

Melanoma Research Alliance

Melanoma Research Alliance Appoints Robin L. Davisson, Ph.D., President and CEO-Elect

Washington, DC, September 9, 2015 – The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) today announced the appointment of Robin L. Davisson, Ph.D., as president and CEO-elect effective October 1, 2015.

Davisson, The Andrew Dickson White Professor of Molecular Physiology at Cornell University, brings to MRA more than 25 years of internationally recognized scientific research and deep engagement in graduate student and postdoctoral education and mentoring. Davisson has received some of the most prestigious research awards in her field, including the Arthur C. Corcoran Memorial Award for excellence in cardiovascular research from the American Heart Association. She was recently elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Additionally, she plays active leadership roles at various local and national nonprofit organizations.

Davisson recently served as the director of graduate studies of the Molecular and Integrative Physiology field at Cornell for seven years, and has held many other leadership positions at Cornell. Prior to joining Cornell, she was a tenured member of the faculty of the University of Iowa where she taught and researched neuroscience, cardiovascular physiology, and genomics.



“Robin’s track record of research and leadership will guide MRA into its next phase as we look to advance the organization and our impact on the field of melanoma research,” said Debra Black, MRA Co-Founder and Chair. “Recent landmark advances in melanoma treatment have provided new options for patients, but existing therapies still benefit too few. With Robin at the helm, MRA is poised to accelerate strategic, collaborative, and accountable research efforts needed to advance cures and prevent more melanoma.”

“It is a privilege to join MRA at such a transformative time in melanoma research,” said Davisson. “I am honored to be part of the MRA community – the superb staff and the impressive researchers supported by this critical organization. Under the leadership of a devoted and visionary board, MRA has contributed enormously to greater understanding of melanoma and to moving toward highly effective treatment options for all melanoma patients as quickly as possible.”

Davisson’s engagement with MRA will be phased in gradually throughout 2015 and into 2016 as she fulfills her commitments at Cornell University.

About Melanoma

Melanoma of the skin is one of the most common cancers in the United States and its incidence has tripled in the last 30 years. It is the most common cancer diagnosis in young adults 25-29 years old and the second most common cancer in young people 15-29. Melanoma is the deadliest of all skin cancers.

About Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA)

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 provided nearly \$68 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 to support its melanoma research program. 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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