I. OVERVIEW OF THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Program Announcement for the Department of Defense

Defense Health Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program

Impact Award

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942524PRMRPIPA

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 13, 2024

• Application Submission Deadline: 11:59 p.m. ET, June 6, 2024

• End of Application Verification Period: 5:00 p.m. ET, June 11, 2024

• Peer Review: August 2024

Programmatic Review: December 2024

This program announcement must be read in conjunction with the General Application Instructions, version 900. 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."

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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) Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) 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 PRMRP in 1999 to support medical research projects of clear scientific merit and direct relevance to military health. Appropriations for the PRMRP from FY99 through FY23 totaled \$3.82 billion (B). The FY24 appropriation is \$370 million (M).

The vision of the PRMRP is to improve the health, care, and well-being of all military Service Members, Veterans, and their Families, and its mission is to 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 their Families. The PRMRP challenges the scientific and clinical communities to address the congressionally mandated FY24 PRMRP Topic Areas with original ideas that foster new directions along the entire spectrum of research and patient care.

II.A.1 FY24 PRMRP Research Development Pipeline

To address the congressionally mandated FY24 PRMRP Topic Areas in a bench-to-bedside fashion, the FY24 PRMRP award mechanisms are aligned to different phases of the research development pipeline illustrated below.

Discovery Award

- Novel/breakthrough exploratory research, beyond incremental advances
- · High-risk/high-reward
- · No preliminary data

Impact Award

- Mature research studies, beyond incremental advances
- Potential near-term clinical impact for patients
- Seeks to translate preclinical findings into a clinical application
- · Strong in vivo preliminary data required

Clinical Trial Award

- Research that seeks to measure safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy outcomes of an intervention in humans
- Early-phase or large-scale interventional clinical trials



Basic Research

Investigator-Initiated Research Award

- Preclinical expansion, replication, and/or comparative studies to validate preliminary or published data
- · Preliminary data required

Translational Research

Technology/Therapeutic Development Award

- Final steps of clinical translation for validated findings
- IND-/IDE-enabling studies
- Post-IND/-IDE studies required to transition a product or prototype utility
- Strong preliminary data demonstrating product or prototype utility required

Also .

Clinical Trials/ <u>Clini</u>cal Research

Lifestyle Behavioral Health Intervention Research Award

- Clinical trials for non-pharmacological therapies or non-invasive devices
- Clinical research focused on patient outcomes and quality of life

The **Basic Research** phase represents novel, exploratory research aimed at generating preliminary data and/or preclinical research that is ready for validation through expansion, replication, or comparative studies. Applicants seeking support for research aligning to the Basic Research phase may consider:

- FY24 PRMRP Discovery Award (HT942524PRMRPDA) for novel, high-risk, high-reward research projects with the potential to yield high-impact findings and new avenues of investigation
- FY24 PRMRP Investigator-Initiated Research Award (HT942524PRMRPIIRA) for preclinical research ready for validation

The **Translational Research** phase seeks to transition scientific outcomes toward diagnostic, treatment, and/or preventive strategies. Research projects are expected to have significant nearterm impact on patients' lives. Examples of projects in the Translational Research phase include clinical translation of concepts previously validated through expansion, replication, or comparative studies and product/device development. Applicants seeking support for research aligning to the Translational Research phase may consider:

- FY24 PRMRP Impact Award (HT942524PRMRPIPA) for mature research products that have moved beyond the realm of basic laboratory research and demonstrate potential for near-term clinical impact
- FY24 PRMRP Technology/Therapeutic Development Award (HT942524PRMRPTTDA) for development of tangible products (drugs or biologics), knowledge-based products, and/or devices

The Clinical Trials/Clinical Research phase represents small- and large-scale confirmatory trials and/or applied clinical research that will revolutionize the clinical management of the diseases and conditions included in the congressionally mandated Topic Areas. Applicants seeking support for trials and studies aligned to the Clinical Trials/Clinical Research phase may consider:

- FY24 PRMRP Clinical Trial Award (HT942524PRMRPCTA) for projects focused on safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy outcomes of pharmacological interventions, devices, and implants attached to the subject
- FY24 PRMRP Lifestyle and Behavioral Health Interventions Research Award (HT942524PRMRPLBIRA) for clinical trials and clinical research focused on effectiveness and/or outcomes of nonpharmacological interventions or noninvasive devices

NOTE: The scope of research proposed in applications in response to the FY24 PRMRP program announcements must align with the research phases outlined above. It is the responsibility of the applicant to select the award mechanism that aligns with the scope of the proposed research. The funding mechanism should be selected based on the research scope defined in the program announcement, and not on the amount of the budget. Applications

submitted under a mechanism that is not deemed appropriate for the scope of research proposed will not be funded.

