

Melanoma Research Alliance

August 8, 2013:

MRA Applauds CDC, Office of the Surgeon General for Focusing on Skin Cancer Prevention

Today the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), released [a notice](#) in the *Federal Register* requesting information from the public on preventing deadly skin cancer through the reduction of ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure.

The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) applauds both CDC and HHS for moving forward on this important public health effort to prevent skin cancer. In addition to the leadership at CDC, MRA would like to recognize Assistant Secretary for Health Howard Koh and Acting Surgeon General Boris Lushniak, whose ongoing leadership is critical to engaging government agencies in the effort to defeat deadly skin cancer.

Since its launch in 2007, MRA has been working to increase skin cancer awareness and to educate policymakers on the dangers of UV exposure and melanoma. Melanoma is the most deadly skin cancer and its incidence is increasing at an alarming rate in many segments of the population. A concerted effort by all stakeholders – including the federal government – is needed to raise the public's awareness of melanoma and empower people to understand and take appropriate steps to reduce their risk.

With this action, HHS invites comments and information regarding the prevention of skin cancer through reduction of UV exposure. The notice states that information obtained will be used by the CDC to enhance the Office of the Surgeon General's strategy for combating the growing public health issue of skin cancer. A review of the information collected may lead to the issuance of an Office of the Surgeon General publication, which could be a powerful tool for the melanoma community in helping to galvanize action around a public health agenda to combat deadly skin cancer.

There is real momentum in fighting this disease across a number of important fronts. Combined with the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) recent issuance of proposed tanning bed regulations, ongoing activity in the states surrounding indoor tanning, and continued progress in the research arena, there is unprecedented opportunity to make a real difference in the future course of melanoma and other skin cancers.

MRA looks forward to continuing to work with the Surgeon General's Office, the CDC, and other key stakeholders to ensure that this process yields actionable results and a roadmap for the many steps that need to be undertaken to defeat melanoma.