

FY21 MRP Challenge Statement

The Melanoma Research Program (MRP) challenges the research community to redefine the concept of prevention. The clinical, research, and patient communities traditionally view prevention as the use of sunscreen/blockers to protect melanocytes from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation. While recognizing the usefulness of current primary prevention strategies (e.g. sunscreens and UV avoidance), the MRP tasks the research community to redefine prevention to include the entire melanomagenesis process and for all variants of melanoma. In recognizing that melanomagenesis is a multi-step process, a new paradigm of prevention may include detection, monitoring, and impeding the initiation and progression of primary melanoma, blocking emergence from tumor dormancy and development of micro-metastases. Each step along the disease process from initiation to metastasis is an opportunity to detect, monitor, or for innovative therapeutic modalities to stop disease progression. The MRP challenges the research community to prevent melanoma earlier in the disease cycle thus preventing metastasis. The MRP looks to shift the paradigm of prevention of all types of melanoma by investing in research studies focused on eliminating the development and progression of cutaneous or a rare melanoma subtype.