

# Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

## Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP)

*Presented by*

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**Webinar to Celiac Disease Foundation**  
**February 28, 2023 – 3:30PM EST**



*Transforming Healthcare through Innovative and Impactful Research*



**CDMRP**  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
**CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED  
MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS**

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For more information, visit [cdmrp.health.mil](https://cdmrp.health.mil)

- Overview of CDMRP
- Program Cycle and Review Process
- Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP)
- Funding Opportunities and How to Apply
- Additional Resources and Strategies for Success



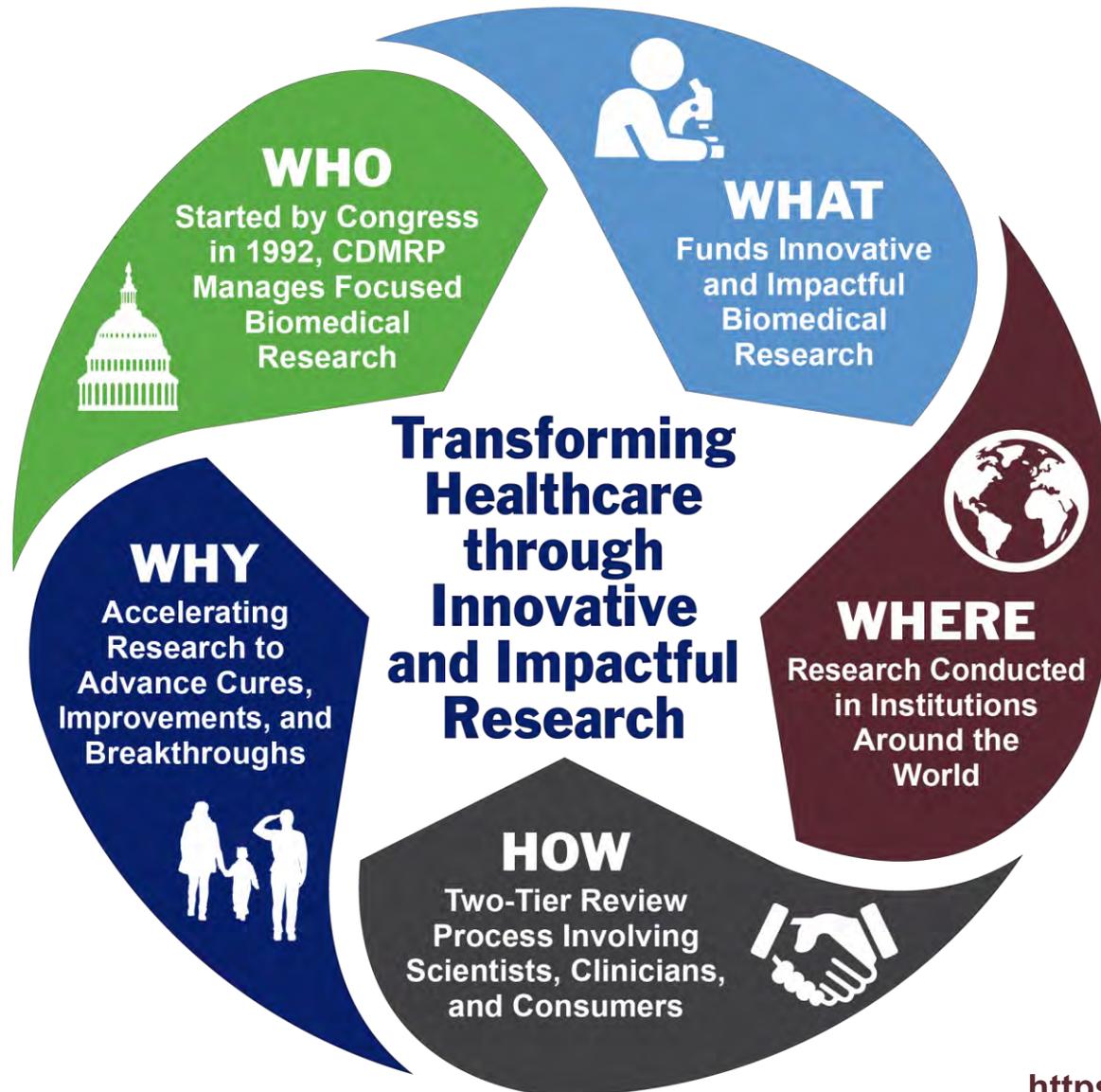
## Vision

Transforming healthcare through innovative and impactful research



## Mission

Responsibly manage collaborative research that discovers, develops, and delivers health care solutions for Service Members, Veterans and the American public



<https://cdmrp.health.mil>



- Congress adds targeted research funds to the DOD budget
- Funds high-impact innovative research
- Avoids duplication with other funding agencies and targets unfunded/unmet gaps
- Funding opportunities publicly announced and competed
- Follows the National Academy of Medicine-recommended model for application review
- Consumers participate throughout the process and are the “True North” and foundation of the programs
- Annually adapts each program’s vision and investment strategy allowing rapid response to changing needs
- Funding flexibility
  - Funds obligated up-front; limited out-year budget commitments
  - No continuation funding
  - No “pay line” – funding recommendations are based on portfolio composition, adherence to mechanism intent, relative impact, and technical merit
- Transparency and accountability to stakeholders
- Low management costs maximize research dollars

