MELANOMA FACTS

- About 76,100 new cases of melanoma will be diagnosed in 2014, and 9,710 will be expected to die (6,470 men and 3,240 women)
- The majority of those diagnosed are Caucasian men over age 50, but it can occur at any age
- Melanoma is 20 times more common in Caucasians than African-Americans
- Melanoma in African-Americans and Asians usually occurs in non-exposed skin with less pigment — especially the palms, soles, and nail-beds
- Melanoma is the fifth most common cancer in males and sixth in females
- Only breast cancer outranks melanoma in women under age 39
- Melanoma is the most common cancer in adults ages 15–29
- Melanoma can develop on any part of the body including non-sun-exposed areas
- The majority of cases, but not all, are due to gene mutation from ultraviolet light exposure
- Most melanomas arise on normal skin and not in pre-existing moles
- Women under age 40 are 8 times more likely to develop melanoma now than in 1970, and men are 4 times more likely
- Indoor tanning is a contributing factor to the development of melanoma
- The lifetime risk in Caucasians is 2%, 0.1% in African-Americans, and 0.5% in Hispanics

RISK FACTORS

- Light skin type (easier tendency to burn)
- Ultraviolet light exposure
- One or more childhood blistering sunburns raises the risk significantly
- Large number of irregular moles
- Family history of melanoma
- Indoor tanning
- 8–10 fold increased risk for melanoma survivors to develop a second atypical nevus or melanoma
- Incidence increases with age — the average age of diagnosis is 61

TO SUPPORT RESEARCH

KINDLY SEND DONATIONS TO:

American Skin Association
6 East 43rd Street, 28th Floor
New York, NY 10017

212-889-4858 | americanskin.org
Kathleen Reichert, Executive Vice President
Kathleen@americanskin.org

Your contribution will be designated for MELANOMA

American Skin Association
americanskin.org

AMERICAN SKIN ASSOCIATION

has awarded more than 200 grants to scientists and has committed over $11 million to advance dermatological research. It has also provided free instruction in sun safety and skin health to over 12 million children, teachers, and parents through award-winning, national public school programs such as The Wonders of Skin: Looking Good, Being Healthy.
MELANOMA HAS BECOME 
AN EPIDEMIC

The rate of melanoma has been rising for the past 30 years. The number of cases of melanoma worldwide is increasing faster than any other malignancy. It now ranks as the fifth most common cancer in men and sixth in women.

Each hour, someone dies from melanoma. Although it is most commonly found in males over age 50, it can occur at any age. About one in 50 people in the United States will develop melanoma in their lifetime.

If detected early, melanoma is easily treated, and the cure rate is about 98%. Both the clinical and histopathologic diagnosis can be extremely difficult. American Skin Association (ASA) is dedicated to trying to reverse this melanoma epidemic by providing grants to fund research projects. Since its inception, it has awarded money to over 200 investigators ranging from senior medical researchers to medical students.

Unfortunately, federal research money is drying up. The economics of medicine are forcing many who might have entered research to become clinicians. Providing seed money and encouragement to young investigators can help reverse this trend.

I firmly believe in the goals of ASA, and I can assure you any contribution to this organization will be well spent. It might even save your life!

Many, many thanks,

Philip G. Prioleau, M.D.
President, American Skin Association