# The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH

Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program

Patricia C. Modrow, Ph.D.

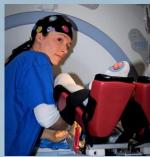
Program Manager, CDMRP













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# WHO is the CDMRP?



Department of Defense





Department of the Army





**Army Futures Command** 





U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC)





Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs



# **CDMRP FY20 Programs**

Program	\$M	Program	\$M
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	\$20.0	Orthopaedic	\$30.0
Alzheimer's	\$15.0	Ovarian Cancer	\$35.0
Autism	\$15.0	Pancreatic Cancer*	\$6.0
Bone Marrow Failure Disease	\$3.0	Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Parkinson's	\$16.0
Breast Cancer	\$150.0	Peer Reviewed Medical (44 Topics)	\$360.0
Breast Cancer Research Semipostal	TBD	Peer Reviewed Cancer (14 Topics)	\$110.0
Combat Readiness Medical	\$10.0	Prostate Cancer	\$110.0
Chronic Pain Management	\$15.0	Rare Cancers*	\$7.5
Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy	\$10.0	Reconstructive Transplant	\$12.0
Epilepsy	\$12.0	Scleroderma*	\$5.0
Gulf War Illness	\$22.0	Spinal Cord	\$40.0
Hearing Restoration	\$10.0	Tick-Borne Disease	\$7.0
Joint Warfighter Medical	\$40.0	Tuberous Sclerosis Complex	\$6.0
Kidney Cancer	\$40.0	Vision	\$20.0
Lung Cancer	\$14.0	TOTAL CSI :	= ~\$1.2B
Lupus	\$10.0	Additional Supported DoD Programs/Projects (1)	
Melanoma	\$20.0	Armed Forces Institute of Regenerative Medicine II	TBD
Military Burn	\$10.0	Defense Medical R&D	\$232.1
Multiple Sclerosis	\$16.0	Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury	\$165.0
Neurofibromatosis	\$15.0	Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer	TBD
Orthotics and Prosthetics Outcomes	\$15.0	Trauma Clinical	\$10.0





## Hallmarks







- Research programs are targeted by Congress, and funds are added to the DoD budget
- Fund high-impact innovative research and coordinate with DoD, NIH, VA, CDC, and other federal and non-federal organizations to target unfunded/unmet gaps
- ► Follow the National Academy of Medicine guidance, including two-tier model for application review
  - Conduct peer and programmatic review for all applications and oversee the processes
- Include consumers in all aspects of the program cycle
  - Include impact review criterion for every funding opportunity
  - Funding recommendations consider critical needs
- Annually adapt each program's vision and investment strategy allowing rapid response to changing needs
  - Fund bench to bedside research





## Consumers

Grassroots consumers heightened political awareness of breast cancer that led to increased funding for cancer research and the 1992 creation of the CDMRP. The voices and experiences of consumers continue to play a pivotal role in the establishment and growth of research programs.

Over 2,700 consumers
representing over 1,300
organizations
have served on Peer Review
and Programmatic Review
panels



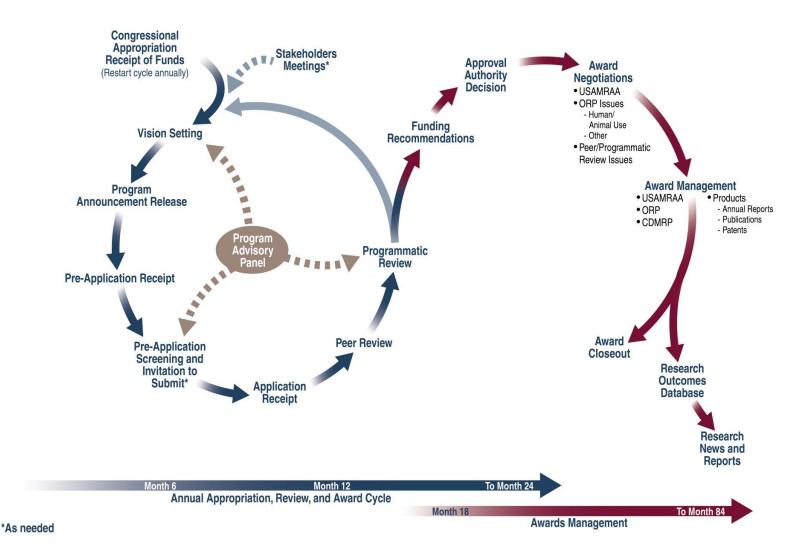








# **Program Cycle**







## Goal of the Two-Tier Review Process

To develop funding recommendations that balance the most meritorious science across many disciplines and offer the highest promise to fulfill the programmatic goals set forth in the relevant Program Announcement

