

Melanoma

Research Alliance

NCI FY 2016 Budget Plan Highlights Critical Opportunities

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 3, 2014 – The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) today reinforced the message in this week’s release of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) FY 2016 Budget Proposal that more funding is urgently needed to capitalize on extraordinary opportunities to save lives through cancer research.

The budget plan, submitted by NCI Director Harold Varmus, outlines a proposed NCI FY ’16 budget of \$5.754 billion, an \$823 million increase over the estimated FY ’15 total. The increase includes much-needed investments in funding additional investigator-initiated research grants, as well as enhanced support for the clinical trials and cancer center programs, genomics and immunotherapy. All of these elements are vital to continued progress in finding new ways to prevent, detect and treat all cancers, including melanoma.

“MRA has long advocated for sustained funding increases for NCI to bolster our ability to capitalize on the extraordinary progress that has occurred, especially in the field of melanoma research. The NCI budget plan highlights the tremendous strain that the scientific community has faced due to shrinking budgets,” said **MRA President & CEO Wendy K.D. Selig**. “Given the opportunities that exist to save lives and reduce suffering, our nation should be prioritizing its commitment to biomedical research and providing the NCI with the resources needed to accelerate the science of discovery and translation. The NCI FY 2016 budget offers a roadmap for taking the first step in reversing the harmful loss of purchasing power we’ve seen in recent years. We hope policymakers will heed this call.”

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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 has dedicated more than \$60 million to research seeking to better prevent, diagnose, and treat melanoma, the most deadly type of skin cancer. 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, please visit www.CureMelanoma.org.

To reach MRA leadership for further comment or for story research, please contact:

Emily Gustafson (MRA) – egustafson@curemelanoma.org