This year marks a banner year for the Melanoma Research Foundation's Research Program. As we enter our 15th year of providing research grants to junior and senior researchers, we have now expanded our program to offer awards to medical students, as well as a new award specifically for ocular melanoma (to be awarded in July, 2012). These, paired with our $125,000 grant to Dr. Meenhard Herlyn at The Wistar Institute, and $500,000 in support of the MRF Breakthrough Consortium, put the MRF’s research funding totaling $1.5 million in 2012!

The Career Development and Established Investigator applications jumped from 59 total applications in 2010 to a record high of 96 total applications in 2011. We are proud to announce the following individuals who will be supported by MRF research dollars in the coming year. Congratulations to all of our awardees!

First Year Career Development Awards:

**Dr. Sohail Tavazoie, The Rockefeller University**
Discovery & therapeutic targeting of a metastatic microRNA in melanoma
*In memory of Kevin Brue and in honor of participants in the Miles for Melanoma program*

**Dr. Li Wang, Trustees of Dartmouth College**
Mechanisms of VISTA-mediated immune suppression in cancer
*In memory of Kent McCullough*

**Dr. Ryan Wilcox, The Regents of the University of Michigan**
Identification of predictive biomarkers in metastatic melanoma
*In memory of Aaron Anchor and Edward A. Merullo*

**Dr. Eric Witze, The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania**
The role of cell polarity in metastatic melanoma
*In memory of Terry Patters and Yvette M. Jarvis*

**Dr. Barbara Bedogni, Case Western Reserve University - School of Medicine**
MT1-MMP as a target for treating melanoma
*In memory of Amanda Carter-Horn and in honor of Neil Gaines and the participants in the Melanoma Central Ohio Pasta Dinner fundraisers*

First Year Established Investigator Awards:

**Dr. Marcus Bosenberg, Yale University**
Optimizing combined targeted and immune melanoma therapies
*3 year grant in conjunction with the Melanoma Research Alliance In honor of participants in Wings of Hope, DC*

**Dr. Andrew Aplin, Thomas Jefferson University**
Targeting TBK1 in mutant NRAS melanoma
*In honor of participants in Wings of Hope, San Francisco*

Medical Student Awards:

**Elisha Garg, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA**
RTK coactivation in BRAF inhibitor resistant melanomas
*In honor of Dancers United Concert for a Cause*

**Tatyana Petukhova, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University (CCLCM of CWRU)**
Measurement of macrophage derived interferon gamma levels in melanoma patients post UV radiation exposure
*In memory of George Wilkins*

The MRF is dedicated to improving the diagnosis of melanoma, advancing patient care, as well as preventing the disease by educating the public through awareness campaigns about risk factors, including the dangers of tanning.

Continued on next page
Events

MAY
May 16
Fort Mill, SC
Annual Evening for Ed: Tipping Towards a Cure

May 17
San Francisco, CA
Wings of Hope for Melanoma Gala

May 17
St. Paul, MN
Third Annual Colleen DeMars Memorial Fundraiser

May 18
Philadelphia, PA
Patient Symposium

May 19
Ocean City, NJ
Miles for Melanoma 5K run and Fitness Walk in Memory of Andrea Sheridan

May 19
The Woodlands, TX
Ironman Memorial Hermann Ironman, The Woodlands, TX

May 19
Brookville, PA
Rays of Hope 1 Mile/5K/10K run/Walk for Melanoma Research

May 19
Nashville, TN
Free Skin Screening

May 20
Orlando, FL
Ironman 70.3 Florida, Miles for Melanoma, Raleigh

May 22
Denver, CO
Wings of Hope for Melanoma Gala

May 23
Washington, DC
MRF Day on the Hill

JUNE
June 9
Johnson City, TN
East Tennessee Soccer Tournament

June 16
Wisconsin Dells, WI
Block the Sun Run, Miles for Melanoma 5K Run/3K Walk

June 16
Point Pleasant, NJ
Rotary Father’s Day 5K in Memory of Kevin Brue

June 24
Coeur d’Alene, ID
Ironman Coeur d’Alene, Free Skin Screening

For more information about these events and others, please visit www.melanoma.org

RESEARCH AWARD PROGRAM
MRF Expands Research Program
Continued from front page

Nisha V. Shah,
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
Treatment outcomes with bevacizumab and triamcinolone for posterior uveal melanoma in patients undergoing f-125 plaque brachytherapy
In honor of participants in the Suncoast Miles for Melanoma

Adam J. Widman,
Weill Cornell Medical College
Soluble adenylyl cyclase regulates melanoma through autophagy
In memory of Thomas Gutheil

