



MILKEN INSTITUTE

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September 22, 2017

Mr. Jeffrey Epstein
9 East 71st Street
New York, NY 10021-4102
United States

Dear Jeffrey,

In 2007, when my friend, Debra Black, was diagnosed with melanoma, there were not many treatment options: fewer than 20% of those with late stage melanoma were expected to live five years. Debra's immediate priority, of course, was attending to her personal health needs. But very soon, she and her husband, Leon, began to think about what they could do to advance progress against melanoma in ways that would help the millions of others at risk for this devastating disease. They asked for advice based on our experience with medical research and public health programs since the 1970s and our work with a broad range of disease-specific research organizations. In the wake of our conversations, and under the auspices of Milken Institute, the Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) was born – the largest non-profit funder of melanoma research.

In the 10 years since, Debra and Leon have committed more than \$50 million to melanoma research. Through the Black's investment in MRA, and with additional dollars raised, MRA has awarded \$88 million in research grants and leveraged an additional \$89 million from government and industry support toward melanoma research. MRA has driven greatly expanded melanoma treatment options. Since its founding, patients have moved from just two FDA-approved melanoma treatments to 13 with more on the way. And today, with these advances, the percentage of patients with late-stage melanoma surviving past five years has DOUBLED. In fact, some of the most effective treatments first approved in melanoma (checkpoint immunotherapies) are now being used to treat seven other cancers and tested on dozens more.

In short, MRA has transformed the research landscape for cancer. Still, there is much work to be done. While Debra and Leon stay deeply committed, they cannot do it alone.

On Nov. 2nd, MRA will celebrate its 10-year anniversary at their Sotheby's event (www.curemelanoma.org/Celebrate10). At the event, we'll be asking our friends to help keep the momentum going by supporting melanoma research. **And, Debra and Leon have agreed to match every dollar raised at the Sotheby's event** so that all gifts will double in value, just as MRA has helped to double the survival rate of melanoma patients.

If you've not already responded for the Sotheby's event, I hope you will do so; and whether or not you're able to attend, I hope you'll consider a gift to MRA as we celebrate 10 years of treatment advances and power the research forward. Please reach out to Joan Russo at MRA to discuss a potential gift, or if you know others that may want to participate. She can be reached at 908-216-2224 or jrusso@curemelanoma.org.

Sincerely,

Michael Milken
MRA Board Member
Chairman, Milken Institute