

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the qualifications to become an MRF advocate?

If you would like to become an advocate in the MRF grant review process, you **must**:

1. Possess good verbal and written communication skills with the English language
2. Express interest in and have some basic knowledge of the medical research process
3. Provide a copy of a current resume
4. Complete science-based training. This training requirement shall be considered fulfilled if the advocate can provide documentation of this training of completion of at least of the programs below:
 - A. Attendance of a science-based training program (typically a one-day time commitment):
 1. The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Survivor-Scientist Program
 2. Research Advocacy Network (RAN) Advocate Institute Basics for Research Advocacy
 3. National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC) Project LEAD
 4. A similar type of program as those outlined above
 - B. Completion of [the MRF's Friends of Cancer Research \(FOCR\) Training Program](#) (a 3-5 hour program with various modules that allows you to stop/start numerous times before you complete the training).
5. Sign the MRF Conflict of Interest & Confidentiality Statement (email advocacy@melanoma.org)
6. If selected, participate in an MRF pre-grant conference call.

If you have previously served as an advocate in the MRF grant review process, you only need to provide a copy of a current resume, re-sign the Conflict of Interest & Confidentiality Statement, and complete the [MRF Advocate Eligibility Form](#).

What orientation is provided to MRF advocates?

To become an MRF advocate grant reviewer, an applicant must possess experience with medical research either by attending a science-based training program, participating in a previous grant review, or by completing the MRF's Friends of Cancer Research (FOCR) Training Program online. Although this ensures that the advocate reviewers possess some familiarity with melanoma research, if selected, advocates will also participate in a pre-grant orientation session (either a webinar or conference call) to discuss the MRF program and grant review process.

What is the time commitment required to be an MRF advocate?

Although application review time varies among advocates, it takes approximately 10-15 hours of pre-meeting preparation over a 4-week period. The pre-meeting preparation includes: a pre-grant orientation session, the review of assigned applications, and the preparation of written comments for those applications.

How many advocates participate in each grant review panel?

The MRF would like to incorporate a minimum of five advocates per each grant review panel (depending on the number of applications).

Are advocate comments taken into consideration during the funding discussions?

Yes, comments provided by advocates will be presented by an advocate designee on the final review conference call. This designee will have full voting rights.

Are advocates compensated?

No, neither advocates nor scientific reviewers will be financially compensated for participating in the MRF grant review process.

How will the advocates be chosen?

The main factor in selecting the advocates will be the number of applications received in response to the MRF RFP.

Who should I contact with any additional questions/concerns?

Please visit www.melanoma.org for additional information on the MRF and to learn more about our research program. Specific questions/concerns can be directed to advocacy@melanoma.org or by calling (202) 347-9675.