#### Peer Review

### **Partnership**

#### Programmatic Review

- Criterion-based evaluation of full proposal
- Determination of "absolute" scientific merit
- ◆ Outcome: Summary Statements
  - No standing Peer Review panels
  - No contact between reviewers and applicants
  - No contact between program staff and applicants



- Comparison among proposals of high scientific merit
- Determination of adherence to intent and program relevance
- Outcome: Funding Recommendations
  - ❖ No "pay line" (portfolio balance)
  - Funds obligated up-front; limited out-year budget commitments (but milestones imposed)
  - No continuation funding





# **Accountability to Stakeholders**

#### Transparency

- Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC)
- CDMRP website
- Federal RePORTER
- International Cancer Research Partners

#### Adaptable Funding Strategy

- Open and full competition
- Fund the best high-impact research from any organization or location
- Funding based on scientific merit and relevance to program mission; no "pay line"
- Obligate funds up front; no risk to the project
- Maintain low management costs

#### Active Award Management

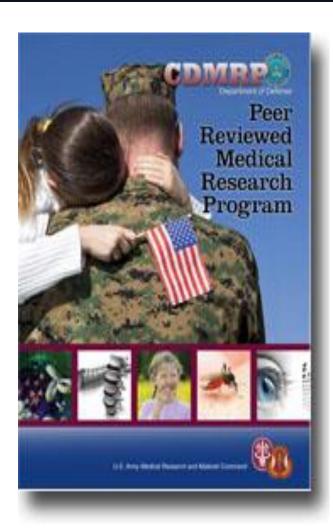
- Scientific staff support pre-award negotiations and lifecycle of award
- Closely monitor research progress through open communication, written and in-person reports, milestone meetings, and site visits
- Require Pls to present their research at investigator conferences, share data, and register trials

#### ◆ Keep the consumer as our true north





## **PRMRP Overview**



#### **Vision**

Improve the health, care, and well-being of all Military Service members, Veterans, and beneficiaries

#### **Mission**

Encourage, identify, select, and manage medical research projects of clear scientific merit and direct relevance to military health

#### **Appropriations**

- Direction from Congress to support research of "clear scientific merit" and "direct relevance to military health" in at least one topic area
- Program funds and topic areas designated by Congress annually
  - Appropriations total \$2.71B since inception
  - FY20 appropriations is \$360M; 44 topics
  - No funds allotted per topic area
- Investment strategy established by Programmatic Panel annually, with representation of Military Services, VA, HHS, NIH, and academia

# PRMRP Congressionally-Directed Topic Areas

- Topic areas span a broad range of research fields, diseases, and conditions
  - Support research of high scientific merit
  - Support research with direct relevance to military health
    - Research must be directly relevant to the healthcare needs of and benefit military Service members, Veterans, and/or beneficiaries
  - Support research that meets the first two objectives across as many topic areas as possible
    - Funded research is restricted to the Congressionally-specified topic areas
- Over 200 Congressionally-specified unique topic areas offered FY99–FY06, FY08-FY20
  - ❖ Topic areas have become their own CSI programs; 17 CSI programs through FY20
  - Funded research In 170 unique topic areas in FY99-FY19
- No preselected allocation of funds per topic area; no payline
  - Funding decisions are made by the Programmatic Panel using programmatic review criteria published in the Program Announcements; scientific merit, impact, relevance to military health



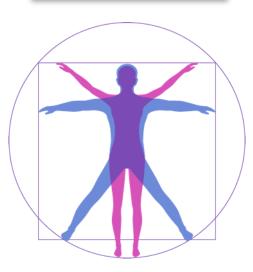
# FY20 Topic Areas for PRMRP (44 total)



