Dear Friend,

I had coffee recently with a woman who has a family member with pediatric melanoma. "No one is doing anything about this," she told me. No one has built a website for this group, no Facebook page exists for exchange of ideas and support, and no single source of information on this issue is available online. She spends hours every week talking with others like her, trying to answer their questions and offer some support and guidance. Her ask was simple - have the MRF help meet this need.

As I left the meeting, I recalled another conversation. Just over two years ago I started talking with people affected by different rare form of melanoma - melanoma of the eye, or ocular melanoma (OM). Little research was being done in this area at the time, and patients struggled to find a place for support and information. Sound familiar?

On a routine basis we are presented with unmet needs in the melanoma community. People without the BRAF mutation are not eligible to receive half of the new drugs approved in the last 15 years. Patients with mucosal or acral melanoma have little access to clinical trials, and the situation is even more challenging for people with brain metastases. All this and more leads the MRF to explore questions like: Should start a program for the mucosal and acral melanoma communities? Should we push for better options for patients who are now "cancer free"? Should we organize a meeting for long term melanoma survivors? Should we do more work on primary prevention?

These are questions we ponder every day that the MRF. I wrote more about this on our blog - click here to read the post and please, share your thoughts in the comments.

Sincerely,

Timothy Turnham
Executive Director
Funding

In 2009, the Department of Defense (DOD) began funding melanoma as well as research in other cancers that impact members of the military and their families through the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP). Since the program's inception, the MRF has been a member of the panel of advocates, researchers and experts from the DOD, Veterans Affairs and the National Institutes of Health who design program announcements to solicit grant applications. This committee also selects an external panel of scientific experts to review the scientific merits of these grant applications.

In the first year of the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program, $4 million of a total of $15 million was targeted for melanoma research. Now for the first time ever, thanks to the concerted effort of the MRF and other key players in the melanoma community, the amount of PRCRP funding has been increased from $15 million to $25 million! Melanoma, along with 11 other cancer research topics, is eligible to compete for this funding. The MRF commends the DoD's commitment to research and has circulated the announcement to the MRF scientific advisory boards, grant awardees and grant applicants to encourage strong representation from the melanoma community.

To read more about this great news, click here.

Twitter Chat: Clinical Trials, March 13

Join the MRF on Thursday, March 13 at 1:30 pm ET for a Twitter chat about clinical trials and the patient experience. Special guest, melanoma patient/Philadelphia Inquirer blogger T.J. Sharpe (his column, "Patient #1," appears at http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/patient1), will share his personal experience participating in a clinical trial.

The MRF chat will also cover why clinical trials are important to the research and treatment process, how to talk to your doctor about participating in one and how to find the right clinical trial for you. Find the MRF on Twitter at @CureMelanoma, T.J. on Twitter at @TeamTJSharpe and on March 13, follow #MRFChat.

Want to follow the conversation but not active on Twitter? No problem! Simply search for #MRFChat on Twitter during the chat to watch the live discussion. The chat transcript will be posted on the MRF website after it concludes.

3rd Annual Miles for Melanoma at Universal Studios

Registration for the 3rd Annual Miles for Melanoma 5k Run/Walk at Universal Studios is now open!

Together, the first and second Miles for Melanoma 5k Run/Walk at Universal Studios raised over half a million dollars for melanoma education, prevention and early detection. Now the MRF aims to raise over HALF A MILLION DOLLARS just from this year's event! Join members of the melanoma community in Los Angeles on May 4, 2014 to make a difference in the fight against melanoma.

Each year, thousands of melanoma survivors, advocates, caregivers, celebrities and running enthusiasts attend this exciting event. Past celebrity attendees include Rob Lowe, Jason Biggs, Sean Astin, Jason George, Vin...
Attendees include Rob Lowe, Jason Biggs, Sean Astin, Jason George, Vin Diesel, Molly Sims, Kellie Martin, Fred Savage, Soleil Moon Frye, Breckin Meyer, and more!

Be sure to visit the Miles for Melanoma 5k Run/Walk at Universal Studios event information page or email MFMUniversal@melanoma.org for more information.

**Melanoma in the News**

According to recent news coverage, there has been an increase in proposed indoor tanning regulations across the U.S. States like Washington, Colorado, Kansas and others are in the midst of debating limiting minors’ access to indoor tanning salons in hopes of reducing exposure to harmful UV radiation.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced indoor tanning rates among high school females have decreased in the states that have multiple restrictions on minors’ access of tanning salons. This is great news!

There have been several opinion pieces about the importance of primary prevention (in other words, protecting our skin from harmful UV rays), which are included below.

For more recent news about melanoma and indoor tanning, read the articles below. To learn more about why indoor tanning is dangerous, click [here](#).

"**U.S. Teen Indoor Tanning Linked to Other Risky Health Behaviors.**" UPI.com

"**A Salute to Young Melanoma Warriors.**" ChicagoNow.com

"**Prevention is the Best Defense Against Deadly Skin Cancers.**" *Baltimore Sun*

"**My Patient Advocate: Catherine Poole of Melanoma International Foundation.**" Patient #1, Philly.com

"**Washington Senate Moves to Ban Indoor Tanning for Minors.**" KUOW.org

"**New Therapies Raise Hope for a Breakthrough in Tackling Cancer.**" *Washington Post*

"**High School Female Tanning Rates.**" 13WHAM-TV

"**Tough States Have Fewer Teen Tanners Using Indoor Salons.**" Consumer Affairs

"**Washington, Colorado Move to Ban Kids from Tanning Beds.**" *Washington Post*

"**Bill Aims to Ban Minors from Tanning Beds.**" WOI-DT Des Moines

"**Ala. Governor Support Teen Tanning Restrictions.**" KansasCity.com

"**Teen Tanning Bands Grow Across U.S., But Opposition Remains in Missouri.**" KCUR.org

"**Press Release: Rates of Indoor Tanning Among Female High School Students Lowest in States with Multiple Restrictions on Youth Access.**"
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

"Kansas Considers Banning Minors' Use of Tanning Beds," LJWorld.com

"Tanning Beds Once Again Under Fire in Colorado," CBS Denver

"Press Release: Amgen and Merck Announce Collaboration to Evaluate Investigational Combination Treatment for Advanced Melanoma," Wall Street Journal

"Drinking Linked to Higher Risk of Melanoma," Dermatology Times

"Moffitt Leads the Way for FDA Approval of Revolutionary Melanoma Treatment," WFTS Tampa Bay

"Local Bill Seeks to Ban Minors from Tanning Beds," Sun-Sentinel.com