

Melanoma Research Alliance

Final Budget Bill Doubles DoD Funding Available for Melanoma Research

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 10, 2014 – The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) hailed the inclusion in the omnibus appropriations bill providing government funding for Fiscal Year 2015 of \$50 million in funding for the Department of Defense's (DoD) Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP), doubling the level of funding available for melanoma and other cancer research from Fiscal Year 2014. This marks the successful conclusion to a major legislative effort by MRA and provides much-needed funding for melanoma research at a critical moment in the advancement of the science.

The PRCRP supports innovative and competitive research in cancers specifically designated by Congress as relevant to military service members and their families. Researchers studying melanoma and other skin cancers, as well as ten other types of cancer are eligible to compete for this funding.

"MRA has been a leading force in securing this unprecedented and life-saving increase in DoD funding for the PRCRP. We have worked to educate lawmakers on the dangers of UV exposure, especially for our servicemen and women who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, urging them to prioritize federal funding for research focused on strategies to defeat melanoma," said Wendy Selig, **MRA President and CEO**. "MRA is thrilled that this year's bill represents the largest allocation of funds to date and comes at a time when there is so much promising research in the field."

MRA especially wants to thank Senator Durbin, Chairman of the Senate DoD Subcommittee, for his strong commitment to this expansion of the PRCRP program, and we are grateful for the bipartisan appropriations committee leadership of Senator Cochran and Congressmen Frelinghuysen and Visclosky who made this result possible. MRA will continue to advocate for robust medical research funding for melanoma as well as a public health agenda that addresses the dangers of UV exposure more broadly in the U.S. population.

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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:

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