



Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2013

New Officers to Lead Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation *Robert E. Nicolay, Founder & Chairman Retires – Regina Bodnar Elected to Chair*

Westminster, MD – The [Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation](http://www.melanomaresource.org) (JMNMF) announces the retirement of Robert E. Nicolay, JMNMF Founder and Chairman, as new officers were elected to serve at the Foundation's annual January business meeting. To lead the Foundation's Board of Directors, as first to succeed R. Nicolay since the charity's creation in 2004, is newly-elected Chair, Regina Shannon Bodnar of Sykesville, Md., a personal friend of Joanna's, and an original founding board member.

Elected to Vice-Chair is Debbie Brown of Timonium, Md., a stage II melanoma survivor since 2001 and board member since 2010. Serving as Secretary/Treasurer is Denise Nicolay Safko of Sykesville, Md., Joanna's only daughter, and also a founding member.

Re-elected to continue in new three-year terms are JMNMF Board members: Susan Bancroft of Lutherville, Md., a personal friend of Joanna's and original founding member; Martha Rushford Herman of Frederick, Md., a member since 2007, and whose mother is currently battling stage IV melanoma; and, Jennifer Martin of Sparks, Md., a member since April 2004 and a melanoma survivor since 2000, with the disease having traveled to a lymph node while pregnant and Martin given a 50-50 chance of survival.

Following the death of his wife, Joanna, in March 2003, after a prolonged battle with melanoma skin cancer, Robert E. Nicolay of Finksburg, Md., launched the non-profit charity, dedicated to melanoma education, advocacy and research, with family and friends in January 2004. In just nine years, the organization has experienced dramatic growth to become an influential voice in the melanoma skin cancer community and is now established as a national "voice for melanoma prevention, detection, care and cure."

Departing the Foundation, Nicolay expressed, "Our Foundation's accomplishments have been invaluable at both the national and grassroots levels – to specifically grow interest in melanoma research by young graduate students, educate our youth and the general public on the dangers of UV-radiation, and provide comprehensive melanoma patient and caregiver resources. We're that much closer to better understanding melanoma, identifying the means for effective treatments and, most importantly, finding a cure for this deadly and very prevalent disease. I'm pleased to have served and witnessed the JMNMF become the renowned charity it's become to undertake this mission and achieve numerous goals."

Also, resigning from service on the Board is former Treasurer, Nancy Nicolay, board member since Jan. 2010 and spouse of Robert Nicolay. The entire JMNMF Board of Directors heartily join the community of patients, families, doctors and caregivers, to extend the highest level of commendation, acknowledgement and gratitude for their service.

The Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation

...the voice for melanoma prevention, detection, care and cure!



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New JMNMF Chair, Regina Bodnar is the Director of Clinical Services for Gilchrist Hospice Care and is an RN with more than a quarter century experience in oncology nursing, hospice care and nursing administration. As Director of Clinical Services, she is responsible for overseeing all clinical disciplines at Gilchrist – nursing, social work and chaplaincy. She received her certification in Palliative and Hospice Care Nursing in 2000. And besides now leading the JMNMF, Bodnar also currently serves as the President of the Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland.

“The JMNMF is an organization balanced on the watershed of change,” stated Bodnar at the Foundation’s meeting, “in significant provision of a broad spectrum of essential advocacy and care resources for patients, caregivers and the entire melanoma community. Likewise, in our ongoing targeted initiatives to ensure broad national awareness for melanoma prevention and detection by the general public. I’ve witnessed the organization becoming a vital member of the melanoma community, and genuinely appreciate the opportunity to serve, with the Board, to fulfill an unquestionably bright future as well.”

Vice-Chair Debbie Brown was diagnosed with two melanomas in 2001 at the age of 37 and has had additional surgeries to remove pre-cancerous growths, as well as numerous biopsies and diagnosis of severe dysplastic nevi syndrome. With the help of a fantastic dermatologist and surgeon, she remains in good health and has stock in purple and pink sutures, as well as Scooby Doo band-aids. Brown currently is Director, Marketing & Communications for Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland (MOWCM) which provides nutritious meals to more than 740,000 homebound individuals on an annual basis. Prior to MOWCM, she was the Public Relations Manager at the Fire Museum of Maryland for 12 years and the first three years of her career were served as the Public Information Specialist for the Md. State Highway Administration directly reporting to then Governor Schaefer. Brown is a member of Maryland Non-Profits, Public Relations Society of America and the National Association of Catering Executives.

Secretary/Treasurer Denise Nicolay Safko, has been employed for 13 years by Arbitron, Inc., an international media and marketing research firm serving the media, advertising agencies and advertisers around the world, and is the Director of PPM Product Management. Safko, having formerly worked for 16 years with USF&G and St. Paul Insurance Companies, is also Certified Property Casualty Underwriter and Certified Information Systems Auditor (non-practicing) and earned a BS and MS in Computer Science.

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ABOUT: JOANNA M. NICOLAY MELANOMA FOUNDATION

The [Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation](http://www.melanomaresource.org) is a non-profit public charity founded in January, 2004 to foster melanoma education, advocacy and research. In just nine years, the Foundation has grown dramatically to become an influential voice in the melanoma community and is now established as a national, and international, “voice for melanoma prevention, detection, care and cure.”

The Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation is proud of [numerous achievements to date](#) that include:

- Underwriting melanoma research at numerous prestigious cancer centers across the U.S., through the Foundation’s Research Scholarship Awards (RSA) earned by the best and brightest young graduate student scientists, to advance discovery of effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure for melanoma;
- Successfully launching and expanding a comprehensive High School health curriculum, “Teen Skin Cancer & Melanoma Awareness,” for the key demographic of students (and their families), to learn the deadly risks of melanoma skin cancer and “UV-safe” preventative and detection practices;
- Ongoing targeted initiatives, and multi-channel outreach, to ensure broader national awareness of melanoma prevention and detection by the general public; and,
- Providing a broad spectrum of essential advocacy and care resources for patients and the entire melanoma community.