

Updated February 12, 2019

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs Funding for FY2019

Members of Congress are frequently lobbied to add funding to annual defense appropriation legislation for certain medical research programs on a wide variety of diseases and topics. In addressing annual appropriations bills, many Members frequently seek information on enacted levels for such funding under the *Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs* (CDMRP).

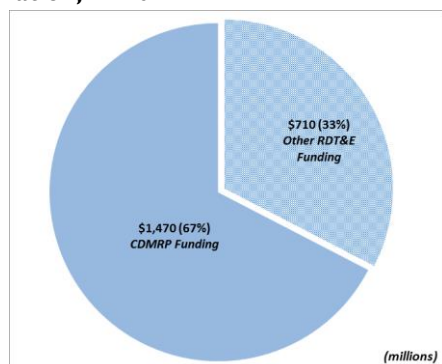
CDMRP Administration and Funding

The CDMRP is a congressional appropriation to the Department of Defense (DOD) explicitly for biomedical research in specific, congressionally identified health matters. The U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) administers the CDMRP and is responsible for awarding and managing competitive grants.

Congress usually inserts CDMRP funding as *Undistributed Medical Research* in the Defense Health Program's Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) account in the annual DOD appropriation. CDMRP funding is not part of the President's budget request for overall RDT&E. Congressional documents accompanying the annual defense appropriation act (i.e., conference reports or explanatory statements) identify the specific research areas.

The Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 115-245), inserted \$1.47 billion into the RDT&E account for CDMRP. This amount comprised 67% of the overall Defense Health Program's RDT&E appropriation, as indicated in **Figure 1**. Biomedical research conducted by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency or other military research agencies is not reflected in this account.

Figure 1. Total Defense Health Program RDT&E Appropriation, FY2019



Source: U.S. Congress, Conference Committee, conference report to accompany H.R. 6157, 115th Cong., H.Rept. 115-952, p. 446.

Funding amounts for specific medical research areas are listed in **Table 1**.

Table 1. CDMRP Funding, FY2019

(in millions of dollars)

Program Title	FY2019
Alcohol and Substance Abuse Disorders	4
Alzheimer's Disease	15
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	10
Autism	7.5
Bone Marrow Failure	3
Breast Cancer	130
Chronic Pain Management	10
Combat Readiness	15
Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy	3.2
Epilepsy	7.5
Global HIV/AIDS prevention	8
Gulf War Illness	22
Hearing Restoration	10
HIV/AIDS	12.9
Joint Warfighter Medical	50
Kidney Cancer	20
Lung Cancer	14
Lupus	5
Melanoma	10
Multiple Sclerosis	6
Orthotics and Prosthetics Outcomes	10
Ovarian Cancer	20
Peer-Reviewed Cancer	90
Peer-Reviewed Medical	350
Peer-Reviewed Orthopedic	30
Prostate Cancer	100
Psychological Health/Traumatic Brain Injury	125
Reconstructive Transplant	12
Spinal Cord Injury	30
Tick-Borne Disease	5
Trauma Clinical	10
Tuberous Sclerosis	6
Vision	20
Core Program Funding	299.2
TOTAL	1,470.3

Source: U.S. Congress, Conference Committee, conference report to accompany H.R. 6157, 115th Cong., H.Rept. 115-952, p. 448.

CDMRP Funding Requests

Members may request funding for medical research during the annual defense appropriations process. The appropriations committees typically send Members a memorandum with instructions for submitting requests. Both House and Senate committee reports may specify funding associated with certain research. A conference committee typically resolves differences.

The medical research programs funded under the CDMRP are not static. Funding may be provided for conditions not funded in previous years. For example, funding for tick-borne disease research was provided in FY2016-FY2019, but no associated funds were provided in FY2015.

Program Announcements and Awards

CDMRP issues program announcements to alert researchers to grant opportunities. The program announcements include detailed descriptions of funding mechanisms, evaluation criteria, submission requirements, and deadlines. Program announcements may be downloaded from the Grants.gov website, or the CDMRP website (<http://cdmrp.army.mil/>).

