



Karmanos Cancer Institute Cancer Advocacy Program (KCAP)



Presenter: William Winkler, Patient Advocate

KCAP Mission

The Karmanos Cancer Advocacy Program (KCAP) at the Karmanos Cancer Institute in conjunction with Wayne State University is dedicated to the prevention and cure of cancer. Our goal is to develop and promote a formal means for active patient advocacy; to facilitate cancer clinical trials awareness and accrual throughout local and state communities; and to provide a forum for cancer education about the state of cancer prevention screening, treatment, research, clinical trials and survivorship.

KCAP Membership

- Under leadership of Dr. Elisabeth Heath, Associate Center Director, Translational Sciences and Director of Prostate Cancer Research Team
- 16 community members, survivors and caregivers.
- Clinicians: Oncology, social work, internal medicine
- Researchers: epidemiology, basic science, communication
- Patient education nurses and coordinators



2022 All Cancer Symposium

- Annually for 12 years
- Expanded to include a virtual audience and live participation at satellite sites across the state of Michigan in Detroit, Flint, and Lansing.
- Advances in cancer research and the future of cancer care
- Promotion of clinical trials
- Advocacy on the community, state and national level



Personal goals

An ongoing concern of mine has been communication between the medical staff and the cancer patients. Having taught effective communication skills for 38 years, I know that there are, in all of us, hidden biases. Those biases complicate the health care provider and patient interaction. One of my goals in 2023 is to work with the Office of Cancer Health Equity & Community Engagement (OCHECE) to bring awareness of bias to the healthcare professionals and to offer my expertise on how to eliminate that bias. Another goal of mine is to work with Karmanos cancer groups throughout the state in order to help many of those individuals find the courage to participate in clinical trials for the benefit of all. Discovery happens through the research of clinical trials.



Advocacy Events

- September 2021 – June 2022 Monthly KCAP advocacy training program
- Member of the Patient and Family Advisory Council for 11 Years
- October 2021 Virtual All Cancer Symposium
- April 2022 Day at the State Capitol
- August 2022 Prostate Cancer Awareness Baseball Game
- October 2022 All Cancer Symposium
- Participation in Quarterly Health Equity Book Club
- Participation in community health fairs and events

Scientist-Advocate Partnership

- Research training program
- Review lay abstracts for DOD grant submissions and provide feedback to scientists
- Five research groups, each with two advocate members
- Advocates provide input on the impact of research projects on patients
- Review patient materials (brochures, consent forms, etc.)



Future Directions

- Continued community outreach which includes seeking novel approaches to connect with populations most at risk
- Collaboration with National Advocacy Groups
- Continued lay abstract review
- Participation in current research projects



A Cancer Center Designated by the National Cancer Institute