

## Top stories in this newsletter

**“I Patch For...”**

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Ups**

**Jenni Lewis**

**Patient Stories**

## Eye Patch Day becomes the “I Patch For...” campaign



We have been looking at ways to spread awareness of ocular melanoma to a much wider audience. We received some advice that awareness campaigns work better if they are longer than a day so they can gather momentum and followers.

As you may already know, last years' Eye Patch Day, saw us joined by CureOM in the USA and this year we are welcoming Stichting Melanoom from the Netherlands.

With the hope that we can make Eye Patch Day a worldwide known event, we have created “I Patch For...”. A week long campaign running from Friday 19th – Friday 26th May.

We have a new website, [www.ipatchfor.com](http://www.ipatchfor.com) specifically for this. The website is live but more content is being added over the next few days to ensure it's ready asap.

It would be incredible for our membership base to take the lead in supporting a global campaign which brings patients, and the charities that support them, together.

During this week, you can decide when you will hold your “Eye Patch Day”. How you take part, is entirely up to you. It can range from talking to people about the importance of regular dilated eye tests, afternoon tea with friends, to inviting your school, workplaces and the opticians in your local area to also join in on the day. Packs include an eye patch, sponsor forms, collection boxes, posters etc.. but also some items to help promote the day for those of you on social media.

Wearing an eye patch is not compulsory, we have developed the pack so that everyone can take part in their own way. Sponsor packs are beginning to go out this week, so if you have already registered your interest, you should receive yours soon.

## Eye Patch Day becomes the “I Patch For...” campaign - cont.



We were fortunate to receive the support of [Pinnacle Internet Marketing](#), who lent us their expertise to develop a complimentary Facebook frame to help spread the word. In a few days time, we can start to take Facebook by storm by placing a temporary image over our profile pictures to raise awareness. Pinnacle, contacted us after Matthew Parsons family heard we were in need of some help and we send our thanks to them, especially during this difficult time.

If you're able to take part, please contact Nicolette as soon as possible to obtain your pack.

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## Member Meet Up



The North Region's member meet up recently went ahead, again with really positive feedback from all those who were able to attend. If you would like to arrange one in your area, or would like our help to organise a get together, please get in touch.

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## Jenni Lewis' Scottish Parliament Petition



The Public Petitions Committee met yesterday (27/4/17) to discuss MRI scans for ocular melanoma sufferers in Scotland.

Their discussion can be viewed [here](#) with the discussion starting 1:12:50 minutes into the meeting. The committee spoke of this petition having an impact on them and feel they should encourage the Scottish Oncology Service to look at the centres in the UK who seem to be setting the gold standard.

They will seek further advice and we hope to provide an update in our next bulletin. You can see more about this petition, including OcuMel UK's responses [here](#).

We thank Jenni and Iain Galloway for all the work they have put into making this happen.

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## Patient Stories



Back in January, we sent you a survey asking for feedback on all things at OcuMel UK. An overwhelming amount of feedback was how valuable many of you found Katie's story in our recent ForSight Magazine. Thanks go out to Katie for writing such an honest piece and sharing this with us all.

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## Patient Stories - cont.



In response to the comments we received, we have created a new section on our website for you to share your experiences. This can be found in the Patient & Family section, under Support, Patient Stories or viewed [here](#). If you would like to have your journey with ocular melanoma added, please let us know.

If any of you have written a blog, or have any video diaries you would be happy for us to share on this page, please do get in touch.

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We would like to take a moment to remember those we have sadly lost. Each loss is heartbreaking for their family and friends, but also felt by the wider OM community.

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This journey is difficult at times and so it can take strength to reach out for help. If you need support, please talk to someone.

<a href="#"><u>OcuMel UK Helpline</u></a>	(Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri - 11am-1pm)	<b>0300 790 0512</b>
<a href="#"><u>Samaritans</u></a>	(24 hours a day, 365 days a year)	<b>116 123</b> Freephone
<a href="#"><u>MacMillan</u></a>	(Monday to Friday 9-8pm)	<b>0808 808 00 00</b>
<a href="#"><u>Cruse Bereavement</u></a>	(Mon & Fri 9.30-5pm, Tues, Weds & Thurs 9.30-8pm)	<b>0808 808 1677</b>
<a href="#"><u>MIND</u></a>	(Monday to Friday 9-6pm)	<b>0300 123 3393</b>

 **0300 790 0512**

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