

Melanoma Research Alliance

For Immediate Release

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Melanoma Research Alliance Announces Almost \$20 Million in New Funding to Support Melanoma Research Program

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 5, 2019 – The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA), the largest non-profit funder of melanoma research worldwide, raised nearly \$20 million to fund its world-class melanoma research program at its biennial benefit dinner hosted by Sotheby’s in New York City.

The event brought together more than 240 of MRA’s biggest supporters to Sotheby’s New York City headquarters to celebrate the unprecedented progress that has been made for melanoma patients over the past decade. The program particularly recognized the determination of patients, clinicians, researchers and the generosity of countless donors who make this progress possible.

“We are grateful for the dedication and generosity of our supporters who not only made this event a success – but also make MRA’s work possible,” said Debra Black, MRA Co-Founder and Chair of the Board. “The contributions of our donors ensure continued funding to support translational research to help patients facing melanoma.”

Speakers included medical oncologist Dr. Jedd Wolchok, journalist and patient advocate Mary Elizabeth Williams, and dermatology resident Shirin Bajaj. Each speaker offered important insight into the dramatic progress in melanoma research, its impact on other cancers and the remaining challenges facing doctors and patients alike.

“Through a rapid expansion of innovative research, we have made incredible progress in the fight against melanoma – MRA is proud to be a driving force in this movement,” says MRA President & CEO Michael Kaplan. “We are thrilled to have such broad support from our many donors whose commitment to our mission makes our progress possible, but it is just that – progress – as we still have work to do before our mission is achieved.”

The event included a seated dinner, brief remarks from MRA’s leadership and researchers, and a live auction. Jared Reichert, of The Reichert Consult, provided pro bono event planning services.

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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 \$110 million and leveraged an additional \$200 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.