Jillian W. Wong, University of Utah Medical School
Assessing TSPY as a marker for melanoma progression in men
In memory of Robert Hansen and Brad Lanpher

Second Year Career Development Awards:

Dr. Cynthia Cooper,
Washington State University
Balancing melanophore number in Danio rerio zebrafish
In memory of Tricia Elaine Black, Tom Triphahn, Deb Sandry, and Thomas W. Barner, and in honor of the Cosmopolitan Practice Safe Sun program

Dr. Kosaku Iwatsubo,
UMDNJ New Jersey Medical School
Epac1 as a target for treating melanoma
In honor of participants in Miles for Melanoma, New Jersey

Dr. Jim (Jianxun) Song,
The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine
Impact of iPS cell-derived highly reactive T lymphocytes on melanoma
In honor of participants in Miles for Melanoma, Delaware

Dr. Matthew VanBrocklin,
Nevada Cancer Institute
Evaluating c-Kit in mucosal melanoma
In memory of Susan Fazio and in honor of the participants in the Music City Miles for Melanoma

Dr. Qin Yan, Yale University
Roles of epigenetic regulator JARID I B in metastatic melanoma
In memory of Larry Poplawski and Paul Mikaulauskas, and in honor of participants in Miles for Melanoma, Raleigh and Denny’s Challenge

THREE-TIME MELANOMA SURVIVOR AND AUTHOR

Pale Girl Speaks

As we head into summer and start the endless process of preparing our kids for sleep-away camps, vacations, outdoor adventures and the like, it’s crucial to consider how much sun exposure our children will be getting and plan accordingly. Protecting our kids from over-exposure to UV rays isn’t complicated, but it takes thought and preparation…so why not get started early!

Here are a few of my must-have items to keep kids sun safe throughout the summer!

• Long-sleeve UPF t-shirts: Checkout the solid colored shirts from Coolibar. My girls love to decorate them with Sharpies and then show-off their customized wear! I find these shirts essential for long days in the sun when sunscreen reaplication is difficult.

• Zinc based broad spectrum sunscreen lotions and sticks: My girls have sensitive skin, so I favor mineral based products like Coola Mineral Baby SPF 45 or Vanicream SPF 60 Sensitive Sunscreen. Sunscreen sticks are great for water activities and camp since their wavy texture adheres to the skin better than most lotions and creams. Plus, sunscreen sticks are easier for kids to apply on their own. Try Smart Kids Who Play SPF 30+ Organic Face Stick or Neutrogena Pure & Free Baby Sunblock Stick SPF 60.

• Bucket hats and sunglasses: I like bucket style, cotton hats for girls and boys or checkout o’neill and roxy if your kids love to embrace the surfer look! I repeat, long-sleeve, not short, not three-quarter. The sleeves should go all the way to their wrists. There are a lot of companies making great looking long-sleeve rash guards. L.L.Bean has a nice selection for girls and boys or checkout o’neill and Roxy if your kids embrace the surfer look!

For more sun protection tips, advice and product recommendations go to www.palegirlspeaks.com or follow @palegirlspeaks on Twitter.

Guest column from Hillary Fogelson, three-time melanoma survivor and author of the blog Pale Girl Speaks.
**Second Year Established Investigator Awards:**

- **Dr. J. William Harbour, Washington University (St. Louis)**
  - Characterization of the BAP1 uveal melanoma metastasis suppressor gene
  - *3 year grant in conjunction with the Melanoma Research Alliance*

- **In Memory of Mike Revers, Scarlet Lawrence Akins, and Kathy Bowers**

- **Dr. Antoni Ribas, The Regents of the University of California**
  - Understanding of CTLA4 blockade and its combination with BRAF inhibition
  - *In honor of the Team M4M marathon training program*

**Other:**

- **Dr. Meenhard Herlyn, The Wistar Institute**
  - Experimental studies in combination therapy of melanoma
  - *In memory of Harold Quade, Colleen DeMars, Nancy Fox, Andrea Sheridan, and Staff Sgt. Jon Warrington, and in honor of the Barbara Baldwin Charitable Trust and participants in Miles for Melanoma, Georgia, Families Against Melanoma Cookbook Sale, Kspin Designs Trunk Show, and the Hog Jog*

- **MRF Breakthrough Consortium**
  - *In memory of Bill Walter and James O. Robbins, and in honor of participants in Wings of Hope, New York*

**CURE OM Update**

Just a few months ago, the Melanoma Research Foundation launched CURE OM (Community United for Research and Education of Ocular Melanoma) to address the needs of people affected by ocular melanoma. Through education, CURE OM provides everyone diagnosed with ocular melanoma with the information and support they need to live as long and as well as possible. And by funding research, CURE OM can support the development of new and better treatment options for people with the disease.