# CDMRP FY23 Appropriations



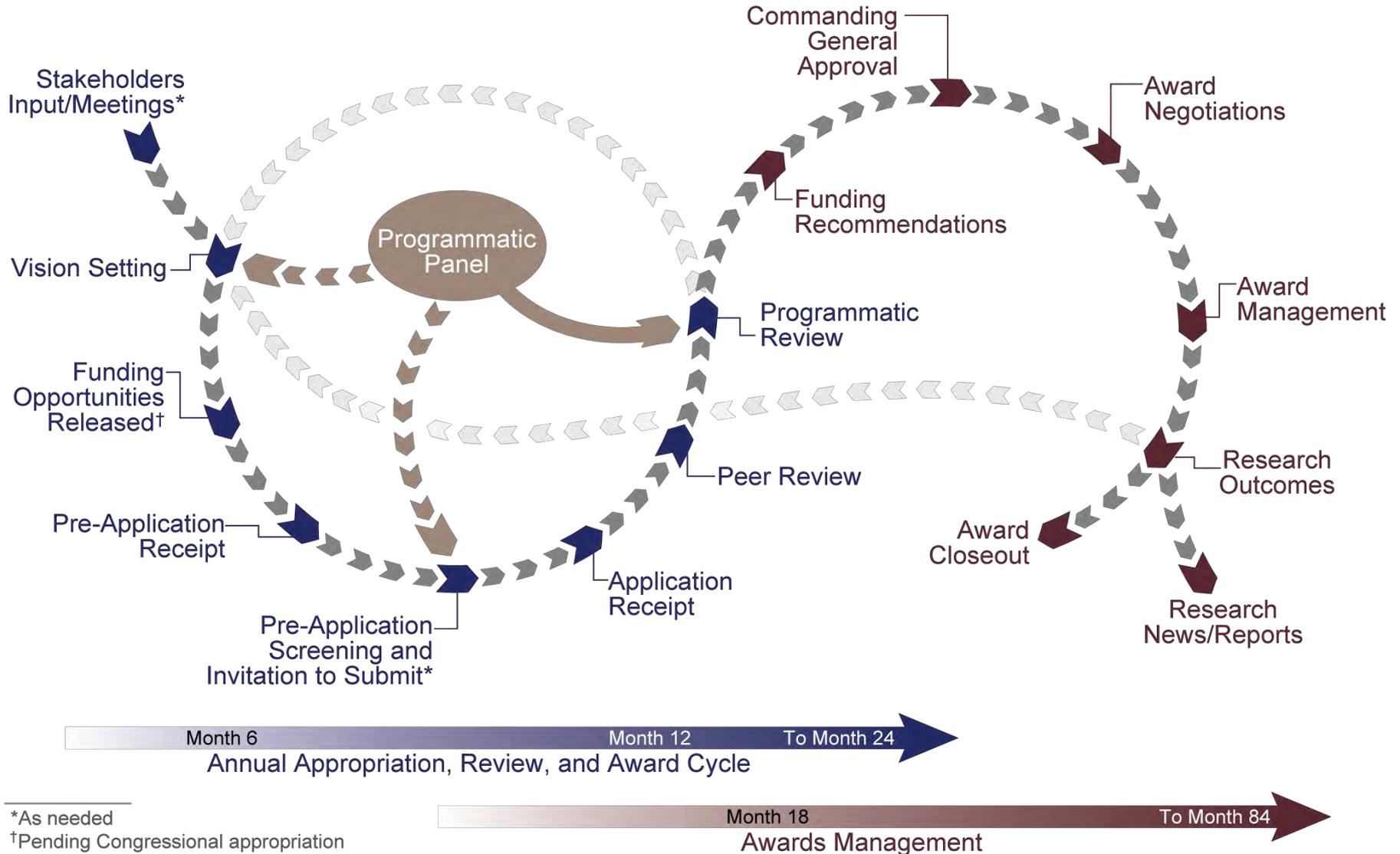
Research Program	FY23 \$M	Research Program	FY23 \$M
Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders	\$4.0	Orthotics and Prosthetics Outcomes	\$15.0
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	\$40.0	Ovarian Cancer	\$45.0
Autism	\$15.0	Pancreatic Cancer	\$15.0
Bone Marrow Failure	\$7.5	Parkinson's	\$16.0
Breast Cancer	\$150.0	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	<b>TOTAL = \$1.52B</b>	

# CDMRP Program Cycle and Review Process

A large, dark blue banner spans the width of the slide. On the left side, there is a faint, glowing molecular structure composed of interconnected dots and lines. On the right side, there is a silhouette of a family consisting of two adults and a child, standing on a dark surface. The background of the banner is a gradient of dark blue, with a large, light blue arrow shape pointing to the right, partially overlapping the family silhouette.

