New National Hub Launches to Support Canadians with Rare Eye Cancer

Ocumel Canada marks five years as the country's only ocular melanoma support initiative with expanded digital platform

March 19, 2026 - VANCOUVER, BC - **Ocumel Canada**, a national initiative dedicated to ocular melanoma, is entering a new chapter with the launch of a dedicated website and social media platforms—marking five years since its inception and significantly expanding its ability to support Canadians affected by this rare cancer.

The new digital presence — available at OcumelCanada.ca — provides a centralized hub for trusted information, patient stories, community connection, and the latest insights from clinical and research communities. This evolution reflects a renewed commitment to raising awareness and improving the experience of those diagnosed with ocular melanoma across Canada.

Understanding a Rare Disease

Ocular melanoma, also known as uveal melanoma, is the most common primary eye cancer in adults. Despite this, it remains a rare and often under-recognized disease. Patients frequently face delays in diagnosis, limited awareness among healthcare providers, and challenges accessing specialized care and clinical trials.

"When I was first diagnosed, I wanted to find other people who had the disease, and I couldn't. There was no community," says Nigel Deacon, ocular melanoma survivor and advocate. "With this relaunch, we are working to ensure that no one in Canada faces this diagnosis alone."

A Renewed Focus on Connection and Support

Through its enhanced digital platform, Ocumel Canada aims to:

- Increase national awareness of ocular melanoma
- Provide reliable, accessible educational resources
- Connect patients and caregivers with peer support
- Share lived experiences and patient stories
- Advocate for equitable access to treatment, research, and clinical trials

The website also introduces opportunities for Canadians to engage more directly with the initiative, including subscribing to a new monthly newsletter, participating in community events, and accessing emerging research and educational content.

Building a Stronger Community

Ocumel Canada continues to collaborate with patients, caregivers, clinicians, and researchers to strengthen understanding of ocular melanoma and improve outcomes nationwide. Recent efforts include first-of-its-kind research on the diagnostic experience of ocular melanoma patients in Canada, helping to inform future advocacy and system improvements.

By expanding its digital footprint, Ocumel Canada is creating new opportunities to amplify patient voices, foster community, and bring greater visibility to a disease that has long remained in the shadows.

To learn more, visit OcumelCanada.ca and subscribe to the monthly newsletter.

About Ocumel Canada

Ocumel Canada (OC), a national patient-led not-for-profit initiative powered by Save Your Skin Foundation. It was formed to increase awareness, advance treatment options, and build a supportive community for those diagnosed with primary and/or metastatic ocular melanoma (OM). Ocumel Canada works in close collaboration with a global Medical Advisory Board and partner patient representation organizations, with the goal of building on international best practices to improve patient outcomes for Canadians affected by this disease.

About Save Your Skin Foundation

Save Your Skin Foundation (SYSF) is a national patient-led not-for-profit group dedicated to the fight against non-melanoma skin cancers, melanoma and ocular melanoma through nationwide education, advocacy, and awareness initiatives.

##

Media contact:
Amy Rosvold
Save Your Skin Foundation
778-317-1485
amy@saveyourskin.ca