Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs Funding for FY2021

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 Department of Defense (DOD) program that receives congressional appropriations explicitly for biomedical research in specific, congressionally identified health matters. As such, it is not part of the President’s budget request for the DOD. The U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC) 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. Congressional documents accompanying the annual defense appropriation act (i.e., conference reports or explanatory statements) identify the specific research areas for a given fiscal year.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260) inserted $1.489 billion into the RDT&E account for CDMRP. This amount comprises 62% of the overall Defense Health Program’s RDT&E appropriation, as reflected in Figure 1. Biomedical research conducted by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency or other military research agencies is not included in this account.

**Figure 1. Total Defense Health Program RDT&E Appropriation, FY2021**


Table 1 lists the FY2021 CDMRP funding amounts for specific medical research areas.

**Table 1. CDMRP Funding, FY2021** (in millions of dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Title</th>
<th>FY2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autism</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone Marrow Failure Disease</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast Cancer</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Pain Management</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combat Readiness Medical</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epilepsy</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf War Illness</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing Restoration</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global HIV/AIDS Prevention</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Warfighter Medical</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney Cancer</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung Cancer</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lupus</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanoma</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Sclerosis</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthotics and Prosthetics Outcomes</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ovarian Cancer</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancreatic Cancer</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prostate Cancer
Vision
Tuberous Sclerosis
Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health
Tick
Spinal Cord Injury
Scleroderma
Reconstructive
Rare Cancers
Peer
Peer
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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 FY2021, $370 million
was appropriated for the PRMRP.

PRMRP funding supports grants for medical research on a
number of conditions or treatment modalities that are of
“clear scientific merit and direct relevance to military
health.” 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-FY2021, 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 42 conditions or treatments eligible for FY2021 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 FY2021, $115 million was appropriated for
the PRCRP, separate from other CDMRP funding for
breast, kidney, lung, melanoma, ovarian, pancreatic,
prostate, and rare cancers. Table 3 lists all 20 cancers and
treatments eligible for FY2021 PRCRP funding.

### 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 any differences between the
committee reports.

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-FY2020,
but no associated funds were provided in FY2015.

### Program Announcements and Awards
USAMRDC issues periodic program announcements to alert researchers of CDMRP grant opportunities. The
program announcements include detailed descriptions of
funding mechanisms, evaluation criteria, submission
requirements, and deadlines. Program announcements are
listed on the Grants.gov website, or the CDMRP website
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### Table 2. PRMRP-Eligible Conditions or Treatments, FY2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>Malaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burn Pit Exposure</td>
<td>Metals Toxicology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiomyopathy</td>
<td>Mitochondrial Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myalgic</td>
<td>Myalgic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congenital Heart Disease</td>
<td>Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>Myotonic Dystrophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dystonia</td>
<td>Non-Opioid Pain Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating Disorders</td>
<td>Nutrition Optimization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerging Viral Diseases</td>
<td>Pathogen-Inactivated Blood Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endometriosis</td>
<td>Peripheral Neuropathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epidermolysis Bullosa</td>
<td>Plant-Based Vaccines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familial Hypercholesterolemia</td>
<td>Platelet-Like Cell Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibrous Dysplasia</td>
<td>Polycystic Kidney Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis</td>
<td>Pressure Ulcers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Allergies</td>
<td>Pulmonary Fibrosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fragile X</td>
<td>Respiratory Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontotemporal Degeneration</td>
<td>Rheumatoid Arthritis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemorrhage Control</td>
<td>Sleep Disorders and Restriction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>Suicide Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrocephalus</td>
<td>Sustained Release Drug Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>Vascular Malformation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflammatory Bowel Diseases</td>
<td>Women’s Heart Disease</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Table 3. PRCRP-Eligible Cancers and Treatments, FY2021

| Cancers associated with the use of Beryllium | Lymphoma |

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