

LUNG CANCER PATIENT CONSIDERED TREATMENTS OUTSIDE MICHIGAN. INSTEAD, HE FOUND THERE'S...

NO PLACE *like Home*

Although Bill Strickler of Mt. Pleasant has the means to travel anywhere in the country for medical treatment, he found his best option for cancer care just 10 minutes from his home.

Bill, a former smoker who quit in 1985, recently received radiation and chemotherapy treatments for lung cancer at the Karmanos Cancer Institute at McLaren Central Michigan, Morey Cancer Center, in Mt. Pleasant. His cancer has been in remission since completing treatment in August 2015. At age 75, Bill continues to work as a geologist, ski in Aspen, and hike the terrain outside his home.

Since one of Bill's close friends is a doctor at a prominent medical institution outside of Michigan, he habitually traveled there for regular health checkups. In 2008, scans showed three spots on his lungs, which turned out to be benign cysts. A subsequent scan in 2015 showed one of the cysts had enlarged. A biopsy confirmed stage 3A lung cancer, and surgeons removed the upper lobe of his right lung.

"After the surgery, my doctor recommended chemotherapy and radiation, but I didn't like the idea of being away from home for five weeks of treatment," Bill says. "When I mentioned the Karmanos facility near home, my doctor said he considered Karmanos among the best in the country."

The decision was easy—Bill promptly made an appointment at Karmanos with Medical Oncologist Somdev Roy, M.D.

"Bill needed radiation and chemotherapy to knock out any cancer cells that may have remained after surgery," Dr. Roy says. "Because radiation and chemo can cause significant fatigue, it's hard to travel for treatments. Some patients don't complete treatments because of travel difficulties. It's best to



BILL STRICKLER

receive care locally when available, because patients have better outcomes when they complete their treatments in-full and on-schedule."

Beginning in July 2015, Bill completed two rounds of chemotherapy and 28 radiation treatments. During that time, he became attached to the Karmanos doctors, nurses and staff.

"Karmanos exceeded my expectations—you couldn't dial up a better cancer care team," Bill says. "I told my wife, you'll think I'm crazy, but I'm sorry my treatments are over. That's how much I like the people there. Dr. Roy is my go-to medical oncologist now."

Bill continues to monitor his health closely, knowing Karmanos is nearby should he need subsequent care.

"Karmanos offers highly trained professionals and state-of-the-art equipment," he says. "It's an absolute gift to have Karmanos in Mt. Pleasant for people who need cancer treatments."

CONTACT US

Karmanos Cancer Institute has 14 locations throughout Michigan.

Call **1-800-KARMANOS**

[1-800-527-6266] or visit karmanos.org for more information or to find a location.