

# Melanoma

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## Research Alliance

### Leveraged Finance Industry Gathers to Fight Melanoma

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*Fourth Annual Leveraged Finance Fights Melanoma Benefit Set for May 19 in New York*

New York, NY, April 7, 2015 – The leveraged finance community will once again gather at the fourth annual Leveraged Finance Fights Melanoma (“LFFM”) benefit and cocktail party to raise funds to support the Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA), the world’s largest private funder of melanoma research. Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer, and the MRA is dedicated to fighting, treating, and someday curing melanoma.

The event will be hosted by Brendan Dillon of UBS; Lee Grinberg of Elliot Management; Leland Hart of BlackRock; George Mueller, Jeff Rowbottom and Cade Thompson of KKR; Alan Schrager of Oak Hill Advisors; and Trevor Watt of Hellman & Friedman.

This year’s LFFM event will be held from 6:30-8:30 pm on Tuesday, May 19, at The Sea Grill and Summer Garden at Rockefeller Plaza.

Event attendees will include leaders from throughout the industry, and dealmakers from banks, investment firms, law firms, issuers and sponsors.

Since its inception in 2012, the event has raised over \$3.5 million to support MRA’s global research programs working toward eliminating suffering and death from melanoma. Tickets are \$300 and may be purchased by visiting [curemelanoma.org/LFFM](http://curemelanoma.org/LFFM).

Funds from prior events have gone toward cutting-edge cancer research, which are accelerating advances in immunotherapy treatments. These treatments have led to breakthroughs like anti-PD-1 agents, which now treat metastatic melanoma patients but also recently were approved to treat lung cancer. The new immunotherapy drugs are also being tested to treat other cancers, including those affecting the bladder, blood, and kidneys.

Nearly 80,000 Americans were diagnosed with melanoma in 2014—roughly one person every eight minutes, and incidence of the disease continues to rise. The skin disease is the fifth most common cancer diagnosed in the United States. While the treatment outlook for the disease has improved in recent years, with new treatments including immunotherapies and molecularly targeted therapies, people diagnosed with late-stage melanoma still face long odds. The need for further research into better methods of preventing, diagnosing, and treating the disease is as urgent as ever.

**About The 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 to date has dedicated more than \$51 million to research seeking to better prevent, diagnose, and treat melanoma. Due to the ongoing support of its founders, 100% of every dollar MRA raises goes to support its melanoma research program. The organization is poised to build on recent momentum in the field, accelerating the pace of scientific discovery and translation in order to eliminate suffering and death due to melanoma. MRA's ability to fund wide-ranging research in melanoma is amplified by unique multi-faceted collaborations and partnerships with individuals, private foundations and corporations.

For more information on MRA, please visit [www.CureMelanoma.org](http://www.CureMelanoma.org).

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