype that Karmanos’ spin-off company, Delphinus Medical Technologies, can eventually sell to other hospitals. That process is underway. Our goal is to continually enhance the technology and eventually replace traditional mammography with SoftVue.”

SoftVue is a perfect example of “translational science” — taking new technologies and discoveries, developed in the lab, and bringing them into clinical practice.

“Karmanos is a leader in these types of innovations because we’re engaged in research alongside our clinical services,” Dr. Duric says. “We’re able to develop new ideas and take them directly to the clinical environment. That’s part of what makes Karmanos stand out among cancer centers in our region.”

For further information about mammography screenings, visit Karmanos.org or call 1-800-KARMANOS.
Gary Morrison has worked for a number of different hospital systems over the years, but there’s one thing about his Karmanos Cancer Institute experience that he says is special.

“I love working at a place where everyone is focused on one thing – curing cancer,” says Morrison, who became Karmanos’ chief operating officer in April after having served as its interim COO for six months. “Everyone at Karmanos is dedicated toward the diagnosis, treatment and eradication of cancer. That level of dedication is very exciting and gratifying.”

The job brings Morrison back to his native state after working in various administrative and executive positions for hospitals in four states. He was executive vice president and COO of Parkland Health and Hospital System in Dallas and at the Scott and White Memorial Hospital in Temple, Texas. Morrison was also administrator of Saint Mary’s Hospital in Rochester, Minn., owned by the Mayo Foundation. He also has more than 10 years of experience as a health care consultant. Most recently, he worked for Hunter Partners, a performance improvement consulting group based in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Morrison graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor’s degree in political science. He initially considered entering law school, but a part-time position at the University of Michigan Hospital gave him a tantalizing glimpse of a career in hospital administration.

“Once I learned that I could develop my interests in law, medicine and business, I began pursuing a master’s degree in health services administration,” he says. “Ultimately, being involved in the delivery of health care services is very rewarding. We service the most precious commodity any of us have – our health.”

As Karmanos COO, Morrison focuses on the day-to-day clinical and business operations and on providing the necessary resources to ensure the delivery of high-quality patient care.

“I’m excited to be back in Michigan and working at Karmanos,” Morrison says. “The best part of my job is having the ability to make a positive difference in people’s lives. All of us know someone who has been touched by cancer and understand the anxieties they may have. At Karmanos, we give them hope – spiritually, mentally and physically.”

**GARY MORRISON, FACHE**

**TITLE:** Chief Operating Officer

**EDUCATION:** B.A., Political Science – University of Michigan - Dearborn; Masters, Health Services Administration, University of Michigan School of Public Health.

**HOME:** Royal Oak

**CHILDREN:** Son Daniel (26) and daughter Lindsay (21). Both reside in Texas.

**HOBBIES:** Going to the theatre, enjoys attending art fairs. “I became hooked on the theatre when I consulted in New York City. I enjoy all kinds of stage performances and look forward to going to a show at the Fox Theatre.”
Ask any patient and they’ll tell you – Karmanos Cancer Center nurses are among the best in the business. Karmanos nurses routinely earn high marks in Press Ganey and other patient satisfaction surveys. They also earn accolades from their peers.

Earlier this year, three Karmanos nurses received prestigious awards from prominent local and national associations. The awards symbolize the level of excellence Karmanos nurses practice each day, which ultimately translates into excellent patient care.

Melody Jolly, RN-BC, received the Nightingale Award for Staff Nursing Practice. In recognition of this award, she received a bronze statue of Florence Nightingale and $1,000. Oakland University’s School of Nursing Board of Visitors selected Jolly for the award, which is synonymous with being among the best in the nursing profession.

The Metro Detroit Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society presented Clinical Nurse Specialist Susanne Suchy, RN, MSN, with its Outstanding Advance Practice Nurse Award. This honor is one of several Suchy has earned in her distinguished career, including a Certificate of Excellence from Karmanos in 2007.

Patricia Petroulias, RN, Nurse Educator-Patient Care Services, won the Leslie Baranowski Scholarship for Professional Excellence. The Infusion Nurses Society – the premier organization for nurses within this specialty – presented Petroulias with a $2,500 scholarship. She says the funds will support continuing education opportunities for infusion nurses.

“My goal is to help bring practicing infusion nurses closer to new infusion technologies,” Petroulias says. “The scholarship funds will help launch a one-day program that will allow these nurses to enhance their skills by practicing advanced infusion techniques in simulation labs.”

Petroulias also received a full scholarship to the College of Nursing at the Wayne State University School of Medicine, where she will begin pursuing a doctorate this fall.

