

“Half of the battle of getting well is the attitude of both the patient and the caregiver.”

When John Greacen of Marietta spoke these words, they summed up his recent fight with cancer.

“Last fall I was diagnosed with a very aggressive type of prostate cancer,” John said. He was impressed with the friendly way he was treated when he called the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute at Ohio State University in Columbus.

John was also happy when the oncology surgeon and a medical oncologist agreed that surgery was not necessary.

“Here’s a surgeon saying ‘you don’t need surgery,’” John said. “But the news that I would need radiation treatment wasn’t good — it’s a 125-mile drive to Columbus and I would need treatments five days a week for seven weeks.”

A widower, John would need to drive himself to his treatments. So he brightened up when the surgeon suggested he have radiation treatments at the **Athens Cancer Center** (ACC) at the Castrop Center in the O’Bleness Medical Park — a much shorter drive. The next day he had a call from the ACC inviting him to come for an evaluation. Anjali Ambekar, MD, one of ACC’s radiation oncologists, and the radiation therapists explained to John how they individualize radiation treatments. Computerized Tomography (CT) scanning at the ACC was part of the preparation for his treatment. In addition, John was able to use **O’Bleness’ satellite laboratory** at the Castrop Center for blood tests.

John said that although he is 80 years old, he remains very active as a trustee at Washington State Community College.

“I drove myself to my treatments and didn’t have any illness or problems with anything. This treatment was a piece of cake.”

After his treatments concluded, John took a three-week trip, driving himself on a tour of the island of Maui. “I brought everyone at the Cancer Center a box of chocolates and leis,” he said. “I tell everyone that I’m tickled to death with the people at the Athens Cancer Center.”



John Greacen