

Leading Organizations Applaud Congress on \$30 million dedicated to Melanoma Research within the Department of Defense FY21 Appropriations

WASHINGTON, DC – On Monday, December 21, 2020, both Houses of Congress passed the final version of the FY 2021 Department of Defense (DOD) Appropriations bill and included \$30 million for Melanoma Research within the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP). The \$30 million for the Peer Reviewed Melanoma Research Program is a \$10 million increase over FY 2020 appropriations.

As the leading nonprofit funders of cutting-edge melanoma science, the [Melanoma Research Foundation](#) and [Melanoma Research Alliance](#) welcome this bipartisan commitment to continue to advance the field of melanoma research.

Since 2009, melanoma has been eligible to receive Defense funding through the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP). In 2018, melanoma received dedicated funding for the first time at DOD through the inception of the Melanoma Research Program (MRP) within CDMRP with an appropriation of \$10 million.

The passage of the 2021 Defense Appropriations bill will continue to accelerate the pace of progress. In the last decade alone, 13 new treatments for melanoma have been approved by the FDA, and many of those treatments are now offering benefits and hope to patients with more than a dozen other types of cancers as well.

“We commend Congress for providing \$30 million for the CDMRP Peer Reviewed Melanoma Research Program, increasing the size from the current appropriation by \$10 million. Melanoma is one of the most frequently diagnosed cancers among male and female service members, and those rates only increase in members age 50 and beyond.” said Kyleigh LiPira, MBA, Chief Executive Officer of the MRF.

MRA CEO, Michael Kaplan, shared similar enthusiasm, noting, *“not only is this a huge need for those that serve our country, but the benefits of melanoma research can also pay dividends for so many other cancers.”*

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About Melanoma

Melanoma is one of the fastest growing cancers in the United States and can strike men and women of all ages, races and skin types. In 2020, approximately 100,000 Americans are expected to be diagnosed with Stage I-IV melanoma and another 96,000 will be diagnosed with melanoma in situ – totaling nearly 196,000 total diagnoses. Melanoma is the most common form of cancer for young adults 25- to 29-years-old and the second most common cancer in adolescents and young adults 15- to 29-years-old. The majority of melanomas occur on the skin and melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer. Melanoma can also occur in the eye (ocular, or uveal melanoma), in mucous membranes (mucosal melanoma), or even beneath fingernails or toenails (acral melanoma).

About the Melanoma Research Foundation

The Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) is the largest independent organization devoted to melanoma. Committed to the support of medical research in finding effective treatments and eventually a cure for melanoma, the MRF also educates patients and physicians about prevention, diagnosis and the treatment of melanoma. The MRF is a committed advocate for the melanoma community, helping

to raise awareness of this disease and the need for a cure. The MRF's website (www.melanoma.org) is the premier source for melanoma information seekers. Find the MRF on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About the Melanoma Research Alliance

MRA is a public charity formed in 2007 under the auspices of the Milken Institute, with the generous founding support of Debra and Leon Black. MRA is the largest private funder of melanoma research and has awarded more than \$123 million and leveraged an additional \$319 million, to research seeking to better prevent, diagnose and treat melanoma, the deadliest type of skin cancer. Due to the ongoing support of its founders, 100 percent of every dollar MRA raises goes directly to melanoma research. MRA's ability to fund wide-ranging research in melanoma is amplified by unique collaborations and partnerships with individuals, private foundations and corporations. Visit www.CureMelanoma.org for more information, or follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

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