II.A.2. FY24 PRMRP Topic Areas and Strategic Goals

To meet the intent of the funding opportunity all applications for FY24 PRMRP funding must specifically address one of the FY24 PRMRP Topic Areas as directed by the U.S. Congress and have direct relevance to military health. Additionally, the PRMRP implements a portfoliodriven approach by grouping related Topic Areas with Strategic Goals as a framework within which to address critical gaps in major research areas. All applications must address one of the FY24 PRMRP Strategic Goals as it relates to the portfolio-assigned FY24 PRMRP Topic Area. If the proposed research does not specifically address one FY24 PRMRP Topic Area and one FY24 PRMRP Strategic Goal, then the government reserves the right to administratively withdraw the application. The government reserves the right to reassign the application's Topic Area if submitted to an incorrect Topic Area. The FY24 PRMRP Topic Areas and Strategic Goals are listed in each PRMRP portfolio category below.

FY24 PRMRP Portfolio Categories with Associated FY24 PRMRP Topic Areas and FY24 PRMRP Strategic Goals

AUTOIMMUNE DISORDERS AND IMMUNOLOGY

All applications under this portfolio must be aligned to Autoimmune Disorders and Immunology by addressing <u>one</u> Topic Area and <u>one</u> Strategic Goal listed below:

TOPIC AREAS

- Celiac Disease
- Computational Biology for Precision Health
- Food Allergies
- Guillain-Barré Syndrome

- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Proteomics
- Scleroderma

STRATEGIC GOALS

Foundational Studies

- Identify triggers and/or risk factors impacting onset and progression of disease (e.g., environmental exposures, psychosocial stressors, climate change, lifestyle preferences, genetic risk factors, dietary practices, past medical history, sex and/or gender).
- Determine associations between the microbiome and gut-mediated inflammation.
- Develop preclinical models that recapitulate the phenotype of human disease.

Prevention

• Develop and test strategies to prevent the onset and/or progression of disease.

Diagnosis

- Develop innovative noninvasive methods (e.g., biomarkers, multi-omics approaches) for the diagnosis and continuous monitoring of inflammation, especially in minority communities.
- Develop tools to assess neurologic outcomes of the disease/condition.

Treatment

- Develop and test therapeutic and/or lifestyle interventions to reduce inflammation and inflammatory responses, improve or delay symptom onset, reduce the negative consequences of disease sequelae and/or promote tissue healing.
- Develop and test new treatments and/or refine existing treatment strategies to minimize toxicity and mitigate inflammatory, immune and/or allergic disease states.

Epidemiology

- Conduct patient-centered research on onset, exacerbation, outcomes, treatment preferences, and quality-of-life measures.
- Conduct population-based studies to identify risk factors that contribute to onset and/or progression of the disease/condition and its comorbidities.
- Conduct research to better understand and decrease disparities in rates of disease incidence and/or prevalence, rates of diagnosis, treatment regimens, and outcomes in women and minority communities.
- Conduct natural history/longitudinal studies to understand incidence, prevalence, and progression of the disease/condition.

CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH

All applications under this portfolio must be aligned to Cardiovascular Health by addressing one Topic Area and one Strategic Goal listed below:

TOPIC AREAS

- Computational Biology for Precision Health
- Congenital Heart Disease

- Proteomics
- Vascular Malformations

STRATEGIC GOALS

Prevention

- Develop and test strategies to prevent or reduce the impact of the disease/condition on the heart, brain, arteries, and additional target organs across an individual's life span.
- Develop strategies to understand and prevent disease onset based on sex, gender, ethnic and/or racial differences.

