



## Dr. Michael Maxwell Frumovitz

July 23, 1969 - July 25, 2024

Michael Frumovitz, passed away on Thursday, July 25, 2024. Michael was an outstanding surgeon, leader and patient advocate who leaves a profound, positive impact on his patients and colleagues. He fought pancreatic cancer and shared the story of his diagnosis with colleagues and in Cancerwise, <https://www.mdanderson.org/cancerwise/Chief-Patient-Experience-Officer-Michael-Frumovitz-M-D-my-pancreatic-cancer-diagnosis-gave-me-a-new-perspective.h00-159620223.html>.

Michael joined MD Anderson first as a fellow and then as a faculty member in 2005 as an assistant professor in Gynecologic Oncology and Reproductive Medicine. He dedicated his career to improving patient care and outcomes, establishing the department's Rare Tumor Clinic and, as Chief Patient Experience Officer, launching the Patient Navigation program. His contributions to end cancer and improve patients' experiences will have a deep and lasting effect on patients for years to come, including through The Michael Frumovitz, M.D., Endowment for Gynecologic Rare Tumors, <https://mdanderson.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.participant&participantID=1221>.

Michael will be greatly missed. Our thoughts go out to his family, friends and colleagues during this difficult time.



# Tribute Wall

HE

“ I'm deeply saddened of just finding out now that Dr. Michael Frumovitz had passed away. I will always remember him with his contagious smiles during his times as a resident at the New York Presbyterian 7 Garden North. I used to be a nurse working with him at the gynecologic oncology floor together with Dr. Pedro Ramirez. He was fun, friendly and very attentive to his patients. I will never forget this awesome fellow who would then call me " Boxing Helena" and the only one who would jokingly tell me not to take the patients vital signs on post-op patients just before 10:00 pm (his time off I guess) so he doesn't have to do the cultures and other post-op work up should the patients develop over 101 degree F temperature... hahaha...

*Rest in Peace Doc and thank you for the great memories! Heaven gained another angel.*

*To his bereaved family, he's now looking down on you silently caring and loving you all. God Bless!*

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**Helena** - May 04 at 12:52 PM

BA

“ I only found out today. I first met Dr. Frumovitz with my mom in 2006. She was his Ovarian CA patient. I was then diagnosed with BC in 2007. He preformed surgery on my mom a few times and later myself. My mom fought for 9 years. The day she was discharged for Hospice he came and spent an hour with her. She was so happy. For the nine years we spent with him, as his patient, Dr. Frumovitz was such a caring and compassionate person. I can say he truly cared for my mom and her quality of life. He referred to her as The Energizer Bunny. She just kept going. He actually ran out of treatment plans. He was an amazing doctor who poured his heart into his patients. May God Bless his family and all that called him Doctor or friend.

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**Barbara** - February 20 at 07:37 PM

MV

“ Sad news just read this today after searching for help from Dr. Frumovitz and read of his passing. My deepest condolences to his family. He took care of my sister as she moved from Germany to Houston in 2004 to continue her ovarian cancer treatment. She unfortunately passed on 2005 and I remember him as he was so compassionate to her when he informed her they had done all possible and that she had fought so hard with this ugly disease. It breaks my heart to read that he die of this same ugly disease as well. To the family again, my deepest condolences.

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**Maggie Valles** - February 12 at 01:16 PM

AP

“ I just received an email for national doctors day in my inbox with a great message from Alex Frumovitz which made me think of my moms doctor from her cancer journey in 2014-2015... which led me to google and discover the tragic news of his passing. I was in medical school when my mom was diagnosed with neuroendocrine cervical cancer. We lived in Houston at the time and were so thankful she was able to have Dr Frumovitz as her doctor during that time. He was an incredible man and physician. My mom was not easily impressed by anyone, but she sincerely appreciated and revered Dr Frumovitz very quickly. I could tell how special he was instantly. He helped me navigate her diagnosis with sincerity and compassion. I was able to confide in him when having to make significant decisions about my own path and career when my mom's diagnosis became terminal. I think about him often, especially now 10 years in my medical career, and try to model bedside manner after our many interactions with him. He was the consummate physician, and, from what I am reading about him- person and friend. To his family, I am so incredibly sorry for your loss. I hope you find comfort in the good memories of him, and I hope you know how profound an impact he had on ours and so many other lives.

