Dear Friend,

Since the last Eye on OM issue, the MRF's CURE OM has taken great strides forward in the fight against ocular melanoma (OM). New data was presented at the recent American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) meeting showing the first systemic treatment to have an impact in advanced OM. Although we still have a long way to go, this is a tremendous step in the right direction. As our CURE OM Scientific Steering Committee Co-Chair, Dr. Bill Harbour, said, "In my opinion, this is the most important clinical advance in uveal melanoma in a long time."

In our quest to accelerate ocular melanoma research, we continue to host semi-annual collaborative scientific meetings and patient symposia across the nation. We are also now in our 2nd grant cycle, having received a record number of uveal melanoma applications! Supporting this type of innovative research will lead to discoveries that will in turn lead to more effective treatments, and ultimately a cure for OM.

Although we are making headway in the science of ocular melanoma, we know it can never be fast enough for those who are currently fighting the disease. CURE OM will continue working with researchers and companies to accelerate the development of effective treatments for OM.

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming CURE OM event!

Sincerely,

Sara M. Selig, M.D.
Director, CURE OM

June 2013

CURE OM Magnets

CURE OM volunteer, Linda O'Brien, is hosting an ongoing fundraiser selling CURE OM car magnets. The magnets are $10 each and all proceeds are being donated to CURE OM. So far, almost $1,000 has been raised!

Please contact Molly Stoffa, CURE OM Program Coordinator, at cureom@melanoma.org for more information.

Keep an Eye On OM - Join Our Mailing List

Become Involved Today!
CURE OM Science Update

CURE OM is supporting research to advance effective treatments, and ultimately a cure for ocular melanoma. CURE OM held its 4th scientific meeting at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle in May. Like other CURE OM scientific meetings, this meeting brought together an international and interdisciplinary group of researchers to present and discuss the latest research and clinical trials in the field. More than fifteen institutions participated.

A highlight of the meeting included a new collaborative focus on understanding and targeting mutations in OM. Discussions focused on advancing clinical trials, developing treatment guidelines, and continuing to foster collaborations between different academic centers, the National Institutes of Health, and industry. For the first time, research currently funded by the MRF’s CURE OM grants was presented - work from the laboratories of Dr. Levi Garraway and Dr. John Sondek was spotlighted for the meeting attendees.

In addition, CURE OM awarded the first-ever Gregg Stracks Award for Emerging Leaders in Ocular Melanoma during the meeting. The two recipients were Dr. Martina Angi and Dr. Mizue Terai. Dr. Angi works at University of Liverpool with Drs. Bertil Damato and Sarah Coupland, and Dr. Terai works at Thomas Jefferson University with Dr. Takamo Sato. Both physician-researchers show tremendous promise for significantly advancing the field of OM. Congratulations to Dr. Angi and Dr. Terai!

OM Research Funding

CURE OM is now in the 2nd year of awarding peer-reviewed research grants. This year, the MRF’s research grant program received more applications than ever, including a record number of uveal melanoma specific grant proposals! The proposals are currently being reviewed by experts in the field. The grants will be announced later in the summer. To read about the

Upcoming Events

CURE OM will be represented at a number of upcoming events where you can show your support. Hope to see you there!

June

6/30 - 1st Annual Benefit for Brett J. Mazimann (Merrick, NY)
6/30 - Miles for Melanoma Denver 5K Run/Walk (Denver, CO)

July

7/9 - Ocular Melanoma Webinar: Survivorship: Living with the Psychosocial Impacts of OM
7/13 - Miles for Melanoma Chicago - Teb’s Troops (Chicago, IL)
7/20 - Wine Tasting to Benefit the Amanda Wall and Corey Haddon Memorial (Holly Springs, NC)
7/28 - IRONMAN Lake Placid (Lake Placid, NY)

August

8/4 - Twins Days 5K Run and Fun Run (Twinsburg, OH)
researchers currently being funded by CURE OM, please click [here](#).