“We’re very proud of these three nurses for their ongoing contributions to our profession,” says Karen Goldman, RN, MSN, AON, vice president of Cancer Patient Services and chief nursing officer at Karmanos. “Many more Karmanos nurses have also been recognized for excellence in patient care. Oncology nursing is challenging. Yet, Karmanos nurses are here because they’re drawn to working with cancer patients. Above all, our nurses are passionate about patient advocacy and forming trusting relationships with those in their care.”
GEROLD BEPLER, M.D., PH.D.
Karmanos Cancer Institute President and CEO

“I studied music while I was growing up in Germany. At about age 14, I began working as the organist at St. John’s Church in Giessen. This is the city where Wilhelm Roentgen taught physics and discovered what was later called ‘Roentgen rays,’ or X-rays, in the late 1800s. There’s a monument in a park close to the church where I played the organ in his honor. I also became the choir director at the church and taught organ lessons. I did this until I began studying medicine. The job was incredibly exciting and helped me become more focused. Most of my students were between ages 8 and 16. I wasn’t really a strict tutor. Instead, I tried to instill a sense of joy in the lessons to help my students develop their abilities.”

CARRIE BLACK, RN
MDT Coordinator, Head and Neck Oncology

“When I was 16, I worked as a switchboard operator for Tepperman’s, a large furniture store in Windsor. I was responsible for answering the phones, paging salespeople and warehouse employees, taking care of customers at the service desk, typing letters and processing mail. I fared poorly at managing six phone lines at once, and I inadvertently hung up on Mrs. Tepperman on several occasions! Although it was not one of my favorite jobs, I learned a lot about interacting with the public and the importance of providing excellent customer service.”

KEIVA BLAND, M.D.
Breast Surgeon

“I was very fortunate at age 16 to get my first job working at a doctor’s office with Peggy Richardson, M.D., who still practices internal medicine and pediatrics in Detroit. I worked there during the school year throughout high school. For my 16th birthday, I got my second ear piercing at the office. I also learned about medical terminology and coding, obtaining blood pressures and performing routine blood work. Most importantly, Dr. Richardson was a great mentor and taught me how to be a fair, equitable and caring physician.”

MICHAEL CHER, M.D.
Chief of Urology, Karmanos Cancer Institute; Professor and Chair, Department of Urology, Wayne State University School of Medicine

“When I was a 10th-grader at Thousand Oaks High School in southern California, I competed for an ‘introduction-to-science’ job at the Rockwell International Science Center. I soon found myself growing huge semiconductor crystals in an applied materials laboratory. I learned how to keep meticulous lab notes. Later on, I got involved in a project where I measured and recorded the pH of hundreds of water samples from rustbelt lakes in the Northeast beset by acid rain. I worked part-time during the school year and full-time in the summer. The job was repetitive at times, but it affirmed my interest in science. Looking back, the best part about my experience was the daily volleyball games that took place at lunch time near the loading docks.”
Receiving a cancer diagnosis is stressful enough, let alone receiving frequent chemotherapy treatments or waiting for test results. To help patients feel more relaxed and comfortable, the Karmanos Cancer Institute is providing them with iPods for their listening pleasure. Patients say the uplifting music and audio books really help brighten their day.

Karmanos depends on the generosity of many individuals and corporations to help further the fight against cancer. The iPod purchases are a direct result of donations received from Cambridge Consulting Group, an employee benefits, human resources, property and casualty insurance and wealth strategies company based in Troy. It’s just one way the company and its employees are extending a helping hand to Karmanos patients and their families.

“We’ve been very fortunate as a company during these trying economic times,” says Cambridge President Dan Cornwell. “It’s important for us to be involved in the community and practice good corporate citizenship by helping local charities and nonprofits.”

Enjoying the use of an iPod is Karmanos patient David Tacconelli. The iPod program was made possible thanks to the generous corporate sponsorship of Cambridge Consulting Group and tribute donations made in memory of Barbara J. Winther. Photo by Gregg W. Hettel.
Each year, Cambridge employees select an organization to support through its “Culture Club.” This year, they chose Karmanos and raised funds for the iPods through company coin drives and “Jeans Day” contributions. Cambridge has also made more than $107,000 in corporate-directed contributions to Karmanos over the past three years.

Cornwell manages Cambridge’s wealth strategies division, which focuses on estate planning and wealth transfer for high net worth individuals. For many clients, those estate plans include a significant element of charitable giving.

“When a person has worked hard over a lifetime to build substantial resources, it’s natural that they want to be able to use those resources to leave a legacy,” says Cornwell. “The charitable aspirations may vary from client to client, but for me personally, it’s health care, and cancer in particular.

