



A Special Invitation to Give...

Ocular melanoma is an “orphan cancer.”

What is an “orphan cancer?”

Each year in the United States, there are approximately:

266,120 new breast cancer diagnoses

164,690 new prostate cancer diagnoses

2,500 new ocular melanoma diagnoses

The American Cancer Association defines a “rare or orphan cancer” as any cancer, or rare disease, having *fewer than 6 diagnoses per 100,000 population annually.*

Ocular melanoma is an orphan cancer because there are only *5 diagnoses per 1,000,000 population annually.*

You may never have heard of ocular melanoma.

Ocular melanoma is the leading cancer of the eye. It targets approximately 2,500 Americans every year and there is, currently, no cure. Fifty-percent of those diagnosed will see their disease metastasize to other parts of their body, which is usually fatal.

Last year, Marla Avery, a founding board member of A Cure In Sight, passed away at the age of 47 after living for 7 years with metastatic ocular melanoma. She left behind her husband and 8-year-old daughter. To save her life, she had her eye removed, hoping to stop the cancer from spreading through her blood to other organs. Sadly, the cancer spread to her liver and eventually took her life. She was a fierce warrior for her family and enrolled in several drug trials, but she ultimately lost her courageous fight.

As shown by the numbers, ocular melanoma has a small patient population. **That is why your funding partnership with us to find a cure is so important.** Pharmaceutical companies have remained distant in researching ocular melanoma. Why? Because there is “no profit” in providing cancer research for such a small cancer patient population.

A Cure In Sight's **GENERAL FUND** supports patient programs for the most requested areas of patient need:

Financial Assistance

ACIS provides financial support to qualified in-need patients to help cover the enormous costs of their treatments. Our goal is to someday ensure that every patient receives top quality care.

*"ACIS taught me about my diagnosis and my follow-up treatments. I also benefited with financial aid from ACIS when my funds were tight. I am so grateful for the caring community ACIS provides OM-ie's like me."
--Rachel Campbell, Ocular Melanoma Patient*

Intercept and Educate

ACIS ocular melanoma educational brochures are placed in ophthalmology and optometrist offices across the US. They contain the most up-to-date information available to patients, providing medical information and resource information to connect patients with others.

*"Ocular melanoma treatment is not uniform across the US. Many patients are not informed about treatment options and the importance of DNA biopsy testing. This testing information, along with connection to patient support sites, are key features of the ACIS Patient Educational Brochure."
--Jack Odell, ACIS VP, Director of Special Projects*

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Care Companions

ACIS can provide a veteran ocular melanoma patient to help newly diagnosed ocular melanoma patients and their caregivers navigate their treatment journey. Companions provide social and emotional support, so newly diagnosed cancer patients feel they are less alone.

"After my Proton Beam treatment, I asked the radiologist if any patient would be willing to talk with me. Two days later my world changed. A care companion from ACIS called. He helped me normalize my experiences with Ocular Melanoma. He connected me with the private patient-only Facebook pages and I felt connected with other OM-ers. A safety net was established for me."

--Anne Osborn, Ocular Melanoma Patient, Psychotherapist, Novelist

About A Cure In Sight

A Cure In Sight (ACIS), founded in 2013, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to support ocular melanoma patients and their families. Through our outreach partnerships, website, and social media, ACIS provides clear and reliable educational information to patients and their caregivers to help them learn more about their disease, treatment options, and clinical trials that may improve their prognosis.

<https://acureinsight.org>

A Cure In Sight's **RESEARCH FUND** seeks to finance forward-thinking ocular melanoma research projects.

Our history of supporting and educating patients has opened doors to the nation's top medical specialists and researchers in the field. We are partnered with Dr. Hartmut Stecher, a former pharmaceutical laboratory researcher and Principal of CancerTreatmentNavigator.com, to consult and guide our choices. Under the direction of our Special Projects committee, our team vets proposed projects and investigators. We work directly with labs to design, contract, and schedule the work with milestone dates. These dates allow intermittent laboratory progress review by Dr. Stecher, who authorizes payments for ACIS, ensuring our projects stay on track and on schedule.

We have been able to negotiate "no fee" research, paying no university or research institute fees due to our "orphan cancer" standing.

We are thrilled to announce that this past year ACIS initiated a new \$100,000, 1-year project with the Harbour Laboratory at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami. We have more promising research projects that need funding.

We truly believe that, with your help, we will see
A Cure In Sight

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