



MRF Melanoma
Research
Foundation

Cure Ocular Melanoma

Eyes on the Cure: Ocular Melanoma Patient and Caregiver Symposium

Melanoma Research Foundation and

Cole Eye Institute, Taussig Cancer Ctr

April 26-27, 2025

Intercontinental Hotel

9801 Carnegie Ave. Cleveland, OH 44106

Friday (4/25)

Time	Session	Location	Blurb
7:30-9:00PM	Informal Meet and Greet	Intercontinental Cleveland	Join us for an informal meet and greet to kick off the weekend!

Saturday (4/26)

Time	Session	Speaker	Blurb
7:00-8:00AM	Check-In & Breakfast	N/A	N/A
8:00-8:15AM	MRF Welcome	Kyleigh LiPira, MBA, MRF CEO	N/A
8:15-8:30AM	Cancer Center (CCF) Welcome	Dr. Arun Singh Professor of Ophthalmology, Editor, Ocular Oncology and Pathology, Director, Dept. of Ophthalmic Oncology, Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute	N/A
8:30-9:15AM	Patient and Caregiver Panel (CCF Patients and others)	Miriam Kadosh, LCSW, MSW Director of Education and Patient Engagement	Hear from our patient panel who will answer relevant questions to their diagnosis, treatment, quality of

			life and survivorship. Come ready with questions!
9:15-9:30AM	BREAK		

Room 1

Time	Session	Speaker	Blurb
9:30-9:45AM	Ocular Surveillance - Tumor Control & Vision Loss	Dr. Arun Singh, Professor of Ophthalmology, Editor, Ocular Oncology and Pathology, Director, Dept. of Ophthalmic Oncology, Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute	The five-year local recurrence rate is about 5% with the majority (90%) of the recurrences occurring within the first 5 years (median time to recurrence=18 months). The predominant site of recurrence was at the tumor margin. Recurrent tumors can be managed by repeat brachytherapy, TTT, or enucleation. The risk of vision loss is significant with 50% having 20/200 or worse vision. Prediction models can be used to predict visual loss following brachytherapy. Trials to avoid radiation induced vision loss are underway.
9:45-10:00AM	DNA Testing: Who, When, Why	Meghan DeBenedictis, Licensed, Certified Genetic Counselor, Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, Director, Genetics Business Development	This session will highlight the differences between somatic and germline genetic testing. It will explore the value DNA testing as it pertains to prognosis for uveal melanoma, and when additional genetic testing may be indicated.

10:00-10:30AM	Systemic Surveillance - How	Dr. John Suh, Department Chair of Radiation Oncology, Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute	
10:30-10:45AM	Q&A Panel		
10:45-11:00AM	BREAK		
11:00-11:30AM	Liver Directed Therapy	Dr. Isaacs, Associate Staff Medical Oncology Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute	Liver directed therapies are performed in partnership with providers across multiple medical specialties. They target uveal melanoma therapies directly to the liver and include interventional radiologists, surgeons, radiation oncologists and medical oncologists. We will review several of these therapies."
11:30-12:00PM	Tebentafusp in Practice	Dr. Truong	
12:00-12:30PM	Immunotherapies and Targeted Therapies	Lucy Kennedy, MD, Medical Oncologist, Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute	This session will review systemic therapy options for metastatic uveal melanoma beyond tebentafusp. We will review targeted therapy options, including darovasertib + crizotinib, which are currently in clinical trials. We will review emerging immune therapy strategies in addition to new ways to incorporate older immune therapies into current management.

12:30-1:00PM	Q&A Panel		
1:00-2:00PM	LUNCH – On Your Side: Exploring the Preciousness & Renewability of Time	Linds Brown, CDTI, CRCST, CFER, CCSVP	How often do we say, “ <i>I just don’t have time for that</i> ”? But what if you discovered that time was never the problem—only your perception of it? This powerful talk takes you inside the mind of someone who faced life’s ultimate wake-up call: a terminal stage 4 cancer diagnosis. But instead of surrendering to fear, they discovered a profound truth—time isn’t our enemy; it’s our greatest gift. Through raw storytelling and a compelling call-to-action, this talk challenges you to rethink your relationship with time. What if every second held the potential to transform your life? What if <i>now</i> is the only moment that truly matters? It’s time to stop waiting, start leaping, and make every moment count—because time, when embraced, is on your side.

Room 1

Time	Session	Speaker	Blurb
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2:00-2:30PM	Impact of Funding Research in OM	Kyleigh LiPira, MBA CEO Melanoma Research Foundation	Learn about the impact of the MRF funded research
2:35-3:05PM	Preventing Recurrence in Uveal Melanoma: The Role of Adjuvant Therapies	Shaheer Khan, DO	Despite successful treatment of the primary tumor, the risk of metastasis remains a significant concern for those diagnosed with uveal melanoma. In this session, we'll explore advancements in adjuvant therapies, including prior and upcoming clinical trials as well as the rationale for immunotherapy and targeted approaches.
3:10-3:40PM	Financial Navigation	Jill Harmon, RCM Financial Counseling	This presentation helps patients navigate healthcare finances, especially those with out-of-network (OON) insurance. It's important to understand the difference between in-network and OON providers, as OON care usually costs more. Patients should verify their insurance coverage early and ask about preauthorization requirements. Cost transparency is key, so patients should request clear estimates for consultations, imaging, and surgeries. For OON care, gap exceptions may reduce costs. If

