

## Melanoma Walk 2013 was a grand success!!!

The Skin Cancer Institute hosted the 4th annual Melanoma Walk on Nov 2, 2013. We had over 400 walkers participate, and raised almost \$55,000 for the cause! In addition, our wonderful community doctors screened 75 individuals for skin cancer. The event was a grand success! Our numbers continue to grow every year.

*"It was a heartfelt day for us... hearing the stories from the friends and families and survivors of melanoma, watching the proud walkers waving signs of support, and seeing all the smiling faces and hearing their cheering voices!"*

Robin Harris - SCI Co-Director

Congratulations to all that attended the walk! Thank you to all our volunteers that generously gave their time to make the event so special.



*The day remembered with a portrait.*



*Ray met a lot of new folks!*



*Spirits were high!!*

### Walk Path Tales

The Melanoma Walk gives people an opportunity to come together and share their stories. The SCI wants to share those heartfelt stories of love and compassion!

#### Angela's Story

Approximately 3 years ago, Angela was diagnosed with melanoma skin cancer. She went through 3 surgeries and a year of chemotherapy. Her cancer is now in remission. Since her diagnosis, Angela has participated in the SCI's Melanoma Walk every year. Here is her story: "I come from a large and loving family, most of whom in some way participate in the Melanoma Walk, through donations or participating in the event itself. This includes my 13 year old niece, Kayla, who flew out to Arizona this year with her mom and dad to participate in the walk. Not only did Kayla fly across the country to support me in the walk, but she raised \$1,030.24 over the past year in cupcake sales which was donated to The University of Arizona Cancer Center Skin Cancer Institute on the day of the walk. She made 837 cupcakes total and sold them at school, church and her mom's daycare center. This amazing little girl, who voluntarily and through the goodness of her heart and love of her aunt, baked and sold cupcakes for more than a year in preparation for the Melanoma Walk 2013."



## *The SCI Thanks You!*



Julia Olson came to the SCI in 2010 as a student worker and quickly became an integral part of our community and school outreach teams. "Working at the SCI for the past 3 years has given me so many opportunities to grow as a student and as a health educator. Sun safety has always been a priority for me, and I will continue to educate my patients about sunscreen and skin cancer as a pharmacist. I'm thankful for the chance to work with all of the

wonderful people at the SCI, and I hope to keep in contact with everyone!" Thanks for everything Julia. You will be missed!

Lynne Morrison has been an amazing volunteer since the SCI was created back in 2005. She offers her energy and commitment to many of our community events and is an endless help to us. No matter what is needed, she always comes through. We appreciate everything you have done for us and continue to do every day. Thanks for all that you do Lynne!



## *Year-End Giving*

Think of the Skin Cancer Institute this year for your holiday donations!

All funds help move forward the mission of the Skin Cancer Institute to prevent and cure skin cancer.

Visit: [azskincancerinstitute.org](http://azskincancerinstitute.org) to make a donation.

## SEED GRANT WINNERS 2013-2014

The clinicians and researchers at the Skin Cancer Institute are committed to generating new ideas about skin cancer etiology, prevention and treatment....and then translating these ideas and discoveries from the laboratory into the clinic and into the community. We are also committed to growing new, successful researchers. A skin cancer-free future requires planning today for new ideas and trained researchers. These ideas and these researchers need research dollars and a supportive environment to flourish.

The 'Skin Cancer Seed Grant Research' competition is designed to help University of Arizona researchers test novel ideas for prevention, detection or treatment of melanoma and other skin cancers. These proposals are small grants designed to be 'seeds' to help new research ideas grow into larger research proposals that can be competitive for national funding and to help young investigators grow their careers. We have just completed the round of funding for this research grant opportunity.

Thanks to the generous support of the Melanoma Walk Fund, the Maltz Foundation, the Joanne Isbrecht memorial fund, and our own Dr. Lois Loesch, the SCI is pleased to announce the three winners of this year's competition for 2013-2014. We received eight excellent research proposals and we managed to fund, or partially fund, three of the proposals.

### Recipients

Yira Bermudez, PhD, MBA



### Project Title

"Balancing the Angiogenic Scale for the Early Diagnosis of Melanoma"

Myra Muramoto, MD, MPH



"Preliminary Studies for Massage Therapist Education in Skin Cancer Early Detection and Sun Safety Education"

Joshua D Williams, PhD



"Assessment of Metformin as a Reactive Scavenger for the Chemoprevention of Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer"