I. OVERVIEW OF THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Program Announcement for the Department of Defense

Defense Health Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Lung Cancer Research Program

Concept Award

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942524LCRPCA

Assistance Listing Number: 12.420 Military Medical Research and Development

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW DATES AND TIMES

- **Pre-Application (Letter of Intent) Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (ET), May 28, 2024

- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, June 17, 2024

- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, June 20, 2024

- **Peer Review:** July 2024

- **Programmatic Review:** October 2024

This program announcement must be read in conjunction with the General Application Instructions, version 901. The General Application Instructions document is available for downloading from the Grants.gov funding opportunity announcement by selecting the "Package" tab, clicking "Preview," and then selecting "Download Instructions."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

II. DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

II.A. Program Description

The U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA) is soliciting applications to the fiscal year 2024 (FY24) Lung Cancer Research Program (LCRP) using delegated authority provided by United States Code, Title 10, Section 4001 (10 USC 4001). The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC) is the program management agent for this funding opportunity. Congress initiated the LCRP in FY09 to promote innovative and competitive research focused on the development of integrated disciplines to identify, treat, and manage early curable lung cancer (excluding mesothelioma). Appropriations for the LCRP from FY09 through FY23 totaled $220.5 million (M). The FY24 appropriation is $25.0M.

The vision of the FY24 LCRP is to eradicate deaths and suffering from lung cancer to better the health and welfare of Service Members, Veterans, and the general public. As such, the LCRP will support and integrate research from multiple disciplines for risk assessment, prevention, early detection, diagnosis, management, and treatment for the control and cure of lung cancer.

II.A.1. LCRP Strategic Plan

The LCRP has prepared a brief synopsis, the LCRP Strategic Plan, which provides the background and an overview of the LCRP, describes the research and funding environment, and sets forth the strategic direction for the program. Applicants are strongly urged to read and consider the LCRP Strategic Plan before preparing their applications. The LCRP Strategic Plan may be found at https://cdmrp.health.mil/lcrp/pdfs/LCRP_StrategicPlan_30Aug21_FINAL.pdf.

II.A.2. FY24 LCRP Areas of Emphasis

To meet the intent of the funding opportunity, ***all applications must address at least one Area of Emphasis in a way that can lead to, or directly effect, a breakthrough and have a major impact.*** The LCRP developed a strategy to address multiple issues in lung cancer research over the cancer continuum of care spectrum that will be considered for funding under the LCRP. These Areas of Emphasis are critical gaps in cancer research, care, and/or patient outcomes that, if addressed will lead to reduced suffering from lung cancer and improved quality of life of Service Members, Veterans, and the general public. Simply identifying an Area of Emphasis is not sufficient.

- **Care Delivery and Health Disparity Option:**

  - Health Outcomes and Survivorship

    - Identify and understand the long-term and cumulative effects of lung cancer and its treatment(s) on patients, families, and support systems with respect to the impact on

quality of life including, but not limited to, physiological, psychosocial, cognitive, and financial effects.

  − Identify and understand impact of comorbidities on survivorship care in all stages of lung cancer.

 o Disparities

  − Advance equity and reduce lung cancer disparities among underserved and underrepresented populations.

- **Cancer Research Continuum Option:**

 o Biology and Etiology

  − Understand the molecular mechanisms of initiation and progression to lung cancer.

  − Understand contributors to lung cancer development other than tobacco.

  − Understand the biology of metastatic/oligometastatic disease progression.

 o Prevention

  − Identify innovative strategies for prevention of the occurrence of lung cancer(s) or subsequent primaries.

  − Identify innovative strategies for the prevention of recurrence or metastases from lung cancer.

 o Detection, Diagnosis, and Surveillance

  − Improve and expand approaches to screening and early detection of lung cancer.

  − Identify strategies for prompt detection and/or characterization of progressive disease.

 o Treatment and Prognosis

  − Identify innovative strategies for the treatment of lung cancer, including overcoming resistance.

  − Develop or optimize biomarkers to assist with therapeutic decision-making.

  − Enhance the understanding, detection, and treatment of brain and leptomeningeal metastases in lung cancer.

II.B. Award Information

The intent of the FY24 LCRP Concept Award is to ***support innovative, non-incremental, high-risk/potentially high-reward research*** that will provide new insights, paradigms, technologies, or applications in lung cancer. Studies supported by this award are expected to lay the groundwork for future avenues of scientific investigation. ***The proposed research project should include a well-formulated, testable hypothesis*** based on a sound scientific rationale and study design. ***Research applications only in the area of mesothelioma will not be accepted.***

Inclusion of preliminary data is not required but is allowed. The strength of the proposed research should be based on sound scientific rationale and logical reasoning. The presentation of substantial preliminary data suggests that the proposed research project would be more appropriately submitted to a different FY24 LCRP funding opportunity. The outcome of research supported by this award should be the generation of robust preliminary data that can be used as a foundation for future research projects. Absence of preliminary data will not negatively affect scientific or programmatic review of the application.

Care Delivery and Health Disparity Option: The FY24 LCRP Concept Award mechanism encourages applications that specifically address the comprehensive lung cancer care and/or health disparities FY24 LCRP Areas of Emphasis by offering a Care Delivery and Health Disparity option. Applications from the Care Delivery and Health Disparity option will be peer and programmatically reviewed separately from applications submitted to the Cancer Research Continuum option.

Relevance to Military Health: The LCRP seeks to support research that is relevant to the healthcare needs of military Service Members, Veterans, and their Families. ***Relevance to military health will be considered in determining relevance to the mission of the Defense Health Program (DHP) and FY24 LCRP during programmatic review.*** Investigators are ***strongly encouraged*** to consider the following characteristics as examples of how a project may demonstrate relevance to military health:

- Use of military or Veteran populations, biospecimens, data/databases, or programs in the proposed research

- Collaboration with Department of Defense (DOD) or Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) investigators

- Explanation of how the project addresses an aspect of lung cancer that has relevance or is unique to the military, Veterans, other Military Health System (MHS) beneficiaries, or Family readiness of Service Members, including environmental exposures other than tobacco.

All investigators applying to FY24 LCRP funding opportunities are encouraged to consider leveraging resources from the LCRP-funded Lung Cancer Biospecimen Resource Network (LCBRN) if retrospectively collected human anatomical substances and correlated clinical data are relevant to the proposed studies. Samples from the LCBRN are currently available through the Cooperative Human Tissue Network (CHTN). To request LCBRN samples, contact the

Division Coordinator for the CHTN Mid-Atlantic division (email: CHTN-MidAtl@hscmail.mcc.virginia.edu) located at the University of Virginia.

A congressionally mandated Metastatic Cancer Task Force was formed with the purpose of identifying ways to help accelerate clinical and translational research aimed at extending the lives of advanced state and recurrent patients. As a member of the Metastatic Cancer Task Force, the CDMRP encourages applicants to review the recommendations (https://health.mil/Reference-Center/Congressional-Testimonies/2018/05/03/Metastatic-Cancer-Research) and submit research ideas to address these recommendations provided they are within the limitations of this funding opportunity and fit within the FY24 LCRP priorities.

Applications from investigators within the military services and applications involving multidisciplinary collaborations among academia, industry, the military services, the VA, and other federal government agencies are highly encouraged. These relationships can leverage knowledge, infrastructure, and access to unique clinical populations that the collaborators bring to the research effort, ultimately advancing research that is of significance to Service Members, Veterans, and/or their Families. If the proposed research relies on access to unique resources or databases, the application must describe the access at the time of submission and include a plan for maintaining access as needed throughout the proposed research.

Reviewers will be blinded to the identity of the Principal Investigator (PI), collaborator(s), and their organization(s). Refer to Section II.D.2.b.i, Full Application, for more information.

Research involving human subjects or specimens must be either exempt under Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 219, Section 104(d) (32 CFR 219.104[d]) or eligible for expedited review (21 CFR 56.110). Exemption or expedited status is first determined by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of record. Investigators must review their institutional requirements and guidelines for filing with the IRB for exempt or expedited status. Studies that do not qualify for exempt or expedited status will be administratively withdrawn.

Clinical trials are not allowed under this funding opportunity. Investigators wishing to apply for funding to support a clinical trial should consider submitting an application to the FY24 LCRP Translational Research Award – Funding Level 2 mechanism (Funding Opportunity Number HT942524LCRPTRA).

Innovative research involving nuclear medicine and related techniques to support early diagnosis, more effective treatment, and improved health outcomes of active-duty Service Members and their Families is encouraged. Such research could improve diagnostic and targeted treatment capabilities through noninvasive techniques and may drive the development of precision imaging and advanced targeted therapies.

CDMRP encourages research on health areas and conditions that affect women uniquely, disproportionately, or differently from men, including studies analyzing sex as a biological variable. Such research should relate anticipated project findings to improvements in women's health outcomes and/or advancing knowledge for women's health.

A clinical trial is defined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 45, Part 46.102 (45 CFR 46.102) as a research study in which one or more human subjects are prospectively

assigned to one or more interventions (which may include a placebo or another control) to evaluate the effects of the interventions on biomedical or behavioral health-related outcomes.

Studies that do not seek to measure safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy outcome(s) of an intervention are not considered clinical trials.

For the purposes of this funding opportunity, research that meets the definition of a clinical trial is distinct from clinical research. Clinical research encompasses research with human data, human specimens, and/or interaction with human subjects. Clinical research is observational in nature and includes:

(1) Research conducted with human subjects and/or material of human origin such as data, specimens, and cognitive phenomena for which an investigator (or co-investigator) does ***not*** seek to assess the safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy outcomes of an intervention. Research meeting this definition may include but is not limited to: (a) mechanisms of human disease, (b) diagnostic or detection studies (e.g., biomarker or imaging), (c) health disparity studies, and (d) development of new technologies.

(2) Epidemiologic and behavioral studies that do ***not*** seek to assess the safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy outcomes of an intervention.

(3) Outcomes research and health services research that do not fit under the definition of clinical trial.

Excluded from the definition of clinical research are in vitro studies that utilize human data or specimens that cannot be linked to a living individual and meet the requirements for exemption under [§46.104(d)(4) of the Common Rule](#).

The funding instrument for awards made under the program announcement will be grants (31 USC 6304).

The anticipated direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance for an FY24 LCRP Concept] Award should not exceed **$120,000**. Refer to [Section II.D.5, Funding Restrictions](#), for detailed funding information.

Awards supported with FY24 funds will be made no later than September 30, 2025.

The CDMRP expects to allot approximately $1.92M to fund approximately two Care Delivery and Health Disparity Concept Award applications and eight Cancer Research Continuum Concept Award applications. Funding of applications received is contingent upon the availability of federal funds for this program, the number of applications received, the quality and merit of the applications as evaluated by peer and programmatic review, and the requirements of the government. Funds to be obligated on any award resulting from this funding opportunity will be available for use for a limited time period based on the fiscal year of the funds. It is anticipated that awards made from this FY24 funding opportunity will be funded with FY24 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2030.