			<p>facing high out-of-pocket expenses, payment plans, or financing options can help. Comprehensive medical necessity documentation improves the chances of insurance approval. By verifying coverage, requesting estimates, and exploring payment options, patients can better manage healthcare costs.</p>
<p>3:45-4:15PM</p>	<p>Mental Health and Scanxiety</p>	<p>Carly Temple, MSSA, LISW-S, Social Worker, Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute</p>	<p>Join oncology social worker, Carly Temple, LISW-S, as she talks about supporting your wellbeing during cancer care and beyond. Explore ways to cope with scanxiety, discover how mindfulness can be an effective tool to help manage distress, and learn ways to identify and address mental health needs, whether you're the patient or the care partner.</p>

Room 2

Time	Session	Speaker	Blurb
<p>9:30-10:30AM</p>	<p>Art Therapy Session</p>	<p>Lisa Shea, LPAT, ATR-BC</p>	<p>Please join us for, "What Feeds Your Soul?" Participants will be able to create a small unique clay medallion symbolizing what people, places</p>

			or things nourish their soul.
9:30-10:30AM	Art Therapy Session	Lisa Shea, LPAT, ATR-BC	
10:30-11:00AM	BREAK		
2:00-2:30PM	An Introduction to Artificial Eyes: Excellence That Goes Unnoticed	Angela Reinhardt, B.CO., B.A.D.O.	What to expect after eye enucleation, the process of making an ocular prosthetic, and restoring your confidence.
2:35-3:05PM	Low Vision Adjustments and Resources	Alicia Howerton, Cleveland Sight Center, Elisha Beard, Cleveland Sight Center	Living life as a person who's blind is more than a process, but it has to start there! An emotional, physical and familial process of which I know firsthand. Self-talk is key, but you can say words from a positive or negative perspective. I've found that intentionality in my thinking has helped me grasp opportunities for a life I didn't think would have been possible twenty plus years ago. You'll hear some of my story and the life adjustments I made as I was losing my vision, but knowing and having the resources available sooner would have helped me greatly and

			you'll hear more about that during the talk.
3:10-3:40PM	Empowered Care: Navigating the Journey of Supporting a Loved One with Cancer	The Gathering Place	Join us for a sacred space just for caregivers!
3:45-4:15PM	Ink & Intentions	Linds Brown, CDTI, CRCST, CFER, CCSVP	Not a journaler? Perfect! This session is designed for those who don't consider themselves writers but still want to reflect, reset, and make the most of their time. Through thoughtful prompts and personal insights, you'll leave with a renewed sense of clarity and motivation to make every moment count and discover how journaling can be a powerful tool—even if you've never picked up a pen for self-reflection before.
4:15-4:30PM	BREAK		
4:30-5:45PM	Support group breakout by diagnosis type	Carly Temple MSSA, LISW-S, Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute, Stacie Cindea, Miriam Kadosh, Kyleigh LiPira	Join other attendees for breakout sessions by diagnosis type: primary, metastatic, caregiver, lost a loved one
6:00PM	DINNER – Community Building Activities		

Sunday (4/27)

Time	Session	Speaker	Blurb
8:00-9:00AM	BREAKFAST		During breakfast, we will honor those whom we have lost from OM

<p>9:00-9:30AM</p>	<p>Uveal Melanoma: Era of Ocular Trials</p>	<p>Dr. Arun Singh, Professor of Ophthalmology, Editor, Ocular Oncology and Pathology, Director, Dept. of Ophthalmic Oncology, Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute</p>	<p>With high local control rates (95%), visually debilitating sequelae have been accepted by the treating oncologist and the patients alike. To avoid radiation retinopathy (RR) altogether, alternatives to radiation therapy are being sought. Currently, several promising treatments are being investigated in clinical trials, including a light-activated therapy that can selectively destroy the cell membrane of malignant cells, the use of novel pharmaceuticals to prevent and treat the effects of RR, and an oral drug that blocks a critical step in the molecular pathogenesis of uveal melanoma.</p>
<p>9:30-10:00AM</p>	<p>Uveal Melanoma: Am I Cured Yet?</p>	<p>Dr. Arun Singh, Professor of Ophthalmology, Editor, Ocular Oncology and Pathology, Director, Dept. of Ophthalmic Oncology, Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute</p>	<p>Uveal melanoma patients reach normal life expectancy about 25 years after ocular therapy. A very long time to cure suggests that the statistical cure is unlikely to be related to ocular therapy. Conditional survival estimates improve with time since ocular therapy. Conditional survival analysis can provide dynamic and specific</p>

			guidance for counselling patients.
10:00-11:00AM	Under the Microscope: Pathology Diagnosis of Ocular Melanoma	Jennifer A Brainard, MD	
11:00-11:30AM	Q&A Panel		
11:30AM	LUNCH TO GO		
1:40PM	BASEBALL GAME		