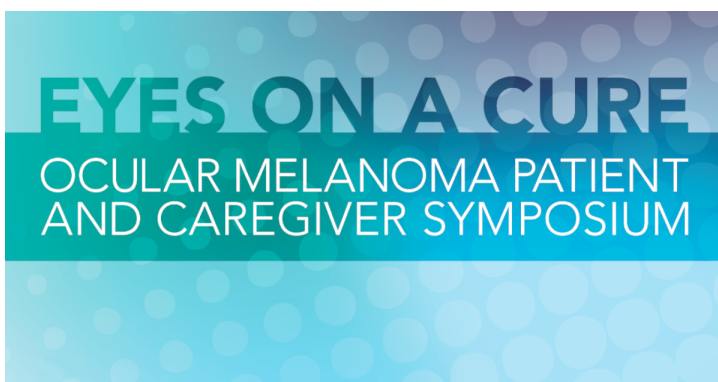


Subject: Here's What We're Looking Forward To in 2019!

HTML



8th Annual Eyes on a Cure: Patient & Caregiver Symposium



The MRF is excited to host the 8th Annual [CURE OM Symposium](#) on April 5-7, 2019, in Raleigh, North Carolina! This free educational and social weekend will be held in collaboration with Duke University and the University of North Carolina.

Speakers for the event include Dr. Miguel Materin from Duke University, Dr. Fred Kam from Auburn University, Dr. John Mason from University of Alabama Birmingham, Dr. Marlana Orloff from Thomas Jefferson University, Dr. Jessica Lang from Columbia University and Dr. David Eschelmann from Thomas Jefferson University. Additional speakers and presentations can be found on the [draft agenda](#).

Attendees can look forward to presentations on the latest news in OM research and treatment, information about the unique populations of Huntersville and Auburn, updates on the CURE OM Patient Registry project and discussions with our international partners: Ocumel Canada, Ocumel UK and Ocumel Ireland!

In addition to a full scientific agenda, mindfulness speakers will host breakout sessions including "Scanxiety: How to Handle the Unexpected," "Young Adults and Ocular

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Upcoming Events

March 9-11, 2019 - [MRF Advocacy Summit & Hill Day](#)

April 5-7, 2019 - [Eyes on a Cure: Patient & Caregiver Symposium](#)

May 2 - [Denver Gala](#)

May 4 - [Columbus Patient Symposium*](#)

May 4 - [Miles for Melanoma DC](#)

May 18 - [Miles for Melanoma New England](#)

May 6 - [Chapel Hill Patient Symposium*](#)

May 11 - [Los Angeles Patient Symposium*](#)

May 17 - [Philadelphia Patient Symposium*](#)

May 18 - [Washington, DC - Northern Virginia Patient Symposium*](#)

Melanoma, "Cancer and Family" and more.

For more information and to register for this FREE event, please click here: [Eyes on a Cure: Patient and Caregiver Symposium](#)

Reminder: Event registration does not include a hotel reservation. A discounted hotel room block is available for those who register by March 5, 2019. [Click here to reserve your room in the CURE OM room block.](#)

May 31-June 4 - [2019 ASCO Annual Meeting](#)

June 6 - [Philadelphia Gala](#)

September 26 - [Chicago Gala](#)

November 20-23 - [Society for Melanoma Research International Congress](#)

**MRF Patient Symposium focused on general melanoma topics, not specific to ocular melanoma*

2019 Uveal Melanoma Scientific Symposium



On January 18, the MRF's CURE OM initiative partnered with MD Anderson Cancer Center to host the 2019 Uveal Melanoma Summit in Houston, TX. This meeting united over 60 ocular melanoma physicians, researchers and experts from more than 10 cancer centers and academic institutions across the US to discuss the current state of OM science and explore areas for future collaboration. Discussion topics

included uveal melanoma's inclusion in The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA), progress in the CURE OM Patient Registry project, current OM clinical trials and an exciting session on tumor-infiltrating lymphocyte (TIL) therapy for ocular melanoma. Visit the [CURE OM Facebook page](#) to see photos from the symposium and to stay up to date on upcoming events.