**Informal "Meet & Greets"**

Providing support and collaboration within the ocular melanoma community is a top priority for CURE OM. CURE OM received such positive feedback about the informal "Meet & Greets" that plans for future gatherings are well underway! Thanks to all of the local volunteers and OM advocates who have taken the time to help plan these events in their communities.

The next scheduled "Meet & Greet" will take place September 22 in Denver, CO. The Chicagoland "Meet & Greet" will take place in the fall, so be sure to visit [www.cureom.org](http://www.cureom.org) for updated information.

Interested in organizing an informal "Meet & Greet" near you? Contact Molly Stoffa, the MRF’s CURE OM Program Coordinator, at [mstoffa@melanoma.org](mailto:mstoffa@melanoma.org).

**Educational Program & Webinars**

CURE OM is dedicated to providing the OM community with regular updates on OM treatments and research through a robust educational program that includes patient and caregiver symposia, webinars and teleconferences.

On May 9, CURE OM hosted a webinar focusing on the most current liver directed therapies. Presenters included Dr. David Eschelman, Dr. Carin Gonsalves, and Dr. Charles Nutting. Dr. Eschelman talked about ablations, drug-eluting beads, and immunoembolizations. Dr. Gonsalves’ presentation included information about radioactive microspheres and chemoembolizations. Dr. Nutting presented information on the recently controversial percutaneous hepatic perfusion (PHP). To watch the webinar, click [here](#).

Cure OM will host several webinars this summer that encompass not only patient issues, but those of caregivers as well. The next educational webinar will take place Tuesday, July 9 from 4pm - 5pm ET and is titled: Ocular Melanoma Survivorship: Living with the Psychosocial Impacts. Presenters include Arewa A. Banjoko, MSW, LCSW, Susan E. Walther, MS, CGC, and Lisa Kessler, MS, CGC. Registration is now open, so be sure to secure your spot now!

The 3rd annual CURE OM Eyes on a Cure Patient and Caregiver Symposium will be in spring 2014. Details will be announced

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8/4 - **IRONMAN Boulder** (Boulder, CO)
8/5 - **3rd Annual Terry Patterson Memorial Golf Tournament** (Livermore, CA)
8/10 - **4th Annual Mela-no-no Fundraiser** (Lisle, IL)
8/10 - **2nd Annual Miles for Melanoma St. Paul** (St. Paul, MN)
8/25 - **IRONMAN Louisville** (Louisville, KY)

Want to know more? Visit the MRF’s [list of upcoming events](#).

**About CURE OM**

Committed to the support of medical research to find effective treatments and eventually a cure for ocular melanoma, CURE OM also educates patients and physicians about prevention, diagnosis and the treatment of ocular melanoma.

CURE OM actively advocates for the ocular melanoma community, helping to raise awareness of this disease and the need for accelerating research. Our [patient-driven discussion forum](#) provides a space for members to share and receive support.

Want to find out more? Check us out at [www.cureom.org](http://www.cureom.org).
soon! Follow CURE OM on Twitter and Facebook to keep up to date.

**Ocular Melanoma in the News**

You have probably noticed that OM has been in the news a lot lately. It is encouraging to see that mainstream media is paying attention to the happenings in the OM community. Recent events include interviews with OM patients, articles written about the MRF’s CURE OM Director Sara Selig, M.D. and her late husband Gregg Stracks, as well as the recent FDA denial of the Delcath procedure.

For more information on those articles, please click on the links below.

"**Love and Rare Cancer: Widow Fights On For Eye Melanoma Research**," WBUR

"**A Legacy That Will Live On**," Eye Cancer Heroes

"**Ocular Melanoma**," WWSB ABC 7 News

"**FDA Advisors Recommend Against Delcath's Cancer Therapy**," Reuters

"**Delcath Provides Update on FDA Advisory Committee Meeting on Melbleztm Kit**," Delcath.com