

Melanoma Research Alliance

Progress Report
2015–2016



Powerful Research. Faster Results.

Letter From the Chair and President

As we approach a decade since MRA's founding, the exceptional progress made in treating melanoma signifies just how far we have come. With 11 new therapies approved since 2011, the long-term survival rate for those with advanced stages has doubled and new drug approvals loom on the horizon.

Progress in fighting melanoma has also markedly impacted the oncology community as a whole, with drugs approved for melanoma now being tested in 30 different cancer types. Immunotherapy, an area where MRA has made substantial investments, continues to dramatically improve patient outcomes across many types of cancer, with new drug candidates showing enormous promise.

We have learned how melanoma treatment has changed with the advent of targeted treatments and immunotherapies and how the paradigm for measuring treatment effectiveness in the future must change in order to move the field forward.

Despite clinical progress in combatting the disease, researchers recognize the need for continued scientific study to advance the next generation of tools and treatment. Most urgently, the scientific community must determine how to combine treatments rationally so they are more effective and less toxic, define biomarkers that specify the right treatment for the right patient at the right time and uncover new targets so that more patients may benefit.

Our focus at MRA is to accelerate the pace of discovery. With exceptional minds leading the way, we will continue our commitment to fund groundbreaking research and incentivize excellence in the field to cultivate the next phase of research. With our latest grant cycle, we have committed \$79.3 million to melanoma research. In combination with our leveraged funding, we have provided more than \$161 million for melanoma research to date.

Featured in this report are some of our key achievements from the past year. These accomplishments highlight our capacity to partner with stakeholders and fund scientific studies that will accelerate transformative advances in melanoma research. We appreciate deeply the many individuals, organizations, government leaders and companies whose support has enabled us to revolutionize the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of melanoma. We anticipate another year of impactful, new findings and developments in our mission to eradicate melanoma and look forward to working with all of our partners and supporters.



Debra Black
Chair and Co-Founder



Michael Kaplan
President and CEO

“MRA has played an essential role in making it possible for investigators and physician-scientists to progress as we have in establishing immunotherapy as a modality for treating melanoma and other cancers.”

Suzanne L. Topalian, M.D.

Director of the Melanoma Program,
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University
MRA Board of Directors

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About MRA

The mission of the Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) is to end suffering and death due to melanoma by collaborating with all stakeholders to accelerate powerful research, advance cures for all patients, and prevent more melanomas.

Founded in 2007 by melanoma survivor Debra Black and her husband, Leon, under the auspices of the Milken Institute, MRA has ushered in a dynamic new era of scientific progress. MRA has become the largest private funder of melanoma research, funding over \$79 million in cutting-edge studies and leveraging millions more from other sources. Thanks to the generous support of our founders, 100 percent of donations to MRA directly support our research program.

Our Research Strategy:



Funding the Best and Growing the Field

MRA applies rigorous standards to its grant process, backed by a world-class peer review process. MRA has funded 264 Principal Investigators (PIs) at 105 institutions in 15 countries. Our Young Investigator Award program, which attracts and supports the next generation of melanoma research leaders, has funded 81 early-career scientists.



Focusing on Team Science

Team Science Awards, which fund multidisciplinary research groups, often across institutions and featuring researchers of varying levels of seniority, account for two thirds of research funding to date.



Accelerating New Treatments

Within our research portfolio, 90 percent of funding is directed at melanoma treatment science, including 23 clinical trials and 53 treatment approaches. MRA funding has supported studies of every melanoma treatment since 2011, including agents prior to their FDA approval.



Fostering Collaboration

As a trusted voice in the melanoma field, MRA brokers innovative collaborations with stakeholders in industry, academia, and the nonprofit sectors, cultivating additional support for high-impact translational research.

Funded to Date:



Team Science Awards fulfill one of MRA's primary goals: to foster a collaborative research process. Multidisciplinary teams consist of Principal Investigators with complementary expertise, often from multiple different institutions around the globe. Team science projects promote transformational melanoma research advances with the potential for rapid clinical translation.



Established Investigator Awards support investigators with an established record of scientific productivity and accomplishment and who are past the initial four years of their first academic faculty appointment.



Young Investigator Awards aim to attract early-career scientists with novel ideas into melanoma research, thereby recruiting and supporting the next generation of melanoma research leaders. Young Investigators are scientists within four years of their first academic faculty appointment. A mentorship commitment from a senior investigator is required.



Pilot Awards fund potentially transformative ideas that do not have extensive preliminary data but articulate a clear hypothesis and translational goals. Resources for such "high-risk, high-reward" projects are important to establish proof-of-concept, which may then leverage additional funding through more traditional avenues. Development awards are a subtype in which one year of funding is provided.



Academic-Industry Partnership Awards are designed to facilitate interactions between the academic and industrial research sectors, and are co-supported by MRA and an industrial partner that matches or exceeds MRA's funding and whose involvement is essential to the project.



The Power of Collaboration

The mission of the Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) is to end suffering and death due to melanoma **by collaborating with all stakeholders** to accelerate powerful research, advance cures for all patients, and prevent more melanomas.

From the team research we fund, to the many partners who help us realize our vision, collaboration is the nexus of our research model. MRA's ability to fund wide-ranging research in melanoma is escalated through its multi-faceted collaborations and partnerships with researchers, advocates, private foundations, government and corporations.