II.C. Eligibility Information

II.C.1. Eligible Applicants

II.C.1.a. Organization: Extramural and Intramural organizations are eligible to apply, including foreign or domestic organizations, for-profit and non-profit organizations, and public entities.

Extramural Organization: An eligible non-DOD organization. Examples of extramural organizations include academic institutions, biotechnology companies, foundations, federal government organizations other than the DOD (i.e., intragovernmental organizations), and research institutes.

Intramural DOD Organization: Refers specifically to DOD organizations including DOD laboratories, DOD military treatment facilities, and/or DOD activities embedded within a civilian medical center.

Awards are made to eligible *organizations*, not to individuals. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional recipient qualification requirements.

II.C.1.b. Principal Investigator

All investigators at or above the level of postdoctoral fellow (or equivalent) are eligible.

An eligible PI, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or citizenship status, must be employed by or affiliated with an eligible organization.

II.C.2. Cost Sharing

Cost sharing/matching is not an eligibility requirement.

II.C.3. Other

Organizations must be able to access **.gov** and **.mil** websites to fulfill the financial and technical deliverable requirements of the award and submit invoices for payment.

Refer to [Section II.H.2, Administrative Actions](#), for a list of administrative actions that may be taken if a pre-application or full application does not meet the administrative, eligibility, or ethical requirements defined in this program announcement.

II.D. Application and Submission Information

### II.D.1. Location of Application Package

Submission is a two-step process requiring both a *pre-application* submitted via the Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP.org) and a *full application* (eBRAP.org or Grants.gov). Depending on the type of submission (i.e., extramural vs. intramural), certain aspects of the submission process will differ.

The CDMRP uses two portal systems to accept pre- and full application submissions.

eBRAP (https://ebrap.org) is a secure web-based system that allows PIs and/or organizational representatives from both extra- and intramural organizations to receive communications from the CDMRP and submit their pre-applications. Additionally, eBRAP allows extramural applicants to view and verify full applications submitted to Grants.gov and allows intramural DOD applicants to submit and verify full applications following their pre-application submission.

Grants.gov (https://grants.gov) is a federal system that must be used by funding agencies to announce extramural grant applications. Full applications for CDMRP funding opportunities can only be submitted to Grants.gov after submission of a pre-application through eBRAP.

Application Submission Workflow
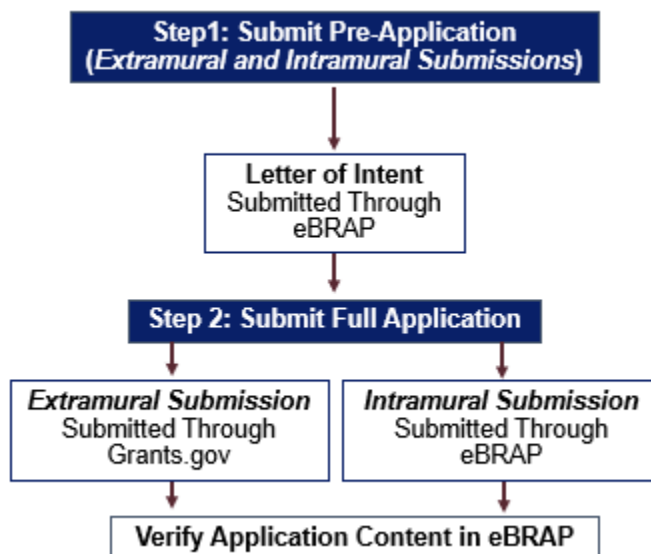
Extramural Submission: An application submitted by an extramural organization for an extramural or intramural PI working within an extramural or intramural organization. For example, a research foundation submitting an application for a DOD employee working within a DOD organization would be considered an extramural submission and should follow instructions specific to extramural submissions.) Download application package components for HT942524LCRPCA from Grants.gov (https://grants.gov). Full applications from extramural organizations ***must*** be submitted through Grants.gov.

Intramural Submission: An application submitted by an intramural DOD organization for an investigator employed by that organization. Intramural DOD organizations may submit full applications to either eBRAP or Grants.gov. Download application package components for HT942524LCRPCA from the anticipated submission portal eBRAP (https://ebrap.org) or Grants.gov.

The submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. Regardless of submission type or portal used, all pre- and full application components must be submitted by the deadlines stipulated on the first page of this program announcement. There are no grace periods for deadlines; failure to meet submission deadlines will result in application rejection. ***The USAMRAA cannot make allowances/exceptions for submission problems encountered by the applicant organization using system-to-system interfaces with Grants.gov.***

II.D.2. Content and Form of the Application Submission

Submitting applications that propose essentially the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year is prohibited and will result in administrative withdrawal of the duplicative application(s).

Unnecessary duplication of funding or accepting funding from more than one source for the same research, is prohibited. See the CDMRP's full position on research duplication at https://cdmrp.health.mil/funding/researchDup.

Including classified research data within the application and/or proposing research that may produce classified outcomes, or outcomes deemed sensitive to national security concerns, may result in application withdrawal. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 7, Section B.

FY24 LCRP Programmatic Panel members should not be involved in any pre-application or full application. For questions related to panel members and pre-applications or applications, refer to Section II.H.2.c, Withdrawal, or contact the eBRAP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507.

II.D.2.a. Step 1: Pre-Application Submission

Regardless of submission type (i.e., extramural or intramural), all pre-application components must be submitted by the PI through eBRAP.

During the pre-application process, eBRAP assigns each submission a unique log number. This unique log number is required during the full application submission process. The eBRAP log number, application title, and all information for the PI, Business Official(s), performing organization, and contracting organization must be consistent throughout the entire pre-application and full application submission process. Inconsistencies may delay application processing and limit or negate the ability to view, modify, and verify the application in eBRAP. If any changes need to be made, the applicant should contact the eBRAP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507 prior to the application submission deadline.

