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- ▶ Bassett Medical Center, **607-547-3336**
- ▶ Bassett-Fox Radiation Oncology, **607-431-5475**
- ▶ Cobleskill Regional Hospital, **518-254-3400**
- ▶ Herkimer Health Center, **315-867-2808**
- ▶ Oneonta Cancer Center at FoxCare, **607-433-6470**
- ▶ Tri-Town Specialty Services, **607-561-7980**



Bassett Healthcare Network

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## A new hope for people with melanoma

### INJECTABLE IMMUNOTHERAPY TREATMENT OFFERS PROMISING RESULTS

A new kind of treatment that's injected directly into the tumor is giving patients with metastatic melanoma another option.

The injectable treatment, called T-VEC (talimogene laherparepvec) works in two ways: It's designed to destroy cancer cells at the primary site to prompt the person's immune system to find and destroy cancer cells, and it's engineered with a protein that draws immune-boosting cells to the tumor, which boosts the drug's cancer-killing abilities.

"Significant strides have been made in the past few years for the treatment of advanced melanoma. It often requires the use of several methods over the person's course of therapy," says Anush Patel, MD, Bassett's division chief of hematology and oncology. "This new treatment works in two different ways and offers promising results for patients with metastatic tumors."

For more information on this new immunotherapy treatment, call **607-547-3336**.

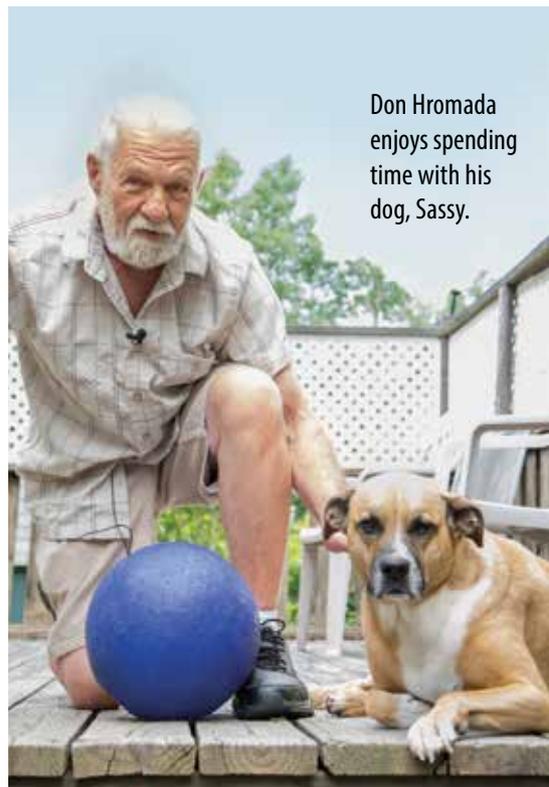
## The power of clinical trials

**WHEN BAINBRIDGE** resident Don Hromada was given the option of participating in a clinical trial for metastatic lung cancer using immunotherapy treatment, "I told them right off, why not? What do [I] have to lose? I thought the clinical trial was the greatest thing that ever happened to me."

Hromada, 75, a longtime smoker until his late 60s, was diagnosed in 2015 and started chemotherapy that summer until it stopped working. He then met the criteria for an immunotherapy clinical trial, which he started in April 2016 and continued through March 2017. "I did it for me and [because] it could help somebody else out that had that type of lung cancer," he says.

"Bassett offers a large number of clinical trials to patients. It is surprising to some that they can be part of a study locally that they might not otherwise have had access to," says Eric Bravin, MD, Bassett oncologist.

Hromada has completed treatment, gets regular follow-up care and feels good. He continues to work around his home and spend time with family and a special dog named Sassy.



Don Hromada enjoys spending time with his dog, Sassy.

## What's in a trial?

Each trial has a protocol explaining how the trial will work and what types of patients are eligible. They also:

- ▶ Are essential to finding better ways to prevent, treat and cure cancer.
- ▶ Offer innovative treatments to patients at all stages of cancer.



**COULD YOU BENEFIT** from a clinical trial at Bassett Cancer Institute? For more information on clinical trials offered at Bassett, visit [bassett.org/clinical-trials](http://bassett.org/clinical-trials) or call **607-547-3073**.