The team works to have clinical trials available to all patients. Some are national (for example, ECOG, typically for patients with metastatic or advanced disease) and others are Stony Brook’s own. Currently, Stony Brook has high accrual rates into its ongoing psychosocial and tumor profiling studies.

The Melanoma Team includes dermatologists, surgical oncologists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, Patient Navigators, nurse practitioners, and a data manager.

Stony Brook has begun isolated limb infusion for recurrent melanoma that is limited to an extremity. In this procedure, the arm or leg with the recurrent melanoma is isolated from the rest of the body by a tight tourniquet. Catheters are inserted in the main artery and vein to that extremity and warm chemotherapy is circulated. While not a cure, it can control the disease for a period of time.

The team has established a tissue bank of melanoma specimens. This detailed information will be combined with the clinical database to help establish new guidelines for treatment and risk of recurrence. And to ensure continuity of care, the team has created a patient network database with information on visits and dates of skin examinations and screenings, which is available to all members of the Melanoma Management Team.

The team held its third annual skin screening at the Cancer Center. Of the 280 attendees, 196 between ages 17 and 100 were screened. Other outreach initiatives included high school health education classes and participation in the Hospital’s Health Expo.

With the addition of Adam Korzenko, MD, the Department of Dermatology is establishing a skin cancer clinic at the Cancer Center, which will be coordinated with the melanoma clinic.