Dear Friend,

January can mean a fresh start for many of us - we set our resolutions and we work hard to keep them every day. I find, however, this month is different than Januarys in the past. We've already seen tremendous progress in the melanoma treatment space. On January 9th, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first-ever combination therapy to treat advanced melanoma! Researchers have hypothesized for years the best way to aggressively combat melanoma will be through the combination of two or more drugs. And, another drug that is showing great promise in trials is now in the process of being submitted for approval.

Both of these milestones represent important steps forward to bringing new and better treatments to people impacted by this disease. Of course, more must be done. As you gear up for the rest of the year and stay true to your resolutions, consider making a promise to yourself and loved ones to practice safe sun every day and be diligent about checking your skin. While researchers are working meticulously to find a cure for melanoma, we must play our part in combating the rising rates of melanoma by doing our best to prevent the disease and catch it early.

Sincerely,

Timothy Turnham
Executive Director

Join the MRF for the 3rd Annual Legislative Hill Day!

Please join the MRF on Thursday, March 6th, for the 3rd annual Legislative Hill Day! Connect with your lawmakers to share your story, and to urge them to support tanning bed legislation and increased funding for melanoma research. Face-to-face interactions between legislators and their constituents are one of the most powerful ways to impact public policy.

Legislative Hill Day is an important step in advancing our legislative agenda. You can make a difference.

January 2014

3rd Annual Legislative Hill Day
New Board Members
2014 Research Grant Program
Key Upcoming Events
Melanoma in the News

Help advance the fight against melanoma
DONATE TODAY!

Upcoming Events

Learn more about our community events and informative seminars on metastatic melanoma, current treatment approaches and clinical trial updates.

February

2/1 - Navigating Malignant Melanoma: A Unique Physician, Nurse & Patient Seminar Series (San Francisco, CA)
2/8 - Navigating Malignant Melanoma: A Unique Physician, Nurse & Patient Seminar Series (New York, NY)
You can make a difference. The MRF will schedule your Hill meetings for you. Additionally, there is NO COST to participate, but you must register before Friday, February 14th. Need help with accommodations? Email Mary Antonucci, National Director of Volunteer Services, at volunteer@melanoma.org, to learn more.

For more information and to register for this important event, contact Mary at volunteer@melanoma.org or 1 (800) 673-1290.

Can't make it to Washington, D.C.? Ask how you can participate virtually!

New MRF Board Members

The MRF is pleased to announce two new members of the Board of Directors: Rebecca King Dreman and Stan Adler.

Rebecca (Becky), former Miss Colorado and Miss America, is a Stage IV cutaneous melanoma survivor who was diagnosed with Stage IV metastatic melanoma in 2010. Shortly after her diagnosis, she enrolled in a clinical trial and now finds herself NED (no evidence of disease). Becky and her family are active advocates for reaching young women with messages about reducing the risk of melanoma, including important cautions about tanning. In fact, Becky and her daughter Diana (also former Miss Colorado) participated in the MRF's Capitol Hill briefing in 2012 to address the alarming growth of melanoma diagnoses. Becky lives in Denver, CO with her husband.

Stan is the founder and creative director for Stan Adler Associates, a full-service marketing communications firm based in New York City. After being successfully treated for Stage IV metastatic melanoma with high dose IL-2 in 2005, he discovered the MRF and became an active participant on the bulletin board to try and help melanoma patients make informed decisions about their treatment. Stan and his wife Aviva live in New Rochelle, NY and have three married children and three grandchildren.

Click here to read their bios and to learn about the rest of the MRF Board of Directors.

Now Accepting 2014 Research Grant Proposals

This year marks the 17th year that the MRF is accepting research applications! The 2014 Request for Proposals (RFP) is now available.

New in 2014 is the identification of scientific topics that address unmet clinical needs in melanoma research, which were identified through a series of meetings of multidisciplinary experts from the MRF’s Scientific Advisory Committee and Breakthrough Consortium. These Specific Topic Proposals, or STPs, will provide small team funding of up to $250,000 per year for two years. Junior and senior level applications will also be accepted, as well as a junior level award focusing on mucosal melanoma. The 2014 RFP can be found on https://proposalcentral.altum.com and questions can be directed to.

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Find the MRF online!
found on https://proposalcentral.altum.com and questions can be directed to the program director at research@melanoma.org.

To learn more about the MRF's research grant program, click here. Learn about past grant recipients here.

Key Upcoming Events

Join the MRF and the MRF's CURE OM initiative for several unique upcoming events:

- "Navigating Malignant Melanoma: A Unique Physician, Nurse & Patient Seminar Series"
  - Join some of the best melanoma providers in the world at these FREE unique symposia. Learn about the latest treatment options (and much more!) while meeting other people impacted by melanoma.
  - San Francisco, February 1
  - New York, February 8

- CURE OM's Eyes on a Cure Patient & Caregiver Symposium
  - Los Angeles, March 1-2

- 2014 Legislative Hill Day
  - Washington, D.C., March 6

Questions about these events? Email education@melanoma.org.

Melanoma in the News

In early January, the FDA approved the first-ever combination therapy to treat advanced melanoma. The MRF’s Executive Director Tim Turnham and MRF Board Member/Stage IV melanoma survivor Cheryl Stratos were interviewed by WUSA-TV (Washington, D.C.’s local CBS affiliate) about the approval.

A new international study found that the number of people using indoor tanning devices is larger than previously thought. Read more about the alarming rates in the USA Today article below.

Stage IV melanoma survivor, blogger and advocate T.J. Sharpe recently participated in the MRF’s first patient/caregiver symposium of the year and wrote about his experience on his Philly.com blog, called "Making a Difference in the Lives of Others."

Indiana, Kansas and Alabama are among the growing number of states debating minors’ access to tanning beds. For more recent news about melanoma and indoor tanning, click on the articles below. To learn more about why indoor tanning is dangerous, click here.

"Tanning Beds Used by More Than a Third, Study Finds," USA Today

"Making a Difference in the Lives of Others," Patient #1, Philly.com

"Kansas Legislative Committee Hears Arguments For and Against Banning Minors from Tanning Beds," Kansas City Star
"GSK Says Melanoma Combination Meets Main Goal," Reuters

"Ocular Melanoma: Skin Cancer in Your Eyes?" The Coolibar Blog

"Bill to Regulate Teen Tanning Approved Ala. House Committee," AL.com

"Few Dermatology Patients Engage in Skin CA Surveillance," DoctorsLounge.com

"Indiana Considers Tanning-Bed Ban for Young Teens," Indy Star

"Dr. Donald Morton Dies at 79: Melanoma Expert Pioneered a Cancer Technique," New York Times

"Study Shows Large Number of Minn. Teenagers Still Using Tanning Bed Despite Warning," KSTP-TV ABC

"FDA Approves First Combo Therapy for Advanced Melanoma," WUSA-TV CBS

"Mekinist Plus Tafinlar Approved for Late-Stage Melanoma," HealthDay