



The past few months here at OMF have been packed with Warrior events and research launches. With fireworks still ringing in our ears, we have many reasons to continue celebrating this July!

On the research front, OMF awarded another \$50,000 research grant - OMF's eighth overall research award. This year's recipient, Jessica Teh PhD at Thomas Jefferson U., plans to research treatment pathways for metastasis of uveal melanoma. [Learn more >](#)

This spring also brought many successful Warrior fundraising events including: Lisa Spier's 5K, Joanne's Core 76 shopping event, the Colonial 200 Relay and the Swing for Sight, hosted by partner organization A Cure in Sight in Napa, CA. OMF again supported [National Eye Patch Day](#) and enjoyed spreading awareness through social media.

Amidst all the celebrating, we are working hard to prepare for our 6th annual **Eye Am Not Alone (EANA) Patient Retreat**. This year we are excited to be hosted by Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center in Miami September 9-11. [Learn more >](#)

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6th Annual Patient Retreat - September 9-11 Miami, FL

Why Attend EANA?

1. **Science** - The doctors at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center along with recent JIA award winners will present on the latest in OM treatment and cancer trials.

2. **Support** - Meet OM patients and caregivers from around the country. EANA is annually the largest OM gathering and represents a blend of recently diagnosed patients and those who are many years out.

3. **Social** - If you've attended in the past, you know how wonderful it is to mingle with and lean on fellow patients and caregivers. Yes, EANA is about learning but it's also about having fun, letting your guard down and getting to know your fellow Warriors. We have multiple meals to share, fun activities and even a morning yoga session!

Registration is [open now](#). Saturday Session attendance is **free**. Travel Grants are available for those needing financial assistance. Click here to apply online: [Travel Assistance Grant](#).



September 9-11, 2016
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
Miami, Florida



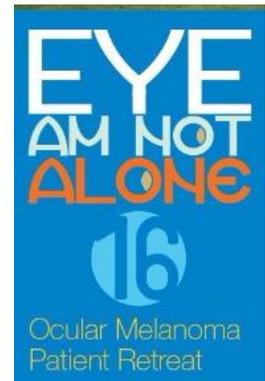
Free to attend*



Learn more at ocularmelanoma.org/EANA16

* Registration for Saturday sessions is complimentary for patients and caregivers. Attendance is responsible for travel to/from Miami, lodging and attendance at the Friday night kickoff event.

UPCOMING EVENTS



EANA Conference
Sept 9-11
Miami, FL

[Learn more >](#)

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





2016 AACR-OMF Fellowship Grant

Coming Closer to a Cure

Jessica Teh, PhD, a post-doctoral research fellow in the Department of Cancer Biology at Thomas Jefferson University's Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, was recently awarded the 2016 AACR-Ocular Melanoma Foundation Fellowship for her submission on *Utility of CDK4/6 Inhibitors in Uveal Melanoma*.

This is the third year OMF has partnered with the American Cancer Research Association (AACR) to provide a \$50,000 grant to support junior researchers in their efforts to develop treatment options for ocular melanoma. Dr. Teh joins an impressive list of individuals who are working to "See A Cure."

Her research focuses on the current absence of FDA-approved targeted inhibitor treatments for metastatic uveal melanoma. MEK-ERK 1/2 signalling is activated frequently in uveal melanoma due to driver mutations in either GNAQ or GNA11. While MEK inhibitors are FDA-approved in cutaneous melanoma, they provide a 14% response rate and modestly improve progression-free survival in uveal melanoma.

Dr. Teh's research aims to utilize an *in vivo* reporter model to monitor the effects of the combination of MEK and CDK4/6 inhibitors and to identify optimal dosing schemes for this combination. Ultimately through their experiments, her team expects to provide the pre-clinical basis for targeted inhibitor combinations in late-stage uveal melanoma.

National Eye Patch Day

May 20th was **National Eye Patch Day** and as part of this coordinated awareness event, OMF helped flood the community with pictures of eye patch wearing patients and community advocates. To heighten our reach, OMF partnered with ACIS to distribute a video created for Rare Disease Day highlighting patients of ocular melanoma and putting actual faces to the disease, and also distributed over 350 eye patches.

View our videos on 

Friends, family, co-workers, and even canine friends joined the efforts. We wore our patches for our loved-ones. We wore patches for the doctors, nurses, and medical staff who join us in the search for a cure. We wore patches for each other. We believe all the pictures made a difference in spreading the word about ocular melanoma and strengthening the OM community.

Thank you to everyone who participated!



Warrior Update

Shopping for a Cause

In the cozy neighborhoods near the National Cathedral, the store [Core 72](#) serves as a boutique for athletic apparel. Joanne Barilla partnered with shop owner, Ferrell, to host a day of shopping and a percentage of the proceeds were donated to OMF.



Friends, family, and neighbors tried on stylish yoga pants, running shoes, and tank tops. The atmosphere was cheerful and fun (shopping always is!).

Joanne's efforts raised over \$3000. What a great way to spend an afternoon!

2nd Annual Lisa Spiers 5K

Sunshine, blue sky, and lots of smiles. That is how the 2nd annual Lisa Spiers 5K started and finished. Sponsored by the Kilmarnock Baptist Church, the race meandered through the quaint town, tree-shaded lanes, and freshly tilled corn fields.



Robbie Spiers, the local High School band teacher, was joined by family and friends to celebrate Lisa's life and raise awareness for ocular melanoma. Running wasn't the only part of the festivities. Moon bounces, food, and a live band provided entertainment.

The race exceeded last year's income providing much needed funds for patient support and research. Next year's race has already been announced...come to the 3rd annual Lisa Spiers 5K on April 22, 2017!

Colonial 200 Relay

Does running 200 miles with a team of ten over the course of 30 hours sound fun? To team Victory the answer is a hearty "yes!" Ten runners from Loudoun county VA participated in a 200 mile race from Charlottesville, VA to Williamsburg, VA on April 22-23.



Team members took turns running different mileages, but the average was about 20 miles per runner. Team Victory ran in sun, rain, and mist. The course varied from gravel country roads, park trails, and along highways.

OMF's very own Holly Abbe and Jessica Anderson were runners along with their family members. They used the event to spread awareness. Their vehicles and shirts proudly displayed OMF in large block letters. They had many opportunities to answer questions to fellow runners along the way about ocular melanoma.

Interested in Putting On A Warrior Event?

The Warrior Fundraising Program is OMF's platform to empower members of the OM community to contribute their own time, talent and treasure. We work with YOU to put on an event or do something amazing - whether it's hosting a BBQ at your home, running a 10k or hosting an awareness event at your child's school. We can supply you with helpful instructions and best practices, plenty of giveaways (brochures, SEE A CURE sunglasses, t-shirts, etc.), and even additional volunteers and funds to make it a success! We can also work alongside you to ensure your event raises awareness of OM and funds for OMF research initiatives.

To learn more or to get your event planning started today, drop Holly, OMF's Warrior Program Director, a note at holly@ocularmelanoma.org.



Team Victory running to "See A Cure" at Colonial 200 Relay



Shoppers at Core 72





An enthusiastic volunteer at the 2nd annual Lisa Spiers 5K