- Arthritis
- Burn Pit Exposure
- Chronic Migraine and Post-Traumatic Headache
- Congenital Heart Disease
- ◆ Constrictive Bronchiolitis
- Diabetes
- Dystonia
- Eating Disorders
- Emerging Viral Diseases
- Endometriosis
- Epidermolysis Bullosa
- Familial Hypercholesterolemia
- Fibrous Dysplasia
- Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis
- Food Allergies
- Fragile X
- Frontotemporal Degeneration
- Guillain-Barre Syndrome
- Hemorrhage Control
- Hepatitis B
- Hydrocephalus
- Immunomonitoring of Intestinal Transplants

- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Interstitial Cystitis
- Metals Toxicology
- Mitochondrial Disease
- Musculoskeletal Health
- Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
- Myotonic Dystrophy
- Nutrition Optimization
- Pancreatitis
- Pathogen-Inactivated Blood Products
- Plant-Based Vaccines
- Polycystic Kidney Disease
- Pressure Ulcers
- Pulmonary Fibrosis
- Resilience Training
- Respiratory Health
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Sleep Disorders and Restriction
- Spinal Muscular Atrophy
- ◆ Sustained Release Drug Delievry
- Vascular Malformations
- ♦ Women's Heart Disease

Applicants
must
address at
least one of
the Topic
Areas, as
directed by
Congress

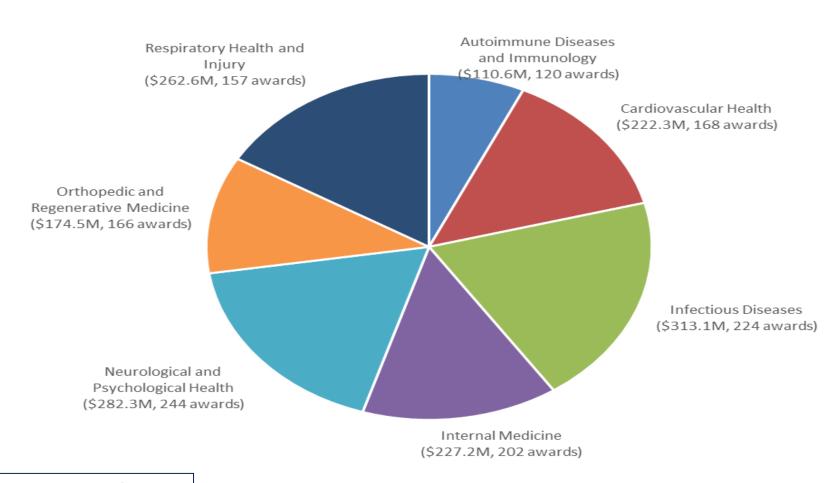






## PRMRP Award Portfolio Overview

# Portfolio by Research Area and Percent Total Funding FY99 – FY18



1281 awards totaling \$1.59B (includes pending awards)





## PRMRP FY20 Award Mechanisms

- **♦ Clinical Trial Award (CTA)**
- **♦ Discovery Award (DA)**
- **◆ Expansion Award (ExpA)**
- **◆** Focused Program Award (FPA)
- ◆Investigator-Initiated Research Award (IIRA)
- **◆ Technology/Therapeutic Development Award (TTDA)**





# FY20 PRMRP Award Mechanisms & Investment Strategy

Award Mechanism	Intent	Investment Strategy	Est. # Awards
Clinical Trial (CTA)	Supports rapid implementation of clinical trials of novel interventions	<ul><li>No cost limit</li><li>4-year POP</li></ul>	9
Discovery (DA)	Supports innovative, non-incremental, high-risk/potentially high-reward research that will provide new insights, paradigms, technologies, or applications that will lay the groundwork for future avenues of scientific investigation	<ul><li>Up to \$200K direct costs</li><li>2-year POP</li></ul>	75
Expansion (EA)	Supports the continued investigation and further development of highly impactful research projects that were funded through the previous PRMRP funding opportunities	Varying by Funding Level:  ❖ \$0.5M - \$5.0M direct costs  ❖ 3-4-year POP	8





