

2019-2020 SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR IN-TRANSIT MELANOMA RESEARCH

October 18, 2019

The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) is pleased to announce a **Special Opportunity for a Team Science Award (TSA) focused on In-transit Melanoma Research**. This award is for up to \$300,000 per year for three years (up to \$900,000 total). MRA plans to award at least \$9 million for all awards announced during the 2019-2020 cycle – with at least one award focused on “In-transit Melanoma,” this is an additional special emphasis above and beyond those already highlighted in first and second release of the 2019/20 RFP.

MRA seeks proposals to advance our understanding of in-transit melanoma. To apply, submit an abstract and the materials outlined below directly to MRA staff. Submitted abstracts should propose projects that aim to study the unique features of in-transit melanoma as compared to typical, primary melanoma lesions and/or to distant recurrence. Ideally, projects will provide new insight into in-transit melanoma biology, have near-term clinical applicability, and inform the broader melanoma field.

Proposals may focus research on, but are not limited to:

- Understanding the unique etiology of in-transit melanoma. Why do some patients with in-transit melanoma rapidly develop distant metastases, while other patients never progress or progress very slowly, over years?
- Defining the unique biology of in-transit melanoma compared to primary cases and/or widespread disease with multi-omics techniques (DNA, RNA sequencing/expression, epigenetics, proteomics and/or single cell RNA sequencing) on fresh tissue samples with carefully annotated clinical data.
- Defining and testing new treatment approaches to in-transit melanoma.
- Research that includes, or is focused on, acral melanoma as it relates to in-transit disease is highly encouraged.

Investigators submitting abstracts for the In-transit Melanoma Research Special Opportunity may not serve as a PI on any other proposal submitted to MRA for the 2019-2020 grant cycle, including the awards announced in the First and [Second Release RFPs](#). Interested applicants should refer to MRA’s Second Release RFP for complete eligibility details, **but note** – application process for this Special Opportunity differs from process in RFP and is detailed below.

Applicants must send the following via email to Kristen Mueller, Ph.D., MRA Scientific Program Director at kmueller@curemelanoma.org by November 13, 2019 at 5pm ET:

- The proposal title
- A 250 word technical abstract
- List of team members
- A completed Young Investigator [Eligibility Checklist](#).

Full length applications will be invited from meritorious abstracts by November 25, 2019 and due by applicants by 5pm EST on January 10, 2020.

Email questions about this RFP, eligibility, or other issues about MRA or its awards to Kristen Mueller, Ph.D., MRA Scientific Program Director at kmueller@curemelanoma.org.