Partnering with those Impacted

The Miller and King families know all too well the devastation of melanoma. After each losing a daughter to the disease, the families took on a mission to fund innovative research through MRA by sponsoring research awards in the name of Tara and Jackie, respectively. The partnerships built between these families and MRA helped them to honor the memory of their daughters by co-funding outstanding research procured through MRA's global peer review grant process, which provided unique access to top scientists in the field. The end result is not only the honoring of loved ones, but the advancement of research for better treatments and leveraging of additional funds.

Struck by melanoma at 28, Tara Miller was a burgeoning new JD, working as a law clerk for a New Jersey civil court judge. As founder of The Tara Miller Melanoma Foundation, her mission became, as she explained, "to help fund research that will get us past just buying time and hopefully provide a lifetime to melanoma patients." In 2016 the Millers funded an MRA Young Investigator at Hebrew University as part of a Saban Family Foundation MRA Team Science Award led by Carmit Levy, Ph.D., Tel Aviv University. In 2015 they funded an MRA Team Science Award at Penn Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, supporting a Young Investigator over a three-year period.



The Miller family presents MRA with a check as part of their funding to an MRA Young Investigator. (From left: George Miller, Debbie Miller, MRA President & CEO, Michael Kaplan, MRA Chief Science Officer, Louise Perkins, Lauren Miller, Kristi Miller)

Jackie King was diagnosed with melanoma at only 19. During her fight to overcome melanoma, she waged an attack on cancer, fighting the disease with newly approved medication and working with MRA to raise awareness. Noting in her online posts that, "It's cancer's turn to be afraid," Jackie's voice resonated among communities of survivors as she advocated for funds for melanoma research and support for the Congressional adoption of the Sunscreen Innovation Act. Her father, Ross, funded a Young Investigator Award titled, Defining Novel Mechanisms of Genome Instability in Human Melanoma, led by Neil Ganem, Ph.D. of Boston University.

Partnering with Corporations and Nonprofits

No one person, family, or organization can defeat melanoma on its own. As the leading private funder of melanoma research, MRA actively seeks out unique, multifaceted collaborations and partnerships with corporations and nonprofits to help advance its mission of funding wide-ranging research in melanoma. Working with companies like L'Oréal Paris and nonprofits like the Society for the Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) has enabled MRA to amplify its message across multiple communication channels and help achieve the goal of further expanding research knowledge.

L'Oréal Paris

The partnership between leading global beauty brand, L'Oréal Paris and MRA, began in 2013 when the company funded the first of two L'Oréal Paris-MRA Team Science Awards at \$750,000 each. The first award was granted to internationally renowned cancer researcher Dr. Meenhard Herlyn, DVM, DSc, at The Wistar Institute in Philadelphia. His team conducted research to explore the role of 16 variant genes as co-drivers in melanoma susceptibility, development and progression.

In 2015 L'Oréal ignited a movement inspiring women to donate 15 social media seconds and share why "It's That Worth It" to protect their skin, their beauty and their life. For this public health campaign, L'Oréal Paris matched each social share with a \$1 donation to the L'Oréal Paris-MRA Team Science Award Research Grant, driving research support and melanoma awareness while encouraging sun protection and sunless tanning. In 2016, the company funded a second Team Science Award for Women in Scientific Research. Four female Principal Investigators, and Young Investigator, Maria Soledad Sosa, Ph.D., Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, conducted research on Imaging and Targeting Dormant and Pro-metastatic Melanoma Lesions in Vivo.

Last May, L'Oréal Paris joined forces with MRA at its Leveraged Finance Fights Melanoma gala, distributing gift bags filled with a range of SPF skincare products to over 900 members of the financial community. L'Oréal Paris spokesperson Genesis Rodriguez delivered remarks on her personal experience with melanoma and confirmed L'Oréal Paris' continued commitment to MRA.

Protect your skin.
Protect your beauty.
Protect your life.
IT'S THAT WORTH IT.

I was 21 when I was diagnosed with skin cancer. It didn't seem like a big deal. But it happened again, and again, and again. Finally I got the drift and started to wear sunscreen.

It's not so simple with Melanoma. Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer, and one of the most common among women under 40. I know, because I have a friend who was diagnosed with it at the age of 25.

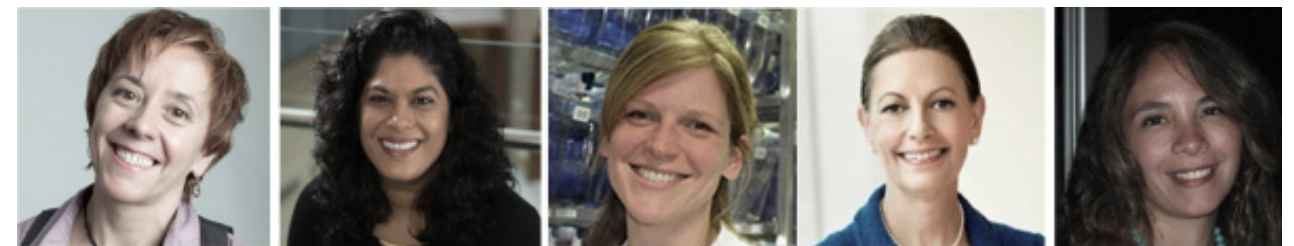
I also support the Melanoma Research Alliance — the leading funder of cutting-edge melanoma research. With your help, a cure may be within reach.

