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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).

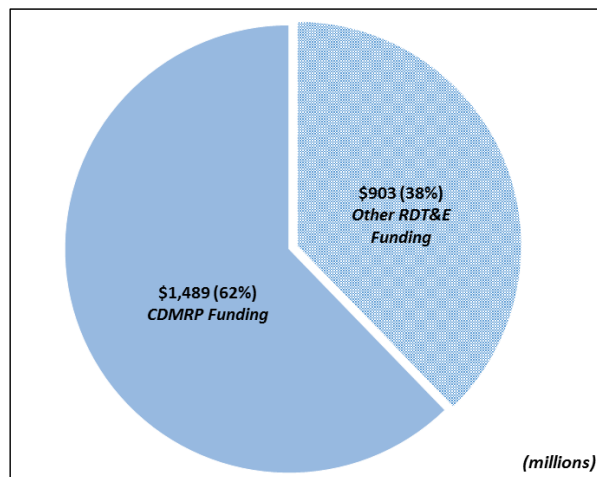
CDMRP Administration and Funding

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



Source: U.S. Congress, Conference Committee, *Explanatory Statement accompanying H.R. 7617*, 116th Cong., Division C, p. 147C.

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

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

Program Title	FY2021
Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders	4
Alzheimer's Disease	15
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	40
Autism	15
Bone Marrow Failure Disease	7.5
Breast Cancer	150
Chronic Pain Management	15
Combat Readiness Medical	10
Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy	10
Epilepsy	12
Gulf War Illness	22
Hearing Restoration	10
Global HIV/AIDS Prevention	8
Joint Warfighter Medical	40
Kidney Cancer	50
Lung Cancer	20
Lupus	10
Melanoma	30
Multiple Sclerosis	20
Orthotics and Prosthetics Outcomes	15
Ovarian Cancer	35
Pancreatic Cancer	15

Peer-Reviewed Cancer	115
Peer-Reviewed Medical	370
Peer-Reviewed Orthopedic	30
Rare Cancers	17.5
Reconstructive Transplant	12
Scleroderma	5
Spinal Cord Injury	40
Tick-Borne Disease	7
Trauma Clinical	10
Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health	175
Tuberous Sclerosis	8
Vision	20
HIV/AIDS	16
Prostate Cancer	110
TOTAL	1,489

Source: U.S. Congress, Conference Committee, *Explanatory Statement accompanying H.R. 7617*, 116th Cong., Division C, p. 147C.

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 (<http://cdmrp.army.mil/>).

The CDMRP website also includes information on awarded grants and other resources such as related publications, brochures about individual research programs, and annual reports.

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.

Table 2. PRMRP-Eligible Conditions or Treatments, FY2021

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

Source: U.S. Congress, Conference Committee, *Explanatory Statement accompanying H.R. 7617*, 116th Cong., Division C, pp. 149-150.

Table 3. PRCRP-Eligible Cancers and Treatments, FY2021

Cancers associated with the use of Beryllium	Lymphoma
Bladder Cancer	Mesothelioma

Blood Cancers	Metastatic Cancers
Brain Cancer	Neuroblastoma
Colorectal Cancer	Pediatric Brain Tumors
Endometrial Cancer	Pediatric, Adolescent, and Young Adult Cancers
Esophageal Cancer	Sarcoma
Germ Cell Cancers	Stomach Cancer

Head and Neck Cancer	Thyroid Cancer
Liver Cancer	Scleroderma and Cancer Links

Source: U.S. Congress, Conference Committee, *Explanatory Statement accompanying H.R. 7617*, 116th Cong., Division C, p. 149.

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