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**Allison Pye** - March 28, 2025 at 09:42 AM

CM

“ It breaks my heart to hear the sad news of Doc (our inside joke) passing. Dr. Frumovitz has been my doctor since 2008 when I was first diagnosed with Cervical Cancer. My prayers and condolences are with his family.

Candi Moreno - September 20, 2024 at 12:02 PM

CF

Wow my name is Candy too, I was his patient as well 2006. I was one of his guinea pigs as he said to me & he saved my life. I'm so heartbroken as well when I found out today!

Candy Ferdinand - October 08, 2024 at 05:24 PM

CS

“ I was very Blessed to have Dr Frumovitz for my oncologist when I was diagnosed with endometrial cancer five years ago. He was truly one of the most compassionate and caring doctors for his patients at MD or any medical center. I loved seeing him as he always had that big smile and made you know he was going to take care of you which he did. We always exchanged stories of our families and he was so proud of his sons and adored his wife. I never left a visit without a big hug which always made me know I was going to be okay. Many prayers and hugs to one of the best doctors I could of ever had.

Carolyn Sellmeyer - September 11, 2024 at 09:37 PM

PT

“ Paula Collins (Austin TX) purchased the Decade nt Delights Chocolate Gift Basket for the family of Dr. Michael Maxwell Frumovitz.



Paula Collins (Austin TX) - September 05, 2024 at 10:39 AM

PC

“ To Michaels wife and Sons, my heart breaks for your loss, he was my hero so I can only imagine what he was to you. I first met Michael on my Cancer journey 3 years ago, wide eyed, naive and frightened about the unexpected that lay ahead, he gave me such an incredible sense of calm, trust and acceptance and knowing that someone else but me has “got my back”. A bedside manner such as his was rare to find (and I’ve had it all from heart tumors , brain tumors and over 10 lengthy procedures ), he walked in the room with the biggest smile, we would speak for some time before addressing the real issue which was the dreaded C word. I would entertain him with all my travel stories, and he never forgot our conversations as he’d remind me at the next visit...”tell me about Orvieto again...” he longed to take his wife to many of them, although at what would be our last meeting, he was just hoping to take her to Las Vegas. I wish I could have told you how marvelous, kind and selfless you are, I wish I had told you what an impact you had on my initial diagnosis and how you made it all go away, and how unfair it felt that we couldn’t share the same joy for you, I wish I could have told you how I cried all the way home from Houston to Austin when I learned of your own diagnosis , questioning how surreal this all was. You will always be remembered Dr Frumovitz, you will always be my Hero.

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**paula collins** - September 05, 2024 at 10:19 AM

PP

“ Michael was the best of the best Drs at MDAnderson! He saved my life 3 years ago and not only was he my Dr he was my friend. He had the best bed side manner and the greatest smile ! Just an incredible loss to his Family and the world ! I am so grateful he touched my life!  
Pamela Patterson

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**Pamela Patterson** - August 27, 2024 at 10:36 AM

CC

“ Dr Frumovitz was an amazing physician, surgeon, and researcher who NEVER gave up on his patients or trying to find a cure for a horrific gyn cancer, neuroendocrine carcinoma of the cervix/vagina. I was treated in Germany and my surgeon and oncologist used his research and his findings in my treatment. After returning to the states, he directed me to a wonderful and amazing oncologist who did a fellowship with him for my care. SHe always joked she had him in her front pocket if we ever needed him. With a survival rate of only 32% at 5 years, I am a living testament to his research as I just hit my 5 year mark this month and remain cancer free!! He was always willing to help any patient and would talk to their oncologists around the world to help guide therapy, usually without any remuneration. The world is a sadder place without Dr. Frumovitz in it that is for sure!! Fly high sir and from the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU!! For all the Sisters waiting for you with open arms in Heaven, I imagine it was an amazing reunion.



