



USAMRMC STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION PLAN

OFFICE OF THE CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS (CDMRP)

MISSION

Responsibly manage collaborative research that discovers, develops and delivers health care solutions for Service Members, veterans and the American public.

BACKGROUND

The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs is a global research funding organization for cancer, military medical research and other disease and injury specific research. The CDMRP represents a unique partnership among the U.S. Congress, the military and the public. In the early 1990s, a grassroots advocacy movement campaigned for an increase in breast cancer research funding resulting in an appropriation of \$25 million in 1992 to be managed by the Department of Defense U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. The following year, Congress appropriated \$210 million to the DOD for extramural, peer-reviewed breast cancer research. These appropriations marked the beginning of the CDMRP. Since then, the CDMRP has grown in scope and size, funding research that spans the biomedical field.

In fiscal year 2015, the USAMRMC directed a merger of management activities, combining the research awards and contracts of the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center and the CDMRP. The merger combined the CDMRP's excellence in review and management of awards with the TATRC's exceptional ability to respond to the needs of the military. In addition to the awards and programs from both the TATRC and CDMRP, the new CDMRP continued to grow in FY15 with increased congressional appropriations across a total of 27 programs. With the merger, the

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The overall streamlining of management processes and electronic tracking of research provides an efficient use of resources, more effective communication and collaboration, and even better stewardship of important federal research funding.

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new CDMRP realigned its organizational structure to more effectively manage the expanded mission and the significant workload increase in support of the Defense Health Agency Research, Development and Acquisition Directorate research initiatives. The overall streamlining of management processes and electronic tracking of research provides an efficient use of resources, more effective communication and collaboration, and even better stewardship of important federal research funding.

The CDMRP originated within an environment that necessitated and fostered novel approaches to biomedical research in response to the expressed needs of its stakeholders — Congress, the American public and the military. While individual programs are unique in their focus, all of the programs managed by the CDMRP share the common goal of advancing innovative, high impact ideas, creative solutions, patient care, or breakthrough technologies and resources. From small concept award investments to clinical trials and large consortia, the CDMRP strives to fund the best research for the benefit of Service Members and the American public.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q *How does the CDMRP receive its research funds and what types of research are funded?*

A Congress appropriates funds for the CDMRP during the annual appropriation process for the DOD. This funding is also known in the DOD as Congressional Special Interest funds. In addition, the Defense Health Program also includes funds for military medical research from the President’s budget (core dollars).

KEY THEMES AND MESSAGES

The CDMRP promotes medical research funding opportunities to address critical health needs of the military and general public.

The CDMRP serves as the primary execution manager for the Defense Health Programs’ research to benefit the warfighter and general public.

The CDMRP is the leading U.S. funder for neurofibromatosis research, and is the second largest funder in the U.S. for research on breast cancer, prostate cancer, ovarian cancer, lung cancer, gulf war illness, and tuberous sclerosis.

The CDMRP is a unique partnership among the U.S. Congress, the public scientific community, and the military to support untapped research opportunities to push science and medicine to the leading edge of innovation and ingenuity.

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Funded Research Programs for FY15 Include:

- Alcohol and Substance Abuse Disorders
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
- Autism
- Bone Marrow Failure
- Breast Cancer
- Defense Medical R&D
- Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy
- Epilepsy
- Gulf War Illness
- Joint Warfighter Medical
- Lung Cancer
- Military Burn
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Neurofibromatosis
- Neurotoxin Exposure
- Treatment Parkinson's
- Orthotics and Prosthetics Outcomes
- Ovarian Cancer
- Peer Reviewed Alzheimer's
- Peer Reviewed Cancer
- Peer Reviewed Medical
- Peer Reviewed Orthopaedic
- Prostate Cancer
- Psychological Health/
Traumatic Brain Injury
- Reconstructive Transplant Research
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Tuberos Sclerosis Complex
- Vision

**KEY THEMES
AND MESSAGES**

(cont. from page 2)

Hallmarks of CDMRP include investing in groundbreaking, high impact research; supporting the next generation of researchers as well as established scientists; funding clinical research to prevent, detect, diagnose, and treat diseases, conditions, and injuries; and supporting the Warfighter for the benefit of the nation.

Q *How does the medical research community find out about new funding opportunities from the CDMRP?*

A Full details for new funding opportunities from each program are described in “Program Announcements” or “Broad Agency Announcements.” The CDMRP has a self-subscription email system (listserve) for researchers and the public to assist them in keeping informed of the latest news and funding opportunities for their programs of interest. Anyone interested in receiving these e-mail notifications can sign up through the CDMRP website and the Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal or email a request to: help@eBRAP.org. All CDMRP-managed funding opportunities are posted on the federal grants website: <http://www.grants.gov>, featured on the CDMRP website: <http://cdmrp.army.mil>, available in eBRAP: <https://eBRAP.org/>, and can be followed via Twitter on <https://twitter.com/CDMRP>.

Q *What are the requirements for an organization to apply for funding?*

A Extramural (non-DOD) organizations must be registered with [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), which requires a DUNS number, a current SAM (System for Award Management) registration, a current CAGE code and an authorized organization representative or business official to submit applications through [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).



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Q *What is the CDMRP's process for funding research?*

A The CDMRP employs a flexible management cycle that is both responsive to the needs of the individual programs and to the requirements of the stakeholders for each program including Congress, the Department of Defense, researchers, consumer communities, and the public.