*Transforming Healthcare through Innovative and **Impactful** Research*

# Program Cycle



# Goal of the Two-Tier Review Process

To develop funding recommendations that balance ***the most meritorious science*** across many disciplines and offer the highest promise to ***fulfill the programmatic goals*** set forth in the funding opportunity

## PARTNERSHIP

Peer Review

Programmatic Review



Video and additional information available at: <https://cdmrp.health.mil/about/2tierRevProcess>

- How the evaluation process works
  - Technical merit assessment based on an ideal application
  - Criteria-based evaluation of entire application
- Peer reviewers
  - Panels comprised of scientific and consumer reviewers
  - No standing panels
  - Reviewers are recruited based on expertise needed and may include specialists
  - Identities are unknown to applicants; contact between applicants, reviewers, and program staff are not permitted



**Outcome:  
Summary  
Statements**



Peer Review Participants

[FY22 Peer Review Participants \(pdf\)](#) 

[Previous Years' Peer Review Participants](#)



Prior year peer reviewer lists are available on the CDMRP website

- How the evaluation process works
  - Comparison among proposals of high scientific merit
    - Adherence to award mechanism's intent
    - Relative innovation and/or impact
    - Relevance to program goals
    - Consideration of portfolio composition
  - No “pay line” (portfolio balance)
- Programmatic reviewers
  - Programmatic Panel members comprised of consumers, clinicians, researchers, and program staff from a wide variety of representative organizations
  - Ad hoc reviewers

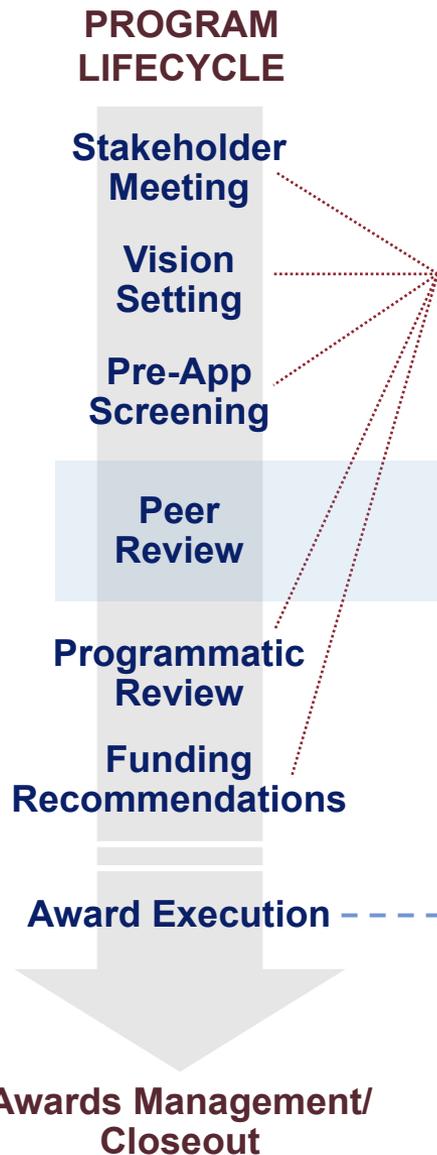


**Outcome:  
Funding  
Recommendations**

# Consumers are the “True North” and Foundation of the CDMRP

CDMRP includes consumers – patients, survivors, family members, and/or caregivers – in every aspect of the program lifecycle.

Consumers serve as full voting members on peer review and programmatic panels. Through their lived experiences with the target disease, disorder, or injury, consumers represent their respective communities and add valuable perspectives and a sense of urgency to the program mission, investment strategy, and research focus.



## FY22 Consumer Involvement

**80** consumers\* were assigned to Programmatic Panels as members and ad hoc reviewers representing **65** consumer advocacy organizations, active-duty Service Members, or Veterans

**855** consumer reviewers\*\* were assigned to Peer Review Panels representing **415** consumer advocacy (nominating) organizations

Consumer advocates also participate on research teams for funded projects

\* All unique individuals  
 \*\* 737 unique individuals



# Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP)

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*Transforming Healthcare through Innovative and **Impactful** Research*

# Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP)

Vision: Improve the health, care, and well-being of all military Service Members, Veterans, and beneficiaries

Mission: Encourage, identify, select and manage medical research projects of clear scientific merit that lead to impactful advances in health care of Service Members, Veterans, and beneficiaries

## ◆ History

- ❖ Initiated in 1999 to address diseases and conditions with relevance to military health
- ❖ Direction from congress to support research of “clear scientific merit” and “direct relevance to military health” in specified topic areas  
(*shall be devoted only to the purposes listed*) → Congressional language

## Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program



Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

**CDMRP**  
Department of Defense



U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command



<https://cdmrp.health.mil/prmrp/default>

# FY23 Topic Areas (50 total) for Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program

- Arthritis
- Celiac Disease\*
- Dystonia
- Eating Disorders
- Eczema\*
- Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome
- Endometriosis
- Epidermolysis Bullosa
- Familial Hypercholesterolemia
- Fibrous Dysplasia/McCune Albright Syndrome
- Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis
- Food Allergies
- Fragile X
- Frontotemporal Degeneration
- Guillain-Barre Syndrome
- Hemorrhage Control
- Hepatitis B
- Hereditary Ataxia \*
- Hydrocephalus
- Hypercholesterolemia
- Inflammatory Bowel Diseases
- Interstitial Cystitis
- Lymphatic Disease \*
- Lymphedema\*
- Malaria
- Maternal Mental Health\*
- Mitochondrial Disease
- Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
- Myotonic Dystrophy
- Nephrotic Syndrome
- Neuroactive Steroids\*
- Neuroinflammatory Response to Emerging Viral Diseases\*
- Non-opioid Therapy for Pain Management
- Orthopaedics\*
- Pancreatitis
- Peripheral Neuropathy
- Polycystic Kidney Disease
- Pressure Ulcers
- Proteomics\*
- Pulmonary Fibrosis
- Respiratory Health
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Scleroderma\*\*
- Sickle-Cell Disease\*
- Sleep Disorders and Restriction
- Suicide Prevention
- Trauma
- Tuberculosis\*\*
- Vascular Malformations
- Von Hippel-Lindau Syndrome Benign Manifestations\*

