Summary of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
January 27, 2023

OVERVIEW
On January 29, 2023, the Defense Department's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) hosted a webinar entitled, "CDMRP Overview, How to Apply, Tips for Success, and FY23 Programs." G2G attended and prepared the following summary of CDMRP's mission, the timeline and program cycle for applications, the peer review and programmatic review process, the various steps in the application process, and answers provided to key questions during the Q&A. G2G has helped clients navigate the lengthy CDMRP application process over the years, make connections with Program Managers, and can assist in making strong applications. Please let us know any questions.

SPEAKERS
- Dr. Gayle Vaday, Program Manager, CDMRP
- Dr. Tracy Behrsing, Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) Program Manager, CDMRP
- Dr. Kathryn Argue, Health Science Program Manager, CDMRP
- Dr. Melissa Miller, Health Science Program Manager, CDMRP

CDMRP BACKGROUND
The focus of CDMRP is to accelerate high-risk high reward research to advance medical breakthroughs and care for all patients but with a preference for a military service nexus. CDMRP does not provide continuation funding and is entirely dependent on annual congressional appropriations for funding and the list of disease categories. While Congress adds targeted research funds to the DoD budget, it does not "take away" from other DoD priorities. For CDMRP, consumers shape the organization's programs and are critical to implementation. CDMRP's program vision evolves as needs and priorities change and varies year to year.

APPLICATION PROCESS – It includes a two-tier review process as outlined below.
- Peer Review
    - Scientific and technical merit is main basis for assessment (based on ideal application criteria)
    - No standing panels. Reviewers' identities are anonymous (although lists of reviewers from past years are published)
    - Summary statement is put together based on results of peer review –ex: results for scored criteria (individual numerical scores) and unscored criteria
- Programmatic Review
    - Panel considers summary of peer review
    - This is comparison-based process relative to other applications
    - Panel is a wide array of stakeholders
    - No 'pay-line' portfolio balance
    - Just because your application scores well in peer doesn't guarantee favorable programmatic review
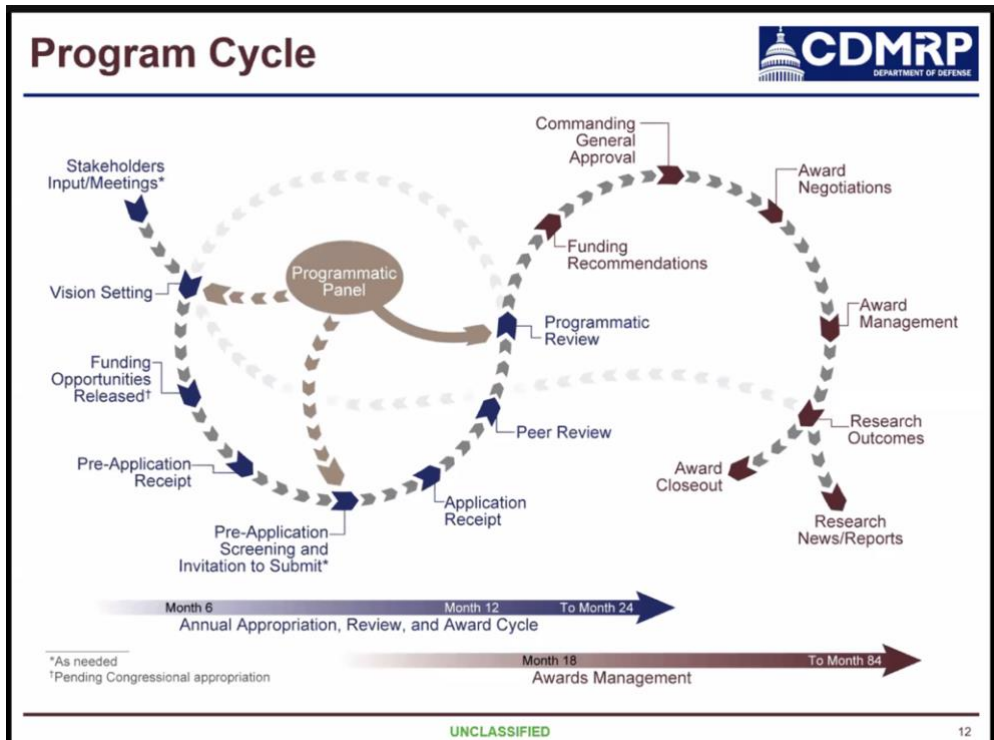   - Result of panel is recommendations for funding

