

Spotlight on Melanoma

An estimated 104,690 new cases of melanoma were diagnosed in the U.S. in 2025, making up approximately 5% of new cancer cases.

Melanoma is more common in men than women and primarily among non-Hispanic white individuals.



Our Impact on Melanoma Cancer Research

We've funded

49 grants totaling over \$19.9 million.

V Foundation funded researchers, over their careers, have:

Received

**373 grants and
\$6.08 billion in funding.**

Produced

**over 4,100
publications.**

Worked on

**28 clinical
trials.**

V Foundation Funded Researchers – Proven Positive Impact

- **Antoni Ribas, M.D.**, was awarded the \$1 million V Foundation-Gil Nickel Endowed Fellowship in Melanoma Research in 2007, a large investment into a career of melanoma research, and has since become an internationally recognized expert in the field.
- Dr. Ribas and others led the first human clinical trials with a breakthrough new therapy called Keytruda, an immunotherapy drug that assists a patient's immune system to attack cancer. This trial provided the basis for the FDA's first EVER approval for Keytruda in 2014 - specifically for patients with melanoma.
- Keytruda's approval was a huge advance in the field as it was the first drug of its kind to be approved. Keytruda is now used to treat over 15 different types of cancer, and other similar immunotherapy treatments have also been approved.
- Additionally, Keytruda improved both overall survival of patients with advanced melanoma, as well as progression-free survival for patients. This means that treatment with Keytruda stops tumors from growing or progressing, while allowing patients to live.



KEYTRUDA[®]