CURE OM has accomplished a great deal over the past six months. We encourage you to sign up for the regular e-newsletter, Eye on OM, to keep up to date on the progress CURE OM is making towards building a community for people with ocular melanoma. To sign up, visit www.melanoma.org and click “Join the Mailing List” OR www.melanoma.org/get-involved/join-our-mailing-list.

**2012 Volunteer Legislative Hill Day**

The Melanoma Research Foundation is hosting its second annual Legislative Hill Day, Wednesday, May 23rd! We are tremendously grateful for the outpouring of support we’ve received regarding this important event, and we’re thrilled to be bringing some of you to Washington, DC to meet with your members of Congress. Our legislative priorities for Fiscal 2013 center on increased funding for melanoma research, and support for reclassification of tanning beds. Registration is now closed, but please stay tuned for information on state and national level campaigns you can get involved in!

**MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**May Awareness Month is upon us!**

May Awareness Month is upon us! Our Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Mendoza, has organized a toolkit so people can engage in awareness activities in their local community, and we have already sent out over 120 of them! The MRF Health Educator, Shelby Moneer, has organized three patient symposia during this month, and we anticipate more than 400 people attending. And Miles for Melanoma Director, Carolyn Edrington, will be hard at work ushering in the first annual Miles for Melanoma at Universal Studios and the first of the Ironman Triathlon events in which we are a partner. Add in two galas and countless other fundraisers, and May is a hectic month indeed.

This flurry of activity comes as we announce the results of the most recent grant cycle. MRF is increasing research funding to a level more than 50% greater than we have ever done before, and that increase is due in large part to exactly the kinds of activities described above.

Every day I hear stories of people who are fighting melanoma. Hope is the theme I hear the most. Hope found in the two new drugs that were approved last year, drugs that are the result of years of research and hard work. Hope in the knowledge that more new drugs are on the way. That our understanding of melanoma is expanding rapidly through insightful, innovative research.

A family holds a fundraiser in their community because they have lost a loved one to melanoma. The funds help make possible a research grant. That grant generates a critical piece of data. That data paves the way for a new treatment that saves the lives of other patients affected by melanoma. Those patients will never know about the fundraiser held by the family. And the family may never see the clear connection between their walk in the park and fact that some other family somewhere will not have to lose their loved one. But the connection remains. Every effort, every contribution is another step toward the ultimate dream of a cure. That is what this May is all about.

*Every effort, every contribution is another step toward the ultimate dream of a cure. That is what this May is all about.*

Tim Turnham, Executive Director
We Thank Our Generous Corporate Sponsors

Stan Adler Associates

Join Us! Please Donate to MRF

We put your dollars to work. Please visit www.melanoma.org to learn more about MRF's work. The MRF is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The MRF also welcomes gifts through workplace giving campaigns, including the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and employee matching gifts. Contact your HR department for details on designating your contribution.

www.melanoma.org

Our Mission Statement

To support medical RESEARCH for finding effective treatments and eventually a cure for melanoma.

To EDUCATE patients and physicians about the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of melanoma.

To ETCH melanoma diagnosis and treatment into our community to raise the awareness of this disease.

To act as an ADVOCATE for the melanoma community to raise the awareness of this disease.

MRF is a national non-profit organization founded by patients and their families to find a cure for melanoma.
Santa Pub Crawl
DECEMBER 3, 2011
(L to R): Mandy Metcalf, Charlyn Ernest, and Toya Ernest

New York City Marathon
NOVEMBER 6, 2011
Sally Stilwell

A Night for Nicki
JANUARY 14, 2012
Top row (L to R): Marsha Vock, Lori Seccombe, Larry Barnett, Stacey Bowden, and Patti Burris
Bottom row (L to R): Candice Schlamp, Ursula Barnett, and Jessica Chambers

MelaNoMo’!
SEPTEMBER 24, 2011
Neil and Margaret Gaines

Escape from Melanoma Swim
OCTOBER 11, 2011
Monique Schaulis
Ragnar Relay
(Chattanooga to Nashville, TN)
November 4-5, 2011
Front row: Jason Fisher, Alex Scarbrough, Dan Ramer, Kellie Sneddon, Andrea Verney, and Kelly Donley.
Back row: Russell Burke, Kaki Talbot, and Emily Klick.

Knoerr Chicago Wolves Fundraiser
January 21, 2012
(L to R): Katy Klepser, R.J. Knoerr, and Isabelle Vaccaro

Carlsbad Half Marathon
January 22, 2012
Debbie Ward and Andrea Dunlap

St. Louis, MO Patient Symposium
April 28, 2012
Dr. William Harbour, Keynote Speaker, presents on targeted therapies in melanoma