*Applicants must address at least one of the Topic Areas, which are directed by Congress*



\*New in FY23  
\*\* Returning in FY23

# PRMRP's FY23 Portfolio Driven Approach



## Autoimmune Disorders & Immunology

- Celiac Disease
- Eczema
- Food Allergies
- Guillain-Barre Syndrome
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Neuroinflammatory Responses to Emerging Viral Diseases
- Proteomics
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Scleroderma

## Cardiovascular Health

- Familial Hypercholesterolemia
- Hypercholesterolemia
- Proteomics
- Vascular Malformations

## Hemorrhage Control & Blood Products

- Hemorrhage Control
- Proteomics
- Trauma

## Infectious Diseases

- Hepatitis B
- Malaria
- Neuroinflammatory Responses to Emerging Viral Diseases
- Proteomics
- Tuberculosis

## Internal Medicine

- Endometriosis
- Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis
- Interstitial Cystitis
- Lymphatic Disease
- Lymphedema
- Nephrotic Syndrome
- Pancreatitis
- Polycystic Kidney Disease
- Pressure Ulcers
- Proteomics

## Neuroscience

- Eating Disorders
- Maternal Mental Health
- Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
- Neuroactive Steroids
- Neuroinflammatory Responses to Emerging Viral Diseases
- Non-Opioid Therapy for Pain Management
- Peripheral Neuropathy
- Proteomics
- Sleep Disorders and Restriction
- Suicide Prevention
- Trauma

## Orthopaedic Medicine

- Arthritis
- Orthopedics
- Proteomics
- Trauma

## Rare Diseases & Conditions

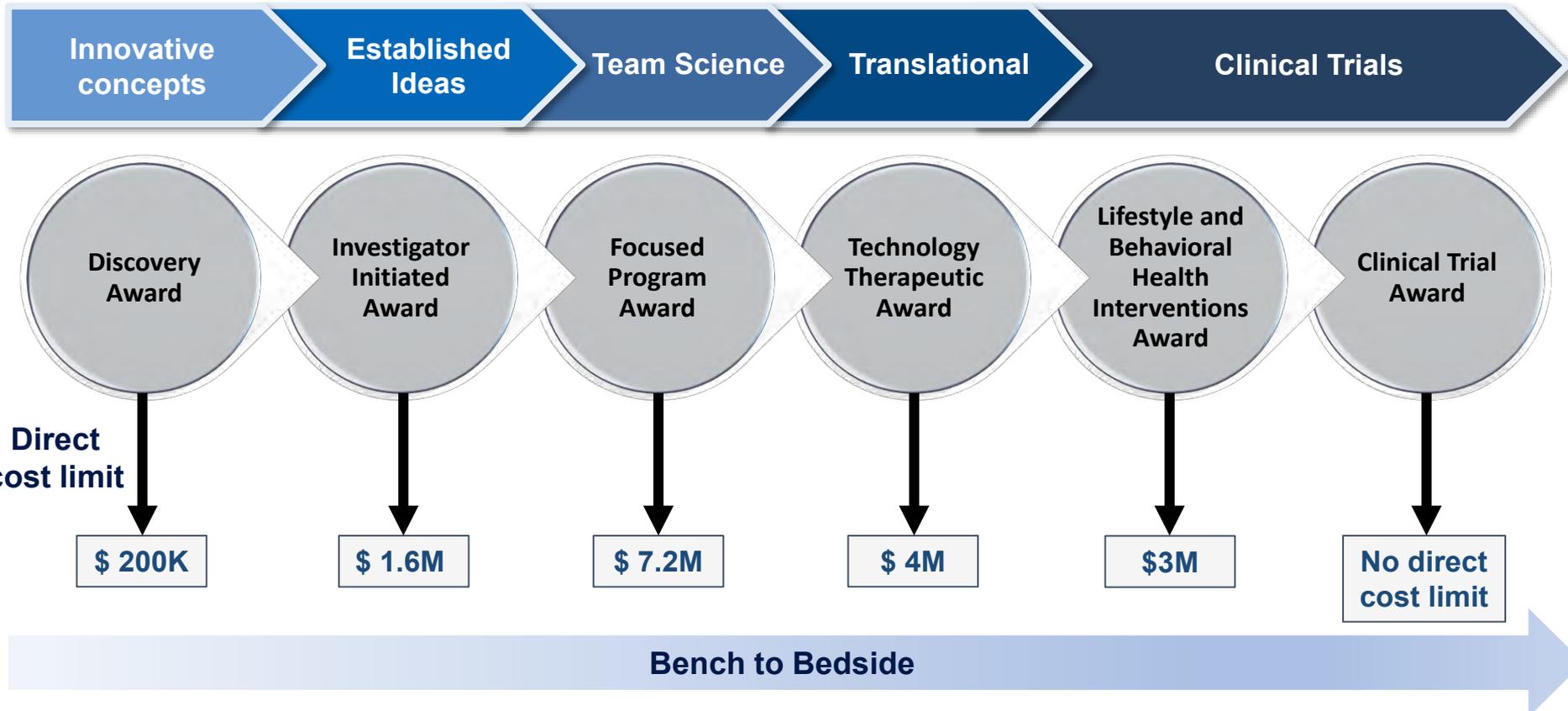
- Dystonia
- Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome
- Epidermolysis Bullosa
- Fibrous Dysplasia/McCune-Albright Syndrome
- Fragile X
- Frontotemporal Degeneration
- Hereditary Ataxia
- Hydrocephalus
- Mitochondrial Diseases
- Myotonic Dystrophy
- Proteomics
- Sickle-Cell Disease
- Von Hippel-Lindau Syndrome Benign Manifestations

