



Donald S. Kaufman



Dr. Donald S. Kaufman was born in Worcester to Isadore and Edith (nee Grossman) Kaufman. His family moved to Dorchester a year later. Dr. Kaufman graduated from Boston Latin School in 1952, Harvard College (cum laude) in 1956 and Boston University School of Medicine (Alpha Omega Alpha) in 1960. After completing his medical residency, he joined the medical staff at the Beth Israel Hospital. During the Vietnam War he was drafted and selected to serve for 2 years at the Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco, considered then to be one of the finest academic Army hospitals in the country, where he rose to become Chief Medical Oncologist. In 1969 he returned to the Beth Israel Hospital, directing their clinical oncology unit until moving to the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1971, initially as an Assistant Clinical Professor. Over the course

of the next four decades, he held numerous leadership roles including Director of the Inpatient Medical Oncology Unit and Director of the Genitourinary Disease Center, later renamed the Claire and John Bertucci Center for Genitourinary Cancers on Yawkey 7. Dr. Kaufman died at his Newton home May 27, 2017 due to complications from inflammatory bowel disease at age 82.

Dr. Kaufman had particular interest and expertise in the management of genitourinary malignancies. In the early 1990s, he co-founded the MGH Genitourinary Malignancies Clinic to provide multidisciplinary care for patients with prostate cancer, bladder cancer, and other genitourinary malignancies. This was among the first cancer multidisciplinary clinics established at MGH and served as a model of multidisciplinary collaborative cancer care at the MGH Cancer Center.

Dr. Kaufman authored or co-authored over 190 articles or textbook chapters in genitourinary oncology. An especially notable publication was his lead authored article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in

1993, “Selective Bladder Preservation by Combined Modality Treatment of Invasive Bladder Cancer” with a strong supporting editorial. From 1971 to 2011 Dr. Kaufman was the primary discussor in 15 invited Case Records of the Massachusetts General Hospital in the New England Journal of Medicine describing patients treated for urologic cancers of many types illustrating both the successes and complications encountered.

From 2007 to 2012 Dr. Kaufman and Dr. Chin-Lee Wu, a pathologist at the MGH, were invited to Chinese medical centers that were just becoming equipped to treat cancers with updated medicine and radiation to give a series of 3-4 day courses about these newer treatment methods. These courses were in Shanghai in 2007, Yunnan Province and Kunming in 2008, Hangzhou and Shanghai in 2009, Beijing and Xian in 2010 and in Guangzhou and Shanghai in 2012. Having support from the MGH Ribakoff Fellowship Program, 8 physicians from China came to the Claire and John Bertucci Center for Genitourinary Cancers under Dr. Kaufman’s leadership for 3 -12 months to learn about the multidisciplinary care for our cancer patients at the MGH.

Dr. Kaufman was the quintessence of the classical physician who took great pains to integrate in his decision making all aspects of the clinical findings, radiological, pathological or sundry other aspects of note. Two of us have vivid memories of him coming to the pathology laboratory to look at slides from his patient’s specimens and discussing, in an exceedingly knowledgeable manner, certain nuances of the pathology that were not necessarily always evident from the pathology report itself and the implications for what he would, or would not, do for a given patient. Although he specialized very much on genitourinary cancer for the last two decades of his career, he also practiced general medicine and medical oncology more broadly. He was such a skilled general physician that anyone would have been fortunate to have him at their bedside irrespective of the disease just to make sure things were being handled properly.

Dr. Kaufman met his wife of 59 years, Susanne Jasper, in 1957. They lived in Newton and had 3 children, David Kaufman, Debbie Kaufman Goldfine and Miriam Kaufman Bavly. David, like his father, is a physician and is currently Director of Critical Care at Strong Memorial Hospital and Advisory Dean at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. Their daughter Debbie shares her father’s appreciation for Harvard and is involved with many Harvard activities including co-chair of her reunions and interviewing for admissions. Her daughter Isabel graduated from Harvard in 2019 and is teaching middle school in East Harlem and son Michael will graduate from Harvard in May 2021. The Kaufman’s younger daughter, Miriam Bavly, graduated from Harvard and her daughter Ariel has become a music writer and singer, her son Benjamin graduated from Northeastern in 2020 and her youngest, Jessie Rae is at Newton South High School. Dr. Kaufman lived for his family and was intimately involved with his grandchildren’s lives, especially during summers together in their Gloucester summer home. His family, his friends, and his former colleagues all miss him dearly.

Respectfully submitted,

William U. Shipley, *Chairperson*

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