“Cancer has touched my family, and a number of our employees and clients have been diagnosed with the disease,” Cornwell says, “I toured the Karmanos facilities a few years ago and learned a great deal about their clinical trials program, which is something you won’t find at community hospitals. Our company decided to support Karmanos because we wanted to do something to help the people we know and love.”

To give client’s employees direct access to Karmanos cancer specialists, Cambridge established a special phone number to call if they or a loved one receives a cancer diagnosis.

“It’s a concierge-type of phone service that provides an immediate outlet to solicit medical opinions from top cancer specialists,” Cornwell says. “Patients appreciate the opportunity to enter a health care system quickly and easily. This phone service makes it even easier for people to access the high quality care Karmanos provides.”

Cornwell is also personally involved with Karmanos as executive co-chair of Partners, a volunteer group dedicated to making an impact against cancer through fundraising events. Since 1994, the group has raised about $9 million to support research at Karmanos and is now supporting a new lung cancer research lab for Karmanos President and CEO Gerold Bepler, M.D., Ph.D.

“Cambridge is a remarkable example of how a company can leverage its human and capital resources to support an important cause like the Karmanos Cancer Institute,” says Nick Karmanos, vice president of Development for Karmanos. “From providing leadership in major fundraising efforts, to making major financial contributions, organizing internal employee campaigns and promoting awareness of the Institute’s critical services to clients, Dan Cornwell and all the Cambridge employees perfectly demonstrate how an organization can make a difference in the lives of our cancer patients.”

If your organization is interested in partnering with the Karmanos Cancer Institute, call 313-576-8111.
After an 18-month battle against ovarian cancer, Alice “Weezie” Schirmer of Bloomfield Hills died in 2004 at age 64. Since then, her husband Robert – or “Ham,” as his friends call him – has had a desire to help other women facing this aggressive form of cancer.

“My hope is that researchers can develop an early detection test for ovarian cancer, similar to the PSA test for prostate cancer,” says Schirmer. “Because the symptoms of ovarian cancer are subtle and the disease can go undiagnosed until it reaches an advanced stage, early detection seems to me to be the best hope for fighting ovarian cancer.”

To support this cause, Schirmer worked with a financial planner to establish a charitable remainder trust (CRT) with the Karmanos Cancer Institute as one of three charitable beneficiaries. Through the trust, Schirmer will continue receiving income for life. Upon his death, the designated beneficiaries will receive the remainder of the assets.

“Karmanos was very helpful while my wife was undergoing treatment,” says Schirmer, who now lives at Burt Lake, Mich. “We consulted with their experts, and I was very impressed with Dr. Michael Tainsky, a researcher who’s working on developing an early marker test for ovarian cancer. Since Karmanos is a comprehensive cancer center doing noble work in terms of cancer prevention, I knew supporting their research would be very worthwhile. This gift is my small way of fighting against cancer.”

Karmanos receives more than $1.5 million annually in planned gifts like Schirmer’s. A CRT is just one way donors can make a planned gift to Karmanos. A gift can be a specific dollar amount or a percentage of net assets – or it can be a portion of the remainder of a donor’s estate. Most of the funds are unrestricted and applied to the area of greatest need. Or, donors can designate their gift for a specific area or type of research.

“Weezie would have supported the choice to make this gift to Karmanos,” Schirmer says. “She led our family in adopting an attitude of charity that I’ve tried to carry on since her death.”

To learn if a charitable remainder trust would benefit you, contact Lynn Fisher, director of Foundation Grants and Planned Giving, at (313) 576-8119 or fisherl@karmanos.org.
LEAVE A LEGACY GIFT
To Continue Your Charitable Interests

BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR DR. VEE LEGACY OF HOPE SOCIETY

The Legacy Society recognizes all donors who name Karmanos in their estate plan. There are simple ways to benefit your loved ones, minimize taxes and other estate settlement costs and leave a legacy gift that will continue your charitable interests:

• Name Karmanos Cancer Institute in your will or trust. Designate a specific amount or a percentage of the residue of your estate.
• Make Karmanos Cancer Institute the beneficiary of your retirement account to avoid income and estate taxes.
• Designate Karmanos Cancer Institute as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy you no longer need. Or, donate a policy during your lifetime as a charitable gift.
• Establish a charitable remainder trust (CRT) and receive tax savings and income for life with the remaining principal to Karmanos Cancer Institute.

The Dr. Vee Legacy of Hope Society is named in honor of Dr. Vainutis Vaitkevicius, who has spent more than 50 years as an oncologist at Karmanos. His pioneering work in cancer research led to new global standards of care and treatment. Dr. Vee and his wife are charter members of the Dr. Vee Legacy of Hope Society.

