



*A Word From Founder Catherine Poole ...*

**LOOKING FORWARD**

First, let me thank you for making 2009 a success. In a year where corporate donations disappeared, you were there to keep us funded with your donations! We are continued to be amazed by your generosity and strive to spend your dollars judiciously.  
 We hope you will share our New Year's resolutions for 2010!

The happy news is the Department of Defense or (DoD) has finally recognized melanoma as a disease worth funding thanks to our collaboration with Congressman Charles Dent. Next week I will be reviewing the first proposals for this congressionally directed grant money along with scientists and fellow researchers.

- **Our first resolution is to double 2010 melanoma research funding from the DoD. You can help by urging your representative in Congress to support this funding!**

MIF focuses on what makes a difference NOW.

- **In that vein we plan to double our locations for free screenings, so more melanoma will be found early when it is curable. Let us know if you'd like to plan one in your community.**

Everyday through our hotline and forum, we tell patients about new treatment trials and therapies. Although it isn't easy, we intend to:

- **Stay on top of research about traditional therapies and new cutting edge treatments**

Our forum has been an incredible success with over 1000 members registered from all over the world. But still we'd like to:

- **Deepen our outreach both on the internet and in person with our innovative education programs for all ages**

Tanning salons should be illegal. The causal affect of these tanning lamps and melanoma is direct and substantial.

- **We strongly support a tax on tanning salons that ensures the funds are reinvested in melanoma early detection and youth education such as our Prom Pledge. sm**

Finally, we exist because of you . Please help us with these resolutions. Write your representatives, school districts and local media and tell them your melanoma story. Tell your neighbors and your friends to examine their skin regularly. One voice carries enormous influence. You can help us make a difference in melanoma awareness.



## What You Can DO...

The Tanning Bed Cancer Control Act, HR945 a key piece of bipartisan legislation that would expand federal regulation of tanning beds with the aim of limiting the strength of the UV rays emitted by tanning beds and the time consumers may be exposed to harmful radiation.

You can help by contacting your Congressman or Representative and let them know you support this all-important piece of legislation!



# Save the Date...

**SAFE FROM THE SUN WALK & 5K RUN**

**APRIL 25, 2010 9 am**

**Villanova University - Villanova, PA**

**Register NOW at [www.safefromthesun.org](http://www.safefromthesun.org)**

## Meet MIF's Newest Scientific Advisory Board Members

**MIF introduces 3 new members to our world renowned advisory board.**



### **Dr. Gary Schwartz**

Dr. Schwartz is the Chief of Melanoma and Sarcoma Service at Sloan -Kettering Cancer Center. He is involved in many important melanoma therapy research projects including the B-raf agents. Dr. Schwartz is a highly regarded scientist and clinician who has many peer reviewed publications under his belt.

### **Dr. Omid Hamid**

Dr. Hamid is the Director of Neuro-Oncology Center, Associate Director of the Melanoma Program and the Associate Chief of Research at the Angeles Clinic and Research Institute in Santa Monica, California. While most investigators don't recruit melanoma patients with brain metastasis, Dr. Hamid welcomes them. He has many clinical trials ongoing at the Angeles Clinic for Melanoma.

### **Dr. Suraj S. Venna**

Dr. Venna is the Director of the Melanoma Center at The Washington Cancer Institute. He was a full-time faculty member at UCSF as an Assistant Director of Dermatology and also was the Director of the Pigmented Lesion Clinic and Associate of the Melanoma Center. Dr. Venna was awarded teacher of the year in both 2008 and 2009 .

## Spotlight on SEED's

**Be sure to visit**  
**[www.safefromthesun.org](http://www.safefromthesun.org)**  
**to see a complete list of**  
**MIF's Scientific Advisory**  
**Board.**

## THE POWER OF A TEAM

*Camaraderie, support, friendship...* All part of the power of a team!

Whether you're attending a large MIF Event or creating your own, consider creating a team. Creating a team can help you reach fundraising goals, bring in more participants and a instill sense of support and friendship.

Some great creative ideas for teams...

- Make Team T-shirts
- Create a Team Banner
- Set Team Goals for fundraising and participants
  - Write a Team Story
- Appoint Co-Leaders for your Team to increase the fun & the results

