



# November Newsletter

**MELANOMA  
FOCUS**

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## Welcome to the November 2023 Melanoma Focus Newsletter

We hope our newsletter finds you well! With winter just around the corner we can be forgiven for putting sun protection to the back of our mind, but please remember to continue practising sun safety if you are going away over the winter period. Remember to keep up with your monthly skin checks to help you monitor any changes to your skin.

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## OUR MEMBERS ARE EXPERTS IN MELANOMA

### Focus on Melanoma Meeting 2023

We have recently held our annual Focus on Melanoma Healthcare Professional meeting organised by Professor Rowan Pritchard-Jones at the Royal College of Physicians. The atmosphere was once again buzzing as we were joined by our brilliant national and international speakers. This year's [Professor Martin Gore Memorial lecture](#) was delivered by the eminent Professor Charles Balch. The Virtual Melanoma Focus Regional Meeting organised by Dr Ricky Frazer will be held on Friday 17th May 2024- remember to save the date!



**Join the VATBurn Campaign**



We are joining Amy Callaghan, MP, along with other charities, clinicians, patients and cross-party MPs to write to the Prime Minister to ask him to remove factor 30+ sunscreen from VAT. This will make sunscreen more affordable and encourage more people to use it, potentially saving lives. It will highlight that sunscreen is **an essential healthcare item and not a luxury good.**

Our independent research showed that **67%** of people would use sunscreen more if it was **20%** cheaper and **10%** of people said that they didn't use sunscreen at all because of the cost. Melanoma Focus is also commissioning research to model the benefits of this removal further. You can show your support by signing the joint letter today!

[Sign the Joint Letter](#)

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**PUTTING PATIENTS AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO**

**SAVE THE DATE: Melanoma Patient Conference 2024**

We are extremely excited to announce that the 2024 Melanoma Patient Conference will be taking place on **Thursday 29th February- Friday 1st March 2024!** Registration for this event will be open soon!

Team Melanoma Focus and the MPC Founder, Imogen Cheese are currently in the process of planning next year's event and look forward to sharing more information with you all in due course!



In the meantime you can access the videos from this year's event by clicking [here](#).

[Learn about the Melanoma Patient Conference](#)

## Identifying patient research priorities in melanoma: A UK qualitative study



Rapid improvements in melanoma care over the last 10 years, due to targeted and immunotherapy treatments, have influenced the type of research that is being carried out for melanoma. It is important to make sure that research benefits patients and so this project, sponsored by the University of East Anglia and with some funding from Melanoma Focus, plans to interview patients across the UK to find out their views.

The interviews will be in person or online and the team are currently looking for patients, who have been diagnosed with cutaneous melanoma in the last ten years, to take part.

To take part, contact the study team (Dr Khaylen Mistry) by either:

- email [melanoma.qualitativestudy@uea.ac.uk](mailto:melanoma.qualitativestudy@uea.ac.uk)
- or, post a letter addressed to *Dr Khaylen Mistry, Dermatology Department, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, Colney Lane, Norwich, Norfolk, NR4 7UY*

[Click here for more information](#)

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## UPDATES FROM MELANOMA FOCUS

### BBC Lifeline Appeal- Total Raised

One of our big highlights this year was our BBC Lifeline Appeal which aired in May, during Melanoma Awareness Month. We have recently found out that our appeal raised **over £23,000!**

We couldn't be more grateful to everyone who tuned in and donated- your generous donations will help us continue our vital work.



We would like to say a special thank you to our two match funders; The Waterloo Foundation and The Alan Boswell Group. We would also like to take this opportunity to once again thank our brilliant presenter Owain Wyn Evans and the wonderful Jen, Lucy and Jess, without whom none of this would have been possible.

Watch the BBC Lifeline Appeal



### Welcome to the team Jenn!

We have recently welcomed Jenn McConnell to team Melanoma Focus.

Jenn holds the role of **Office and Events Manager**, leveraging her extensive decade-long background in charitable organisations, predominantly within Australia's health sector. Within her capacity, Jenn oversees the orchestration of the patient conference and the biannual professional educational meetings.



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## THE MELANOMA HELPLINE SERVICE

The [Melanoma Focus Helpline](#) enables specialist skin cancer nurses to offer support and guidance to melanoma patients and their families.

**This is only possible with your help.**

Please consider making a donation today to ensure our helpline nurses can continue to support melanoma patients when they need us most.



[Donate](#)

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