For more information on making a legacy contribution towards a future free of cancer, contact Lynn Fisher at (313) 576-8119 or fisherl@karmanos.org.

The Karmanos Cancer Institute is hosting the second annual recognition luncheon for Dr. Vee Legacy of Hope Society members October 21, 2010. Please notify us if you’ve included Karmanos in your estate.

We’ll make sure you receive an invitation.
# Event Calendar

## SEPTEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GIANNI FERRAROTTI LUNG JANICE MCTIGUE GOLF OUTING</strong></td>
<td>Friday, September 24</td>
<td>Glen Oaks County Golf Course, 30500 West 13 Mile Road, Farmington Hills</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AMERICAN SEWING EXPO</strong></td>
<td>September 24 – 26</td>
<td>9 a.m., Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River, Novi</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>POLLY’S WALK FOR HOPE</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, September 25</td>
<td>Registration starts at 10 a.m., Maybury State Park, Northville</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FAITH OF A MUSTARD SEED LUNCHEON</strong></td>
<td>Sunday, September 26</td>
<td>1 – 3:30 p.m., Heavenly Chicken &amp; Waffles, Southfield</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SISTA STRUT</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, October 2</td>
<td>Detroit Riverwalk</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IMAGE SALON CUT-A-THON</strong></td>
<td>Sunday, October 3</td>
<td>Event begins at Noon, Image by Devin, 3744 Monroe Street, Dearborn</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LA PITA FRESH – KARMANOS FRIDAYS</strong></td>
<td>On the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month</td>
<td>La Pita will donate 15 percent of its proceeds to the Karmanos Cancer Institute.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THAT’S AMORE FOR OUR FRIENDS</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, October 9</td>
<td>4 p.m. – 1 a.m., Van Buren Eagles Hall, 9961 Beck Road, Belleville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KROGER PINK TAG PROMOTION</strong></td>
<td>Throughout the month of October</td>
<td>Visit your local Kroger to purchase items marked with a pink tag in support of breast cancer research at Karmanos Cancer Institute.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BETTER MADE SNACK FOODS BREAST CANCER PROMOTION</strong></td>
<td>Throughout the month of October</td>
<td>Better Made Snack Foods will be donating a portion of the proceeds from specially marked products sold throughout the month of October to Breast Cancer Research &amp; Awareness Programs.</td>
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## OCTOBER

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOWLING AGAINST CANCER</strong></td>
<td>Sunday, October 10</td>
<td>1 – 3 p.m., Garden Bowl, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ROLLER SKATE 4 A CURE</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday, October 12</td>
<td>7 – 10 p.m., Northland Roller Rink, 2231 West 8 Mile Road, Detroit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7TH ANNUAL KAY MCDEVITT MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING</strong></td>
<td>Thursday, October 14</td>
<td>11:30 a.m., lunch and registration begin, Wild Horse Golf Club, Henderson, NV</td>
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## NOVEMBER

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<tr>
<td><strong>CELEBRATION OF HOPE</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, November 6</td>
<td>5 p.m., UAW Local 387, 24250 Telegraph Road, Flat Rock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SKY FOUNDATION BRUNCH</strong></td>
<td>Sunday, November 14</td>
<td>11 a.m., Village Club, 190 East Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills</td>
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For updates or more information about these events contact 1-800-KARMANOS or visit www.karmanos.org/events.asp
Count Me Healthy, a beautiful jewelry line devoted to helping women keep track of their life-goals has created a new bracelet and ribbon charm, Counting for a Cause, to benefit breast cancer research at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.

The Counting for a Cause bracelet is available for purchase on www.countmehealthyjewelry.com and with retailers nationwide. The jewelry retails for $87 and 15 percent of the sale from each bracelet will be donated to the Karmanos Cancer Institute. Count Me Healthy bracelets also are available for purchase locally at Todd’s Room in Birmingham.

“We are very grateful to Count Me Healthy for selecting the Karmanos Cancer Institute,” said Nick Karmanos, vice president of Development at Karmanos. “Their generosity helps provide the critical dollars needed to support the innovative breast cancer research taking place at Karmanos. Proceeds fund the promising work of our breast cancer scientists who are working tirelessly to develop more effective treatments for our patients with the ultimate goal of bringing breast cancer under complete control.”

The Count Me Healthy Counting for a Cause bracelet is part of Count Me Healthy’s “Giving Collection” and features a sterling silver, breast cancer awareness ribbon charm. Like all Count Me Healthy bracelets, Counting for a Cause is handcrafted with sterling silver beads and designed to compliment anything from denim to a cocktail dress.

