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### **Celebrating the Life of Vainutis Vaitkevicius, M.D., M.A.C.P. – Dr. Vee**

It is with a heavy heart that we inform you of the passing of Dr. Vainutis K. Vaitkevicius (Dr. Vee) on Dec. 24. He was 90 years old.

Dr. Vee has been a beloved member of the Karmanos Cancer Institute family since 1958 and a longtime faculty member at Wayne State University School of Medicine. Although he retired from Karmanos in 2016 after a long and successful career as a scientist, educator, mentor and compassionate healer, his legacy continues and his contributions to Karmanos and the world of oncology care and research will forever be changed for the better.

Dr. Vee was born in Lithuania Jan. 12, 1927. He dreamed of becoming a classical pianist. World War II drastically changed those plans. At the age of 12, Dr. Vee witnessed the death of many of his family members and others were sent to work camps. While he was at a work camp, his

hand was badly injured. That accident ended his aspirations of becoming an accomplished pianist. He then turned his focus to medicine. [Read more](#)

### **February is National Cancer Prevention Month!**

In Michigan in 2018, it is projected there will be 56,590 new cases of cancer and 21,380 people will die from cancer<sup>1</sup>. According to the American Cancer Society, the cancer death rate dropped 26 percent from its peak in 1991. There are nearly 2.4 million fewer deaths as a result of dropping rates. A significant proportion of the drop is due to steady reductions in smoking and advances in early detection and treatment. Be a part of this positive trend!

While some cancer risks are not within our control, there are several things that we can do to decrease our risks and promote a healthy lifestyle.

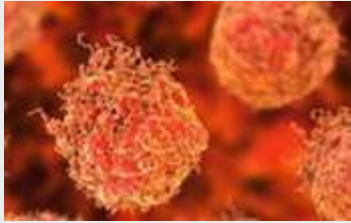
- Quit smoking or use of tobacco products
- Good nutrition and maintaining a healthy weight
- Limit your alcohol intake
- Regular physical activity
- Protect your skin

[Click here](#) to check out the Karmanos Fact Sheets that will provide you with cancer screening guidelines, risk factors and how to protect you and your family.

For additional information about cancer prevention, please call the Karmanos Patient and Community Education Department 1-800-KARMANOS (1-800-527-6266).

March is National Colorectal Awareness Month. Please watch for more information about upcoming events.

<sup>1</sup>American Cancer Society. Cancer Prevention & Early Detection Facts & Figures 2017-2018. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2017.



### Seeds of Hope

Brachytherapy is another option for some prostate cancer patients.

Aside from skin cancer, prostate cancer is the most common cancer for men. About one in seven men will be diagnosed with the disease in their lifetime, and prostate cancer is the third leading cause of cancer death in American men, according to the American Cancer Society (ACS). The good news is that more men are surviving prostate cancer as treatments improve. Today, more than

2.9 million men in the United States diagnosed with the disease are alive today, the ACS reports.

Surgery and radiation are traditional ways of treating prostate cancer. But another option — prostate seed implants — has emerged as a powerful tool to defeat the disease and preserve quality of life. “Prostate seed implants are a form of brachytherapy — a procedure that involves placing radioactive material inside the body,” says Neal Bhatt, M.D., a Karmanos Cancer Institute radiation oncologist who treats patients at the Clarkston, Mt. Clemens and Port Huron sites. Read more in the January 2018 [e-publication](#) or [PDF](#) of Karmanos Hope magazine.

### Oral, Head & Neck Cancer Screening

A simple 15 minute exam could save your life — and it's totally free!

1-4 p.m.

Friday, April 13, 2018

Karmanos Cancer Institute,  
4100 John R, Detroit, MI 48201

Available to adults, age 18 and over.



[Click here](#) to pre-register online or call 1-800-KARMANOS (1-800-527-6266) by 5 p.m., Thursday, April 12, 2018, to arrange a free screening and complimentary valet parking. On-site registration will also be available.

**Events to Support Karmanos**



[Kona Shamrock Race, March 18](#)

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