## Respiratory Health

- Proteomics
- Pulmonary Fibrosis
- Respiratory Health
- Trauma

## Six Funding Opportunities offered in FY23

→ Applicants must address one Topic Area and one portfolio-specific Strategic Goal



# FY23 PRMRP Funding Opportunities Available



## Discovery

Direct cost max: \$200K

POP: 2 years

Eligibility: Post-docs, clinical fellows and above

LOI/Invite: Letter of Intent

Supports the exploration of highly innovative concepts or untested theories

## Investigator Initiated

Direct cost max: \$1.6M/  
\$2.0M (PPIO)

POP: 4 years

Eligibility: PIs at or above Assistant Professor

LOI/Invite: Letter of Intent

Supports basic through translational research that will improve and impact the field of research or patient care

## Technology/Therapeutic

Direct cost max: \$2.0M  
(FL1)/\$4.0M (FL2)

POP: 4 years

Eligibility: PIs at or above Assistant Professor

LOI/Invite: Letter of Intent

Supports translation of preclinical findings into impactful products for clinical application

Letter of intent is required for these mechanisms

# FY23 PRMRP Funding Opportunities Available



## Focused Program

Direct cost max: \$7.2M

POP: 4 years

Eligibility: PIs at or above Full Professor

LOI/Invite: Pre-proposal submission is required; application submission is by invitation only

Supports synergistic, multidisciplinary research program of at least four distinct but complementary projects addressing an overarching goal

## Clinical Trial

Direct cost max: \$500K (PP)/no limit (full trial)

POP: 18months (PP)/ 4 years full trial)

Eligibility: PIs at or above Assistant Professor

LOI/Invite: Pre-proposal submission is required; application submission is by invitation only

**Planning Phase:** Supports regulatory costs for trial planning to include IND/IDE submission; must have FDA approval before trial may be funded

**Clinical Trial:** Supports rapid implementation of trials of novel interventions with the potential to have impact on patient care. May range from small through large-scale

## Lifestyle and Behavioral Health Interventions

Direct cost max: \$3M

POP: 4 years

Eligibility: PIs at or above Assistant Professor

LOI/Invite: Letter of Intent

Supports clinical research and/or clinical trials using a combination of scientific disciplines including behavioral health, psychology, psychometrics, biostatistics and epidemiology, surveillance, and public health

Pre-proposal submission is required; application submission is by invitation only

Letter of intent is required

## Military Health Statement

Is the proposed research relevant to the healthcare needs of Service Members, Veterans, Military Beneficiaries, and/or the American Public?

EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- ✓ Dual-use capacity to benefit the civilian population and a need related to military health
- ✓ Aspects of the target disease/condition with direct relevance to military health
- ✓ Contribution to family readiness of Service Members (mission readiness)
- ✓ Support for the Warfighter and requirement for use in deployed setting

Proposals must address one:

**FY23 PRMRP  
Topic Area**

**FY23 PRMRP  
Portfolio-Specific  
Strategic Goal**



Autoimmune Disorders and Immunology	Hemorrhage Control and Blood Products	
Infectious Diseases	Orthopaedic Medicine	Respiratory Health
Internal Medicine	Cardiovascular Health	
Rare Diseases and Conditions	Neuroscience	

# Application Requirements:

## Example: Autoimmune Disorders Portfolio Strategic Goals

### Foundational Studies

- Identify factors, to include environmental exposures, lifestyle triggers, genetic risk factors, dietary practices, and past medical history, impacting the onset and progression of associated immune-mediated diseases
- Elucidate and prevent neurological, psychiatric, and psychosocial impacts of associated immune-mediated diseases
- Determine the impact of the microbiome and/or gut mediated inflammation on associated immune-mediated diseases

### Diagnosis

- Develop innovative noninvasive methods for diagnosis and continuous monitoring of inflammation
- Identify biomarkers, including multi-omics approaches, to diagnose, predict onset, and/or progression of associated immune-mediated diseases
- Develop tools to assess cognitive dysfunction associated with neurological implications of associated immune-mediated diseases

### Topic Areas

- Celiac Disease
- Eczema
- Food Allergies
- Guillain-Barre Syndrome
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Scleroderma

Applications must address one Strategic Goal and one Topic Area

# Application Requirements:

## Example: Autoimmune Disorders Portfolio Strategic Goals

### Treatment

- Develop and test therapeutic interventions to promote tissue healing
- Develop and test new treatments and/or refine existing treatment strategies to minimize toxicity, and mitigate the inflammatory, immune, and/or allergic disease state

### Epidemiology

- Conduct patient-centered research on onset, exacerbation, outcomes, and treatment preferences for associated immune-mediated diseases
- Conduct population-based studies to identify risk factors that contribute to onset and progression of associated immune-mediated diseases and comorbidities
- Conduct patient-centered research to decrease disease burden for military families