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Christina Chudomelka - August 20, 2024 at 01:28 PM

TB

“ What can you say about such a caring, brilliant and encouraging Dr. Right from the start he told me we would beat this cancer-and we did! I'm about 18 months cancer free from stage 3C/4 Endometrial cancer. He would call me with most results himself. I looked forward seeing him and getting one of his big hugs and wonderful smiles. He and Tracey the PA were such a dynamic duo! The world has lost a beautiful soul.  
Rest in Peace my sweet friend. I know you are celebrating with our God.  
Teresa Burnett

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teresa burnett - August 05, 2024 at 06:44 PM

NB

“ So deeply saddened. Dr. Frumovitz has cared for me for years. Always a deep hug of comfort at the end of each visit (about 4x a year). I arrived at one visit and he was lacking hair. I asked him...whats up with this (already knowing...)? He sits and he tells me. He states, looking me straight on, "pancreatic cancer...and you know the primary prognosis for it" (I am a nurse), as we shared a knowing look. We both knew he was in for a battle, a hard one, and my heart broke. The next time, he was on an investigational med, where I had been hoping he had the surgery he hoped for. The following visit, he was showing me some symptoms. He states...well, thought I would regress a bit to my teenage years, showing me his face. He states he thought he had put acne behind him. We teased back and forth. Dread was hitting me with each visit. My last visit, I didn't see him. First time ever. And I was scared. Then...I get a letter in July that he had left and my heart was heavy. So..I watched, dreading...and then... I want his wife to know, not that she doesn't, that you had a great person at your side. My heart is heavy for you and his sons. He mentioned you all in the visits. Even at "work", you were always there with him. My prayers and many hugs go to you all.

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**Nancy Bowman** - August 04, 2024 at 04:32 PM

VG

My heart is broken 😞. I greatly admired him for showing up for every appointment I had with him. He was always so positive and gave great hugs. I am forever thankful to have known him and I truly felt like I was in great hands. I will miss him.

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**Vanessa Gregory** - August 05, 2024 at 05:04 PM

PP

*“ I met Michael 3 years ago. I was fighting my second bout with cancer! He was amazing and became both friend and Dr. My heart is broken for his Family and for all those he touched because he will be forever missed !  
Pamela Patterson*



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**Pamela Patterson** - August 02, 2024 at 06:27 PM

DA

*“ I am sad to hear about his passing. We lost a giant and dear colleague in fighting cancer. His talk on “Physician as Patient” is inspirational especially for those who taking care of pancreatic cancer patients and working in cancer research. May his soul rest in peace and all the best for his family.*

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**Dan** - August 01, 2024 at 03:41 PM

TT

*“ We are deeply saddened by the loss of Dr. Michael Frumovitz, whose unwavering support and major contributions to his patients’ well-being inspired us all. His legacy will forever resonate through his contributions to the advancement of medicine, and we will continue to honor the highest standards and values he held dear. He was one of the best surgeons and the kindest of people Astellas has worked with and he made a huge contribution to our imaging drug development project. We feel honored to have had the opportunity to work with him. He will be sadly missed. On behalf of Astellas, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his loved ones during this difficult time*

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**Tomo Kishimoto, Gabriel Haas, Rima Tabas** - July 31, 2024 at 12:43 PM

CF

“ I/we first met Dr. Frumovitz in November 2016, after I received a stage 3C/4 cancer diagnosis of unknown primary, that originally presented as ovarian cancer (in Little Rock, Arkansas). There were no statistics to go by and when I arrived at MDA that first time, I didn't expect to live beyond 3-5yrs. When asking him about my prognosis, Dr. Frumovitz said we are going to try for a cure. His words and his positivity gave me hope! He hugged me and he treated me with love, caring, and compassion, every single visit. I believe I am alive today because of God and Dr. Frumovitz. He released me April 2023. My family and I are heartbroken by the news of his loss, and I will never forget him, or my experiences at MDA. God bless his family!

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**Clara Faucett** - July 29, 2024 at 09:07 PM