

November 11, 2010



MRA Salutes Progress in Melanoma Research

The Society for Melanoma Research's International Melanoma Congress meeting in Sydney, Australia, held Nov. 4-7, 2010, included presentations from 11 Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) funded researchers and members of its scientific leadership. Discussions of molecularly targeted therapies – including phase II clinical trial results with RG7204 (PLX4032), an inhibitor of mutated BRAF V600E found in about half of malignant melanomas – and immunotherapies – including vaccines, T cell transfer and antibody therapies like ipilimumab – highlighted the promising progress that is being made to combat this deadly disease.

The incidence of new melanoma cases has tripled in the United States over the past 30 years, placing it among the top 10 causes of new cancers. Much work remains to be done to build upon these promising new approaches to benefit patients. Key next steps include elucidating mechanisms of drug resistance, identifying biomarkers of treatment response and investigating combinatorial therapies.

MRA is at the forefront of efforts to address all of these critical avenues of research. MRA's [current scientific portfolio](#) includes \$22 million in research funding to 50 programs worldwide that are focused on improving prevention, diagnosis and treatment strategies. In addition, the current [MRA Request for Proposals](#) seeks innovative research projects that have the potential to translate into near-term clinical benefit to patients and those at risk.

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