



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Melanoma Research Alliance Adds Five New Board Members  
to its Fight against Melanoma**

WASHINGTON, March 15, 2011 – The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA), which is dedicated to accelerating progress toward a cure, today announced the addition of five new members to its board of directors, including former U.S. Senator Connie Mack (R., Fla.), whose family has been touched repeatedly by melanoma. The new members, who represent entertainment, business and the arts, join a diverse board that is focused on eradicating the disease.

“We are fortunate that such a passionate, dedicated group of individuals join our cause,” said Debra Black, MRA’s co-founder and chair. “Each board member is dedicated to our mission of preventing, diagnosing, treating and ultimately curing melanoma.”

The group includes:

- **Maria Bell**, head writer and co-executive producer for *The Young and the Restless*. Bell spent many years as a television writer for shows including “*The Bold and the Beautiful*” as well as developing television shows for NBC and CBS. Before being named head writer, Bell spent four years as an essayist for publications such as “*T*” the *New York Times Style Magazine*, *C Magazine*, *Aspen Magazine* and *Aspen Peak Magazine*.
- **Susan Hess**, vice chair of the Whitney Museum of American Art. Hess also is on the boards of the Ford Theater in Washington, D.C., the Mount Sinai Children’s Foundation and the Film Society of Lincoln Center. She has been a director of the Alzheimer’s Association for 20 years.
- **Connie Mack**, senior policy advisor to Liberty Partners Group LLC in Washington, D.C. Mack retired in January 2001 after serving 18 years in the U.S. Congress, including 12 years in the Senate. Mack, a melanoma survivor, was inspired to pursue public service following the death of his brother from the disease in 1979.
- **Nancy Marks**, portrait artist, the author of the children’s book “*Just As You Are: The Story of Leon and Sam*” and a contributing editor for *C Magazine* and the *Huffington Post*. She has a lifelong interest in the arts and education and is a trustee of the Paul Newman Painted Turtle Camp, the Lynne Cohen Foundation for Ovarian Cancer

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Research and The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. She is based in Los Angeles, spending four months a year in London, where she is a trustee of The Prince's Drawing School.

- **Jonathan Sokoloff**, managing partner of Leonard Green & Partners, LP, which he joined in 1990. Previously he was a managing director in corporate finance at Drexel Burnham Lambert, which he joined in 1985.

“I am deeply appreciative of the commitment of our board members in helping us to fight and ultimately find a cure for this deadly disease,” said Wendy K.D. Selig, president and CEO of MRA. “The addition of these new board members will help us continue to explore and engage in creative partnerships designed to advance our mission, which is to defeat melanoma.”

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### ***About the Melanoma Research Alliance***

*The Melanoma Research Alliance is a public charity formed under the auspices of the Milken Institute, with the initial generous founding support of Debra and Leon Black. It supports an international, cross-disciplinary group of biomedical researchers possessing clinical and scientific expertise to explore, identify and pursue innovative solutions to critical research issues leading to better treatments and a cure for patients with melanoma. For more information about MRA's research programs, visit [www.melanomaresearchalliance.org](http://www.melanomaresearchalliance.org).*

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