



# Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs Funding for FY2020

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).

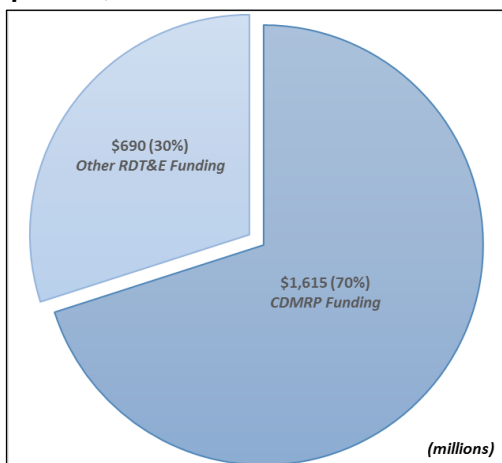
## CDMRP Administration and Funding

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, 2020 (P.L. 116-93), inserted \$1.61 billion into the RDT&E account for CDMRP. This amount comprises 70% 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, FY2020**



Source: U.S. Congress, Conference Committee, *Explanatory Statement accompanying H.R. 1158*, 116th Cong., Division A, p. 89A

**Table 1** lists the FY2020 CDMRP funding amounts for specific medical research areas.

**Table 1. CDMRP Funding, FY2020**  
(in millions of dollars)

Program Title	FY2020
Alzheimer’s Disease	15
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	20
Autism	15
Bone Marrow Failure	3
Breast Cancer	150
Chronic Pain Management	15
Combat Readiness	10
Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy	10
Epilepsy	12
Global HIV/AIDS Prevention	8
Gulf War Illness	22
Hearing Restoration	10
HIV/AIDS	15
Joint Warfighter Medical	40
Kidney Cancer	40
Lung Cancer	14
Lupus	10
Melanoma	20
Multiple Sclerosis	16
Orthotics and Prosthetics Outcomes	15
Ovarian Cancer	35
Pancreatic Cancer	6
Peer-Reviewed Cancer	110
Peer-Reviewed Medical	360
Peer-Reviewed Orthopedic	30
Prostate Cancer	110
Psychological Health/Traumatic Brain Injury	165
Rare Cancers	7.5
Reconstructive Transplant	12
Scleroderma	5
Spinal Cord Injury	40
Tick-Borne Disease	7
Trauma Clinical	10
Tuberous Sclerosis	6
Vision	20
Core Program Funding	232.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,615.6</b>

Source: U.S. Congress, Conference Committee, *Explanatory Statement accompanying H.R. 1158*, 116th Cong., Division A, pp. 89B-89C.

**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 FY2020, \$360 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-FY2020, 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 44 conditions or treatments eligible for FY2020 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 FY2020, \$110 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 14 cancers and treatments eligible for FY2020 PRCRP funding.

**Table 2. PRMRP-Eligible Conditions or Treatments, FY2020**

Arthritis	Inflammatory Bowel Disease
Burn Pit Exposure	Interstitial Cystitis
Chronic Migraine & Post-Traumatic Headache	Metals Toxicology
Congenital Heart Disease	Mitochondrial Disease
Constrictive Bronchiolitis	Musculoskeletal Health
Diabetes	Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
Dystonia	Myotonic Dystrophy
Eating Disorders	Nutrition Optimization
Emerging Viral Diseases	Pancreatitis
Endometriosis	Pathogenic-Inactivated Blood Products
Epidermolysis Bullosa	Plant-based Vaccines
Familial Hypercholesterolemia	Polycystic Kidney Disease
Fibrous Dysplasia	Pressure Ulcers
Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis	Pulmonary Fibrosis
Food Allergies	Resilience Training
Fragile X	Respiratory Health
Frontotemporal Degeneration	Rheumatoid Arthritis
Guillain-Barre Syndrome	Sleep Disorders
Hemorrhage Control	Spinal Muscular Atrophy
Hepatitis B	Sustained Release Drug Delivery
Hydrocephalus	Vascular Malformations
Immunomonitoring of Intestinal Transplants	Women's Heart Disease

**Source:** U.S. Congress, Conference Committee, *Explanatory Statement accompanying H.R. 1158*, 116th Cong., Division A, p. 92.

**Table 3. PRCRP-Eligible Cancers and Treatments, FY2020**

Bladder Cancer	Liver Cancer
Blood Cancer	Mesothelioma
Brain Cancer	Metastatic Cancers
Colorectal Cancer	Neuroblastoma
Esophageal Cancer	Pediatric Brain Tumors
Head & Neck Cancer	Stomach Cancers
Immunotherapy	Cancer in Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults

**Source:** U.S. Congress, Conference Committee, *Explanatory Statement accompanying H.R. 1158*, 116th Cong., Division A, p. 91.

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