



Cancer Center
Skin Cancer Institute

Newsletter

Fall Issue 2025

Fight Melanoma Event is for Everyone!

Join us for the 3rd Annual Fight Melanoma Golf Tournament and luncheon on November 8th at Omni Tucson National Resort in Tucson. This event raises funds to help us continue our efforts in skin cancer research, prevention, education, patient support, and community outreach.

Rates of skin cancer are still rising and our mission to prevent and detect this devastating disease is still so important for the health and well-being of our community. Most skin cancer can be avoided through sun safety, and most complications from skin cancer can be avoided through early detection. The vision of the SCI is to reduce skin cancer incidence through increasing public awareness of sun safety and skin cancer detection.

Even if you are not a golfer, you can join us for a poster session and luncheon with presentations on skin cancer. Jason DuPont, MD will present on Mohs surgery for skin cancer, and Dylan Miller, MPH, PhD will present on ultraviolet exposure in athletes. There will also be a silent auction and an opportunity to win raffle prizes.

Visit fightmelanomatoday.org for more information, or scan the QR code below to register for the event.



Congratulations Seed Grant Winners!

The Seed Grant research competition is designed to help researchers test novel ideas for prevention, detection, or treatment of skin cancer. Funds for this annual competition come from donors like you. Thank you!

Sally Dickinson, PhD

Confirming a novel role of PD-L1 in the regulation of UV-induced skin inflammation

Lab of Karen Hastings, MD, PhD & Erin Thornley, DO

Evaluating structural correlates of immunogenicity through non-anchor residue modifications of a cSCC neoantigen

Russell Witte, PhD

Short-wave Photoacoustic Imaging of Basal Cell Carcinoma



We offer sun safety presentations for middle and high school students as well as community members.

Learn more about offering a skin cancer prevention workshop for your workplace, or a lesson at your child's school today.

Contact the SCI Outreach Director Dylan Miller by email at dylanmiller@arizona.edu.

Research News



Sally Dickinson, PhD, has won a prestigious grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC)—like squamous cell and basal cell carcinoma—is the most common type of cancer in the U.S., yet it often doesn't get the attention or resources it deserves. Dr. Dickinson's project focuses on stopping these cancers before they start. She and her team will study real human skin samples to find early warning signals of NMSC—specific immune proteins that show up as skin goes from healthy to sun-damaged, and eventually to precancerous lesions. By identifying these signals, they will hopefully develop a new kind of prevention called immunoprevention, which uses the body's own defenses to block cancer before it forms.

This research could lead to safe, effective topical treatments that protect high-risk individuals—like transplant recipients or people with chronic sun exposure—long before surgery or chemotherapy becomes necessary. With support, we can turn this science into real-world solutions that improve lives and reduce healthcare costs. Dr. Dickinson received SCI seed grant funds which helped support early studies for this national grant. We are so proud to help scientists further their research in skin cancer. Congratulations Dr. Dickinson!



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