When starting the pre-application, applicants will be asked to select a "Mechanism Option". Please be sure to select the correct option appropriate to your pre-application:

Application Includes:	Select Option:
Care Delivery and Health Disparity Areas of Emphasis	Concept Award – Care Delivery and Health Disparity Option
Cancer Research Continuum Areas of Emphasis	Concept Award – Cancer Research Continuum Option

II.D.2.a.i. Pre-Application Components

Pre-application submissions must include the following components (refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.B, for detailed instructions regarding pre-application submission):

Letter of Intent (LOI) (one-page limit): Provide a brief description of the research to be conducted. Include the Area of Emphasis under which the application will be submitted.

LOIs are used for program planning purposes only (e.g., reviewer recruitment) and will not be reviewed during either the peer or programmatic review. ***An invitation to submit a full application is NOT provided after LOI submission. Applicants are encouraged to develop pre-application and full application components concurrently and submit a full application AFTER successful submission of the pre-application.***

○ **Pre-Application Relevance Questions:** Provide responses in appropriate eBRAP data fields for the following three questions. Due to the blinded nature of the review process, responses are used for administrative purposes only and will not be reviewed during either the peer or the programmatic review session.

1. Is the applicant currently affiliated with the military and/or VA? (Yes/No)

2. Does the proposed research include collaborations with a current military and/or VA investigator/institution? (Yes/No)

3. Does the proposed research include the use of military and/or VA resources (e.g., data, patient samples)? (Yes/No) If yes, specify the resource and how the resource will be accessed to conduct the proposed research (500-character limit, including spaces).

II.D.2.b. Step 2: Full Application Submission

II.D.2.b.i. Full Application Submission Type

Extramural Submissions: Full applications from extramural organizations ***must*** be submitted through Grants.gov Workspace. Full applications from extramural organizations, including non-DOD federal organizations, received through eBRAP will be withdrawn. Refer to the General

Application Instructions, Section IV, for considerations and detailed instructions regarding extramural full application submission.

Intramural Submissions: Intramural DOD organizations may submit full applications through either eBRAP or Grants.gov. There is no preference from the CDMRP for which submission portal is utilized; submission through one portal or the other does not provide the application any advantage during the review process. Intramural DOD organizations that choose to submit through Grants.gov should follow Extramural Submission instructions. Intramural DOD organizations that are unable to submit through Grants.gov should submit through eBRAP. For the remainder of this program announcement, it will be assumed intramural DOD submissions will proceed through eBRAP. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V, for considerations and detailed instructions regarding intramural DOD full application submission.

II.D.2.b.ii. Full Application Submission Components

Each application submission must include the completed full application package for this program announcement. See Section II.H.3 of this program announcement for a checklist of the required application components.

Reviewers will be blinded to the identity of the PI, collaborator(s), and their organization(s). Due to the blinded nature of the review process, identifying or making references to the PI, collaborator(s), or their organization(s) in the Project Narrative, List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols, Abstracts, or the Relevance to Military Health Statement is prohibited and will result in administrative withdrawal of the application. In addition, the use of "I," "we," "our," "this organization," or similar phrases that refer to the PI, collaborator(s), or their organization(s) through the references listed, or the use of formatting (e.g., bolding, underlining, names in headers/footers), inclusion of citations to unpublished manuscripts, inclusion of URLs (uniform resource locators or web addresses), or in any other way highlighting the names of the PI, collaborator(s), or their organization(s) is prohibited and will result in administrative rejection of the application and preclude invitation to submit a full application.

The following forms **are required** but will not be forwarded for peer review or programmatic review: Research & Related Budget, Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (if applicable), biographical sketch, previous/current/pending support, and Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form, and Statement of Work. These documents will be used for administrative purposes only.

(a) **SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance Form (*Extramural Submissions Only*):** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B, for detailed information.

(b) **Attachments:**

Each attachment to the full application components must be uploaded as an individual file in the format specified and in accordance with the formatting guidelines listed in the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2.

- ○ **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (two-page limit): Upload as "ProjectNarrative.pdf".** The page limit of the Project Narrative applies to text and non-text elements (e.g., figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, drawings) used to describe the project. Inclusion of URLs (uniform resource locators) that provide additional information that expands the Project Narrative and could confer an unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

  Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below. Due to the blinded nature of the review process, ***do not include information that identifies or refers to the PI, collaborator(s), or their organization(s). While the inclusion of preliminary data is not prohibited, the strength of the application should not rely on preliminary data.***

  - – **Innovation:** Describe how the proposed project is innovative in one or more of the following ways: challenges accepted paradigms, concepts or questions, research methods or technologies, adaptations of existing methods or technologies, or other ways and may lead to new areas of research. Innovation should be the primary feature of the proposed study and be more than an incremental advance beyond ongoing or published research.

  - – **Rationale:** Clearly articulate the scientific rationale for the proposed research.

  - – **Objectives:** State concisely the specific aims and research strategy of the study. ***Projects involving human subjects or specimens must be either exempt under 32 CFR 219.104(d) or eligible for expedited review (21 CFR 56.110).***

  - – **Methods:** Describe the experimental design, methods, and analyses, including appropriate controls, if applicable. Address potential problem areas and present alternative methods and approaches.

  - – **Impact:** Describe how the proposed research is relevant to at least one of the [FY24 LCRP Areas of Emphasis](#) in a way that is consistent with the program's goals. Provide a brief statement describing the impact, either short-term or long-term, on how this project will lead to an original and important contribution toward advancing basic, translational, or clinical lung cancer research, or on the quality of life of individuals with lung cancer. Describe how the research has the potential to generate preliminary data that can be used as a foundation for future research projects.

- ○ **Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation: Combine and upload as a single file named "Support.pdf".** Start each document on a new page. The Supporting Documentation attachment should not include additional information such as figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, or drawings. These items should be included in the Project Narrative.

  There are no page limits for any of these components unless otherwise noted. Include only those components described below; inclusion of items not requested or viewed as an extension of the Project Narrative will result in the removal of those items or may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

- **References Cited:** List the references cited (including URLs, if available) in the Project Narrative using a standard reference format.

- Do not include URLs that identify the PI, collaborator(s), or the organization(s) of the PI or collaborator(s).

- **List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols:** Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols.

○ **Attachment 3: Technical Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as "TechAbs.pdf".** The technical abstract is used by all reviewers. ***Abstracts of all funded research projects will be posted publicly.*** Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard. Spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters, and symbols. Graphics are not allowed.

Technical abstracts should be written using the outline below. Clarity and completeness within the space limits are highly important.

- Not required at time of submission. Leave Attachment 3 space blank.

- If the application is under consideration for funding, the USAMRAA will request the Technical Abstract from the applicant. No commitment on the part of the government should be inferred from the request. An award document, signed by the Grants Officer, will be provided to the applicant organization for successful applications as described in Section II.F, Federal Award Administration Information.

○ **Attachment 4: Lay Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as "LayAbs.pdf".** The lay abstract is used by all reviewers, and addresses issues of particular interest to the affected community. ***Abstracts of all funded research projects will be posted publicly.*** Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard. Spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters, and symbols. Graphics are not allowed. ***Do not duplicate the technical abstract.***

Lay abstracts should address the points outlined below ***in a manner that will be readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine***. Avoid overuse use of scientific jargon, acronyms, and abbreviations.

- Not required at time of submission. Leave Attachment 4 space blank.

- If the application is under consideration for funding, the USAMRAA will request the Lay Abstract from the applicant. No commitment on the part of the government should be inferred from the request. An award document, signed by the Grants Officer, will be provided to the applicant organization for successful applications as described in Section II.F, Federal Award Administration Information.

○ **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (one-page limit): Upload as "SOW.pdf".** Refer to the eBRAP "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page

(https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm) for the suggested Statement of Work (SOW) format and recommended strategies for assembling the SOW.

For the Concept Award, refer to the "Example: Assembling a Generic Statement of Work" for guidance on preparing the SOW. Use the "Suggested SOW Format" to develop the SOW for the proposed research. Submit as a PDF.

○ **Attachment 6: Relevance to Military Health Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "MilRelevance.pdf".** *Do not include information that identifies the PI, collaborator(s), or their organization(s). The Relevance to Military Health Statement will be evaluated by the FY24 LCRP Programmatic Panel during programmatic review only.* Identify how the proposed research will support mission readiness through filling a gap in cancer prevention, early detection/diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, quality of life, and/or survivorship that may have a profound impact on the health and well-being of Service Members, their Families, Veterans, or other beneficiaries. Articulate how the proposed research will advance the knowledge and understanding of cancer, patient care, and/or treatment options in the MHS for the benefit of active-duty Service Members, Veterans, and other military beneficiaries. Describe the anticipated short- and/or long-term outcomes of the proposed research and their potential impact on the basic health, welfare, and/or psychosocial wellness of active-duty Service Members, Veterans, and other military beneficiaries. If active-duty military, military Families, and/or Veteran population(s) will be used in the proposed research project, describe the population(s), the appropriateness of the population(s) for the proposed study, and the feasibility of using the population. If a non-military population will be used for the proposed research project, explain how the population simulates the targeted population (i.e., Armed Forces, their Family members, and/or the Veteran population).

○ **Attachment 7: Use of DOD Resources (if applicable): Upload as "DODResources.pdf".** Provide a letter of support signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority confirming access to active-duty military populations and/or DOD resources or databases.

○ **Attachment 8: Use of VA Resources (if applicable): Upload as "VAResources.pdf".** Provide a letter of support signed by the VA Facility Director(s) or individual designated by the VA Facility Director(s), such as the Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development (ACOS/R&D) or Clinical Service Chief, confirming access to VA patients, resources, and/or VA research space. If the VA-affiliated non-profit corporation is not identified as the applicant organization for administering the funds, include a letter from the VA ACOS/R&D confirming this arrangement and identifying the institution that will administer the funds associated with the proposed research.

○ **Attachment 9: Data Management Plan (two-page limit): Upload as "DataManPlan.pdf".** Describe the data management plan in accordance with Section 3.c, Enclosure 3, [DoD Instructions 3200.12](). Refer to General Application Instructions, Section IV.B, Attachments Form, Attachment: Supporting Documentation, for detailed information regarding Data Management Plan content.

- ○ **Attachment 10: Representations** *(Extramural Submissions Only)***: Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf".** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the Required Representations template available on eBRAP (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm). For more information, see the General Application Instructions, Appendix 8, Section B, Representations.

- ○ **Attachment 11: Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form** *(if applicable)***: Upload as "IGBudget.pdf".** If an intramural DOD organization will be a collaborator in performance of the project, complete a separate budget using the "Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form", available for download on the eBRAP "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm). The budget should cover the entire period of performance for each intramural DOD site and include a budget justification as instructed. The *total* costs per year for each subaward (direct and indirect costs) should be included on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under subaward costs. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.A.(e), for additional information and considerations.