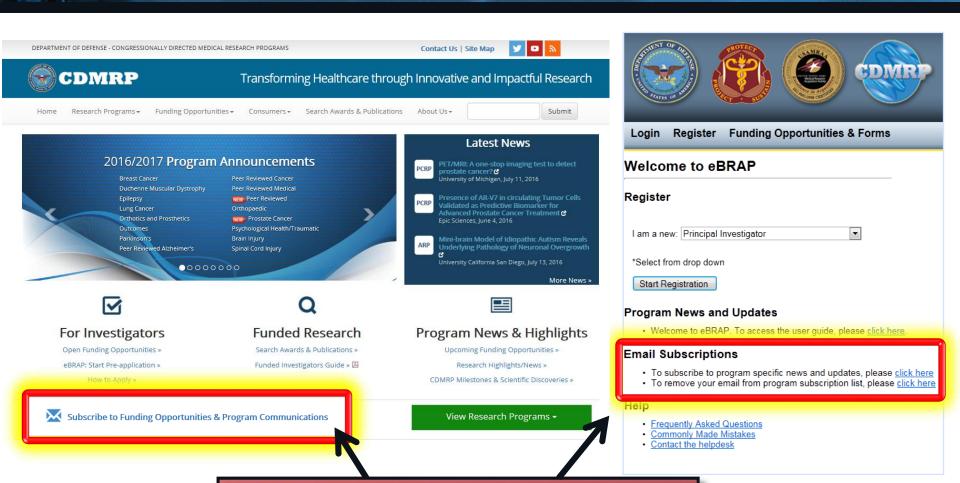
# **FY19 Investment Strategy (cont.)**

Award Mechanism	Intent	Investment Strategy	Est. # Awards
Focused Program (FPA)	Supports a synergistic, multidisciplinary research program of multiple distinct, but complementary, projects addressing a unifying, overarching goal	<ul><li>Up to \$7.2M direct costs</li><li>4-year POP</li></ul>	4
Investigator- Initiated Research (IIRA)	Supports studies that make an important contributions to the field of research or patient care; research with the potential to yield highly impactful data that could lead to critical discoveries or major advancements.	<ul> <li>Up to \$1.6M direct costs</li> <li>Up to \$2.0M direct costs (Partnering PI Option)</li> <li>4-year POP</li> </ul>	37
Technology/ Therapeutic Development (TTDA)	Supports product-driven award mechanism intended to provide support for the translation of promising preclinical findings into products for clinical applications; product may be diagnostics or therapies such as pharmacologic agents (drugs or biologics), devices, and/or clinical guidance	<ul><li>Up to \$4M direct costs</li><li>4-year POP</li></ul>	14





## Subscribe to email notifications



Sign up for listserve through CDMRP website or in eBRAP

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# Where Do I Find CDMRP Funding Opportunities?









# **Applying for a Grant**

Understanding the <u>goals of the program</u>, <u>intent of the award mechanism</u>, and <u>review criteria</u> is critical for a successful grant application



- The announcement (PA) contains information on:
  - Program Goals
  - Focus Areas
  - Award Intent
  - Required Elements, Eligibility, and Funding
  - Review Criteria
  - Deadlines

Single most important tip: Read the announcement carefully

# How to Apply – CDMRP Step 1: Submit Your Pre-Application

#### STEP 1: Pre-Application Submission in eBRAP (required!)

- **♦** Type of pre-application depends on the award mechanism
  - Letter of Intent: will not be reviewed; no invitation will be required for application submission
  - \* Preproposal: will be reviewed; invitation is required for application submission
- ♦ Follow Tabs in any order
- Pre-application is submitted in Tab 6
- Pre-application submission is mandatory and must be on time no grace period
- ♦ Tips for success!
  - \* Read the Program Announcement carefully
  - Start pre-application in eBRAP early
  - \* Choose the correct funding opportunity and "option"
  - \* Don't forget LOI or Preproposal Narrative
  - Use correct spelling of names and emails



### **STEP 2: Application Submission in Grants.gov**

- ◆ If the pre-application was a preproposal, an invitation is required
- ♦ If pre-application was an LOI, NO invitation is required
- ♦ Sponsored Program Office (or equivalent) submits through Grants.gov
- Submission must be on time; no grace period
- **♦** Adhere strictly to the Program Announcement requirements
- ♦ If using organization or commercial System-to-System (S2S), beware of Attachment 1, Project Narrative



