MRF Melanoma Research Foundation



For 30 years, the MRF has believed that research can change what is possible for people facing melanoma. Today, we are celebrating three decades of innovation— a lifetime of hope!

Over the last 28 years alone, the MRF has invested nearly $28 million in melanoma research, helping support innovative science and the researchers working to turn discoveries in the laboratory into new approaches for patients.

And this year, we are seeing powerful reminders of why that investment matters.

This month, Merck and Moderna announced positive Phase 3 results from their large international study of intismeran autogene (V940), an individualized mRNA-based therapy given in combination with Merck's KEYTRUDA® (pembrolizumab) for people with high-risk melanoma following surgery. The Phase 3 results showed a statistically significant improvement in the study's primary endpoint, with the combination reducing the risk of melanoma recurrence and spread compared with KEYTRUDA alone.

While the full Phase 3 data have not yet been presented and the therapy remains investigational, these results represent an important milestone for melanoma research—and potentially for a personalized cancer treatment. The approach uses information from an individual's tumor to create a personalized therapy designed to help the immune system recognize and attack cancer cells. The news builds on years of research. Earlier studies of V940 in combination with KEYTRUDA demonstrated meaningful reductions in the risk of recurrence and distant metastasis, helping pave the way for the Phase 3 trial.

And that is exactly what progress in melanoma looks like: one scientific discovery building on another until an idea becomes a clinical trial, and eventually, a new option for patients.

We are also celebrating the FDA's accelerated approval of Tudriqev (vusolimogene oderparepvec), formerly known as RP1, in combination with nivolumab for adults with unresectable advanced cutaneous melanoma whose disease has progressed following treatment with a PD-1-blocking therapy.

Tudriqev is an oncolytic viral therapy—a genetically modified form of herpes simplex virus designed to target cancer cells. Injected directly into tumors, the therapy is intended to destroy tumor cells while also stimulating an immune response against the cancer.

The approval is particularly significant for people with advanced melanoma that has stopped responding to immunotherapy, a population with a critical need for additional treatment options. For patients and families, however, the significance is immediate: another option is now available where options have historically been limited.

The stories behind these advances are different—one represents personalized mRNA cancer therapy, while the other uses an engineered virus to stimulate an immune response. But they share something fundamental: years of research made them possible.

For the MRF, celebrating our 30th anniversary isn't simply about looking back at what has been accomplished. It is about recognizing what sustained investment in melanoma research can

make possible for the future and today, melanoma patients are benefiting from that collective progress.

The treatment landscape now includes immunotherapies, targeted therapies, cellular therapies, oncolytic viruses and increasingly personalized approaches to cancer treatment. For patients with cutaneous melanoma, the number of potential paths forward continues to grow.

But our work is far from finished.

Every new treatment also reminds us of the patients who still need better answers. Some melanomas resist treatment from the beginning. Others develop resistance after initially responding. Some patients face aggressive disease for which effective options remain limited.

As the MRF celebrates 30 years, we remain committed to accelerating the research that can change the future of melanoma—and to making sure patients and families are at the center of that future.

Consider making a tax-deductible gift to support the MRF's 30th Anniversary campaign to continue our work in funding life-saving research to help patients now and long into the future.

Fund the Future

Kyleigh LiPira, MBA

CEO

The Impact of National Make-A-Will Month

"It is not how he passed; it is how he lived."



As National Make-A-Will Month comes to a close, we invite you to consider the legacy you want to leave behind—and how including the MRF in your estate plans can help create a future without melanoma.

Creating a will may feel overwhelming, but it can be one of the most meaningful acts of care you take for the people and causes that matter most to you. A will ensures your wishes are honored while giving you the opportunity to make a lasting difference for generations to come.

Many generous MRF supporters have chosen to include the Foundation in their estate plans, helping sustain critical melanoma research, expand patient and caregiver resources, and advance education and advocacy. Among them are Rob and Sandra Abbott, who made this decision after the devastating loss of their 33-year-old son, Etai, to aggressive metastatic melanoma.

"The unforeseen loss of our son, Etai, at just 33, to an aggressive form of metastatic melanoma — despite pursuing every available treatment — inspired us to include the MRF in our estate plans. We hope our gift will contribute to a cure and spare another family the heartbreak of losing a loved one far too soon. For us, it's not about how he passed — it's about how he lived."

The Abbotts' decision reflects the power of turning personal loss into hope for the future. Your legacy can make an impact, too. Create your free will or learn more about legacy giving here. And if you've already included the MRF in your estate plans, we would be honored to know. Sharing your intentions with us allows us to thank you today and ensure your gift will have the greatest possible impact.

If you have questions or would like to speak with someone about legacy giving, please contact Dave Wiemer, Director of Philanthropy, at **dwiemer@melanoma.org**.

Create Your Free Will Today!