(c) Research & Related Personal Data: For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(c), and for intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.A.(c), for detailed instructions.

(d) Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded): For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(d), and for intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.A.(d), for detailed instructions.

- ○ **PI Biographical Sketch (five-page limit):** Upload as "Biosketch_LastName.pdf". The suggested biographical sketch format is available on the "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm) in eBRAP.

- ○ **PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit):** Upload as "Support_LastName.pdf".

- ○ **Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (five-page limit each):** Upload as "Biosketch_LastName.pdf".

- ○ **Key Personnel Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit):** Upload as "Support_LastName.pdf".

(e) Research & Related Budget: For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(e), and for intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.A.(e), for detailed instructions.

- ○ **Budget Justification (no page limit):** For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(e), Section L, for instructions. For intramural submissions, refer to General Application Instructions, Section V.A.(e), Budget Justification Instructions.

(f) Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form: For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(f), and for intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.A.(f), for detailed instructions.

(g) Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form *(if applicable, Extramural Submissions Only)***:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(g), for detailed instructions.

    o **Extramural Subaward:** Complete the Research & Related Subaward Budget Form and upload through Grants.gov.

    o **Intramural DOD Subaward:** Complete a separate "Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form" for each intramural DOD subaward and upload as a single document titled **IGBudget.pdf** to Grants.gov as Attachment 11.

II.D.2.c. Applicant Verification of Full Application Submission in eBRAP

Independent of submission type, once the full application is submitted it is transmitted to and processed in eBRAP. At this stage, the PI and organizational representatives will receive an email from eBRAP instructing them to log into eBRAP to review, modify, and verify the full application submission. Verification is strongly recommended but not required. eBRAP will validate full application files against the specific program announcement requirements, and discrepancies will be noted in the "Full Application Files" tab in eBRAP. However, eBRAP does not confirm the accuracy of file content. It is the applicant's responsibility to review all application components and ensure proper ordering as specified in the program announcement. ***The Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline. If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or needs to be modified, an updated full application package must be submitted prior to the full application submission deadline.*** Other application components, including subaward budget(s) and subaward budget justification(s), may be changed until the end of the application verification period. The full application cannot be modified once the application verification period ends.

II.D.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

The applicant organization must be registered as an entity in SAM (https://www.sam.gov/content/home) and receive confirmation of an "Active" status before submitting an application through Grants.gov. Organizations must include the UEI generated by SAM in applications to this funding opportunity.

II.D.4. Submission Dates and Times

The pre-application and application submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. There are no grace periods. Failure to meet either of these deadlines will result in submission rejection.

All submission dates and times are indicated in Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity.

II.D.5. Funding Restrictions

The maximum period of performance is **1** year.

The application's direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed **$120,000**. If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate. Collaborating organizations should budget associated indirect costs in accordance with each organization's negotiated rate.

All direct and indirect costs of any subaward or contract must be included in the direct costs of the primary award.

The applicant may request the entire maximum funding amount for a project that may have a period of performance less than the maximum **1** year.

For this award mechanism, direct costs may be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Travel in support of multi-institutional collaborations.

- Costs for one investigator to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year. The intent of travel to scientific/technical meetings should be to present project information or disseminate project results from the FY24 LCRP Concept Award.

Must not be requested for:

- Clinical trial costs

II.D.6. Other Submission Requirements

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, for detailed formatting guidelines.

II.E. Application Review Information

II.E.1. Criteria

II.E.1.a. Peer Review

To determine technical merit, all applications will be individually evaluated according to the following **scored criteria**, which are of equal importance:

- **Innovation**

  ○ To what extent the proposed research is innovative in one or more of the following ways: challenges accepted paradigms, concept or question, research methods or technologies, adaptations of existing methods or technologies, or other ways.

  ○ To what extent exploring the concept may lead to new areas of research.

- Whether the proposed research represents more than an incremental advance beyond ongoing or published research.

- **Impact**

  - How well the proposed research addresses at least one of the [FY24 LCRP Areas of Emphasis](#) within the mechanism option selected.

  - To what extent the research has the potential to generate preliminary data that can be used as a foundation for future research projects.

  - To what extent the proposed research will, in the short or long term, lead to an original and important contribution toward advancing basic, translational, or clinical lung cancer research, or on the quality of life of individuals with lung cancer.

- **Research Strategy**

  - To what degree the proposed research is supported by a sound scientific rationale.

  - To what degree the experimental design and methodology are appropriate to address the stated objectives.

In addition, the following criteria will also contribute to the overall evaluation of the application, but will not be individually scored and are therefore termed **unscored criteria**:

- **Application Presentation**

  - To what extent the writing, clarity, and presentation of the application components influence the review.

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 priorities of the DHP and FY24 LCRP, as evidenced by the following:

  - Adherence to the intent of the funding opportunity

  - Program portfolio composition with consideration of the Care Delivery and Health Disparity option category and the Cancer Research Continuum option category

  - Relative impact, innovation, and relevance to military health

II.E.2. Application Review and Selection Process

All applications are evaluated by scientists, clinicians, and consumers in a two-tier review process. The first tier is **peer review**, the evaluation of applications against established criteria to determine technical merit, where each application is assessed for its own merit, independent of other applications. The second tier is **programmatic review**, a comparison-based process in which applications with high scientific and technical merit are further evaluated for programmatic relevance. Final recommendations for funding are made to the Commanding General, USAMRDC. ***The highest-scoring applications from the first tier of review are not automatically recommended for funding. Funding recommendations depend on various factors as described in*** [***Section II.E.1.b, Programmatic Review.***](#) Additional information about the two-tier process used by the CDMRP can be found at https://cdmrp.health.mil/about/2tierRevProcess. For this program announcement, reviewers at both tiers of review will be blinded to the identity of the PI, collaborator(s), and their organization(s).

