



For Immediate Release

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**Melanoma Research Alliance Announces New Funding Opportunity for
Research to Accelerate Progress Toward Curing Melanoma**

*\$9 Million in Funding for Melanoma Research including Special Opportunities in
Artificial Intelligence, Dermatology, Immunotherapy & Radiation Oncology*

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 7, 2018 – The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA), the largest non-profit funder of melanoma research worldwide, is pleased to announce its 2018 – 2019 Request for Proposals for preclinical, translational and early clinical research with the power to transform melanoma prevention, detection, staging and treatment.

This funding cycle, the RFP includes special opportunities in several areas including dermatology as well as artificial intelligence applied to melanoma. In addition, MRA is partnering with ASTRO (the American Society for Radiation Oncology) to offer an award for radiation-oncology melanoma research and is pleased to have support from Bristol-Myers Squibb for two immunotherapy-focused young investigator awards.

“Melanoma research has been at the leading edge of oncology research, and our special opportunity focus areas, such as artificial intelligence and immunotherapy, reflect this,” said MRA Scientific Program Director Kristen Mueller, Ph.D. “We are excited to continue to offer opportunities to fund high-impact research that will help eliminate suffering and death due to melanoma.”

MRA’s annual RFP is shaped by [staff, Board and expert scientific advisors](#) who help determine the emphasis areas and special opportunities where MRA can leverage its role to spur and sustain innovation and the pace of progress.

“Another special opportunity focus area for this year’s RFP is dermatologist-led research,” MRA President & CEO Michael Kaplan. “We are thrilled to support this research, especially since, for many people with melanoma, the dermatologist office is where their journey begins.”

The 2018 - 2019 award cycle will support at least \$9 million in funding. Information including eligibility criteria, award types, and deadlines can be found on the MRA website at:

<https://www.curemelanoma.org/research/request-for-proposals/>

The Melanoma Research Alliance is on the forefront of accelerating research and saving the lives of people afflicted with melanoma, the deadliest skin cancer. Over the past 10 years, MRA has invested \$101 million—and leveraged an additional \$101 million—to support 266 research projects across 15 countries. MRA-funded research has studied 96 unique therapeutic approaches including 11 of the 12 new treatment options approved by the FDA since 2011.

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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 over \$101 million and leveraged an additional \$101 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.