

Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program

What is the DOD Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP)?

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

- CDMRP was created in 1992 to support innovation in biomedical research through DOD
- CDMRP now supports over 30 research programs and addresses nearly 50 additional topic areas through the Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP)
- CDMRP funds high-risk, high-impact research projects
- Congress sets the CDMRP/PRMRP topics through annual appropriations and is not included in the President’s budget request. Topics may change each fiscal year (FY)

What research topics do CDMRP and PRMRP cover?

FY 2021 CDMRP Research Programs and Funding

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| • Peer-Reviewed Medical (\$370 m) | • Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (\$40 m) | • Hearing Restoration (\$10 m) |
| • Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health (\$175 m) | • Multiple Sclerosis (\$20 m) | • Lupus (\$10 m) |
| • Breast Cancer (\$150 m) | • Vision (\$20 m) | • Combat Readiness Medical (\$10 m) |
| • Peer-Review Cancer (\$115 m) | • Rare Cancers Research (\$17.5 m) | • Tuberos Sclerosis Complex (\$8 m) |
| • Prostate Cancer (\$110 m) | • Alzheimer’s Disease (\$15 m) | • Bone Marrow Failure (\$7.5 m) |
| • Kidney Cancer (\$50 m) | • Autism Research (\$15 m) | • Tickborne Disease (\$7 m) |
| • Joint Warfighter Medical (\$40 m) | • Pancreatic Cancer (\$15 m) | • Scleroderma (\$5 m) |
| • Spinal Cord (\$40 m) | • Orthotics and Prosthetics Outcomes (\$15 m) | • Alcohol and Substance Abuse Disorders (\$4 m) |
| • Ovarian Cancer (\$35 m) | • Chronic Pain Management (\$15 m) | • Neurofibromatosis (\$20 m) |
| • Melanoma (\$30 m) | • Epilepsy (\$12 m) | • Military burn (\$5 m) |
| • Peer-Reviewed Orthopedic (\$30 m) | • Reconstructive Transplant (\$12 m) | • Gulf War Illness (\$22 m) |
| • Lung Cancer (\$20 m) | • Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (\$10 m) | |
| | • Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment (\$16 m) | |

FY 2021 PRMRP Topic Areas

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| • Arthritis | • Hemorrhage control | • Peripheral neuropathy |
| • Burn pit exposure | • Hepatitis B | • Plant-based vaccines |
| • Cardiomyopathy | • Hydrocephalus | • Platelet like cell production |
| • Congenital heart disease | • Hypertension | • Polycystic kidney disease |
| • Diabetes | • Inflammatory bowel diseases | • Pressure ulcers |
| • Dystonia | • Malaria | • Pulmonary fibrosis |
| • Eating disorders | • Metals toxicology | • Respiratory health |
| • Emerging viral diseases | • Mitochondrial disease | • Rheumatoid arthritis |
| • Endometriosis | • Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome | • Sleep disorders and restriction |
| • Epidermolysis bullosa | • Myotonic dystrophy | • Suicide prevention |
| • Familial hypercholesterolemia | • Non-opioid therapy for pain management | • Sustained release drug delivery |
| • Fibrous dysplasia | • Nutrition optimization | • Vascular malformations |
| • Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis | • Pathogen-inactivated blood products | • Women's heart disease |
| • Food allergies | | |
| • Fragile X | | |
| • Frontotemporal degeneration | | |

How do investigators engage with CDMRP program managers?

- Attend the annual **Military Health System Research Symposium** to build relationships with program managers and other researchers across the Defense Health Program enterprise: <https://www.mhsrs.net/>
- Contact CDMRP through the **feedback submission tool** (<https://cdmrp.army.mil/contact>) to:
 - Ask administrative questions about submissions and process, not to discuss proposals
 - Volunteer to serve on peer and programmatic review panels
- This **webinar series** has best practices for applying: https://cdmrp.army.mil/pubs/webinars/webinar_series#ctfo

How and when do investigators submit proposals?

- Proposal windows vary throughout the year and are dependent on the federal appropriations process
- Pre-applications or letters of intent are required and vary by solicitation
- These programs are highly competitive. Success rates average around 15% (range of 10-30 percent)
- There are various research mechanisms and opportunities at all career stages:

Research Awards	Researcher Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Initial Concepts- Early Ideas- Clinical/Translational- Team Science- Clinical Trials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Predoctoral- Postdoctoral- Physician Scientist- New Investigator- Established Investigator

How are proposals reviewed?

CDMRP uses a **two-tier** review process: **peer review** for scientific merit and **programmatic review** to ensure the DOD mission and research portfolio needs are met. Ultimately, funding decisions are approved by the Commanding General of the Defense Health Agency J9, Research and Development Directorate.

Peer Review

- Study section-like assessment to evaluate scientific merit and potential impact
- Panels are a mix of scientists and consumers
- No standing peer review panels
- **Output of tier one:**
 - Score for overall merit and meeting FOA criteria
 - Summary statement on strengths/weaknesses
 - Basis for programmatic review

Programmatic Review

- Proposals with high scientific merit compared during review
- Panels are a mix of researchers, agency officials, clinicians, and consumers
- Consideration of program relevance, award mechanism intent, and portfolio balance
- Lay abstract, impact statement, and military relevancy are extremely important
- No pay line
- **Output of tier two:** funding recommendation

Sources and Additional Resources

- CDMRP website: <https://cdmrp.army.mil/default>
- Subscribe for CDMRP funding updates: <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/programSubscription/Subscribe.htm>
- CDMRP 2019 Annual Report: <https://cdmrp.army.mil/pubs/annreports/2019annrep/2019annreport.pdf>