



Newsletter

MISSION:
PREVENT AND
CURE SKIN
CANCER

WALK UPDATE

The Melanoma Walk was held on October 30th, and in person this year! It was a great day of reunions and renewed energy for the fight against melanoma and **all** skin cancers.

Over 130 people came out to walk, 11 teams were formed, 10 major cash sponsors participated, and we had many more in-kind donations. We also had our free skin cancer screening before the Walk and found a few potential skin cancers! Thank you to our Department of Dermatology and community providers for donating your time!

We have raised over \$40,000 and donations are still coming in! The Melanoma Walk raises funds to support skin cancer research, outreach and awareness, and also provides an opportunity to support our friends and family members affected by melanoma.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Walk this year. Without our volunteers and supporters, we could not do what we do!



Team Myers STRONG



Team John Rocks fist bump

You can still visit the Walk website to learn more and donate today! fightmelanomatoday.org

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE SCI

The Skin Cancer Institute (SCI) would like to thank you for helping us in our work towards preventing and curing skin cancer. We strive to make our community sun safe and skin cancer free through programs like Project SASS (Students are Sun Safe), which educates students on how to protect themselves from skin cancer, and the Protect Your Skin sunscreen program. We also have an annual 'seed grant' program which supports novel research, and our physicians are conducting clinical trials in skin cancer prevention and treatment and providing patient care in multiple skin cancer clinics.

For your year-end giving, please consider making a donation to help us in the fight against skin cancer. Visit us at azskincancerinstitute.org to learn more.

Best wishes from all of us at the SCI for a wonderful holiday season!

A
HAPPY
HOLI-
DAYS
TO
YOU

PROJECT SASS NEWS

Fun in the Sun...
WITHOUT DAMAGE

DID YOU KNOW!!

1 in 5 Americans will get skin cancer during their lifetime?

- The average age of people when diagnosed with Skin Cancer is **65!!**

Chris Tran, an MPH student enrolled in the Project SASS (Students Are Sun Safe) class offered by the SCI, has identified a need for increased sun safety education in older adults in Arizona. The American Cancer Society states that the average age of melanoma diagnosis is 65, and Arizona averages 1,317 cases of melanoma in individuals 65 and older each year. To address this need in our community, Chris has created educational materials and distributed them to areas often visited by this population such as golf courses, retirement communities, and adult recreational centers. Chris has also created a working relationship with these facilities and plans to

continue to design and implement interventions to educate this population on the importance of avoiding the sun, covering up when avoidance is not possible, and examining their skin to allow for early detection of melanoma.



TEAM HIGHLIGHT

Edgar Tapia is a PhD candidate in the UA Cancer Biology Graduate Interdisciplinary Program. He won a seed grant from the SCI this spring, and is working on a pilot study using genomics to target the prevention of non-melanoma skin cancer. He is studying whether new molecular technologies will be useful in treating and even halting the progression of certain skin cancers. We're so excited to hear about Edgar's findings in the coming months. We're proud to have him on our team, working to prevent and cure skin cancer!