



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH MELANOMA  
REMAIN LARGELY UNKNOWN**

*Cancer Support Community Launches Cancer Experience Registry: Melanoma*

WASHINGTON – (Feb. 26, 2015) – According to the National Cancer Institute, the number of people diagnosed with melanoma has been increasing for at least 30 years. To meet the needs of this growing population of people, the Cancer Support Community (CSC), an international nonprofit dedicated to providing support, education and hope to people impacted by cancer, launched today a new registry for people impacted by melanoma to study the social, emotional and financial impact of this diagnosis.

This new registry, Cancer Experience Registry: Melanoma, is an expansion of CSC's Cancer Experience Registry, which, since its launch in 2013, has collected over a million data points from more than 7,600 people who have ever been diagnosed with cancer. The project will provide a deeper insight into the needs of people impacted by a melanoma diagnosis in order to provide this community with unique resources and additional support.

"The number of individuals impacted by melanoma is growing rapidly, yet little is known about the needs of this community," said Kim Thiboldeaux, CEO of the Cancer Support Community. "The Cancer Experience Registry: Melanoma will enable CSC and the broader cancer community to understand the social, emotional and financial challenges associated with this disease and create solutions that are truly patient centered."

Participants in the Cancer Experience Registry: Melanoma will be asked a series of questions about their experiences, including questions about participants' experience with their health care team, understanding of treatment options and the impact their diagnosis had on their body image among other topics. After completing the survey, members will have the opportunity to compare their responses to the survey questions with other members of the community, get connected to support and resources that meet their unique needs and have the option to receive a monthly email newsletter.

"Bristol-Myers Squibb is committed to exploring new and innovative ways to help improve the lives of patients," said Joseph Leveque, MD, vice president, Oncology, U.S. Medical, Bristol-Myers Squibb. "We believe the Cancer Experience Registry will explore patient insights and concerns crucial to delivering care and support while helping to improve upon the dialogue among patients and their physicians that is unique to the melanoma community."

The Cancer Support Community would like to thank its partners in developing the Cancer Experience Registry: Melanoma including the Melanoma Research Alliance, AIM at Melanoma, Melanoma Research Foundation and Melanoma International Foundation.

For more information on the Cancer Experience Registry: Melanoma, or if you or someone you know has ever been impacted by a cancer diagnosis, please visit [www.CancerExperienceRegistry.org](http://www.CancerExperienceRegistry.org).

The Cancer Experience Registry: Melanoma was created thanks to support from Bristol-Myers Squibb.

### **About the Cancer Support Community**

The mission of the Cancer Support Community (CSC) is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. In 2009, The Wellness Community and Gilda's Club joined forces to become the Cancer Support Community. The combined organization, with more than 50 years of collective experience, provides the highest quality social and emotional support for people impacted by cancer through a network of more than 50 licensed Affiliates, more than 120 satellite locations and vibrant online and telephone communities, touching more than one million people each year.

Backed by evidence that the best cancer care includes social and emotional support, the Cancer Support Community offers these services free of charge to men, women and children with any type or stage of cancer, and to their loved ones. As the largest professionally led nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide, the Cancer Support Community delivers a comprehensive menu of personalized and essential services including support groups, educational workshops, exercise, art and nutrition classes and social activities for the entire family. Through cutting-edge psychosocial, behavioral and survivorship research, the Cancer Support Community's *Research and Training* Institute is helping CSC change the future of cancer care through education and training. The Cancer Support Community's *Cancer Policy Institute* ensures that the voices of 13.7 million cancer survivors and their families are heard in the nation's capital and state and local legislatures across the country. In 2014, the CSC network delivered nearly \$48 million in free services to patients and families. The Cancer Support Community is advancing the innovations that are becoming the standard in complete cancer care. So that no one faces cancer alone®.

For more information, please visit [www.CancerSupportCommunity.org](http://www.CancerSupportCommunity.org)

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