John S. MacDonald Jr. ‘65

Jack Macdonald died on July 14, 2025 at home in Annapolis, Maryland. He came to Dartmouth from Scarsdale, New York via Phillips Exeter Academy; a biology major and member of Tabard, he continued on through Dartmouth Medical School, and received his MD from Harvard Medical School in 1969.

Jack dedicated his life to the relentless pursuit of knowledge, the compassionate care of his patients, and the transformative advancement of cancer research and treatment. He pioneered the use of chemoradiation after surgical resection of gastric cancers, a treatment approach that came to be known as the “Macdonald Regimen.”

A significant chapter of his career was his leadership at Aptium Oncology. From 1998 to 2012, he served as Chief Medical Officer, where he was instrumental in establishing and maintaining hospital and patient care quality and standards. Returning to direct patient care and academic leadership in New York, he was Medical Director (1997-2007), and Chief of the Division of Medical Oncology (1999-2007) at Saint Vincent’s Hospital.

Jack authored over 400 articles, abstracts and book chapters in prestigious medical journals. His international standing was recognized through his membership in the Roll of Honour of the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) in Geneva, Switzerland. He also received the Luminary Award in 2018 from the Ruesch Center for the Cure of Gastrointestinal Cancers at Georgetown University.

Dr. Macdonald is survived by his loving wife, Sue, their four children - Margaret (Lane)

Bruns, John (Anna) Macdonald, Kathleen (Ben) Allan, and Fred (Heather) Macdonald.

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