Learn about how you can join me in a nationwide movement to prevent melanoma and support life-saving research by visiting Itsthatworthit.org.

And remember to always wear your sunscreen! You want to stay!

—DANIE KERTON

Melanoma
Research Alliance
Itsthatworthit.org
#Itsthatworthit



L'Oréal Paris USA – MRA Team Science Award for Women in Scientific Research. Principal Investigators: Maria Soengas, Ph.D., Spanish National Cancer Research Centre, Ashani Weeraratna, Ph.D., The Wistar Institute, Elizabeth Patton, Ph.D., University of Edinburgh, Lynn Schuchter, M.D., University of Pennsylvania Health System, Young Investigator: Maria Soledad Sosa, Ph.D., Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Society for the Immunotherapy of Cancer – SITC

In 2014 and 2016, MRA and SITC joined together to fund a Pilot Award and a Young Investigator Award to further both groups' shared goal of expanding knowledge of immunotherapy. In 2015 the two groups, in concert with The Global Resource for Advancing Cancer Education, hosted an Immunotherapy Patient Forum, providing participants that included patients and caregivers with the latest findings in immunotherapy to treat melanoma and other cancers.



Suzanne Topalian, M.D., of John Hopkins University School of Medicine, Chair of the MRA Scientific Advisory Panel and member of MRA's Board of Directors presented at the 2016 Scientific Retreat. (From left: Padmanee Sharma, M.D., Ph.D., Suzanne Topalian M.D., Jedd Wolchok, M.D., Ph.D.)

“What became increasingly clear in 2016 was that other cancers are benefiting from the lessons learned in melanoma, especially cancers treatable with immunotherapy. Immunotherapy treatments first approved for melanoma are now being tested in more than two dozen other cancers.”

- Louise Perkins, Ph.D.
Chief Science Officer

Bringing our Stakeholders Together

MRA advances its mission by bringing together worldwide researchers and leaders from academia and industry to collectively participate in and share the latest research and developments important to our community.

MRA's Annual Scientific Retreat is an invitation-only, think-tank style meeting where the broad range of MRA stakeholders, in an interactive forum, exchange cutting-edge melanoma research findings as well as discuss issues of broad interest to the oncology community. The Retreat agenda features MRA-funded investigators discussing their work as well as lectures and panel sessions on special topics of interest, such as regulatory and policy issues that impact the pace of research.

The Eighth Annual Scientific Retreat, held in Washington, DC in 2016 included nearly 300 thought leaders, comprised of academic scientists and representatives from pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, government and philanthropy, patients and their families. Key discussions focused on the relevance of local tissue surrounding melanoma tumors — the tumor microenvironment. Given the opportunity to prevent advanced metastatic disease via early detection, speakers discussed the latest activities and tools to catch melanoma before it spreads.

Researchers also recognize that the potential of immunotherapies is just being tapped; checkpoint inhibitors and tumor vaccines are on the horizon, with each such treatment likely to be most effective when used in combination therapy regimens.



Jonathan Cebon, Ph.D., FRACP, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research participates in a panel session at the MRA Scientific Retreat



Accelerating Powerful Science

The mission of the Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) is to end suffering and death due to melanoma by collaborating with all stakeholders to **accelerate powerful research**, advance cures for all patients, and prevent more melanomas.

MRA has supported research on every melanoma treatment approved since 2011 resulting in an infusion of funds that led to improved combinations, optimized treatment approaches and further increased our understanding of biomarkers for patients. Key among these is MRA team funded research led by Drew Pardoll and Suzanne Topalian showing the first correlation between tumor expression of PD-L1 and clinical response to the anti-PD-1 drug, nivolumab. In melanoma, PD-L1 levels do not adequately predict who may potentially respond to treatment, yet PD-L1 is now used as a biomarker to select the most appropriate lung cancer patients for antibody-based therapy with pembrolizumab. Additionally, Neal Rosen's funded research has shown that resistance to vemurafenib and other BRAF inhibitors arises due to complicated mechanisms and suggests new approaches to inhibiting signaling to elicit superior long-term results. These findings, along with many other MRA-supported research projects, are helping elucidate the best way to combine treatments to improve outcomes.

Recent landmark advances in melanoma treatment have provided myriad of options for patients, while melanoma stands as the case study for state-of-the-art cancer drug development, precision medicine and immunotherapy.

Investing in Immunotherapy

MRA research continues to build on the current momentum to unlock the best treatments. MRA-funded immunotherapy research has been central to advancing a newer class of immune checkpoint molecules called anti-PD-1 antibodies and perfecting how to use them. MRA support allowed scientists to discover why these therapies work for certain patients and to develop both newer and combination therapies to achieve superior outcomes. MRA has provided more than \$26 million in funding for projects involving immunotherapy.

Melanoma is leading the field of oncology in the development of targeted treatments and new immunotherapies for cancer patients. MRA-funded scientists are generating data that have helped create new treatment options for lung cancer, bladder cancer, Hodgkin's lymphoma and head and neck cancer. Immunotherapies are being tested in over 30 cancers.