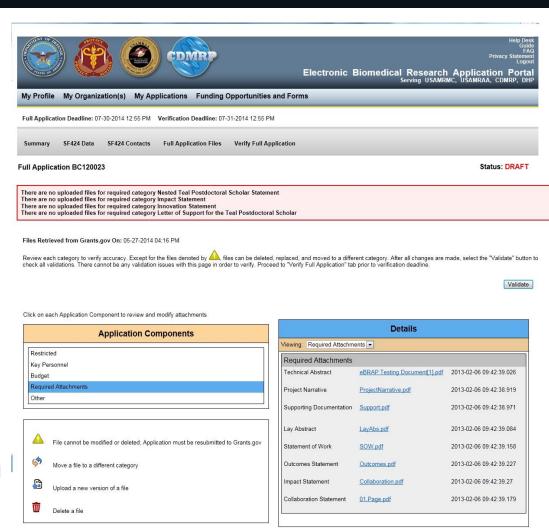
#### **Review & Modify Full Application**

#### **♦ Verification Period**

- Auto-email notification after eBRAP has processed the Grants.gov application
- Review and modify <u>allowable</u> components – not Project Narrative or Budget
- Affiliation with organization is required

### **♦** Tips for success!

- Choose correct Grants.gov application package
- Use correct spelling of names and emails; must match those in preapplication
- Enter eBRAP log number in Block
   4.a. Federal Identifier of SF424



Validate



# **Strategies for Success**

#### ✓ Relevance

- Address program-specific goals
- ❖ Align the proposed work with specific guidance from the announcement

## ✓ Impact

- Propose solutions to important problems
- Clearly articulate translatability how will this work make a difference?

### ✓ Innovation

Identify gap(s) that will be filled and novel approaches used

## √ Feasibility

- Justify a technically sound plan with clear approaches for contingencies
- Include evidence of appropriate EXPERTISE (collaboration, consultants, etc.)
- Ensure the study is APPROPRIATELY POWERED for the proposed research outcome
- Demonstrate AVAILABILITY and ACCESS to critical resources, reagents, and/or subject populations



# **Strategies for Success**

## ✓ Planning/Timelines

- Start early do not wait to submit until the last day or the last hour
- Include and allow adequate time in project plan for regulatory approvals if required
- For multi-organizational efforts, show a clear plan for COORDINATION and communication
- For DoD collaborations, understand rules and plan for differences in funding process

## ✓ Grantsmanship

- Explain the proposed work with CLARITY and UNBURDENED by jargon
- Understand the different audiences (scientists and consumers) of the peer and programmatic reviews and COMMUNICATE effectively
- REVIEW application documents carefully before submission Enlist experienced colleagues to help
- Review your submission in eBRAP during the Verification period
- Don't break the rules for deadlines or requirements BE COMPLIANT







# Pitfalls to Avoid in Application Submission



- **♦** DO not forget to submit pre-application
- ◆ Do not include Programmatic Panel members for the program and fiscal year to which you are applying
- ◆ Do not exceed the page limits, especially project narrative; check files after creating PDF version
- ◆ Do not miss the submission deadline; no grace periods
  - Grants.gov validation may take up to 72 hours
  - Organization and commercial System-to-system (S2S) submissions are sometimes problematic
  - Application verification in eBRAP is possible before the deadline
- Submit the correct Project Narrative and Budget
  - These components cannot be modified during the verification period in eBRAP; Grants.gov package must be resubmitted prior to deadline





# Pitfalls For The Organization to Avoid

- ♦ Register with all systems EARLY
  - Active SAM Registration Required keep it active for both submission and award
  - Determine Organization Points of Contact (AOR, E-Biz POC)
  - Principal Investigators (PI's) do not register
  - ❖ Resolve all S2S errors
  - **❖** Resolve all Grants.gov errors
- ♦ Sign up for email change notifications when possible
- ♦ Become familiar with Federal and DoD regulations and processes
  - Subaward budget (direct and indirect costs)
- ♦ Make sure the following items on the SF424 match what was in the pre-application in eBRAP
  - Pl's last name
  - Organization name & DUNS
  - eBRAP log number
- ♦ Monitor your email at least one week after submission
  - eBRAP.org will notify you when Grants.gov application is received and processed allowing for application verification





# **CDMRP Funding Opportunities Webinar Series**



Webinar Title
Funding Opportunities and
Strategies for Success
High Risk/High Gain Funding
Opportunities
Team Science Funding
Opportunities
Clinical Research and Clinical Trial Funding Opportunities Funding Opportunities for the Development of Technology and/or Resources
Funding Opportunities for Early Career Investigators
Consortium-Type Funding Opportunities

https://cdmrp.army.mil/pubs/Webinars/webinar\_series