The premise behind Count Me Healthy Jewelry is simple – women just need to select a goal and assign a counting value to each bead. For example, women tracking daily fruit and vegetable servings can assign each bead as one serving. As each serving is consumed, the wearer slides a bead from one side of the bracelet to the other.

Aside from popular counts like daily glasses of water, fiber grams, and diet points, women can use the bracelet to track things like miles trained for a Komen 3-Day for the Cure or months/years cancer free as a survivor. The bracelet also can be used to reduce unhealthy behaviors such as smoking and eating junk food.

“I’ve been wanting to create a bracelet to benefit breast cancer research since I launched the Count Me Healthy line,” said Chelsea Gossett, Count Me Healthy creator and designer. “As a Detroit native, I am overjoyed to be working with Karmanos and give back to a community that I love – and in a small way, help to find a cure.”
When patients arrive at the Karmanos Cancer Center’s main campus on John R in midtown Detroit, they’ll find more inviting and comfortable spaces within the main entrance and first floor lobby.

Starting last November, Karmanos began extensive lobby renovations – removing the worn furniture and dated wallpaper, reducing noise levels and creating better traffic flow – all to create a more welcoming and relaxing environment for patients and visitors. Karmanos completed the enhancements in early May.

“It had been about 20 years since the lobby underwent significant renovations,” says Kay Carolin, vice president of Clinical Support Services at Karmanos. “Besides the need for upgrades from an aesthetic standpoint, there weren’t many people relaxing in the lobby. We want all our visitors to feel welcome and comfortable when they come to Karmanos.”

Karmanos worked with an interior designer from the architectural firm URS to reinvent the space. The new chairs and couches are cozy and easy to clean. A new “welcome center” replaces the old circular desk and allows for better traffic flow. Enhanced lighting illuminates the new color scheme, comprised of warm shades of blue and green with a soothing yellow.

“We also wanted to create a quieter environment, so we replaced the floor tiles with composite wood flooring to eliminate the noise from rolling carts,” Carolin says. “People will also notice the new six-foot-tall etched glass walls that separate the main thoroughfare from the patient clinics. These are designed to give patients a greater sense of privacy.”

The renovations would not have been possible without the generosity of the Young family. Five family members from southeast Michigan made a $600,000 pledge to Karmanos for the purpose of helping patients feel more comfortable when they visit the center for treatment. Karmanos used a portion of the family’s gift for the lobby upgrades.

“The Young family’s gift shows the importance of philanthropy in the lives of our patients,” says Nick Karmanos, vice president of Development for Karmanos. “Donors truly can make a difference. We’ve received nothing but positive comments about the upgrades from patients. They express greater feelings of comfort and privacy. As a leading cancer center, it’s very important that we create a relaxing and peaceful environment for our patients and visitors.”

For more information about making a gift to the Karmanos Cancer Center, call (313) 576-8102.
Why Karmanos?
Top 10 Reasons

1. All we do is fight cancer.
2. Karmanos is one of only 40 National Cancer Institute - designated comprehensive cancer centers in the entire United States.
3. Karmanos offers access to 130 cancer treatments that no other local hospital has.
4. When you get diagnosed with cancer, your first chance at beating cancer is your best chance and Karmanos is one of the best cancer hospitals in the country.
5. All of the Karmanos oncologists specialize in treating a specific type of cancer. And all our doctors are on the faculty of Wayne State University.
6. Karmanos has one of the nation’s largest and most acclaimed Bone Marrow transplant programs.
7. Karmanos provides world class treatment close to home with full service outpatient facilities in Farmington Hills, Rochester Hills and Detroit.
8. Karmanos is one of the very best cancer hospitals in the United States. As Michigan’s only hospital dedicated exclusively to beating cancer, Karmanos dedicates entire teams of experts to each patient.
9. At Karmanos we do our own cancer research, in partnership with Wayne State University, to constantly develop new treatments for all types of cancer.
10. There are over 200 types of cancer and Karmanos not only treats them all – cancer is all we treat.
Email: hope@karmanos.org

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Photos by Stephen Lengnick, Plum Street Studio

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When Your Patients are Ready,
So Is Karmanos

If you have a patient newly diagnosed with cancer, a patient seeking a second opinion from an oncology specialist, or would like a Karmanos representative to call on you, the Karmanos Cancer Center is ready to help.

Just contact us 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-800-KARMANOS (1-800-527-6266). It’s easy to refer patients to Karmanos by calling or emailing newpt@karmanos.org. Our New Patient Concierge specialists can help schedule appointments, answer patient questions and assist in obtaining medical records.