Hello Melanoma Community Registrants!

Welcome to the War on Melanoma Debrief, our periodic newsletter to keep you up to date on new and exciting intel! In this edition, we will share some recent survey data with you, outline exciting new advancements in technology, highlight one of our volunteers, and remind you of our upcoming event.

**Survey Data**

We recently asked you to complete an online survey to gather data for a grant submission. The response we received confirms what a tremendous group of people we have in the Melanoma Community Registry! You continue to smash many previously documented stats for participation. And in that spirit of engagement, we want to do the same and share some of the data we have learned from you.

- Over 40% of our registry members completed the survey. The average response rate for an online survey is 10-20%. Thank you!
- Of that group, 87% have a personal history of melanoma and 35% had at least 1 blood relative with melanoma
- 96% are interested in some type of research activity
- 99% want us to share learnings with other researchers and educate students and medical providers
- Over 75% are willing to provide medical records, pictures of their skin/moles, samples of hair, blood, urine, and saliva.
These results are impressive! There is much we can collectively do. We will continue to communicate our progress, ongoing projects, and solicit your participation. Thanks again for all you have done. Together, we can make melanoma the victim!

**Technology Advancements**

*There are some exciting new technologies that we are deploying in the fight versus melanoma!*

**DermSpectra™ Photography**

The DermSpectra™ machine, which was recently implemented as part of the Department of Dermatology’s [Mole Monitoring Clinic](#), is a standardized device used to photograph the skin. It uses nine high-resolution cameras with optimal lighting and standardized positioning to create high quality images that can be replicated in subsequent visits. It does not diagnose skin cancer, but it does help you and your provider monitor changes in your skin over time. The photo-booth gives you privacy and replaces the lengthy and costly session with a medical photographer. It is one of only a handful in operation in the United States.

**HyperSpectral Imaging**

OHSU Dermatology is testing a new imaging device to potentially reduce the frequency of invasive and costly biopsies that may be recommended after a skin exam. The human eye is sensitive to 3 colors: red, green, and blue light. The [Hyperspectral Dermatoscope](#) is sensitive to 21 different color wavelengths and it tests our suspicion that cancer has colors and patterns that the human eye can't normally see. The diagnostic value in this new image content may lead to better early detection than that achieved by the current practice of a visual exam. This camera was developed by former OHSU student and Rockefeller University investigator Daniel Gareau and is available to patients who enroll in this clinical trial.

**Mole Mapper App Update**
The launch of the Mole Mapper App marked an exciting advancement in skin monitoring, providing a tool to monitor your skin while also acting as a means to contribute to research. The app has received media coverage from more than 45 national outlets, 11 local outlets, and reached tens of thousands on social media.

After three weeks, there have been 13,995 App Store Views, 4,575 downloads, 1,278 registrants and over 1,200 moles that have already been measured. It is our goal to continue this momentum. If you have already downloaded it, keep up the mapping! If you haven't, download it for free today! Spread the word to your friends and families. Happy mapping.

**Member Spotlight**

Robin Zimmerman is no stranger to the impact melanoma can have – In fact he is all too familiar.

Robin, a melanoma survivor himself, lost his high school sweetheart and wife after a four year battle with the disease in 2008. Ever since he has continued to fight against melanoma any way that he can.

He gets his skin checked on a regular basis; those with melanoma history have 8.5 times higher the risk of contracting the disease again. He has been vocal in urging people to get themselves checked for signs of melanoma. Men 55 and over are one of the most at-risk groups, but also are the least likely to voluntarily get themselves checked. Robin has also been an active volunteer for the Melanoma Community Registry. He crafted a volunteer orientation presentation to be used for Registry events, shared his picture and story for Dr. Leachman's presentation at Nike Meets Cancer, participated in the annual NW Melanoma Walk, and he volunteered at our May 2014 Screening and Research Expo.

It is the strength and dedication of individuals like Robin Zimmerman that fuels our fight against melanoma. We would like to thank him for his continued support to the Registry.

*If you're interested in volunteer opportunities such as these, please contact waronmelanoma@ohsu.com (or reply to this email)*

**Upcoming Event**

**Melanoma Community Research Forum**  
Saturday, November 14th  
9:00am - 3:00pm

This free event is open to all with an interest in melanoma and other skin cancers. The event is being held at the OHSU Collaborative Life Sciences Building.

To register, click [HERE](#)

If you would like to volunteer for this event:
Thank you for your continued interest in the Melanoma Community Registry