Education Corner

Upcoming Patient Symposia Series Launches this Fall





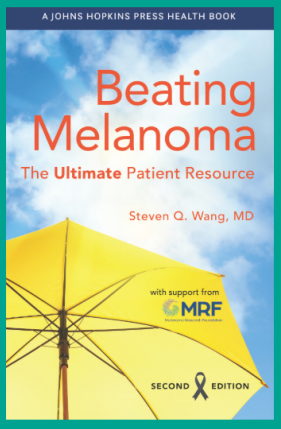
The Together Against Melanoma Patient and Caregiver Symposium Series continues this Fall, providing patients and their loved ones with opportunities to foster connections and information designed to empower those impacted by melanoma.

The upcoming series kicks off in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center and University of Maryland, Baltimore County on Saturday, September 26 and the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida on Saturday, November 14.

Sessions at the Johns Hopkins symposium will explore the latest in melanoma research with topics related to early detection, melanocyte stem cell research, deepening our understanding of rare melanomas and melanoma in patients of color, therapy resistance in melanoma and so much more.

Learn more about the upcoming symposia series and register here.

Order a Free Copy of "Beating Melanoma: The Ultimate Patient Resource"



Navigating a melanoma diagnosis can be challenging. We are proud to offer a trusted educational resource called "Beating Melanoma: The Ultimate Patient Guide" by world-renowned skin cancer expert Steven Q. Wang, MD developed with support from the MRF and Neutrogena.

This comprehensive guide offers practical, up-to-date information that can help patients better understand their diagnosis. Additional topics include:

- The latest information on melanoma diagnosis, treatment and prevention
- Insights into immunotherapies and targeted therapies
- Online interviews with 25 leading experts

You can order your free copy here.



Miles for Melanoma: From Summer Success to Fall Impact

We're nearly halfway through the Miles for Melanoma 5K season, and August was an incredible month of community, connection and impact. Across Cleveland, Philadelphia, Twin Cities and San Francisco, participants, survivors, caregivers, families and supporters came together to make every step count. Cleveland surpassed 122% of its goal, raising more than $189,000, while Philadelphia reached 103% of its goal with more than $129,000 raised. Twin Cities brought in more than $55,200, and San Francisco rallied to raise over $51,800. These incredible milestones are a testament to the strength of our melanoma community and every dollar raised helps fuel critical research, expand patient support and advance advocacy efforts.

Get ready — the fall Miles for Melanoma 5Ks are just around the corner! This fall, we'll be bringing the melanoma community together in New York (Sept 19), New Jersey (Sept 27), Chicago (Sept 27), Seattle (Oct 4), Los Angeles (Oct 5), San Diego (Oct 17), Atlanta (Nov 8) and Fort Myers (Dec 12). These inspiring events bring together patients, survivors, caregivers, families and supporters to honor loved ones, celebrate survivors and raise critical funds for melanoma research, education and advocacy. Register today, rally your team and take advantage of fundraising incentives designed to help you make an even greater impact.

Find a 5K Near You!

ONE MONTH AWAY: Secure



Your 15th Annual Denver Gala Tickets!



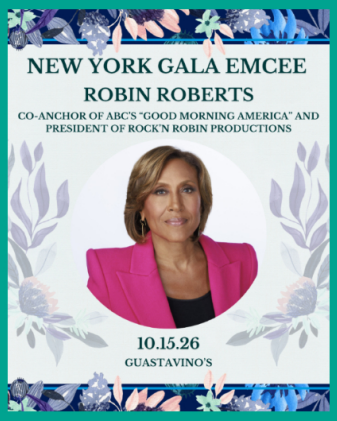
We're officially less than **ONE MONTH** away from the 15th Annual Denver Gala on Thursday, September 24 at Asterisk Denver, a milestone year that marks 15 years of impact in Denver and 30 years of the MRF. While there is so much to celebrate, there is still so much work to be done. Over the past 30 years, the MRF has helped advance melanoma research, expand treatment options and bring hope to patients and families. But too many people are still facing devastating diagnoses, limited options and uncertain futures. **The next breakthrough, the next treatment and the next reason for hope depend on what we do today.**

This unforgettable evening will honor remarkable leaders, advocates and heroes who are helping shape the future of melanoma care. IDEAYA Biosciences will receive the Corporate Leadership Award for its groundbreaking work in melanoma research and treatment, while Sapna Patel, MD will be honored with the Humanitarian Award for her extraordinary dedication to patient care, cutting-edge research and scientific leadership. We'll also celebrate the strength and courage of Arielle Gold, Enzo Rebora and Lori Rosemond, RN.

As we celebrate **15 years of the Denver Gala and 30 years of MRF progress**, we're asking you to help us build what comes next. **Your donation can fuel critical research, expand patient support, strengthen advocacy and help accelerate the breakthroughs that could change a life.**

This is your chance to make a lasting impact. Donate today and help us turn 30 years of progress into the next generation of hope!

