



TEN YEARS OF POWERFUL RESEARCH AND RESULTS

For Immediate Release

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Melanoma Research Alliance Raises Record \$20 Million Dollars for Groundbreaking Melanoma Research at 10th Anniversary Art Preview and Benefit Gala

WASHINGTON, DC, November 7, 2017 – The Melanoma Research Alliance (“MRA”), the largest non-profit funder of melanoma research, raised over \$20 million dollars to fund world-class melanoma research at its ‘Celebrate10’ Art Preview and Benefit Gala hosted by Sotheby’s in New York City.

The event brought together more than 240 people to celebrate advances in melanoma research and the pioneering impact of MRA. Over ten years, MRA has invested \$88 million—and leveraged an additional \$89.5 million—to support 233 different research projects across 15 countries in support of its mission to end suffering and death due to melanoma.

“We are enormously pleased by the generosity of MRA’s supporters who have made this event and MRA’s first ten years such a success,” said Debra Black, MRA co-founder and chair. “Through the ongoing commitment and support of our many allies and partners, MRA has been on the forefront of accelerating research and saving lives of people touched by melanoma.”

In the ten years since MRA was founded, the FDA has approved 11 new therapies to treat melanoma. Together, these new approaches have doubled the five-year survival rate for melanoma patients with advanced disease. These advances are rippling across the entire oncology field; treatments first established for melanoma have been approved for seven other cancers and are being researched in 30 others.

Proceeds raised will support transformational melanoma research. Six donors each committed \$900,000 to support MRA Team Science Awards. The Team Science Awards serve as the centerpiece of MRA’s research portfolio by fostering innovative and collaborative research by multidisciplinary teams. An additional 11 Young Investigator Awards, which recruit and support the next generation of melanoma researchers by attracting early career scientists with novel ideas into the field, were also funded at \$225,000 each.

“The progress we’ve seen in the last ten years in melanoma research is unprecedented, but we still have more to do,” says MRA President & CEO Michael Kaplan. “The proceeds from this event will allow us to move even closer to our goal of finally curing melanoma.”

The event included a seated dinner, brief remarks from MRA’s leadership and researchers and a live auction. Van Wyck & Van Wyck provided pro bono event planning services.

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About Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA)

Founded in 2007 under the auspices of the Milken Institute, with the generous support of Debra and Leon Black, the Melanoma Research Alliance exists to accelerate treatment options and find a cure for melanoma. As the largest nonprofit funder of melanoma research, it has dedicated \$88 million and leveraged an additional \$89.5 million towards its mission. Through its support, MRA has championed revolutions in immunotherapy, targeted therapies, novel combinations and diagnostics. Due to the ongoing support of its founders, 100 percent of donations to MRA go directly to 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 <http://www.CureMelanoma.org> for more information.