While the outcomes noted above can be linked to our early investments, it is key to understand their return on investments and research.

The MRA Research Awards section of our website provides a complete summary of all grants awarded in 2015 – 2016. The following highlights a few of those researchers.



Carmit Levy

Identifying Molecular Signals that are Responsible for Promoting Melanoma Brain Metastasis

Carmit Levy of Tel Aviv University is leading a team of researchers at Harvard and The Hebrew University to identify novel molecular signals that are responsible for promoting the highly challenging problem of melanoma brain metastasis. Young Investigator, Yuval Tabach, Ph.D., at The Hebrew University will use computational (bioinformatics) studies to analyze both existing and newly developed genomic data on melanoma brain metastasis. The team will identify the most promising targets for further exploration and test them using a series of studies involving isolated cells, with animal models. Selected as a Saban Family Foundation — MRA Team Science Award, the Saban Family Foundation is providing a portion of the project funding, while the Young Investigator is supported by The Tara Miller Melanoma Foundation.

Carmit Levy, Ph.D. of Tel Aviv University with support by Saban Family Foundation, Young Investigator supported by The Tara Miller Melanoma Foundation



Maria Soengas

Exploring Why some Melanomas Appear to be Dormant While Others are Highly Prone to Metastatic Spread

Maria Soengas, Ph.D., of the Spanish National Cancer Research Centre, and senior team members Elizabeth Patton, Ph.D., University of Edinburgh, Lynn Schuchter, M.D., University of Pennsylvania Health System, Ashani Weeraratna, Ph.D., The Wistar Institute and Maria Soledad Sosa, Ph.D., Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai will be studying why some melanomas appear to be dormant for a time while others are highly prone to metastatic spread. Focusing on the local tumor environment — microenvironment, the team's interest is in understanding a process that supports metastatic spread —lymphangiogenesis and understanding the difference in tissue surrounding melanoma in younger versus older patients that may contribute to dormancy versus metastasis. Insights gained from this study are expected to provide new leads on how to treat melanoma patients of all ages, lending valuable breadth and depth of perspective on this issue. The international project is supported in part, as the L'Oreal Paris USA – MRA Team Science Award for Women in Scientific Research.

Maria Soengas, Ph.D., of the Spanish National Cancer Research Centre



Neil Ganem

Understanding Mechanisms of Genome Instability May Help Understand Tumor Progression and Relapse Following Targeted Therapeutics

One of the hallmarks of melanoma cells is their likelihood of possessing an abnormal number of chromosomes and the tendency for those cells to shuffle their chromosome content, often gaining and losing them with each cell division. This chromosome instability often promotes tumor initiation, progression and relapse following targeted therapeutics. Neil Ganem, Ph.D. at Boston University Medical Campus, with support from a Young Investigator Award funded by MRA in Honor of Jackie King, explored mechanisms by which melanoma cells develop this instability. Preliminary data suggest that mutations in a gene called BRAF, occurring in over 60% of all melanomas, may promote unequal segregation of chromosomes during cell division. Ganem focused on defining the basis for this effect. Collectively, the study offers the potential to reveal novel therapeutic avenues that selectively kill abnormal, chromosomally unstable melanoma cells while sparing the normal cells from which they originated.

Neil Ganem, Ph.D., of Boston University Medical Campus, Young Investigator Award In Honor of Jackie King

2016 MRA Research Awards

Since its founding in 2007, MRA has awarded more than \$79 million to 198 research programs that hold the promise of turning scientific discoveries into tools and/or treatments for high risk individuals or melanoma patients. The following are new grants issued in 2016. A complete list of all MRA grantees, along with grant abstracts, can be found at: <http://www.curemelanoma.org/research/mra-research-awards/>

Academic-Industry Partnership Awards

Targeted therapy for metastatic melanoma: A phase I dose-expansion cohort: Seeks to evaluate a novel drug called PAC-1, which promotes tumor cell death, in late-stage, metastatic melanoma patients.

MRA Established Investigator:

- Paul Hergenrother, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Industry Partner: Vanquish Oncology

Inherited variation and irAEs and outcome with nivo and ipi/nivo: Determine the association between inherited genetic variation and immune-related adverse events in patients treated with nivolumab and ipilimumab/nivolumab with the aim to inform clinical decision-making.

MRA Established Investigator:

- Katherine Nathanson, University of Pennsylvania
- Industry Partner: Bristol-Myers Squibb

Team Science Awards

Developing rational therapeutic approaches for acral melanoma: Determine the order in which genetic alterations arise in acral melanoma and their individual contributions to the cancerous behavior, with the hope of developing rational combination treatments based on their findings.

- Boris Bastian, University of California, San Francisco
- Iwei Yeh, University of California, San Francisco
- Reinhard Dummer, University of Zurich
- Robert Judson, University of California, San Francisco: Young Investigator

Metabolic regulation of the tumor immune response by the microenvironment: Interrogate the metabolic state of T cells in tumors to better understand how this affects their anti-tumor defenses.

Sokoloff Family-MRA Team Science Award

- Marcus Bosenberg, Yale University
- Susan Kaech, Yale University
- Richard Kibbey, Yale University
- Sidi Chen, Yale University: Young Investigator

Small-molecule targeting of the lineage-specific melanoma oncogene MITF: Develop drugs that target a protein called MITF, which is uniquely expressed in melanoma and known to promote therapeutic resistance.

