



TEN YEARS OF POWERFUL RESEARCH AND RESULTS

For Immediate Release

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**Melanoma Research Alliance and Inspire Launch Online Community
Focused on Research and Clinical Trials**

WASHINGTON, DC, November 15, 2017 – The Melanoma Research Alliance (“MRA”), the largest non-profit funder of melanoma research, in partnership with Inspire, the leading US health care social network, today announced the launch of **Melanoma > Exchange**, an online support community for anyone touched by melanoma to find support, ask questions and build community. Members can join **Melanoma > Exchange** at <http://melanoma.inspire.com>.

Melanoma is the most deadly form of skin cancer. Over 87,000 Americans are expected to be diagnosed with melanoma in 2017, and incidence of the disease continues to rise. Thanks in part to research funded by MRA, treatment outlook for the disease has improved in recent years, yet further advances are needed to fully eliminate suffering and death related to melanoma.

The **Melanoma > Exchange** is a free and open online community of engaged patients and caregivers with firsthand understanding of melanoma, the status of clinical trials and contact with experts from the MRA staff. Together, MRA and Inspire are cultivating a unique environment where patients can get insight into key milestones such as being diagnosed, choosing a treatment or finding the right clinical trial and coping with disease and treatment side effects.

“The **Melanoma > Exchange** will serve a critical role in connecting patients and their friends and family so that they can share personal experiences and insight, the latest treatment news and advances and generally learn more about clinical trials in a supportive setting,” said MRA President & CEO Michael Kaplan.

“We’re particularly excited about this partnership because of MRA’s focus on accelerating the pace of scientific discovery and translation,” said Inspire CEO Brian Loew. “We’re confident that the new online community will help people affected by melanoma research, understand their treatments options and provide a medium for supporting one another.”

People affected by melanoma can join the **Melanoma > Exchange** at no cost and be welcomed into the supportive and patient-led community.

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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.

About Inspire

Inspire (<http://www.Inspire.com>) is the leading healthcare social network, with a mission to accelerate medical progress through a world of connected patients. Partnering with over 100 nonprofit patient advocacy organizations, including the American Lung Association, Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance, Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network, and the Lupus Foundation of America, Inspire creates and manages support communities for more than one million patients and caregivers, representing more than 3,600 health conditions.