MRF Melanoma Research Foundation
Cure Ocular Melanoma



Dear CURE OM Community,

As we quickly approach our 15th Annual Eyes on a Cure: Ocular Melanoma Patient & Caregiver Symposium, we're excited to share the latest updates and opportunities to connect across the ocular melanoma (OM) community.

In this issue, you'll find a range of updates from across the OM space, including recordings of recent Ask the Expert webinars, details about this year's Eyes on a Cure Symposium and highlights from resources offered by the Melanoma Research Foundation. You'll also find ways to get involved in research opportunities and fundraising events like Miles for Melanoma, along with information about OM community events happening around the world.

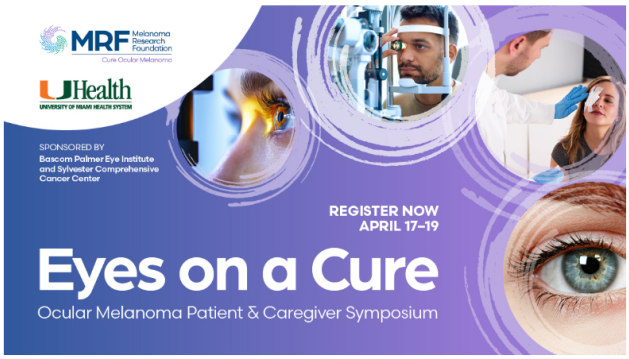
We're grateful to be in community with you and look forward to the months ahead.

Learn more about the CURE OM initiative here.

Thank you for being such an essential part of this community; we couldn't do this work without you.

With gratitude,
Caroline Glavin
Education Program Manager – Rare Melanoma Subtypes

Register Today: 15th Annual Eyes on a Cure: Ocular Melanoma Patient & Caregiver Symposium



Join us for the **15th Annual Eyes on a Cure: Ocular Melanoma Patient & Caregiver Symposium**, taking place **April 17–19, 2026**, in **Miami, Florida**.

Held in partnership with the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and the Sylvester

Comprehensive Cancer Center, this three-day event brings together patients, caregivers and leading experts for sessions focused on primary and metastatic ocular melanoma, supportive care and psychosocial wellbeing, along with plenty of opportunities for community connection and fun.

We hope to see you in Miami for this inspiring weekend dedicated to education, support and community!

Register Here

Planning Committee Acknowledgement

The 2026 Eyes on a Cure symposium is truly a collaborative effort. Our Planning Committee plays an essential role in shaping the agenda, elevating patient and caregiver voices and ensuring this event is created with and for the ocular melanoma community. We are incredibly grateful for their time, insight and dedication in helping bring this meaningful weekend to life.

Our Planning Committee members are all individuals personally impacted by ocular melanoma, including patients and caregivers who generously share their lived experiences to strengthen this program and support others.

Planning Committee Members
Cindy Schulz
Jon Davis
Allie Dashow
Ed Sandell
Len Wilensky (caregiver)
Harold Huffaker

"Liz and I attended our first CURE OM symposium in 2024 in Boston. We were amazed at the love and support we received and all the wonderful people we encountered. We met patients, caregivers, doctors and researchers. Most importantly we learned that rare as this disease is, we are not alone and that others share our struggles." - Len Wilensky

In the News

New Research Focused on Earlier Detection

Researchers at Stanford are developing a new artificial intelligence–based tool designed to help eye doctors identify concerning eye lesions earlier, particularly in community and general eye clinics. The goal is to improve early detection of ocular melanoma and ensure patients are referred to specialists more quickly, which could support earlier diagnosis and care for more people. To learn more, click here.

Improved Risk Prediction with New Study

A recent multicenter study found that combining the DecisionDx-UM prognostic test with PRAME gene expression data provides more accurate predictions of metastatic risk and survival outcomes for uveal melanoma than traditional gene mutation analysis alone. This research offers patients and care teams more precise insights into individual tumor behavior, helping guide surveillance decisions and support more informed conversations about care. To learn more, click here.

Aura Biosciences Expands Evidence with New Patient-Reported Outcome Study in Eye Cancer

Aura Biosciences recently announced new data from a patient-reported outcome study connected to its ongoing Phase 3 CoMpass clinical trial for early-stage choroidal (uveal) melanoma. The study focuses on understanding how patients feel and function during treatment, including quality of life and daily activities, in addition to traditional clinical outcomes like tumor control. These insights may help researchers better understand the real-world impact of emerging therapies for ocular melanoma. To learn more, click here.

New Resources from the MRF

Animated Patient Video: Understanding Metastatic Uveal Melanoma

We're excited to share a new animated patient video that breaks down metastatic uveal melanoma in an easy-to-understand way. The video explains how uveal melanoma can spread beyond the eye, why follow-up imaging and monitoring are important and the treatment options and supportive resources available to patients and caregivers as they navigate care choices.

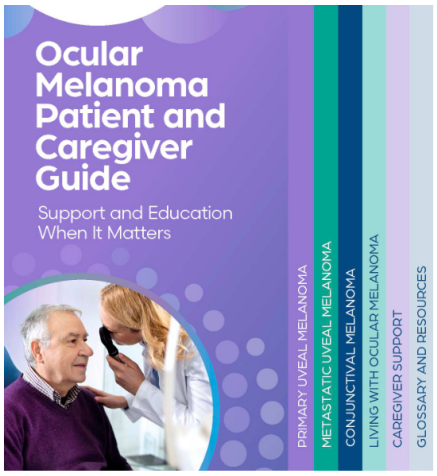
Watch the animation here.