- David E. Fisher, Massachusetts General Hospital
- Frank Schoenen, University of Kansas
- Rizwan Haq, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute: Young Investigator

Identification of novel regulators of melanoma brain metastasis: Identify novel molecular programs that allow metastatic melanoma cells to adapt to the brain, which might open new avenues for the treatment of brain metastases.

Saban Family Foundation-MRA Team Science Award

- Carmit Levy, Tel Aviv University
- Michael Goldberg, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Yuval Tabach, Hebrew University: Young Investigator

Determinants of response or resistance to PD-1/PD-L1 targeted therapy: Identify biomarkers of response and resistance to PD-1 antibodies by applying cutting-edge techniques to analyze patient tissue samples.

Leveraged Finance Fights Melanoma-MRA Team Science Award

- Roger Lo, University of California, Los Angeles
- Jeffrey Alan Sosman, Northwestern University
- Douglas Johnson, Vanderbilt University Medical Center: Young Investigator

Targeting mitochondrial metabolism in melanoma therapy: Elucidate SIRT5's roles in regulating metabolism in human melanoma cells and develop and test SIRT5 inhibitors as lead compounds for eventual evaluation as novel melanoma therapeutics.

- David Lombard, University of Michigan
- Robert Kennedy, University of Michigan
- Nouri Neamati, University of Michigan
- Costas Lyssiotis, University of Michigan: Young Investigator

Targeted alpha particle therapy for uveal melanoma: Test the specificity and effectiveness of new targeted alpha particle therapy in uveal melanoma tumors and metastases in mouse models.

- David Morse, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute
- Eduardo Gerardo Moros, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute
- Mark McLaughlin, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute
- Thaddeus J. Wadas, Wake Forest University Health Sciences: Young Investigator

Identifying somatic and microbial neo-antigens associated with melanoma responses: Determine whether the microbiome of melanoma patients affects their responsiveness to immune checkpoint blockade.

Saban Family Foundation - MRA Team Science Award

- Yardena Samuels, Weizmann Institute of Science
- Jennifer Wargo, University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- Arie Admon, Technion Israel Institute of Technology
- Ravid Straussman, Weizmann Institute of Science: Young Investigator



2016 MRA Research Awards (cont'd)

Inhibition of BET bromodomain proteins in uveal melanoma: Explore the effects of BRD4 inhibition in uveal melanoma by utilizing cell line, xenograft, and patient explant tumor models as well as conducting a clinical trial.

MRA Team Science Award in Uveal Melanoma in Honor of Judy Black

- Gary Schwartz, Columbia University Medical Center
- Andrew Aplin, Thomas Jefferson University
- Anna Catherine Pavlick, New York University School of Medicine
- Hanyin Cheng, Thomas Jefferson University: Young Investigator
- Melissa Wilson, New York University School of Medicine: Young Investigator

Imaging and targeting dormant and pro-metastatic melanoma lesions in vivo: Understand the signaling cascades that determine whether melanoma cells metastasize or remain dormant.

L'Oreal Paris-MRA Team Science Award for Women in Scientific Research

- Maria Soengas, Spanish National Cancer Research Centre
- Ashani Weeraratna, The Wistar Institute
- Elizabeth Patton, University of Edinburgh
- Lynn Schuchter, University of Pennsylvania Health System
- Maria Soledad Sosa, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai: Young Investigator

Young Investigator Awards

Genome scale identification of genes regulating melanoma metastasis: Utilize a series of melanoma cells lines with different genetic backgrounds and metastatic properties to identify genes that regulate metastasis, particularly to the lung and brain.

- Sidi Chen, Yale University

Immunometabolic editing facilitates immune evasion in melanomas: Understand how tumor cells acquire defined metabolic advantages that result in diminished anti-tumor immunity.

Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer-MRA

Young Investigator Award

- Ping-Chih Ho, University of Lausanne

Bispecific antibodies and T cell activating proteins against melanoma: By using a novel therapeutic strategy, help to enhance the use of immune cells for melanoma treatment for a larger number of melanoma patients than is currently possible.

BMS-MRA Young Investigator Award

- Sebastian Kobold, Hospital of the University of Munich

Since its launch MRA funding has resulted in:

23

Clinical trials to test new melanoma treatments

198

Projects supported to advance melanoma research worldwide

264

Principal investigators conducting translational melanoma research

Lymphatic vessels and T cell-inflammation in melanoma: Use mouse models on human melanoma tissues to determine the relationship between lymphatic vessels and immunity in melanoma.

