

# MRF matters

A MELANOMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION PUBLICATION

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## RESEARCH AWARD PROGRAM

### MRF Expands Research Program by 60%

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 Mela-no-no and 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 (CGLCM of CWRU)**

*Measurement of macrophage derived interferon gamma levels in melanoma patients post UV radiation exposure*

*In memory of George Wilkins*

*Continued on next page*



*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.*

## 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, Free Skin Screening

**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 fundraising athletes

**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**

**Coer d'Alene, ID**

Ironman Coeru d'Alene, Free Skin Screening

For more information about these events and others, please visit [www.melanoma.org](http://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 I-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 JARID1B 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 reapplication 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 waxy 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 because they're easy to throw in the car, in your purse or stuff in a beach bag. Remember, bucket style hats give much better ear protection than baseball caps. Everyone sells sunglasses these days, but you really get what you pay for when it comes to eyewear. It's worth investing in high-quality sunglasses that are scratch

resistant. I like BabyBanz. They have JBanz and Retro Banz for older kids and Babybanz with straps for toddlers.

- **Long-sleeve rash guards:**

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](http://www.palegirlspeaks.com) or follow [@palegirlspeaks](https://twitter.com/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**

## 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 a community of other patients discovered through the patient bulletin board, MPIP. 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

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

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.

Tim Turnham, Executive Director

## 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](http://www.melanoma.org) and click "Join the Mailing List" OR [www.melanoma.org/get-involved/join-our-mailing-list](http://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!



**We Thank Our Generous Corporate Sponsors**



**Join Us! Please Donate to MRF**

We put your dollars to work. Please visit [www.melanoma.org](http://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.



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 act as an **ADVOCATE** for the melanoma community to raise the awareness of this disease and the need for a cure.  
MRF is a national non-profit organization founded by patients and their families to find a cure for melanoma.

**Our Mission Statement**





## 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*



## Escape from Melanoma Swim

OCTOBER 11, 2011

*Monique Schaulis*



## MelaNoMo'!

SEPTEMBER 24, 2011

*Neil and Margaret Gaines*



## 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*