### Topic Areas

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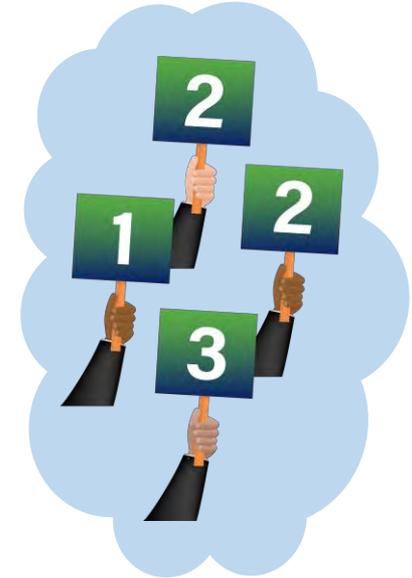
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# Peer Review Criteria – Listed in the Funding Opportunities

## II.E.1.a. Peer Review

To determine technical merit, all applications will be evaluated according to the following **scored criteria**, which are listed in decreasing order of importance:

Example Peer Review Criteria	
Scored	Unscored
Research Strategy and Feasibility	Environment
Impact	Budget
Transition Plan and Regulatory Strategy	Application Presentation
Personnel	



### Impact

- To what extent the project impacts a critical problem or question in one of the FY23 PRMRP Topic Areas.
- To what extent the proposed research project addresses one of the FY23 PRMRP Strategic Goals.
- How the proposed research project, if successful, will make important scientific advances in the relevant field of research.
- To what extent the proposed research has potential for impact, both short-term and long-term, on the field of study and/or patient care.

## II.E.1.b. Programmatic Review

To make funding recommendations and select the application(s) that, individually or collectively, will best achieve the program objectives, the following criteria are used by programmatic reviewers:

- Ratings and evaluations of the peer reviewers
- Relevance to the mission of the DHP and FY23 PRMRP, as evidenced by the following:
  - Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism
  - Relevance to the FY23 PRMRP Topic Areas
  - Relevance to the FY23 PRMRP Strategic Goals
  - Relevance to military health
  - Program portfolio composition



Programmatic Panel membership lists are available on the CDMRP website



# PRMRP Submission Deadlines



Award Mechanism	LOI	Pre-Proposal	Dates	Invitation to submit	Full Application Deadline
Discovery Award (DA)			29 March 23		26 April 23
Investigator-Initiated Research Award (IIRA)			19 April 23		31 May 23
Technology/Therapeutic Development (TTDA)			19 April 23		31 May 23
Lifestyle and Behavioral Health Interventions (LBIRA)			19 April 23		31 May 23
Focused Program Award (FPA)			12 April 23	17 June 22	19 July 23
Clinical Trial (CTA)			12 April 23	17 June 22	19 July 23

# Additional Tips, Resources, and Strategies for Success

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*Transforming Healthcare through Innovative and **Impactful** Research*

Understanding the *goals of the program, intent of the award mechanism, and review criteria* is critical for a successful application



- The funding opportunity announcement contains information on:
  - Program Goals
  - Focus Areas/Topics
  - Award Intent
  - Required Elements, Eligibility, and Funding
  - Review Criteria
  - Deadlines

Single most important tip:  
*Read the announcement carefully*

## ✓ Relevance

- Address program-specific goals
- **Align** the proposed work with specific guidance from the announcement

## ✓ Impact

- Propose **solutions** to important problems or gaps
- Clearly articulate translatability – how will this work **make a difference**?

## ✓ Innovation

- Provide clear rationale if proposing to test new, potentially high-risk ideas or use novel approaches

## ✓ Feasibility

- Justify a technically sound plan with clear approaches for contingencies
- Include evidence of appropriate **expertise** (collaboration, consultants, etc.)
- Ensure the study is **appropriately powered** for the proposed research outcome
- Demonstrate **availability** and **access** to critical resources, reagents, and/or subject populations



## ✓ Planning/Timelines

- Include and allow adequate time in project plan for **regulatory approvals** if required
- For multi-organizational efforts, show a clear plan for **coordination** and communication
- For DOD collaborations, understand rules and plan for differences in funding process