Navigating Ocular Melanoma: A Guide for Patients and Caregivers

We are thrilled to introduce a new educational resource created specifically for the ocular melanoma (OM) community. This guide walks patients and caregivers through key topics including understanding an OM diagnosis, exploring treatment pathways, managing side effects and finding emotional and practical support.

It also offers guidance on questions to ask your care team, tips for navigating daily life and insights to help you feel more confident in making informed decisions.

The **Questions to Ask Your Doctor Caregiver Guide** is designed for the ocular melanoma community and helps caregivers prepare for appointments with clear, practical questions about treatment, monitoring and care planning, while also offering guidance on caring for themselves along the way.



Catch Up on our OM Ask the Expert Webinars:

Click below to watch the full webinars and stay informed on the latest updates in OM care. Each session features expert insights and practical takeaways to help patients, caregivers and advocates better understand the evolving treatment landscape of ocular melanoma.

December – Ask the Expert: Navigating Early Detection and Management in Ocular Melanoma

Focused on recognizing early warning signs, understanding diagnosis and navigating management options in ocular melanoma. Dr. Mandeep Sagoo, a leading expert in ocular oncology, reviewed how early detection supports timely and effective care, alongside patient speaker Kristin Lindsey, who shared her experience with early diagnosis, adapting to vision changes and using photography as a source of strength and connection.
Watch the full webinar here.

March – Ask the Expert: What's New in Primary Ocular Melanoma Treatment and Clinical Trials

Focused on the latest advancements in primary OM treatment and clinical trials. Dr. Arun Singh, Director of the Department of Ophthalmic Oncology at the Cole Eye Institute, Cleveland Clinic, discussed several promising treatments currently under investigation.
Watch the full webinar here.

July – Ask the Experts: Focusing on the Liver: Treatment Approaches in Metastatic Ocular Melanoma

When uveal melanoma spreads, it most often affects the liver. This session explored how doctors are targeting the liver with specialized treatments and what new options are being developed to treat the whole body. The discussion also covered the first FDA-approved therapy, Tebentafusp, for this rare cancer and what's on the horizon in clinical trials.
Presented by Vincent T. Ma, MD (University of Wisconsin, Madison) and Patient Advocate Paul Lynch.
Watch the full webinar here.

July – Ask the Expert: 2025 ASCO Highlights for the Uveal Melanoma Community

Dr. Inderjit Mehmi, a leading medical oncologist specializing in melanoma, broke down key takeaways from the 2025 ASCO Annual Meeting- an international oncology meeting held each year in Chicago. The session highlighted the latest research, treatment advances and clinical trial updates relevant to the uveal melanoma community. Watch the full webinar here.

Support Groups: Space for Connection



We invite you to participate in our upcoming CURE OM online support groups, which take place monthly:

- **First Wednesday of each month from 1:00–2:00 PM ET / 10:00–11:00 AM PT**

This group is offered in partnership with the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Jefferson and is facilitated by Molly Vocino, MSW, LCSW, a licensed clinical oncology social worker. The group's discussion centers on the metastatic ocular melanoma experience.
If you've attended previously, we warmly encourage you to continue joining.

- **Fourth Thursday of each month from 7:00 – 8:00 PM EST / 4:00 – 5:00 PM PST**

This evening group is facilitated by the MRF's Education Program Manager, Caroline Glavin, MSW. The group is open to all ocular melanoma patients and caregivers.

These groups are designed to foster emotional support, shared understanding and connection. Whether you're newly navigating an ocular melanoma diagnosis or have been living with it for years, this is a space to reflect, express feelings, explore coping strategies and find comfort in community.

For more information and to register, please reach out to cureom@melanoma.org.

CommUNITY Fundraising

Put the "fun" in fundraising with our CommUNITY Fundraising program! By raising life-saving funds, you too, can help make a difference in melanoma research. Ready to make a difference? Host your own CommUNITY Fundraiser and help support the fight against melanoma. Contact us at volunteer@melanoma.org to learn more and get started!

Learn More

Miles for Melanoma Season Wrap-Up: Watch the Recap & Find Your Next 5K



The Miles for Melanoma 5K season has officially wrapped and you can relive the most powerful moments in our new season recap video. From finish lines to fundraising milestones, this year's events showcased the strength and heart of our community.

Our final races delivered meaningful impact for the ocular melanoma community, with OM teams and participants raising critical funds for research and patient support while honoring loved ones, survivors and fighters who inspire this movement every day.

In just the final three months of the season, supporters stepped up in inspiring ways — Team Your Next Step is the Cure raised more than $15,400 at the first Tampa Bay race; in Miami, individual participant Olivia Bardinelli raised over $250 for ocular melanoma; and in Orange County, Team Relentless HOPE raised more than $1,000. Together, these efforts show how every fundraiser — big or small — moves the mission forward.

Missed this season? The 2026 series launches in May, and registration is already open for our first races in Washington, DC (May 9) and New England, MA (May 16). Start your team, join the OM community and make every mile count toward a cure. Visit our homepage to find a 5K near you.

MRF Resources for the OM Community

- **Patient Forum**: Connect with other patients and caregivers.
- **Treatment Center Finder**: Locate providers experienced in Ocular Melanoma.
- **Ask a Nurse**: Connect with an oncology nurse for guidance and support. To get started, simply email askanurse@melanoma.org or call 202-742-5898 and our nurse will follow up with you directly.
- **Education Materials**: Download or order free patient-friendly OM resources.
- **Clinical Trial Finder:** Explore treatment options and find clinical trials that may be a match for you.

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The Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) is leading the melanoma community to transform melanoma from one of the deadliest cancers to one of the most treatable through research, education and advocacy.

The Melanoma Research Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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