



The summer months seemed to fly by as fast as the amazing solar eclipse. As we bid a fond farewell to summer, pack up our swimwear, and tuck away vacation memorabilia, we welcome the fall months, the cooler weather, and many upcoming OMF events.

Our 7th annual **Eye Am Not Alone Patient Conference** is shaping up to be a great event. The location in sunny California at Stanford University (Palo Alto, CA) is reason enough to attend. Headed by Dr. Prithvi Mruthyunjaya, head of ocular oncology at Stanford, the conference will include insightful medical presentations, a patient panel, delicious food, and plenty of opportunities to meet and mingle with other OM patients and caregivers. [Learn more and register today>](#)

Can't make it all the way to the West Coast? No problem! We have two exciting Warrior events in Pennsylvania this September. [Learn more>](#)

## 7th Annual Patient Retreat - October 27-29, Stanford University

### EANA Goes West

This year, we have assembled doctors who are on the forefront of OM treatment and research from the West Coast. In addition to Dr. Prithvi Mruthyunjaya and his team at Stanford's Byers Eye Institute, presentations and panel discussions will be made by Dr. Bertil Damato of UCSF and Dr. Sapna Patel of MD Anderson.

One of the best parts of EANA is the wonderful opportunity for OM patients and caregivers to see each other face-to-face, build friendships, and learn from each other's experiences. So this year's EANA we have planned activities to cultivate this networking time including a kickoff reception, a tour of Stanford University, and a Mexican themed celebration.

Registration is [open now](#). Travel Grants via OMF's TAG program are available for those needing financial assistance. Click here to apply online: [Travel Assistance Grant](#).



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### UPCOMING EVENTS



### EANA Conference

**Oct 27-29**

**Palo Alto, CA**

[Learn more>](#)



### Beef & Beer Event

**Sept 23, 7-11PM**

**Langhorne, PA**

[Learn more>](#)



### 15th Annual Golf Tournament

## BY THE NUMBERS

13 years since founding  
#1 on Google for OM  
3,284 Facebook 'likes'  
2,406 Forum members  
7,588 Twitter followers  
114k annual web visitors



SEE A CURE 



## Meet Vivian Chua, the 2017 JIA Grant Recipient

### Coming Closer to a Cure

Vivian Chua, PhD, a post-doctoral research fellow in the Department of Cancer Biology at Thomas Jefferson University's Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, was awarded the 2017 AACR - Kammerman Family/Ocular Melanoma Foundation Fellowship for her submission *Epigenetics and Treatment Strategies for Metastatic Cancer*.

Dr. Chua's research focuses on how bromodomain protein inhibitors can effectively reduce metastatic UM cell growth. A second aim of the research is to investigate whether cells in the liver microenvironment would produce factors/proteins that may alter the responses of UM tumor cells to bromodomain inhibitors. We look forward to hearing the results of her research and applaud her assistance in helping us get one step closer to "Seeing a Cure."



What makes this grant even more meaningful is that this year OMF teamed with the Kammerman Family who raised over \$50,000 for OM research. Their incredible fundraising efforts allow us to offer not one, but two research grants. The first grant was awarded in May at the annual AACR convention in Washington DC. The second grant will be awarded spring 2018. You can read more about this amazing family and their Warrior efforts [here](#).

## Upcoming Warrior Events

### A Birthday Wish

When Caitlyn Stewart decided to surprise her husband, Phil, with an unforgettable birthday party, she knew she wanted it to be not only memorable but also meaningful.

In just a couple weeks, the Stewart family is hosting a "Beef & Beer" Birthday Bash to celebrate Phil's 30th birthday and help raise money for OMF. The evening will be filled with fun, food, and a raffle. If you are in the Langhorne, PA area...come wish Phil a happy birthday for a great cause! [Learn more>](#)



## Copperhead Grille Golf Tournament

Picture a lush green fairway, the hint of fall in the crisp air, and golfers gathered for a great cause. You could be here! The 15th annual Copperhead Grille Golf Tournament is coming up on September 25 at the beautiful Southmoore Golf Course in Bath, PA.



The owner, Mike Dontas Jr., has dedicated the proceeds from each annual tournament to a charity. Earlier this year, their family experienced a devastating loss when his aunt, Georgia Kondoleon, passed away after her fight with ocular melanoma. Proceeds of this year's tournament will go toward OM research. [Learn more>](#)

## Eye Patches for a Cure

### Eyedentity Patches

OM patients will almost always need an eyepatch during some part of their treatment. Sarah Chellis and her husband, Jesse Harwin, run a small company in Oregon, called "Eyedentity" The company combines art and comfort to create stylish and functional eye patches. In addition to offering many shapes, sizes, fabrics, and colors, eyepatches can also be custom made. The possibilities are endless.



Eyedentity joined OMF for this year's National Eye Patch Day by donating a percentage of their month's proceeds. To learn more about this wonderful company click [here](#).

