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Editorial**Karmanos move makes sense for city, cancer care****The Detroit News**

The decision of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute to relocate to the failing Riverview Hospital in Detroit is a good one that should move ahead without interference by officials from the Detroit Medical Center, specifically its chief executive, Mike Duggan.

The move will improve cancer care in Metro Detroit, and conserve precious health care dollars. Karmanos, which is one of two nationally designated comprehensive cancer centers in Michigan, will be able to expand faster and more cost effectively by moving to the St. John Detroit Riverview Hospital campus on Jefferson Ave. near Belle Isle.

Karmanos will spend \$40 million to \$45 million to buy and renovate Riverview, about half of what it would cost to expand at the DMC. And it will take 15 months to be up and running, instead of seven years, says Dr. John Ruckdeschel, Karmanos' chief executive.

The decision "quickly became a no-brainer," he says, because of space restraints and the DMC's unwillingness to make the expansion there affordable and easy. He says leaving the DMC opens Karmanos' space on that campus for a proposed heart hospital that the DMC is pursuing, saving further construction dollars.

It also takes 122 beds out of an already saturated market.

In today's economy, a health care facility would be irresponsible to ignore the opportunity to provide better care for less money.

But the decision has rankled Duggan, who is making noises about a lawsuit to keep Karmanos in place.

We suspect that Duggan's bullying and uncompromising style played a significant role in Karmanos' decision to move, as it did with the DMC's still unresolved dispute with Wayne State University.

But this isn't about Duggan. It's about using scarce health care dollars well.

Karmanos will keep its research operations on the DMC campus. There is no contract that forces Karmanos to stay at the DMC, Ruckdeschel says, but they will continue to be partners. Patient care will move to the Riverview site.

St. John's said it will do its best to accommodate Riverview's current patients at the company's hospital on Detroit's east side and is looking into opening a new urgent care clinic in the neighborhood. Riverview's dwindling patient base and huge losses make the hospital unviable, and it is likely headed for closure even without the Karmanos deal.

Detroit certainly doesn't need another massive vacant campus, and Metro Detroit's beleaguered donor base should not be asked to fund massive building campaigns when other, cheaper options are available.

Ruckdeschel says the move will ultimately allow Karmanos to double its research capacity and the number of patients it serves.

This is a good deal for the regional health care community, but more importantly, for cancer patients.

Karmanos at Riverview

The cancer institute will expand from 240,000 square feet at the DMC campus to 450,000.

New site allows better chance of doing same-day testing and diagnosis of cancer.

New patients could grow from 6,000 this year to 12,000 in five years.

Source: *Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute*

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