



MRA Welcomes New FDA Regulations on Sunscreen Products

WASHINGTON, June 15, 2011 – The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) welcomes the news that the FDA has addressed the way in which the agency will require sunscreen products to be tested and labeled. While continuing in its pursuit of a cure through funding cutting-edge research, MRA also encourages the public to be aware of the dangers of melanoma and to take simple steps to reduce their risk.

“We encourage everyone to wear broad-spectrum sunscreen year-round to protect themselves,” said Wendy K. D. Selig, president and CEO of MRA. “These new regulations will make it easier for consumers to understand the products they purchase, which will hopefully lead to more effective use.”

Exposure to damaging UV rays from the sun and tanning devices is the most preventable risk factor for skin cancers, including melanoma. In addition to protecting themselves daily using broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF of at least 30, MRA encourages consumers to wear sun protective clothing, hats, and sunglasses; seek shade; and avoid being out mid-day when the sun’s rays are most intense.

While important progress in treatments is being made, melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer, and it is one of the cancers whose incidence is increasing fastest in this country. In the United States, an estimated 68,130 Americans will be newly diagnosed with melanoma in 2010 – one every eight minutes; and approximately 8,700 Americans will die of melanoma – one every hour.

For more information about the changes announced by FDA, visit www.fda.gov/sunscreen.

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About the Melanoma Research Alliance

The Melanoma Research Alliance is a public charity formed under the auspices of the Milken Institute, with the generous founding support of Debra and Leon Black. It supports an international, cross-disciplinary group of biomedical researchers possessing clinical and scientific expertise to explore, identify and pursue innovative solutions to critical research questions, leading to better treatments and a cure for melanoma patients. Since its founding in 2007, MRA has become the largest private funder of melanoma research. For more information about MRA’s research programs, visit www.curemelanoma.org.

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