

Emerging Molecular Markers in Uveal Melanoma and Implications for Treatment

**Sunday, November 17, 2013
Philadelphia, PA**

Summary

The Cancer Diagnosis Program (CDP) from the NCI and the Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) jointly organized a day workshop entitled “Emerging Molecular Markers in Uveal Melanoma (UM) and Implications for Treatment: Current Status and Future Directions”, Philadelphia, November 17th, 2013. This workshop was partially sponsored by the Office of Rare Diseases at NIH. Another foundation, Society for Melanoma Research (SRM) provided logistic support to hold the workshop in association with the Annual Melanoma Congress that took place in Philadelphia, November 18-20th.

The goal of the meeting was to discuss molecular markers for UM diagnosis, prediction of recurrence and response to therapy and potential novel treatments. UM, though rare, is the most common and a highly aggressive form of adult eye cancer for which there is no treatment. The meeting focus was twofold: 1) Molecular markers to identify distinct molecular subtypes that comprise UM to select patients who will best respond to effective therapies that may depend upon these markers and 2) Emerging insights from the biology of UM that potentially will lead to the development of a series of clinical trials in both metastatic and adjuvant setting.

The expected outcome was to build a collaborative, international framework for future translational applications directed toward improved classification system and therapy for individuals with UM. In addition, a set of specific challenges and research priorities for improved outcome for UM patients, specifically to promote stratification of patients for marker driven clinical trials in UM was identified. Based on identified priorities a report from the meeting containing recommendations for the field is planned to be published this year.