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Posted on Wed, Oct. 13, 2010

## **Patrick McKenna Jr., 81, hematologist, oncologist, teacher**

By Claudia Vargas  
Inquirer Staff Writer

Patrick J. McKenna Jr., 81, of Woodbury, a hematologist and oncologist at area hospitals who also taught at Jefferson Medical College and consulted with the Red Cross, died of cancer Saturday, Oct. 9, at his home.

Described as quiet and humble, Dr. McKenna was perfectly content working in a lab. He spent long hours doing research or looking at blood slides, said those who knew him.

Instead of opening a private practice, Dr. McKenna opted to be based at a hospital for his 42-year career. In addition to hospitals' fast pace, he liked that he could do his own research, his family said.

"He was a unique man," said former colleague Stephen G. Vasso. "Very bright, very studious."

In the 1970s, Dr. McKenna commuted every day from his home in Woodbury to St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan, where he ran the blood bank.

"He commuted with a sack full of journals and books to read on the train," Vasso recalled, adding that until recently St. Vincent's would send Dr. McKenna blood slides to examine.

"He was a wonderful diagnostician," Vasso said.

Dr. McKenna also was a regional consultant for the American Red Cross, checking blood banks in the area, his family said.

Dr. McKenna was born in Philadelphia and raised mostly in Woodbury. He graduated from Northeast Catholic High School in Philadelphia in 1946 and went straight to the military.

He served in the Army through 1948 and was involved in the occupation of Japan.

After his military service, Dr. McKenna attended Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Md., where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology in 1954.

He graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1958 and went on to internships at two area hospitals and a fellowship in hematology and oncology at Jefferson.

During an internship at St. Joseph's Hospital in Philadelphia, Dr. McKenna met Anne Bonk, a nurse there at the time. The couple married in 1959.

In 1966, Dr. McKenna began teaching at Jefferson and working there as a hematologist. He taught there until 1995, his family said.

By the mid-1970s, Dr. McKenna had taken the job at St. Vincent's. About a decade later, he was hired at Nazareth Hospital in Philadelphia to do pathology.

In the early 1980s, Dr. McKenna went to work at Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center in Camden and remained on staff until his retirement in 2008.

In addition to his wife, Dr. McKenna is survived by son Patrick; daughters Eileen McGowan, Maureen Coleman, Joanne Cooper, and Kathleen Vozzelli; seven grandchildren; and a sister.

A viewing will be from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14, and from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 15, at McGuinness Funeral Home, 34 Hunter St., Woodbury. A Funeral Mass will be said at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 15, at Holy Angels Parish at St. Patrick's Church, 88 Cooper St., Woodbury. Interment will be in New St. Mary's Cemetery in Bellmawr.

Read more:

[http://www.philly.com/inquirer/obituaries/20101013\\_Patrick\\_McKenna\\_Jr\\_\\_81\\_\\_hematologist\\_\\_oncologist\\_\\_teacher.html#ixzz12GU2C7zh](http://www.philly.com/inquirer/obituaries/20101013_Patrick_McKenna_Jr__81__hematologist__oncologist__teacher.html#ixzz12GU2C7zh)