Advancing the CURE OM Patient Registry

Exciting things have been happening with the CURE OM Patient Centered Registry over the past few months! In November 2018, members of CURE OM [Patient Registry Steering Committee](#) presented a progress report at the 15th International Congress of the Society for Melanoma Research Congress. In January 2019, Dr. Marlana Orloff presented registry updates at the 2019 Uveal Melanoma Scientific Symposium. Additionally, the CURE OM Patient Registry Steering Committee submitted an abstract and an oral presentation was accepted for the 2019 International Society of Ocular Oncology Biennial Conference, which will be presented by steering committee member Dr. Dan Gombos of MD Anderson.

The CURE OM Patient Registry Steering Committee is working with stakeholders to develop study documents for the registry including surveys used for collecting data from patients participating in the registry. They are also developing communication materials to support the

recruitment, engagement and retention of patients and caregivers to participate in the registry. The Patient Registry Steering Committee is next scheduled to meet in person in Raleigh, NC, in conjunction with the 8th Annual Eyes on a Cure: Patient and Caregiver Symposium. A session will be held at the event to report out the latest updates on the registry development.

Ocular Melanoma Treatment Center Collaborative Coalition

The MRF's CURE OM initiative launched the Ocular Melanoma Treatment Center Collaborative Coalition (TC3) in September 2018. Representatives from seven treatment centers are participating in this pilot initiative with the goal of better meeting the needs of frontline providers (i.e. nurses, social workers, care coordinators, etc.) serving ocular melanoma patients. Better informed and resourced frontline providers will be able to meet the needs of the patient community more effectively. The Coalition holds quarterly meetings that will have both an educational component for participants and also allow for discussions on the challenges and solutions experienced in the care of OM patients. So far we have held two meetings, the most recent focusing on the social-emotional needs of patients and caregivers, and have received positive feedback from attendees. The next meeting is planned for June 2019. For more information about the TC3, please contact ljohnston@melanoma.org.

Apply for MRF Research Funding!

Don't forget: the deadline to apply for 2019 research funding is March 1, 2019 at 5pm EST! This year, the MRF will again offer Established Investigator, Career Development and Medical Student Awards, as well as a Team Award specifically focused on ocular melanoma. The OM Team Award is a two-year grant of \$100,000 per year (\$200,000 total)! More information about each grant type and application instructions can be found in the [2019 MRF Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#).



The MRF is committed to advancing research progress in ocular melanoma. Last year, Dr. Walter Fast (seen at left with MRF CEO Kyleigh LiPira, MBA) was recognized with the [CURE OM Pilot Proposal Focused on GNAQ/11 Mutant Uveal Melanoma](#) and the MRF is proud to continue its commitment to advancing OM science. While cutaneous melanoma has seen tremendous advances in recent years, rare subtypes like ocular melanoma represent an urgent need for additional research and more effective treatments. Since the creation of the CURE OM initiative in 2011, the MRF has funded over [\\$1.4 million in research specifically for ocular melanoma](#) and will continue to lead our community towards a cure.

[Visit the CURE OM Research page to see the ways that CURE OM advances ocular melanoma science!](#)

CommUNITY Fundraiser: 55 at 55

Since his diagnosis in 2012, Timothy Scott hasn't let ocular melanoma slow him down. In his own words:

I woke up one morning within a month of my 55th birthday (Oct. 26) and thought that doing something 55 times during the year would be a nice milestone. So, 55 races during my 55th year it is! Who knows what all might be involved but I know there will be plenty of 5Ks, maybe a Spartan or two, possibly a duathlon or triathlon, an ultra may be in my future and who knows what else. Some of them will have me heading out the door at dark thirty on a Sunday morning alone to get to the starting line and some will involve some or all of my wonderful, always supportive family. All I know is that it will be a blast, a great challenge, and a fantastic way



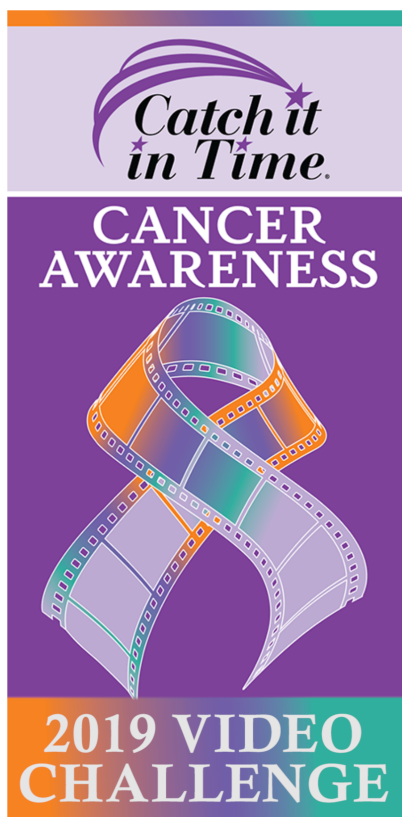
to raise money for a couple of very worthy organizations!