The management cycle begins with a congressional appropriation and ends with the completion of the funded research, as listed in the following steps:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Congressional Appropriations, Core Dollars and Receipt of Funds 2. Stakeholders Meeting only for new programs) 3. Vision Setting 4. Release of Program Announcements and Broad Agency Announcements 5. Pre-Application Submission and Receipt 6. Pre-Application Screening and Invitation to Submit | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Application Submission and Receipt 8. Peer Review 9. Programmatic Review 10. Approval of the Awards List 11. Award Negotiations 12. Award Management, Award Monitoring and Award Closeout |
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Q *Why does the CDMRP have two reviews?*

A The CDMRP's two-tier review process is modeled after recommendations made by the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine. It reflects the traditional strengths of scientific review combined with focused programmatic review. Although the two tiers of review are fundamentally different, they are complementary. The peer review is a criteria-based process where applications are evaluated based on their scientific and technical merit. After applications have been scientifically peer reviewed, they undergo programmatic review, during which applications are reviewed and compared to select those that best support the vision of the program. Additional details about the two-tier review can be accessed on the CDMRP's website at: <http://cdmrp.army.mil/about/fundingprocess.shtml>.



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Q *How does CDMRP ensure the integrity of the review process?*

A All peer and programmatic reviewers for the CDMRP are held to the highest standards of conduct to ensure the credibility of the programs and the processes. The CDMRP strives to give every application a fair and balanced review, taking steps to ensure that panel deliberations remain confidential and that conflicts of interest do not influence the evaluations. Additional details about the two-tier review can also be accessed on the CDMRP's website at: <http://cdmrp.army.mil/about/fundingprocess.shtml>.

Q *How does the CDMRP avoid duplication and overlap with research supported by other agencies or organizations?*

A The CDMRP uses multiple processes to minimize the likelihood of research duplication to ensure funded research is synergistic and harmonizes with health research projects funded by other agencies or organizations.

The CDMRP's multistep process to minimize award duplication and overlap is outlined in the following steps:

1. Program planning and evaluation of cross-organizational funding landscapes during development of research priorities and funding strategies
2. List of past, current and pending funding support submitted by the principal investigator at the time of application submission
3. Identification of project innovation, research duplication and overlap during the two-tier review process by peers in the field
4. List of updated funding support at the time of award notification, which is certified by the award recipient's Sponsored Programs Office
5. Review of submitted documents and research program sites to assess pending and existing funding support during award negotiations
6. Technical review of progress throughout the award period of performance which includes funding overlap and duplication

Additional details about the CDMRP's processes to avoid duplication of research can also be accessed on the CDMRP's website at: <http://cdmrp.army.mil/funding/researchDup.shtml>.

Q *Does the CDMRP evaluate the outcomes of its funded research?*

A The CDMRP continually assesses relevance, productivity, outcomes and accomplishments of its funded research.



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Each award funded by the CDMRP is monitored at least annually for progress based on a progress report submitted by the principal investigator. Many awards, including clinical trials, are monitored more frequently with quarterly or monthly reporting, oral presentations and/or site visits. Research outcomes, such as drugs or devices for clinical care, new tools and models for research, or key advancements in knowledge and/or understanding, are identified and captured throughout the life of each award as well as beyond the period of performance. In addition, research highlights and videos are developed by individual programs for dissemination to the public. More than 600 research projects were depicted, published and disseminated on the CDMRP website in program booklets, feature articles, video interviews and the CDMRP Annual Report during FY15. In addition, some research programs post CDMRP-funded scientific resources/tools on the CDMRP website for the greater scientific community to use. By encouraging investigators to share and leverage their resources with the scientific community, research is accelerated and new collaborations are formed.

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Q *How does the CDMRP coordinate with military research areas?*

A The CDMRP assists the DHA RDA directorate research program Joint Program Committees, which include representatives from all branches of the military. The JPCs plan both intramural and extramural funding opportunities. The JPCs manage military medical research portfolios in several critical areas, such as: military infectious diseases, combat casualty care, military operational medicine, clinical and rehabilitative medicine, medical simulation and information sciences, and radiation health effects. The CDMRP collaborates with the JPCs to provide some or all of the life-cycle management functions of research programs to fill critical military-relevant research gaps.

The CDMRP also collaborates on medical research initiatives with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. For example, the CDMRP partnered with the VA Office of Research and Development in support of Executive Order 13625 to execute and manage two collaborative, multi-institutional consortia focused on improving diagnosis and treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (Consortium to Alleviate PTSD) and better understanding the long-term effects of mild traumatic brain injury (Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium).



Q *How does the CDMRP engage consumers?*

A The CDMRP has been a catalyst for the inclusion of consumers (patients, survivors, family members and/or caregivers) as full voting members in the review of research applications. Their knowledge of a disease, condition or injury comes from their personal experience and is augmented by the experiences of others from their community. Consumers are nominated to serve on scientific peer review panels by their respective community's advocacy, outreach or support organizations. Experienced consumers also serve on the CDMRP programmatic panels where they participate in vision setting, pre-application screening and programmatic review. Consumers use their experiences to offer unique, meaningful perspectives and insights that other panel members may not have, and they bring a sense of urgency to the discussions. For more information on consumer involvement, see the consumer involvement pages on the CDMRP website: <http://cdmrp.army.mil/cwg>.

Q *Does the CDMRP share program information with the public?*

A The CDMRP website remains a central mode of communication to the public. This dynamic website features facts and news about the CDMRP, individual research programs, individual awards, funding opportunities and consumer involvement. The CDMRP provides transparency through a searchable database, providing details on CDMRP funded awards. In addition to the website and list serve email notifications, the CDMRP also uses social media on Twitter and YouTube as additional means to disseminate research program information. The public is encouraged to visit the CDMRP on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/CDMRP>, where over 60 brief interviews with researchers describing their CDMRP-funded research are available. Twitter users can subscribe or follow the CDMRP tweets at: <https://twitter.com/CDMRP>.