## ✓ Grantsmanship

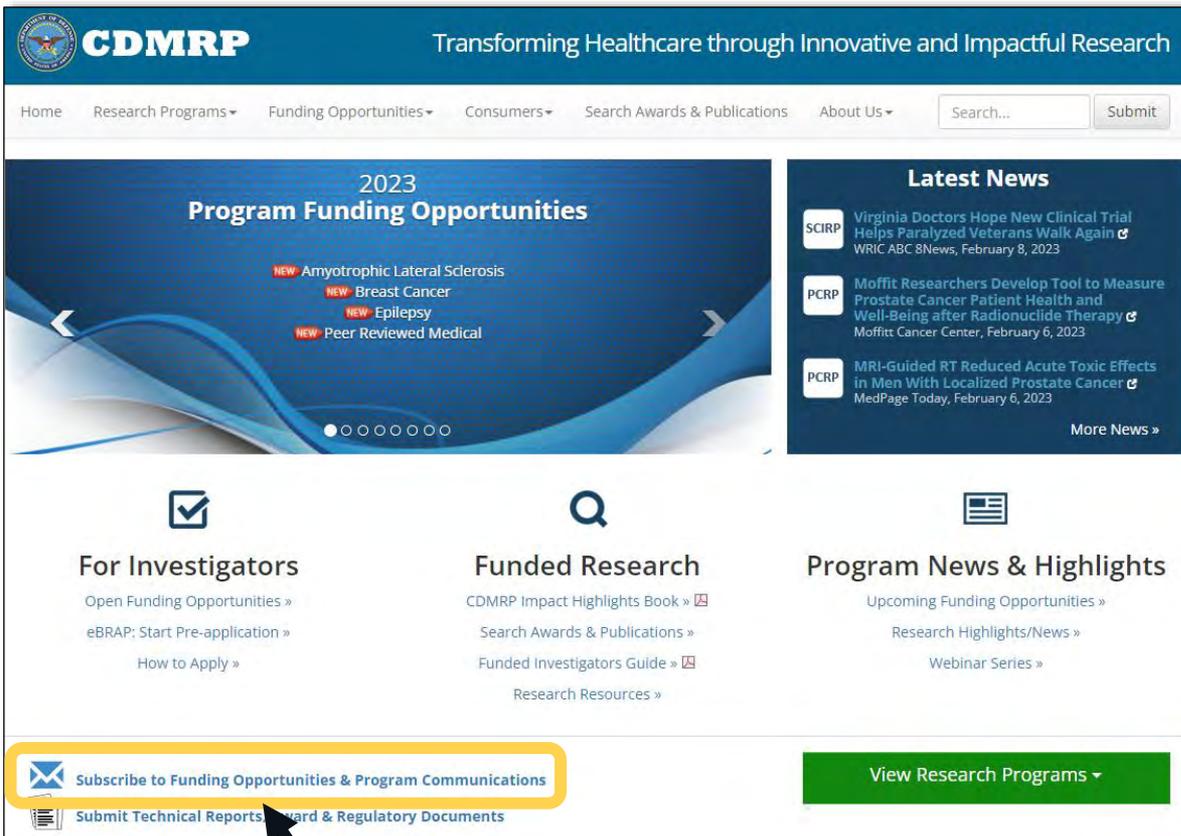
- Explain the proposed work with **clarity** and **unburdened** by jargon
- Understand the different audiences of the peer and programmatic reviews and **communicate** effectively
- **Review** application documents carefully before submission – Enlist experienced colleagues to help
- Don't break the rules for deadlines or requirements – **be compliant**

## Information available:

- Program pages
  - ▶ Strategic Plans
  - ▶ Program booklets, summary sheets, information papers, etc.
  - ▶ Other program-specific resources
- Pre-announcements and Funding Opportunities
- Research and Consumer Highlights
- Search awards
- Annual reports
- Webinar series and videos
- Other guides and resources

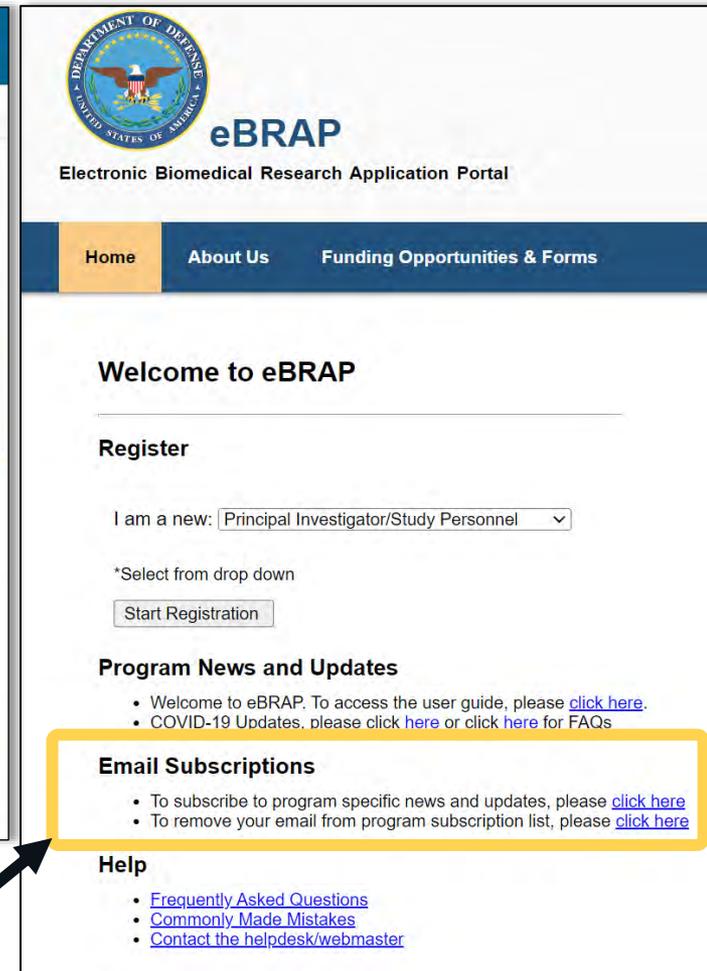
[cdmrp.health.mil](http://cdmrp.health.mil)

# Subscribe to Email Notifications



The screenshot shows the CDMRP website homepage with the following elements:

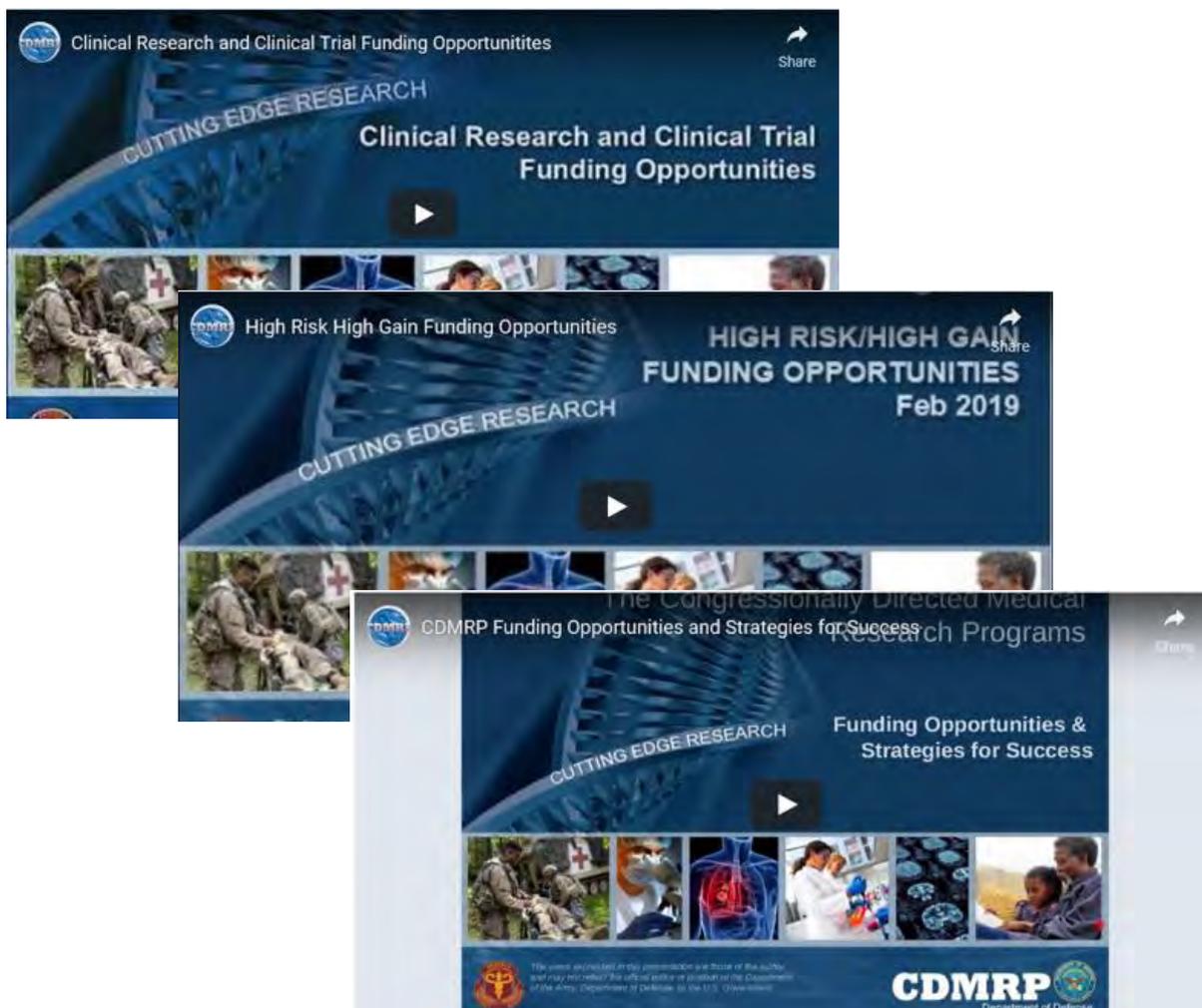
- Header: CDMRP logo and tagline "Transforming Healthcare through Innovative and Impactful Research".
- Navigation: Home, Research Programs, Funding Opportunities, Consumers, Search Awards & Publications, About Us, and a search bar.
- Main Content:
  - 2023 Program Funding Opportunities**: A carousel with "NEW" tags for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Breast Cancer, Epilepsy, and Peer Reviewed Medical.
  - Latest News**: Three news items with SCIRP and PCRCP logos, including "Virginia Doctors Hope New Clinical Trial Helps Paralyzed Veterans Walk Again" and "Moffitt Researchers Develop Tool to Measure Prostate Cancer Patient Health and Well-Being after Radionuclide Therapy".
  - For Investigators**: Open Funding Opportunities, eBRAP: Start Pre-application, How to Apply.
  - Funded Research**: CDMRP Impact Highlights Book, Search Awards & Publications, Funded Investigators Guide, Research Resources.
  - Program News & Highlights**: Upcoming Funding Opportunities, Research Highlights/News, Webinar Series.
- Footer: "Subscribe to Funding Opportunities & Program Communications" (highlighted with a yellow box), "Submit Technical Reports Award & Regulatory Documents", and "View Research Programs" (green button).



The screenshot shows the eBRAP website with the following elements:

- Header: eBRAP logo and tagline "Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal".
- Navigation: Home, About Us, Funding Opportunities & Forms.
- Main Content:
  - Welcome to eBRAP**
  - Register**: "I am a new:" dropdown menu (set to "Principal Investigator/Study Personnel"), a "\*Select from drop down" note, and a "Start Registration" button.
  - Program News and Updates**: Links for "Welcome to eBRAP" and "COVID-19 Updates".
  - Email Subscriptions** (highlighted with a yellow box): Links to "subscribe to program specific news and updates" and "remove your email from program subscription list".
  - Help**: Links for "Frequently Asked Questions", "Commonly Made Mistakes", and "Contact the helpdesk/webmaster".

**Sign up for listserve through CDMRP website or in eBRAP**



Webinar Title
Funding Opportunities and Strategies for Success
High Risk/High Gain Funding Opportunities
Team Science Funding Opportunities
Clinical Research and Clinical Trial Funding Opportunities
Funding Opportunities for the Development of Technology and/or Resources
Funding Opportunities for Early Career Investigators
Consortium-Type Funding Opportunities

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**Questions?**

**For more information, please visit:**



**cdmrp.health.mil**



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