BMS-MRA Young Investigator Award

- Amanda Lund, Oregon Health & Science University

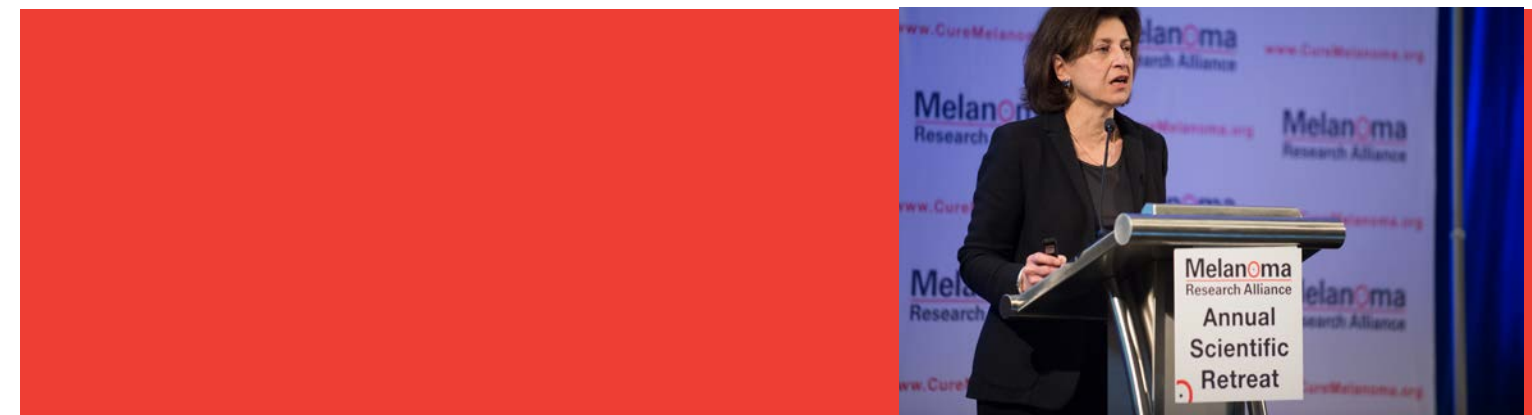
Mechanism-based strategies to forestall resistance in BRAF-mutant melanoma: Elucidate the detailed mechanism of RAF inhibitor action and help develop compounds and strategies to target BRAF(V600E) melanomas more effectively, with more durable responses and less on-target toxicities.

Collaborative Donor-MRA Young Investigator Award

- Poulikos Poulikakos, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

NF1 mutant melanomas: Elucidate the underlying biology and develop treatment strategies for patients of an emerging subset of melanomas that currently lack effective therapies.

- Ian Watson, McGill University



Thanks to the generous financial support of MRA's founders for administrative and fundraising expenses, **100 percent of donations to MRA directly support melanoma research.**



Supporters
and Financials

Leveraged Finance Fights Melanoma

On May 26, 2016, nearly 1,000 members of Wall Street's Leveraged Finance community came together to help finance the fight to treat and cure melanoma. The fifth annual Leveraged Finance Fights Melanoma (LFFM) event at Rockefeller Center raised a record-breaking \$1.7 million to benefit MRA's global research program.

"I'm gratified in the advancements that have occurred in melanoma, but also painfully aware that more progress needs to be made."

- Leon Black
Co-Founder, MRA
CEO & Chair, Apollo Global Management, LLC



The host committee for the 2016 LFFM event included:
Brendan Dillon of UBS, Lee Grinberg of Elliott Management, George Mueller of KKR, Jeff Rowbottom of PSP Investments, Cade Thompson of KKR, and Trevor Watt of Hellman & Friedman.

MRA would like to thank all of the event's sponsors and donors. In addition, we extend our sincere appreciation to each of the individual donors who helped make this event such a success: Fran and Jeff Rowbottom, Jon Pollock, Rowan Family Foundation, Mary Jo and Brian Rogers, Joyce and Barry Cohen, Eva and Brendan Dillon, Jennifer Corwin and Lee Grinberg, Daniel Senor, The Miller Family, Elissa Kramer and Jay Newman, Mark Albert, Stephanie Teicher, Hilary Rogers, and Scott Dolsey.

Statement of Financial Position

The independently audited financial statements of the Melanoma Research Alliance Foundation form the basis of the following information.

December 31, 2015
With Summarized Totals at December 31, 2014

	2015			Total 2014
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	
Assets				
Cash	\$17,964,156	\$4,237,926	\$22,202,082	\$16,216,707
Contributions Receivable (Net)	-	10,620,521	10,620,521	14,958,422
Due From Affiliate	-	-	-	166
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	43,291	-	43,291	37,421
Prepaid and Equipment (Net)	29,300	-	29,300	30,836
Total Assets	\$18,036,747	\$14,858,447	\$32,895,194	\$31,243,552
Liabilities and Net Assets				
Liabilities				
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$714,723	-	\$714,723	\$139,129
Deferred Revenue	265,000	-	265,000	152,500
Due to Affiliate	41,569	-	41,569	1,684
Total Liabilities	1,021,292	-	1,021,292	291,629
Net Assets				
Unrestricted	17,015,455	-	17,015,455	12,920,431
Temporarily Restricted	-	14,858,447	14,858,447	18,031,782
Total Net Assets	17,015,455	14,858,447	31,873,902	30,951,923
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$18,036,747	\$14,858,447	\$32,895,194	\$31,243,552

Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2015
With Summarized Totals for the Year Ended December 31, 2014

	2015			Total 2014
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	
Revenues, Public Support and Other Income				
Contributions	\$2,765,483	\$1,185,388	\$3,950,871	\$6,012,8118
Special Events (Net of Cost of Direct Donor Benefits of \$329,582)	3,595,307	3,276,000	6,871,307	1,248,723
Sponsorships	425,000	-	425,000	404,600
Interest Income	48,679	-	48,679	38,164
In-Kind Contributions	61,523	-	61,523	173,452
Other Income	8,419	-	8,419	147,143
Net Assets Released from:				
Purpose Restrictions	1,752,050	(1,752,050)	-	-
Time Restrictions	5,882,673	(5,882,673)	-	-
Total Revenues, Public Support and Other Income	14,539,134	(3,173,335)	11,365,799	8,024,893
Functional Expenses				
Program Services	9,302,692	-	9,302,692	11,216,208
Management and General	452,520	-	452,520	395,417
Fundraising	688,608	-	688,608	687,333
Total Functional Expenses	10,443,820	-	10,443,820	12,298,958
Change in Net Assets	4,095,314	(3,173,335)	(4,274,065)	4,889,448
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	12,920,141	18,031,782	30,951,923	35,225,988
Net Assets - End of Year	\$17,015,455	\$14,858,447	\$31,873,902	\$30,951,923

Donors and Supporters

Reflects Total Giving as of 12/31/2015

↑ \$500,000

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
 Debra and Leon Black
 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
 Susan and John Hess
 Merck & Co., Inc.
 Sokoloff Family Trust
 Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz

\$250,000-\$499,999

Jill and Jay Bernstein
 Credit Suisse
 Daisy Helman
 William Helman
 Bennett S. LeBow
 L'Oréal Paris
 Tara Miller Melanoma Foundation
 Julie and Edward Minskoff
 PricewaterhouseCoopers
 Richard Prince
 The Stewart J. Rahr Foundation
 The Ressler Family Foundation
 Mary Jo and Brian Rogers
 Saban Family Foundation
 SkinCeuticals
 Sports Authority

\$100,000-\$249,999

Anonymous
 Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber & Schreck
 Christie's
 Citi
 Ellen and Gary Davis Foundation
 GlaxoSmithKline
 JAR Jewelry
 The Kefalidis Family
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Rachel Gazzo

Associate Director, Development & Information Management

Kristen Mueller

Scientific Program Director

Tasheema Prince

Scientific Program Manager

Tyler Brown

Executive Assistant

Scientific Advisory Panel

The Scientific Advisory Panel advises the MRA leadership team on scientific matters and policies of MRA including research needs and opportunities that may be targeted for funding and planning scientific symposia.

Suzanne Topalian, M.D. (Chair)

Professor, Surgery and Oncology
- Johns Hopkins Medicine

Director, Melanoma Program
- Kimmel Cancer Center

Associate Director - Bloomberg-Kimmel
Inst. for Cancer Immunotherapy

James Allison, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair of Immunology
- University of Texas MD Anderson
Cancer Center

Boris Bastian, M.D.

Clinical Professor, Department of
Dermatology - University of California,
San Francisco

Gideon Bollag, Ph.D.

Chief Executive Officer - Plexikon

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Associate Vice Chancellor for Health and
Transformation and Chief Innovation Officer
- University of Texas System

Glenn Dranoff, M.D.

Director, Human Gene Transfer Laboratory
Core- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Allan Halpern, M.D.

Chief, Dermatology Service - Memorial
Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Reid Huber, Ph.D.

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Senior Vice President, Global Program Head
- Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation

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Director, Cancer Research
- UK Manchester Institute

Ira Mellman, Ph.D.

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Translational Science - Amgen, Inc.

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Enid A. Haupt Chair in Medical Oncology -
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Chief, Surgery Branch - National Cancer
Institute, National Institutes of Health

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Vice President & Therapeutic Area Head,
Oncology Early Development - Merck

Ellen Sigal, Ph.D.

Chairperson and Founder - Friends of
Cancer Research

Michael Weber, Ph.D.

Director, Cancer Center, Weaver Professor
of Oncology - University of Virginia



Grant Review Committee

The Grant Review Committee provides scientific merit-based peer review of research proposals submitted to MRA. The committee also advises MRA on other scientific matters as requested.

Antoni Ribas M.D., Ph.D. (Chair)

Professor of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles

Martin McMahon, Ph.D.

Cumming-Presidential Professor of Cancer Biology, Department of Dermatology & Senior Director for Preclinical Translation - Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah

Andrew Aplin, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Cancer Biology, Thomas Jefferson University
Associate Director for Basic Science
Program Leader for Cancer Cell Biology and Signaling, Kimmel Cancer Center

Marcus Bosenberg, M.D., Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Dermatology and Pathology – Yale School of Medicine

Steven Burakoff, M.D.

Director - Tisch Cancer Institute
Professor of Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology
Professor, Oncological Sciences - Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Paul Chapman, M.D.

Associate Physician, Melanoma/Sarcoma service
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Professor of Medicine, Weill Medical College of Cornell University

Charles Drake, M.D., Ph.D.

Director Genitourinary Oncology
Co-Director Immunotherapy
Associate Director, Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center

David Fisher, M.D., Ph.D.

Edward Wigglesworth Professor & Chairman Dept. of Dermatology
Director, Melanoma Program MGH Cancer Center
Director, Cutaneous Biology Research Center
Massachusetts General Hospital
Harvard Medical School

Keith Flaherty, M.D.

Director, Henri and Belinda Termeer Center for Targeted Therapies
Richard Saltonstall Chair in Oncology, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center

Thomas Gajewski, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor, Departments of Pathology and Medicine, University of Chicago
Director, Immunology and Cancer Program, University of Chicago Comprehensive Cancer Center

Levi Garraway, M.D., Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Medicine, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Institute Member, Broad Institute

Jeffrey Gershenwald, M.D.

Professor, University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Tanja de Gruij, Ph.D.

Professor, Translational Tumor Immunology and Head Immunotherapy Lab
VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam

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Professor and Vice Chairman, Dr. Mark J. Daily Endowed Chair, Director of Ocular Oncology, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
Member, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Meenhard Herlyn, D.V.M., D.Sc.

Professor and Program Leader, Molecular and Cellular Oncogenesis Program
Wistar Institute

Thomas Hornyak, M.D., Ph.D.

Chief of Dermatology, VA Maryland Health Care System
Associate Professor of Dermatology and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
University of Maryland School of Medicine

Roger Lo, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor, Departments of Medicine & Molecular and Medical Pharmacology
UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine and Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Michal Lotem, M.D.

Head, Center for Melanoma and Cancer Immunotherapy
Sharett Institute of Oncology
Hadassah Hebrew University Medical Center

Kim Margolin, M.D. (Co-chair)

Clinical Professor, City of Hope National Medical Center

Grant McArthur, Ph.D.

Director, Melanoma and Skin Service, Peter MacCallum Cancer Center

Glenn Merlino, Ph.D.

Chief, Laboratory of Cancer Biology and Genetics
National Cancer Institute, NIH

Drew Pardoll, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor of Oncology, Medicine, Pathology and Molecular Biology and Genetics
John Hopkins University School of Medicine



Caroline Robert, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor of Dermatology, Head of the Dermatology Unit, Institute Gustave Roussy

Lynn Schuchter, M.D.

C. Willard Robinson Professor of Hematology-Oncology
Attending Physician, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
Program Leader: Melanoma Program, Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania
Division Chief, Hematology-Oncology, University of Pennsylvania

Jonathan Simons, M.D.

CEO and President

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Prostate Cancer Foundation

Craig Slingluff, M.D.

Joseph Helps Farrow Professor of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology
Vice Chair for Research
Director, Human Immune Therapy Center, University of Virginia

David Solit, M.D.

Geoffrey Beene Chair
Director, Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Center for Molecular Oncology
Attending Physician, Genitourinary Oncology Service
Member, Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program

Alan Spatz, M.D.

Professor, Jewish General Hospital/Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research

Hermann Steller, Ph.D.

Strang Professor and Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, The Rockefeller University

Susan M. Swetter, M.D.

Professor of Dermatology
Director, Pigmented Lesion & Melanoma Program
Physician Leader, Cancer Care Program in Cutaneous Oncology

Suzanne Topalian, M.D.

Professor of Surgery and Oncology; Director, Melanoma Program, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center – Johns Hopkins University

Jennifer Wargo, M.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Surgical Oncology, Division of Surgery, the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Jeffrey Weber, M.D., Ph.D.

Deputy Director and Head, Experimental Therapeutics, Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center
Professor of Medicine at the NYU Langone Medical Center

Medical Advisory Committee

The MRA Medical Advisory Panel advises the MRA leadership team on medical matters and policies including medical consultations, clinical research needs and opportunities, clinical regulatory and policy initiatives, and public education about melanoma.

Dermatology

David Fisher, M.D., Ph.D.

Edward Wigglesworth Professor & Chairman Dept of Dermatology

Director, Melanoma Program MGH Cancer Center

Director, Cutaneous Biology Research Center

Massachusetts General Hospital
Harvard Medical School

Sancy Leachman, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, Melanoma Research Program, Knight Cancer Institute

Roger Lo, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor, Departments of Medicine & Molecular and Medical Pharmacology, UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine and Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

David Polsky, M.D., Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Dermatology and Pathology

Director, Pigmented Lesion Section

NYU Langone Medical Center

Joan and Joel Smilow Research Center

Susan M. Swetter, M.D.

Professor of Dermatology

Director, Pigmented Lesion & Melanoma Program

Stanford University Medical Center and Cancer Institute

Medical Oncology

Michael Atkins, M.D.

Deputy Director, Georgetown-Lombardi Cancer Center, Georgetown University

Paul Chapman, M.D.

Attending Physician, Melanoma / Sarcoma service, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Professor of Medicine, Weill Medical College of Cornell University

Thomas Gajewski, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor, Departments of Pathology and Medicine, University of Chicago

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Patrick Hwu, M.D.

Department Chair, Department of Melanoma Medical Oncology, Division Head, Cancer Medicine, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

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Kim Margolin, M.D.

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Professor of Medicine
University of California, Los Angeles

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Attending Physician, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Program Leader: Melanoma Program, Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania

Division Chief, Hematology-Oncology, University of Pennsylvania

Jedd Wolchok, M.D., Ph.D.

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Professor, Surgery and Oncology, Johns Hopkins Medicine

Director, Melanoma Program, Kimmel Cancer Center

Associate Director, Bloomberg-Kimmel Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy

Jeffrey S. Weber, M.D., Ph.D.

Deputy Director and Head, Experimental Therapeutics, Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center

Professor of Medicine at the NYU Langone Medical Center

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