Grant awards and related publications may be searched on, or downloaded from, a database available at the CDMRP website. In addition, the CDMRP website provides links to brochures about individual research programs providing more detailed information. Annual reports may be accessed through the CDMRP website as well.

Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program

The program with the highest annual funding level under the CDMRP is generally the *Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program* (PRMRP). For FY2019, \$350 million was appropriated for the PRMRP.

PRMRP funding supports grants for medical research on a number of conditions or treatment modalities. Congress specifies an annual list of eligible conditions or treatments that typically includes a few changes from year to year as medical research priorities shift.

For example, research on *burn pit exposure* was eligible for funding in FY2017-FY2019, but was not eligible for funding in FY2016. Nevertheless, an investigator interested in burn pit exposure-related research could have submitted FY2016 grant applications for related eligible topics such as respiratory health, constrictive bronchiolitis, and pulmonary fibrosis. **Table 2** lists all 49 conditions or treatments eligible for FY2019 PRMRP funding.

Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program

Similar to the PRMRP, Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) funding supports grants for medical research on various cancers and related treatment modalities. For FY2019, \$90 million was appropriated for the PRCRP, separate from other CDMRP funding for breast, kidney, lung, melanoma, ovarian, and prostate cancers. **Table 3** lists all 15 cancers and treatments eligible for FY2019 PRCRP funding.

Table 2. PRMRP-Eligible Conditions or Treatments, FY2019

Acute lung injury	Lung Injury
Antimicrobial Resistance	Metals Toxicology
Arthritis	Mitochondrial Disease
Burn Pit Exposure	Musculoskeletal Disorders
Cardiomyopathy	Myotonic Dystrophy
Cerebellar Ataxia	Nanomaterials for Bone Regeneration
Chronic Migraine & Post-Traumatic Headache	Nutrition Optimization
Congenital Heart Disease	Pancreatitis
Constrictive Bronchiolitis	Pathogenic-Inactivated Blood Products
Diabetes	Polycystic Kidney Disease
Dystonia	Post-Traumatic Osteoarthritis
Eating Disorders	Pressure Ulcers
Emerging Infectious Diseases	Pulmonary Fibrosis
Epidermolysis Bullosa	Resilience Training
Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis	Respiratory Health
Frontotemporal Degeneration	Rett Syndrome
Guillain-Barre Syndrome	Rheumatoid Arthritis
Hemorrhage Control	Scleroderma
Hepatitis B	Sleep Disorders
Hereditary Angioedema	Spinal Muscular Atrophy
Hydrocephalus	Tinnitus
Immunomonitoring of Intestinal Transplants	Tissue Regeneration
Inflammatory Bowel Disease	Tuberculosis
Interstitial Cystitis	Vascular Malformations
Women's Heart Disease	

Source: U.S. Congress, Conference Committee, conference report to accompany H.R. 6157, 115th Cong., H.Rept. 115-952, p. 450.

Table 3. PRCRP-Eligible Cancers and Treatments, FY2019

Bladder Cancer	Lymphoma
Blood Cancer	Mesothelioma
Brain Cancer	Neuroblastoma
Colorectal Cancer	Pancreatic Cancer
Immunotherapy	Pediatric Brain Tumors
Listeria Vaccine for Cancer	Stomach Cancers
Liver Cancer	Rare Cancers
Cancer in Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults	

Source: U.S. Congress, Conference Committee, conference report to accompany H.R. 6157, 115th Cong., H.Rept. 115-952, p. 449.

Bryce H. P. Mendez, Analyst in Defense Health Care Policy

Disclaimer

This document was prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). CRS serves as nonpartisan shared staff to congressional committees and Members of Congress. It operates solely at the behest of and under the direction of Congress. Information in a CRS Report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to Members of Congress in connection with CRS's institutional role. CRS Reports, as a work of the United States Government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS Report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS Report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain the permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.