



EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY AND VENEREOLOGY
ACADEMIE EUROPEENNE DE DERMATOLOGIE ET DE VENEREOLOGIE
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Press Release

Euromelanoma Day 2009

(Brussels, 14/04/2009) What has been founded and conducted by a group of Belgian dermatologists in 1999 has now grown and developed into a European-wide campaign with about 30 European countries taking part.

Euro-Melanoma is a **pan-European prevention campaign against skin cancer**, which is organized by dermatologists. The opportunity is given to the general public to have a **free-of-charge screening** of their moles by a dermatologist, one day each year.

*A Katsambas, President of the EADV, Chairman of the Euromelanoma Task Force
Department of Dermatology, University of Athens Medical School, A. Sygros Hospital, Athens, Greece:*

In view of the increasing incidence of cutaneous melanoma in many European countries, particular emphasis has been given in public education campaigns and screening programs as a means of primary and secondary prevention of melanoma. It is widely accepted that such screening efforts lead to the identification of melanoma at an earlier stage, when the disease is curable and associated with better prognosis.

Since the year 2000, dermatologists from about 30 European countries have gradually joined the project and organize an annual melanoma screening campaign, which has been designated as the Euromelanoma Screening Day Campaign. The purpose of this screening event has been three-fold: 1) to provide a free screening to individuals, 2) to detect individuals with early-stage melanoma or skin cancer, or those with risk factors for these conditions, and 3) to inform the public through mass media campaign about the early signs of melanoma as well as the hazardous effects of sunlight on the skin.

Over the past 9 years, the Euromelanoma prevention campaign, has led to the detection of a significant number of precancerous skin lesions, non-melanoma skin cancers and melanomas in participating countries, based on the voluntary contribution and free skin examination provided by hundreds of dermatologists across Europe.

In addition, Euromelanoma has expanded to new countries, particularly those located in Eastern Europe, and has served as an established platform for conducting a successful screening campaign in areas with a high burden of melanoma mortality where early detection is of paramount importance.



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This year also marks the anniversary of Euromelanoma which was founded and conducted for the first time in Belgium in 1999. An ambitious project inspired by a group of Belgian dermatologists has now grown and developed into a European-wide campaign.

Although it is too early to assess the impact of Euromelanoma on the incidence and prognosis of melanoma, it is our firm conviction that, year after year, our screening campaign is achieving its goal of early melanoma detection and has become an invaluable tool in increasing public awareness on this potentially devastating disease.

For more information on the program in your country this year, please go to www.euromelanoma.org

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The Media&PR office in the EADV House deals with your enquiries and co-ordinates all Media&PR activities. For direct contact and to be part of our database for regular news mailings, please write to Mrs Stefanie Blum at media.pr@eadv.org.

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