



Sunshine, blooms, and pollen (achoo!) have finally replaced our long winter here in the Washington DC area. The arrival of Spring has also marked an onrush of awareness and Warrior events. We hope that wherever you reside, you are enjoying Spring and its promise of renewal and good things.

Recently, this quote popped up on social media: "Rules for happiness: Something to do, Someone to love, and Something to hope for" (by Immanuel Kant). Please know that we, here at OMF, are pulling for you, fighting along side you, and hoping for good outcomes in your treatment and your lives. We are grateful to share with you all the "somethings" and "someones" that bring us happiness in the midst of fighting this terrible disease.

OMF Gives \$150K Research Grant

For a fifth year, OMF collaborated with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) to present a research grant. This year, OMF provided a \$150,000 Career Development Award. The grant recipient is Dr. Allison Skalet of the Casey Eye Institute. Successful completion of the proposed study should provide a new, non-invasive approach to assess metastatic risk in OM patients and open the door to longitudinal monitoring to assist in early detection of metastatic disease and evaluation of treatment response. OMF also hopes that Dr. Skalet's work will validate CHCs as a novel source for OM genetic information which can be obtained non-invasively and serially over time—a liquid biopsy.

Read about the AACR-Ocular Melanoma Foundation Career Development Grant recipient, Dr. Allison Skalet [here](#).



The grant was announced at the annual AACR meeting in Chicago this April. Pictured above, OMF joined research grant board members and Vivian Chua (left) who was last year's grant recipient. This brings OMF's total research funding to an incredible half a million dollars. The increase in funding was made possible by fundraising efforts of our amazing Warriors and especially the Kammerman family of Binghamton, NY.

OMF Contributes to AACR Annual Meeting

In This Issue

[\\$150K Research Grant](#)

[OMF at Annual AACR](#)

[Eye Patch Days](#)

[Warrior Update](#)

Quick Links

[OMF Website](#)

[OMF Facebook Page](#)

[Friends & Family FB Group](#)

[OMF YouTube Channel](#)

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS



**Sarah Cheers to 10
years!**

Aug 5, 2018

[Learn more>](#)



Kickathon

August 2018

More info soon!

BY THE NUMBERS

14 years since founding
#1 on Google for OM
4000 Facebook 'likes'
2,577 Forum members
7,588 Twitter followers
115k annual web visitors

AACR Annual Meeting: 4 Days, Over 20K participants, and Millions in Research Grants

OMF contributed to the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) in Chicago. OMF was recognized as a "Metalled Society Member" and given the status of "Silver Metal" due to our continued partnership and support of research.

In addition to OMF's grant presentation, highlights included meeting doctors and scientists from all over the world, each with the same goal: "Finding a Cure for Cancer!"

OMF ran a booth at the Partner Pavilion where we promoted OM awareness and discussed potential partnerships to cure OM. As in years past, the squishy eyeballs were a hit!



Eye Patch Days



Record-Breaking OM Awareness Day!

The annual Eye Patch Days on May 18th and 19th were not only a success...they were a smashing success! OMF mailed out a record **1612 eye patches** to people all over the world. Pictures and stories flooded the internet as we came together to spread awareness and honor patch-wearing friends and loved ones.

From work parties to family parties to community events, we witnessed the OM community come together with their own communities. Warrior Dale Bultemeier lunched at Subway where employees joined the awareness efforts. Optometrist offices, oncologist offices, and a UPS crew all participated along side patients and caregivers. We thank you for your participation, your fundraising, and willingness to educate your communities about ocular melanoma.



Warrior Update

3rd Annual Colonial 200

For the third year, team OMF participated in the 200 mile relay from Charlottesville, VA to Williamsburg, VA. Each mile represented 10 new OM diagnosis in the US annually. This year's team dedicated their run to current OM patients. The team spread awareness by wearing "See A Cure" shirts, handing out "See a Cure" magnets, and telling everyone about ocular melanoma!

When one of the team members fell and injured herself during her last set of miles, she chose to push on, instead of giving up. She felt encouraged by all the OM patients who are also pushing on and not giving up.



Best Friends Raise Funds and OM Awareness

Izzy and Sarah are best friends. When Izzy's father, an avid runner, passed away of OM, Sarah gifted her friend with registration to the National Women's Half Marathon. They chose to run the event together to honor Izzy's dad and raise funds for a cure.

They surpassed their fundraising goal of \$2000!

Izzy explains that one of her father's most gratifying moments as a runner and veteran was running the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington DC. She said, "I couldn't imagine any other city I'd rather run 13.1 miles specifically for this cause."

Izzy and Sarah are a shining example of friendship and support. We applaud their courage, their commitment, and their incredible efforts.



Are you Interested in Raising Awareness and Funds for OM Research?

One quick and easy way to raise awareness or fundraise is to use a sleek online fundraising tool such as Crowdrise. If you have questions or need help setting this up, contact us at info@ocularmelanoma.org.

Do you want to Host 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.). We can also work alongside you to ensure your event raises awareness of OM and funds for OMF research initiatives. Fill out a [Warrior Worksheet](#) or contact us directly at info@ocularmelanoma.org and let's get started!

Spring 2018 Pictures



Bowling Party in Australia for Eye Patch Day!



Dean McGee Eye Institute in Oklahoma City participates in Eye Patch Day



Goodies and Bake Sale for Eye Patch Day



OMF booth at the AACR annual meeting in Chicago