



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Melanoma Research Alliance Partners with Author and Melanoma Survivor  
Jill Kargman to Spread Awareness of Melanoma**

***May is National Melanoma Awareness Month***

WASHINGTON, March 30, 2011 – The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA), which is dedicated to accelerating progress toward a cure for melanoma, today announced that Jill Kargman, *New York Times* bestselling author and melanoma survivor, will serve as a spokesperson for the organization. May is Melanoma Awareness Month, and Kargman will share her experience and humor to build awareness of this form of cancer.

In her recent book, *Sometimes I Feel Like a Nut*, (William Morrow, an Imprint of HarperCollins, ISBN 9780062007193, \$19.99), New York-based writer Kargman makes her foray into non-fiction with a collection of humorous essays. One chapter of the book, “Tumor Humor,” delves into Kargman’s bout with Stage II melanoma.



“We are excited to partner with Jill to spread the word about the dangers of melanoma,” said Wendy K.D. Selig, MRA’s president and CEO. “Melanoma is one of the fastest-growing cancers, especially among young people like Jill. It is important to get checked regularly and to know how to reduce your risk.”

Kargman was shocked when her dermatologist told her she had melanoma and wants to inform people about their risk.

“If you think melanoma is only for tanning-bed-addicted leather-skinned bikini-clad sun worshippers, you’re wrong. I have three small kids and am so careful with giant Faye Dunaway hats and zincsplosion on my body. I couldn’t believe it when I got a Stage II tumor and had to have it and my lymph nodes removed,” said Kargman. “I asked my surgeon what would’ve happened if I hadn’t gotten checked and biopsied and he swallowed and said, ‘you would have been dead within three years.’ I wouldn’t have reached my 40th birthday.”

One person dies from melanoma each hour in the United States. As spokesperson, Kargman will have the opportunity to remind people that melanoma can affect anyone.

“I’m here to tout the valor of pallor and tell anyone who will listen to get checked,” said Kargman. “Even if you don’t think you’re a candidate, you could be.”

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***About the Melanoma Research Alliance***

*The Melanoma Research Alliance is a public charity formed under the auspices of the Milken Institute, with the generous founding support of Debra and Leon Black. It supports an international, cross-disciplinary group of biomedical researchers possessing clinical and*

*scientific expertise to explore, identify and pursue innovative solutions to critical research issues leading to better treatments and a cure for patients with melanoma. Since its founding in 2007, MRA has become the largest private funder of melanoma. For more information, visit [www.melanomaresearchalliance.org](http://www.melanomaresearchalliance.org).*

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