Read more about Timothy, support his [fundraising goal](#) and see the 21 races he's already completed at [55 at 55!](#)

Do YOU have a great idea to increase OM awareness and raise funds for a cure? Learn how the MRF can support your efforts as a [CommUNITY Fundraiser](#).



Catch It In Time Video Challenge



CURE OM is proud to partner with [Catch It In Time](#), a nonprofit organization that brings together storytellers and other creative individuals to raise awareness about the life-saving effects of cancer early detection.

The [2019 Cancer Awareness Video Challenge](#) invites high school and college students to create a video on a cancer-related topic of their choosing, up to 3 minutes in length. No special training or equipment is required, you can even use a camera phone!

There is no cost to enter and video submissions can include PSAs, animation, music videos, inspirational stories and more. Entries will be reviewed by leading broadcast and video industry professionals, healthcare organizations and cancer survivors. Winning submissions will be eligible for prizes including professional camera packages, video editing software, cash prizes and even internship opportunities!

[Learn more about the Cancer Awareness Video Challenge and how you can get involved!](#)

Advocacy and Awareness

#EYEGETDILATED

- In November, the MRF's CURE OM initiative hosted its annual #EyeGetDilated campaign to increase awareness of ocular melanoma (OM) and the importance of including dilated eye exams in a yearly wellness routine. This year's #EyeGetDilated campaign featured powerful stories from patients, survivors and caregivers like [Carrie Rubin](#), [Ashley McCrary](#), [Joseph Boyle](#) and [Jim Mills](#). Additionally, [Dr. Carol Shields](#) offered the physician's perspective from a career dedicated to serving the OM community. Thanks to the enthusiasm of our community, these stories and early detection messages reached almost 50,000 readers online!
- The [9th Annual MRF Advocacy Summit & Hill Day](#) is almost here! On March 9-11,

melanoma advocates from across the country will come together on Capitol Hill to meet with their lawmakers to discuss critical issues facing the melanoma community. The MRF's volunteer advocates have an excellent record of affecting change at the national level, so it is so important that ocular melanoma perspectives are included in these meetings - you will be the voice of the OM community!

- Join the MRF as we recognize [Rare Disease Day](#) on February 28 with our international partners representing those impacted by rare diseases like ocular melanoma. To participate in this social media campaign, visit the [Rare Disease Day website](#) to find resources and opportunities to share that "you're rare!"

Ocular Melanoma & Eye Health in the News

Below is a sample of recent ocular melanoma news.

["Turn the Struggle into a Positive,"](#) 7 Billion Ones

["Despite No Ocular Melanoma Cancer Cluster at Auburn, Survivors Aren't Giving Up Research Efforts,"](#) The Auburn Plainsman

["Former Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco: 'Monster' of Incurable Cancer 'Not Far Down the Road,'"](#) The Advocate

["WVU Cancer Institute Debuts Treatment for Liver Metastases,"](#) 12 WBOY

["Jefferson Researchers Discover Promising Treatment for Most Common Adult Eye Cancer,"](#) Philly Voice

["Introducing: Ocumel Canada',"](#) Save Your Skin Foundation

["Provectus Announces Grant of Orphan Drug Designation in U.S. to PV-10 for Treatment of Ocular Melanoma,"](#) Provectus Biopharmaceuticals Inc.

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<http://join.melanoma.org>

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<https://www.melanoma.org/sites/default/files/CURE%20OM%20Symposium%20Agenda%202.15.19.pdf>

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<https://www.melanoma.org/get-involved/calendar-of-events/eyes-cure-patient-caregiver-symposium-3>

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<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1809222524&key=348E34BE&>

Close