



USAMRMC

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION PLAN

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH AND MATERIEL COMMAND



Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP)

Mission: The Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs identifies and funds the best research to eradicate diseases and support the Warfighter for the benefit of the American public.

Background

In 1992, a grassroots breast cancer research advocacy effort resulted in an initial congressional appropriation of \$25 million for breast cancer research to be managed by the DoD USAMRMC. The following year, Congress appropriated \$210 million to the DoD for extramural, peer-reviewed breast cancer research. This was the beginning of CDMRP, a research directorate within USAMRMC.

CDMRP sought the advice of the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine (IOM) on how to best invest the \$210 million appropriation. An IOM recommendation for a two-tier review process for evaluating and selecting research proposals has become a cornerstone within CDMRP. This novel two-tiered process, which includes peer and programmatic reviews, involves reviewing every research proposal for scientific merit as well as programmatic relevance. The two tiers of review work together to ensure that proposals selected for funding are both scientifically sound and able to address the unique vision and goals of the program. The IOM also recommended the inclusion of consumer advocates in peer review as well as programmatic review.

CDMRP has been responsible for managing the breast cancer appropriation as well as other targeted appropriations totaling \$6.59 billion through fiscal year 2011 (FY11). These appropriations have targeted research on breast, prostate, ovarian, lung, and other cancers; neurofibromatosis; chronic myelogenous leukemia; autism; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; tuberous sclerosis complex; military health; psychological health and traumatic brain injury; Gulf War Illness; deployment-related health research; orthopedic trauma; spinal cord injury; genetic studies on food allergies; and other health concerns.

CDMRP funds highly innovative research and although the programs within CDMRP share many common features, each program is unique and emphasizes the specific needs of its research and advocacy communities. Individual programs develop an annual vision to fill unique gaps and support groundbreaking research. All programs within CDMRP exist because of yearly, individual congressional appropriations. Because of the variability of the congressional appropriations and restrictions on how and when funds may be spent, CDMRP employs a flexible management cycle to maintain the individuality of each program while also meeting the needs of Congress, DoD, the research and advocacy communities, and the public at large. CDMRP maintains a unique partnership among Congress, scientists, clinicians, consumer advocates, and the military.

USAMRMC Public Affairs Office
504 Scott Street
Fort Detrick, MD 21702
301.619.7549
<https://mrmc.amedd.army.mil>



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Key Themes & Messages

- CDMRP is a unique partnership among the U.S. Congress, the public, and the military to support untapped research opportunities to push science and medicine to the leading edge of innovation and ingenuity.
- Hallmarks of CDMRP include investing in groundbreaking 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.
- From small concept award investments to large consortia, CDMRP strives to find and fund the best research.

Q & A

Q: Who funds CDMRP and how much has CDMRP received since its inception?

A: Congress funds CDMRP, and those funds are managed by the DoD's USAMRMC. Since 1992, CDMRP has managed congressional appropriations totaling more than \$6.0 billion in the following research areas:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ■ Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis | ■ Multiple Sclerosis |
| ■ Autism | ■ Myeloproliferative Disorders |
| ■ Bone Marrow Failure | ■ National Prion |
| ■ Breast Cancer | ■ Neurofibromatosis |
| ■ Chiropractic Clinical Trial | ■ Osteoporosis |
| ■ Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia | ■ Ovarian Cancer |
| ■ Defense Medical R&D | ■ Peer Reviewed Cancer |
| ■ Defense Women's Health | ■ Peer Reviewed Medical Research |
| ■ Deployment Related Medical | ■ Peer Reviewed Orthopaedic |
| ■ DoD/VA | ■ Prostate Cancer |
| ■ Genetic Studies of Food Allergies | ■ Psychological Health/Traumatic Brain Injury |
| ■ Gulf War Illness | ■ Spinal Cord Injury |
| ■ Institutionally Based Programs | ■ Tuberos Sclerosis |
| ■ Lung Cancer | |

Q: How many grants/contracts have been awarded since CDMRP's inception?

A: Since 1992, 9,933 total grants/contracts have been awarded.

Q: Which research program has allocated the most funding? How much?

A: The Breast Cancer Research Program has allocated more than \$2.5 billion to peer-reviewed breast cancer research since 1992.

Q: How is a program funded? What is CDMRP's process?

A: CDMRP employs a flexible management cycle to maintain the individuality of each program while also meeting the needs of Congress, DoD, the research and advocacy communities, and the public at large. This management cycle begins with a congressional appropriation and ends with the completion of the funded research, as listed in the following steps:

- Congressional appropriation
- Receipt of funds
- Inaugural Stakeholders Meeting





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- Vision setting
- Program announcement
- Pre-application receipt
- Application receipt
- Peer review
- Programmatic review
- Approval of the awards list
- Award management
- Program evaluation

Q: What is CDMRP's review process?

A: CDMRP has a two-tier review process—the peer and programmatic reviews. 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, resulting in a recommended-for-funding list. Additional details about the two tiers of review can also be accessed on CDMRP's website at <http://cdmrp.army.mil/fundingprocess.htm>.

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

A: CDMRP's two-tier review process is modeled after the National Academy of Sciences IOM's recommendations. It reflects the traditional strengths of scientific review, and all reviewers for CDMRP must uphold the highest standards of conduct to ensure the credibility of the programs and the processes. CDMRP strives to give every application a fair and balanced review, taking steps to ensure conflict of interest does not influence the process. Additional details about the two tiers of review can also be accessed on CDMRP's website at <http://cdmrp.army.mil/fundingprocess.htm>.

Q: Does CDMRP evaluate the outcomes of the funded programs?

A: CDMRP maintains a program evaluation committee to collect and analyze data and to use this information to answer questions and make recommendations about different aspects of its programs and processes. With a vast portfolio of funded research, assessing productivity and outcomes remains a top priority of the program evaluation committee. Portfolio composition is evaluated, and research outcomes are compiled using an innovative classification scheme. By continued monitoring of each program's portfolio, scientific gaps may be easily identified, and the vision and mission of the program may be modified to address the most current scientific and medical needs. These data can be used to inform CDMRP's constituents of the CDMRP-funded outcomes, highlight gaps in its portfolio that would benefit from additional support, and assist in crafting new award mechanisms to meet the needs of individual programs.

Q: Does CDMRP coordinate with other military branches?

A: CDMRP collaborates with Joint Program Committees (JPCs), which include representatives from all branches of the military. The JPCs manage military medical research portfolios in military infectious diseases, combat casualty care, military operational medicine, and clinical and rehabilitative medicine. 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.



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Q: Describe how CDMRP engages consumers?

A: CDMRP includes consumers in every aspect of program execution. Consumer advocates are patients, survivors, family members, or caregivers of people living with a disease, injury, or condition and are representatives of consumer advocacy, support, or military organization. This adds perspective, passion, and a sense of urgency that ensures the human dimension is incorporated in the program policy, investment strategy, and research focus. Since 1992, more than 1,600 consumers have represented their communities in the peer and programmatic review of the applications. For more information, see the consumer involvement pages on CDMRP's website (<http://cdmrp.army.mil>).

Q: Does CDMRP share program information with the public?

A: A core philosophy of CDMRP is transparency with respect to public awareness of how congressional funds are used and managed. CDMRP employs many different modes to share information about research supported by CDMRP:

- CDMRP's website (<http://cdmrp.army.mil>)
- Research highlights (posted on CDMRP's website)
- Multidisciplinary meetings to bring together researchers, clinicians, consumers, the military, and policymakers (Era of Hope, Military Health Research Forum, IMPaCT Conference, and Leading Innovative Networking and Knowledge Sharing)

