Friday, March 1

5:30 – 6:30 pm  Early Registration and Networking in Marriott Banquet Room: Join us for light appetizers, drinks (cash bar) and socializing.

*Houston Marriott Medical Center, 6580 Fannin Street, Houston, TX 77030*

Saturday, March 2

8:00 – 8:45 am  Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:45 – 9:15 am  Welcome and Kick-Off Remarks
*Dr. Timothy Turnham, Executive Director, Melanoma Research Foundation  
Dr. Patrick Hwu, Department Chair, MD Anderson Dept. of Melanoma Oncology  
Dr. Sara Selig, Director, CURE OM*

9:15 – 10:15 am  Ocular Melanoma 101: An overview of ocular melanoma for the new or recently diagnosed patient/caregiver or for those looking to refresh their knowledge.
*Speaker: Dr. Dan Gombos and Dr. Tara McCannel*

**Concurrent Session**

**Yoga & Mindfulness – Mind and Body Healing:** Not only Eastern philosophers believe in a strong connection and symbiotic relationship between the mind and body; Western doctors and scientists have written extensively about how the mind body connection impacts one’s daily health. Learn simple activities to do at home to help strengthen your mind and body.
*Facilitator: Smitha G. Mallaiah BS, DYS, Mind-Body Intervention Specialist at MD Anderson*

10:15 – 10:30 am  BREAK

10:30 – 3:00 pm  Break Room Open: Need a short break? Want to talk to a peer? Visit the lounge and gather some information while you have a cup of tea or coffee.

10:30 – 12:00 pm  Expert Panel - Systemic Therapy for Metastatic Disease: Targeted Therapy, Immunotherapy and Clinical Trials
*Panelists: Dr. Sapna Patel and Dr. Patrick Hwu*

**Concurrent Session**

**Meditation & Mindfulness – Mind and Body Healing:** Not only Eastern philosophers believe in a strong connection and symbiotic relationship between the mind and body; Western doctors and scientists have written extensively about how the mind body connection impacts one’s daily health. Learn simple activities to do at home to help strengthen your mind and body.
*Facilitator: Sat Siri Sumler, LMT, NCTMB, E-RYT, Massage Therapist at MD Anderson*
Saturday, March 2 continued

12:00 – 1:00 pm  **Lunch with the Experts**

1:00 – 2:00 pm  **Research Advances**: Learn about the latest discoveries advancing the understanding and treatment of ocular melanoma.
**Speakers**: Dr. Scott Woodman and Dr. Bita Esmaeli

2:00 – 3:00 pm  **Reason to Hope – The Survivor’s Panel**: Hear from ocular melanoma warriors about what they’ve learned during their ocular melanoma journey.
**Panelists**: Butch Ewing, Esther Damaser, and Jeff Mark
**Facilitator**: Brianna Garrison, MSW, LCSW, Social Work Counselor

3:00 – 3:15 pm  **BREAK**

3:15 – 5:00 pm  **Small Group Peer-to-Peer Session**: Join this session to connect in confidential small groups – separated into patients, spouses/partners, caregivers, those who have lost a loved one – to talk and share experiences with others going through a similar journey.
**Facilitators**: Arewa Banjoko, MSW, LCSW, Social Work Counselor; Ginasenda Rodriguez, MSW, LCSW, Social Work Counselor; Christine Durlam, MSW, LCSW, Social Work Counselor; DJ Fomby, MSSW, LCSW, Social Work Counselor; Brianna Garrison, MSW, LMSW, Social Work Counselor; Johanna Pule, MSW, LMSW, Social Work Counselor; and Jacqueline Garza, MSW, LMSW, Social Work Counselor

5:00 – 5:30 pm  **Meditation & Mindfulness – Mind and Body Healing**: Not only Eastern philosophers believe in a strong connection and symbiotic relationship between the mind and body; Western doctors and scientists have written extensively about how the mind body connection impacts one’s daily health. Learn simple activities to do at home to help strengthen your mind and body.
**Facilitator**: Sat Siri Sumler, LMT, NCTMB, E-RYT, Massage Therapist at MD Anderson

5:00 – 6:00 pm  **FREE TIME**

6:00 – 8:15 pm  **DINNER**
**Celebration of Life** (6:00 – 6:15 pm): In memory of our loved ones, who continue to inspire us and give us HOPE to continue fighting for a cure.

8:30 - ??  **Informal Connection and Friendship in the Hotel Lounge**: For the night owls – continue your conversations with old and new friends.
Sunday, March 3

8:00 – 8:45 am  Continental Breakfast

8:45 – 9:30 am  Perspective from an Ocular Melanoma Warrior  
**Speaker:** Former Louisiana Governor Kathleen B. Blanco

9:30 – 10:45 am  Expert Panel – Liver Directed Therapies & Local Therapies for Metastatic Disease: Embolizations, Percutaneous Hepatic Perfusion, Ablations, Radiation  
**Panelists:** Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Dr. Beth Beadle, Dr. Alda Tam, and Dr. Richard Royal

Concurrent Session  
**The Grieving Process - From Diagnosis Through the Balance of Life:**  
Understand the cycle of grieving and how you can move forward in a healthy way that honors you, your cancer experience, and your loved one and helps you frame your future.  
**Speaker:** Carmella Wygant, OTR, MSW, LCSW, Social Work Counselor

10:45 – 11:00 am  BREAK

11:00 – 12:30 pm  Small Group Peer-to-Peer Session: Join this session to connect in confidential, small groups – separated into patients, spouses/partners, caregivers and those who have lost a loved one – to talk and share experiences with others going through a similar journey.  
**Facilitators:** Arewa Banjoko, MSW, LCSW, Social Work Counselor; Ginasenda Rodriguez, MSW, LCSW, Social Work Counselor; Christine Durlam, MSW, LCSW, Social Work Counselor; Lynn Waldmann, MSW, LCSW, Senior Social Work Counselor; DJ Fomby, MSSW, LCSW, Social Work Counselor; Brianna Garrison, MSW, LMSW, Social Work Counselor; Jacqueline Garza, MSW, LMSW, Social Work Counselor

12:30 – 12:35 pm  LUNCH: Grab a boxed lunch on your way back into the main room.

12:35 – 1:00 pm  Keeping our Eyes on a Cure: Hear an update from CURE OM’s Scientific Steering Committee and learn about the new CURE OM funded ocular melanoma research grants as well as more about on-going CURE OM patient resources.

1:00 – 1:45 pm  Taking Action to Find a Cure: Members of the ocular melanoma community often ask how they can help CURE OM work faster to find a cure. Gain the skills needed to make the biggest impact in your community and learn how we can work together to accelerate treatment advances.

1:45 – 2:00pm  Conference Wrap-up and Next Steps