

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**In the Fight Against Melanoma Cancer, SJCI Establishes
Borstein Family Melanoma Program
*Supported by Large Philanthropic Gift, Program Aims to
Advance Melanoma Research, Treatment***

SANTA MONICA (TBD) – Thanks to a substantial and generous donation from the Borstein Family Foundation, Saint John's Cancer Institute (SJCI) is better positioned to advance melanoma research and treatment with the establishment of its Borstein Family Melanoma Program.

On the heels of the large philanthropic gift, the Borstein Family Melanoma Program will fund and support a team of cutting-edge researchers who are looking to advance immunotherapy treatments and find a cure for metastatic melanoma. The program also will work toward hosting the inaugural Borstein Family Melanoma Symposium with the hope of bringing clinical experts in melanoma together to discuss treatment breakthroughs and publish a clinical paper on their findings.

Melanoma is the most aggressive and dangerous form of skin cancer, as well as the fifth most common cancer in the U.S. with an expected 100,000 new cases and an estimated 7,000 deaths this year. In California alone, it is projected there will be as many as 11,000 new cases in 2022. This disease is increasing in incidence faster than any other cancer, making it a significant health crisis for our community.

“There’s an awful lot of research to be done. You always have a hope of eliminating a disease in one form or another, and making treatment safer and quicker,” said Alan Borstein, patriarch of

the Borstein Family Foundation. "SJCI has one of the best-known melanoma programs in the world and we believe that with their history of innovation and their team of researchers — led by Dr. Maria Ascierto, Dr. Richard Essner and Dr. Kim Margolin — that great advancements will be made over the next five years."

Since its establishment in 1991, SJCI has been a pioneer in cancer treatment, and is home to numerous world-renown researchers and physicians. Its mission is dedicated to the understanding, diagnosis and innovative treatment of cancer to eliminate patient suffering and prolong survival.

"Over the years, SJCI has put itself on the map as one of the best places to receive cancer treatment thanks to the tireless efforts and advancements of our world-class physicians," Providence Saint John's Health Center Chief Executive Michael Ricks said. "We're truly humbled by the Borstein Family Foundation's contributions and we hope we can repay their generosity by advancing treatment, and possibly even finding a cure, for this pervasive disease."

The Melanoma Program at SJCI was launched in 1991, by the late Donald L. Morton, M.D. Under Dr. Morton's leadership, SJCI broke barriers in cancer research and treatment, and devised a procedure that has become the standard of care for melanoma and breast cancer across the globe — the Sentinel Node Biopsy. By rendering certain operations unnecessary, this technique has been estimated to save the U.S. health care system approximately \$3.8 billion a year, and has significantly reduced patient suffering.

Thanks to the Borstein Family gift, SJCI is poised to make even greater advancements in the next stage of immune-based treatments. Their research aims to predict which patients with early-stage melanoma will recur by using novel techniques to identify fragments of genetic material in blood and tissue samples. These techniques will then be applied in patients with advanced melanoma to help physicians select an optimal therapy for treatment. Researchers will also seek to enhance understanding of the deficits in immune function that produce primary and secondary resistance to immune therapy and will employ experimental

immunologic imaging of patients to gain an understanding of how immune cells enter tumors and thus guide therapy.

“The Borstein family has been a loyal and generous friend to Providence Saint John’s for many years,” said Robert O. Klein, president and chief executive officer of the Saint John’s Health Center Foundation. “We applaud the Borsteins for their thorough and thoughtful philanthropy and we thank them for making it possible for us to do even greater work to mitigate a dangerous disease.”

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About Saint John’s Health Center Foundation:

The Saint John’s Health Center Foundation provides leadership and philanthropic support for Providence Saint John’s Health Center, Saint John’s Cancer Institute and Pacific Neuroscience Institute, that serve as catalysts for exceptional healthcare and research.