All CDMRP review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the merit-based selection process. Panel members sign a statement declaring that application and evaluation information will not be disclosed outside the review panel. Violations of confidentiality can result in the dissolution of a panel(s) and other corrective actions. In addition, personnel at the applicant or collaborating organizations are prohibited from contacting persons involved in the review and approval process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process. Violations of these prohibitions will result in the administrative withdrawal of the organization's application. Violations by panel members or applicants that compromise the confidentiality of the review and approval process may also result in suspension or debarment from federal awards. Furthermore, the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information of one party to a third party is a crime in accordance with 18 USC 1905.

II.E.3. Integrity and Performance Information

Prior to making an assistance agreement award where the federal share is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold, as defined in 2 CFR 200.1, over the period of performance, the federal awarding agency is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is available in SAM.

An applicant organization may review SAM and submit comments on any information currently available about the organization that a federal awarding agency previously entered. The federal awarding agency will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when determining a recipient's qualification prior to award, according to the qualification standards of the Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations (DoDGARs), Section 22.415.

II.F. Federal Award Administration Information

II.F.1. Federal Award Notices

Each applicant organization and PI will receive email notification when the funding recommendations are posted to eBRAP. At this time, each PI will receive a peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the application and an information paper describing the funding recommendation and review process for the LCRP award mechanisms. The information papers and a list of organizations and PIs recommended for funding are also posted on the program's page within the CDMRP website.

If an application is recommended for funding, after the email notification is posted to eBRAP, a government representative will contact the person authorized to negotiate on behalf of the recipient organization.

Only an appointed USAMRAA Grants Officer may obligate the government to the expenditure of funds to an extramural organization. No commitment on the part of the government should be inferred from discussions with any other individual. ***The award document signed by the Grants Officer is the official authorizing document (i.e., assistance agreement).***

Intra-DOD obligations of funding will be made according to the terms of a negotiated Inter-Agency Agreement and managed by a CDMRP Science Officer.

Funding obligated to ***intragovernmental and intramural DOD organizations*** will be sent through the Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR), Funding Authorization Document (FAD), or Direct Charge Work Breakdown Structure processes. Transfer of funds is contingent upon appropriate safety and administrative approvals. Intragovernmental and intramural DOD investigators and collaborators must coordinate receipt and commitment of funds through their respective Resource Manager/Task Area Manager/Comptroller or equivalent Business Official.

An organization may, at its own risk and without the government's prior approval, incur obligations and expenditures to cover costs up to 90 days before the beginning date of the initial budget period of a new award. For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(e), Pre-Award Costs section, and for intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.A.(e), Pre-Award Costs section, for additional information about pre-award costs.

If there are technical reporting requirement delinquencies for any existing CDMRP awards at the applicant organization, no new awards will be issued to the applicant organization until all delinquent reports have been submitted.

II.F.2. PI Changes and Award Transfers

Unless otherwise restricted, changes in PI or organization will be allowed on a case-by-case basis, provided the intent of the award mechanism is met.

An organizational transfer of an award will not be allowed in the last year of the (original) period of performance or any extension thereof.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 7, Section F, for general information on organization or PI changes.

II.F.3. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Applicable requirements in the DoDGARs found in 32 CFR, Chapter I, Subchapter C, and 2 CFR, Chapter XI, apply to grants and cooperative agreements resulting from this program announcement.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 7, for general information regarding administrative requirements.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 8, for general information regarding national policy requirements.

Refer to full text of the latest DoD R&D Terms and Conditions and the USAMRAA Research Terms and Conditions: Addendum to the DoD R&D Terms and Conditions for further information.

Applications recommended for funding that involve animals, human data, human specimens, human subjects, or human cadavers must be reviewed for compliance with federal and DOD animal and/or human subjects protection requirements and approved by the USAMRDC Office of Human and Animal Research Oversight, prior to implementation. This administrative review requirement is in addition to the local Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, IRB, or Ethics Committee review. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 6, for additional information.

II.F.4. Reporting

Annual technical progress reports as well as a final technical progress report will be required. Annual and final technical reports must be prepared in accordance with the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR).

The Award Terms and Conditions will specify whether additional and/or more frequent reporting is required.

Award Expiration Transition Plan: An Award Expiration Transition Plan must be submitted with the final progress report. Use the one-page template "Award Expiration Transition Plan," available on the eBRAP "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm) under the "Progress Report Formats" section. The Award Expiration Transition Plan must outline whether and how the research supported by this award will progress and must include source(s) of funding, either known or pending.

Public Health Service (PHS) Inclusion Enrollment Reporting Requirement *(only required for clinical research studies):* Enrollment reporting on the basis of sex/gender, race, and/or

ethnicity will be required with each annual and final progress report. The PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report is available on the "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm) in eBRAP.

Awards resulting from this program announcement may entail additional reporting requirements related to recipient integrity and performance matters. Recipient organizations that have federal contract, grant, and cooperative agreement awards with a cumulative total value greater than $10.0M are required to provide information to SAM about certain civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings that reached final disposition within the most recent 5-year period and that were connected with performance of a federal award. These recipients are required to disclose, semiannually, information about criminal, civil, and administrative proceedings as specified in the applicable Representations (see General Application Instructions, Appendix 8, Section B).