Donate or Purchase a Ticket Today!



Counting Down to 25 Years of Impact in New York!

Join us Thursday, October 15 at Guastavino's for an unforgettable milestone celebration featuring cocktails, gourmet dining, an exciting auction and an inspiring awards program.

We're thrilled to welcome Robin Roberts, co-anchor of ABC's Good Morning America, President of Rock'n Robin Productions and cancer survivor, as our emcee. Robin's resilience, authenticity and belief in the power of hope make her the perfect host for this special evening celebrating 25 years of the New York Gala and 30 years of the MRF.

Together, we'll celebrate the incredible progress of the melanoma community while raising critical funds for research, patient support and advocacy. Don't miss this milestone night—purchase your ticket or sponsorship today!

Donate or Purchase a Ticket Today!

Get Your Ticket to the 6th Annual #GetNakedJax!



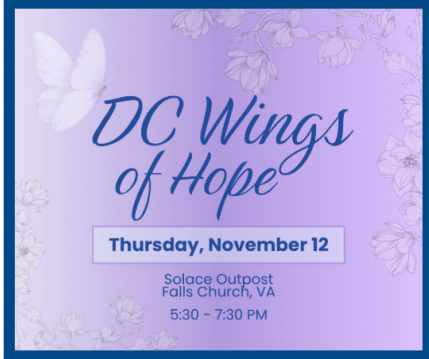
The countdown to the 6th Annual #GetNakedJax is on! On Thursday, October 22, the Jacksonville community will come together at the TPC Sawgrass Lawn in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL for an inspiring evening dedicated to advancing the fight against melanoma. Over the past six years, #GetNakedJax has grown far beyond a single event. Since 2021, this incredible community has contributed more than $875,000 toward groundbreaking melanoma research, helping researchers pursue innovative ideas that could transform how melanoma is understood and treated.

That impact is only possible because people like you choose to show up, give back and believe in what's possible. This year, we'll celebrate that spirit with an evening of cocktails, dinner, live entertainment, patient stories and meaningful connections—all while raising funds to help drive

the next generation of melanoma breakthroughs.

Six years of impact brought us here. Your support can help determine what comes next. Bring your friends, gather your colleagues and join us for a night where every seat helps fuel hope and discovery. Tickets are available now, secure yours today and join us October 22!

Purchase a Ticket!



DC Wings of Hope: An Evening of Hope, Courage & Impact

Join us on Thursday, November 12 at Solace Outpost in Falls Church, VA for an inspiring evening bringing together advocates, survivors, caregivers and supporters united in the fight against melanoma. Guests will enjoy cocktails and light fare, meaningful opportunities to support critical melanoma research and a special celebration honoring an extraordinary member of the DC melanoma community. We are honored to present the Courage Award to Joe Leonelli, husband, father and metastatic melanoma patient, recognizing his strength, resilience and courage throughout his melanoma journey.

Together, we'll celebrate the power of community while helping advance research, support patients and families and create hope for a future without melanoma.

Purchase a Ticket or Sponsorship!

Save the Date: 2027 Advocacy Days, March 7-9



Advocacy Days returns to Washington, DC on March 7-9. Each year, this impactful event brings together melanoma patients, caregivers, advocates and supporters from across the country to unite as one voice on Capitol Hill. Advocates have an opportunity to share their inspirational stories and meet directly with lawmakers to help advance critical policies that support melanoma research, prevention and access to care.

Registration will open soon! Sign up here to receive alerts on how to be a part of this impactful program.

Upcoming Events

September 19: New York Miles for Melanoma 5K

September 24: 15th Annual Denver Gala

September 26: Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins

September 27: New Jersey Miles for Melanoma

September 27: Chicago Miles for Melanoma

October 4: Seattle Miles for Melanoma

In the News

A Novel Immune-Based Cell Therapy Improves Treatment for Metastatic Melanoma - *Apple Podcasts*

AI Models May Improve Risk Prediction in Early-Stage Melanoma - *Dermatology Times*

An Evening of Hope - The Denver Gala Driving Progress Against Melanoma - *Colorado Expression*

Merck and Modern Announce Phase 3 INTerpath-001 Trial of Intismeran Autogene Plus KEYTRUDA® Met Endpoints of Recurrence-Free Survival (RFS) and Distant

October 4: Los Angeles Miles for Melanoma

October 15: 25th Annual New York Gala

October 17: San Diego Miles for Melanoma

October 22: #GetNakedJax

November 12: DC Wings of Hope

November 14: Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center

Metastasis-Free Survival (DMFS) in Patients With Completely Resected Stage IIB-IV Melanoma - *Merck*

Novel mRNA vaccine plus immunotherapy reduces melanoma relapse in phase 3 trial - *Medical News Today*



melanoma.org

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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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