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FUNDING LEVELS FOR CDMRP IN FY2023

CDMRP FY23 Appropriations

Research Program	FY23 $M	Research Program	FY23 $M
Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders	$4.0	Orthotics and Prosthetics Outcomes	$15.0
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	$40.0	Ovarian Cancer	$45.0
Autism	$15.0	Pancreatic Cancer	$15.0
Bone Marrow Failure	$7.5	Parkinson's	$16.0
Breast Cancer	$150.0	Peer Reviewed Alzheimer's	$15.0
Chronic Pain Management	$15.0	Peer Reviewed Cancer (20 Topics)	$130.0
Combat Readiness Medical	$5.0	Peer Reviewed Medical (50 Topics)	$370.0
Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy	$10.0	Peer Reviewed Orthopaedic	$30.0
Epilepsy	$12.0	Prostate Cancer	$110.0
Hearing Restoration	$5.0	Rare Cancers	$17.5
Joint Warfighter Medical	$25.0	Reconstructive Transplant	$12.0
Kidney Cancer	$50.0	Spinal Cord Injury	$40.0
Lung Cancer	$25.0	Tick-Borne Disease	$7.0
Lupus	$10.0	Toxic Exposures	$30.0
Melanoma	$40.0	Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health	$175.0
Military Burn	$10.0	Tuberous Sclerosis Complex	$8.0
Multiple Sclerosis	$20.0	Vision	$20.0
Neurofibromatosis	$25.0	**TOTAL = $1.52B**	

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APPLICATION PROCESS

Program Cycle

Stakeholders Input/Meetings*

Vision Setting

Funding Opportunities Released†

Pre-Application Receipt

Pre-Application Screening and Invitation to Submit*

Programmatic Panel

Application Receipt

Peer Review

Programmatic Review

Commanding General Approval

Funding Recommendations

Award Negotiations

Award Management

Research Outcomes

Research News/Reports

Award Closeout

Month 6 — Month 12 — To Month 24
Annual Appropriation, Review, and Award Cycle

*As needed
†Pending Congressional appropriation

Month 18 — To Month 84
Awards Management

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APPLICATION OVERVIEW

All opportunities are posted on the CDMRP website and on Grants.gov. Dr. Argue recommended tracking pre-announcements for planning purposes but noted that not all programs have pre-announcements. See below for a summary of the steps.

- **Step 1**: Letter of Intent (no invitation to submit full application) or Pre-Proposal (need invitation to apply)
  - On Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP), Tabs 2-5 can be completed in any order, Tab 6 has to be summitted by PI
- **Step 2**: Full Application
  - Extramural orgs – Submit to grants.gov
  - Intramural orgs – Submit directly in eBRAP; tasks for both PI and authorizing org rep
- **Step 3**: Application Verification
  - Certain sections reviewed (narrative, budget cannot be modified)
- **Check the following before submitting:**
  - Do not include programmatic panel members for FY you are applying in your application
  - Stay within page limits, formatting guidelines

STRATEGIES & TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Awardees are guaranteed dollars upfront because CDMRP is funded through Congressional Special Interest (CSI) topics determined by Congress each year and not through DoD core funding. There is no off-year funding or incremental funding, and intramural organizations need to plan for this. During the 5-year expenditure period, awardees need to regularly account for funds spent. Any funds not spent must be returned to the Treasury Department.

1) **Relevance –** Address program specific goals and align the proposed work with specific guidance from the announcement.
2) **Impact –** Propose solutions to important problems or gaps. Clearly articulate translatability – how will this work and how will it **make a difference**?
3) **Innovation –** Provide clear rationale is proposing to test new, potentially high-risk ideas or use novel approaches.
4) **Feasibility –** Justify a technically sound plan with clear approaches for contingencies. Include evidence of appropriate **expertise** (i.e., collaboration, consultants, etc). Demonstrate **availability** and **access** to critical resources, reagents, and/or subject populations.
5) **Planning/Timelines –** Allow adequate time in project plan for regulatory approvals if required. For multi-organizational efforts, show a clear plan for coordination and communication.
6) **Grantsmanship –** Explain the proposed work with clarity and unburdened by jargon. Review the application carefully before submission and enlist experienced colleagues to help. DO NOT break the rules for deadlines or requirements as your application will not be considered.

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