II.G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts

II.G.1. eBRAP Help Desk

Questions regarding program announcement content or submission requirements as well as technical assistance related to pre-application or intramural application submission

Phone: 301-682-5507

Email: help@eBRAP.org

II.G.2. Grants.gov Contact Center

Questions regarding Grants.gov registration and Workspace

Phone: 800-518-4726; International 1-606-545-5035

Email: support@grants.gov

II.H. Other Information

II.H.1. Program Announcement and General Application Instructions Versions

Questions related to this program announcement should refer to the program name, the program announcement name, and the program announcement version code 901a. The program announcement numeric version code will match the General Application Instructions version code 901.

II.H.2. Administrative Actions

After receipt of full applications, the following administrative actions may occur.

II.H.2.a. Rejection

The following will result in administrative rejection of the full application:

- Pre-application was not submitted.

- Project Narrative exceeds page limit.

- Project Narrative is missing.

- Budget is missing.

II.H.2.b. Modification

- Pages exceeding the specific limits will be removed prior to review for all documents other than the Project Narrative.

- Documents not requested will be removed.

II.H.2.c. Withdrawal

The following may result in administrative withdrawal of the application:

- An FY24 LCRP Programmatic Panel member is named as being involved in the research proposed or is found to have assisted in the pre-application or application processes including, but not limited to, concept design, application development, budget preparation, and the development of any supporting documentation, including letters of support/recommendation. *A list of the FY24 LCRP Programmatic Panel members can be found at https://cdmrp.health.mil/lcrp/panels/panels24*.

- The application fails to conform to this program announcement description.

- Inclusion of URLs, with the exception of links in References Cited and Publication and/or Patent Abstract sections.

- Applications that include names of personnel from either of the CDMRP peer or programmatic review companies. For FY24, the identities of the peer review contractor and the programmatic review contractor may be found at the CDMRP website (https://cdmrp.health.mil/about/2tierRevProcess).

- Personnel from applicant or collaborating organizations are found to have contacted persons involved in the review or approval process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process.

- Applications from extramural organizations, including non-DOD federal agencies, received through eBRAP.

- Applications submitted by a federal government organization (including an intramural DOD organization) may be withdrawn if (a) the organization cannot accept and execute the entirety

of the requested budget in current fiscal year (FY24) funds and/or (b) the federal government organization cannot coordinate the use of contractual, assistance, or other appropriate agreements to provide funds to collaborators.

- Application includes research data that are classified and/or proposes research that may produce classified outcomes, or outcomes deemed sensitive to national security concerns.

- Submission of the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.

- The PI, collaborator(s), or their organization(s) are identified or referenced in the ***Project Narrative; List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols; or Relevance to Military Health Statement.***

- Use of "I," "we," "our," "this organization," or similar phrases that refer to the PI, collaborator(s), or their organization(s) through the references listed, or the use of formatting (e.g., bolding, underlining, names in headers/footers), inclusion of citations to unpublished manuscripts, or in any other way highlighting (and therefore revealing) the names of the PI, collaborator(s), or their organization(s).

- A clinical trial is proposed.

- The application does not address at least one of the [FY24 LCRP Areas of Emphasis](#) within the selected option category.

- The application proposes only mesothelioma research.

II.H.2.d. Withhold

Applications that appear to involve research misconduct will be administratively withheld from further consideration pending organizational investigation. The organization will be required to provide the findings of the investigation to the USAMRAA Grants Officer for a determination of the final disposition of the application.

II.H.3. Full Application Submission Checklist

Full Application Components	Uploaded
SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance *(Extramural submissions only)*	☐
Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) *(Intramural submissions only)*	☐
Attachments	
Project Narrative – Attachment 1, upload as "ProjectNarrative.pdf"	☐
Supporting Documentation – Attachment 2, upload as "Support.pdf"	☐
Technical Abstract – Attachment 3, upload as "TechAbs.pdf"	☐
Lay Abstract – Attachment 4, upload as "LayAbs.pdf"	☐
Statement of Work – Attachment 5, upload as "SOW.pdf"	☐
Relevance to Military Health Statement – Attachment 6, upload as "MilRelevance.pdf"	☐
Use of DOD Resources – Attachment 7, upload as "DODResources.pdf"	☐
Use of VA Resources – Attachment 8, upload as "VAResources.pdf"	☐
Data Management Plan – Attachment 9, upload as "DataManPlan.pdf"	
Representations *(Extramural submissions only)* – Attachment 10, upload as "RequiredReps.pdf"	☐
Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form *(if applicable)* – Attachment 11, upload as "IGBudget.pdf"	☐
Research & Related Personal Data	☐
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	☐
Attach PI Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf)	☐
Attach PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (Support_LastName.pdf)	☐
Attach Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person	☐
Attach Previous/Current/Pending (Support_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person	☐
Research & Related Budget *(Extramural submissions only)* Include budget justification	☐
Budget *(Intramural submissions only)* Include budget justification	☐
Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form	☐
Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form *(if applicable)*	☐

APPENDIX 1: ACRONYM LIST

ACOS/R&D	Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CHTN	Cooperative Human Tissue Network
DHP	Defense Health Program
DOD	Department of Defense
DoDGARs	Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations
eBRAP	Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal
ET	Eastern Time
FAD	Funding Authorization Document
FY	Fiscal Year
IRB	Institutional Review Board
LCBRN	Lung Cancer Biospecimen Resource Network
LCRP	Lung Cancer Research Program
LOI	Letter of Intent
M	Million
MHS	Military Health System
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
PDF	Portable Document Format
PHS	Public Health Service
PI	Principal Investigator
RPPR	Research Performance Progress Report
SAM	System for Award Management
SOW	Statement of Work
UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
USAMRAA	U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity
USAMRDC	U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command
USC	United States Code
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs