



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Melanoma Research Alliance Names Dr. Sara DiNapoli as Director of Scientific Programs

Washington, D.C. (October 4, 2024) – The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) is proud to announce the appointment of Sara DiNapoli, PhD, as the new Director of Scientific Programs. Dr. DiNapoli brings a wealth of expertise in molecular pathology, clinical validation, and scientific program management, as well as a strong commitment to advancing melanoma research. In her new role, she will oversee MRA’s global grants program, ensuring that MRA funding addresses areas of unmet scientific and patient needs while fostering innovation in the field.

Dr. DiNapoli joins MRA from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK), where she most recently served as Test Development Manager for the Diagnostic Molecular Pathology Laboratory. At MSK, she led the clinical validation and implementation of next-generation sequencing assays, including MSK-IMPACT, MSK-ACCESS, and MSK-Fusion, which are critical tools in advancing precision medicine. She successfully coordinated cross-functional teams of laboratory technologists, bioinformaticians, molecular pathologists, operations managers, and software engineers to drive these cutting-edge initiatives forward.

“We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Sara DiNapoli to the Melanoma Research Alliance,” said Joan Levy, PhD, MRA’s Chief Science Officer. “Her leadership at the intersection of science, strategy, and collaboration will be instrumental in driving MRA’s research efforts forward, and her background in molecular pathology will be invaluable as we continue to accelerate advances in melanoma treatment and prevention.”

In her new role as Director of Scientific Programs at MRA, Dr. Di Napoli will work closely with Dr. Levy and MRA’s world-renowned scientific advisory panels, in guiding MRA’s investments to target the most pressing challenges in melanoma research. She will also play a key role in planning MRA’s Annual Scientific Retreat and convening workshops that bring together leading experts to drive collaboration and innovation in melanoma research.

“I am excited to join the Melanoma Research Alliance and contribute to the organization’s critical mission,” said Dr. DiNapoli. “I look forward to working alongside the talented team at MRA and our esteemed scientific advisors to ensure we are advancing cutting-edge science that makes a difference for melanoma patients worldwide.”

Dr. DiNapoli holds a PhD in Pharmacology from Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences and a BA in Biology from New York University.

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About the Melanoma Research Alliance

The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) stands as the largest non-profit funder of melanoma research. Founded in 2007 by Debra and Leon Black, MRA's mission is to end suffering and death due to melanoma by advancing the world's most promising science and research. MRA provides critical funding for melanoma cancer research that propels advances in prevention, diagnosis, treatment, metastasis, and survivorship. MRA-funded researchers have been behind every major melanoma research breakthrough. Since MRA's inception, more than 17 new therapeutic approaches for melanoma have earned FDA (Food and Drug Administration) approval. MRA is recognized as one of the most fiscally efficient non-profits in the country. Because the Black Family generously underwrites 100% of MRA's administrative and operating costs, every dollar donated is invested directly into MRA's scientific and research program. For more information, please visit: www.CureMelanoma.org.

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