Diagnosis

- Develop and test strategies to enable detection before clinical symptoms are apparent.
- Develop and rigorously test novel technologies for accurate diagnosis, predicting clinical outcomes and comorbid conditions, and tracking disease progression, including analytical tools, noninvasive methods and/or screening tools.

Treatment

• Develop and evaluate novel therapeutics or advance treatment regimens, especially those that address sex, gender, ethnic and/or racial differences.

Epidemiology

- Identify risk factors that contribute to the disease/condition in civilian and/or military populations.
- Conduct population-based or outcomes-based research to identify sex, gender, ethnic and/or racial, psychosocial and/or quality-of-life long-term impacts.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

All applications under this portfolio must be aligned to Infectious Diseases by addressing <u>one</u> Topic Area and one Strategic Goal listed below:

TOPIC AREAS

- Computational Biology for Precision Health
- Congenital Cytomegalovirus
- Far-UVC Germicidal Light

- Hepatitis B
- Malaria
- Proteomics

STRATEGIC GOALS

Foundational Studies

• Elucidate long-term complications following infections, including comorbidities.

Prevention

- Develop or optimize vaccine strategies, vaccine platforms, or compounds (including active or passive immunoprophylaxis), to prevent disease onset or inhibit disease progression; research on agile platforms is encouraged.
- Develop strategies to eliminate/reduce maternal-fetal transmission.
- Develop strategies for rapid prediction of protective antigens/epitopes.

Diagnosis

- Identify testable correlates of protection induced by prophylactic treatment or natural infection.
- Develop pathogen-agnostic diagnostic tools/assays or improve existing next generation tools, that use non-invasive, patient-derived samples (e.g., urine, sweat, biometrics).

Treatment

- Expand upon current treatments or establish new disease-specific clinical networks for therapeutics drug testing for severe or chronic disease (does not include discovering or testing new chemical entities).
- Develop and test more effective and shorter treatment regimens, including those that address treatment resistance (does not include discovering or testing of new chemical entities).

Epidemiology

• Identify strategies for surveillance or develop modeling tools and/or biomarkers to predict outbreaks or epidemics.

INTERNAL MEDICINE

All applications under this portfolio must be aligned to Internal Medicine by addressing <u>one</u> Topic Area and one Strategic Goal listed below:

TOPIC AREAS

- Accelerated Aging Processes Associated with Military Service
- Computational Biology for Precision Health
- Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis
- Interstitial Cystitis

- Lymphedema
- Nephrotic Syndrome
- Pancreatitis
- Polycystic Kidney Disease
- Proteomics

STRATEGIC GOALS

Foundational Studies

- Improve understanding of molecular underpinnings, progression, comorbidities and long-term complications of the disease/condition.
- Develop improved research tools to translate preclinical findings to more efficacious treatment regimens and enable new drug discovery.
- Conduct multi-organ research to better understand the effect of the disease/condition on the whole body.

Prevention

• Develop and test strategies to prevent the disease/condition.

Diagnosis

- Develop and test tools or technologies for early detection, accurate diagnosis, or tracking
 of disease progression, including analytical tools, noninvasive methods and/or screening
 tools.
- Develop tools to reduce time between presentation of symptoms and required specialized care for management of disease/condition.
- Conduct biomarker and genetic studies to better understand and differentiate subtypes, heterogeneity, and progression of disease/condition.

Treatment

- Develop and test novel treatments and/or improve upon existing treatments (including repurposing existing drugs), which may include lifestyle interventions (e.g., diet and physical activity) to improve psychosocial functioning and quality of life, especially those that account for sex, gender, ethnic and/or racial differences.
- Develop and test combination therapy and/or intervention treatment approaches to slow the progression of the disease/condition and/or address long-term pain management (includes drugs, lifestyle changes, devices, and surgical interventions).
- Advance the development of artificial organs, including xenobiology research.

Epidemiology

- Conduct population-based studies to identify risk factors (e.g., medication toxicity, genetic predisposition, infections, environmental exposures, sex and/or gender) that influence development, progression, and outcomes (including psychosocial functioning and quality of life).
- Develop surrogate endpoints to accelerate approval of new treatments.
- Conduct natural history studies to improve tracking of prevalence.
- Develop and test the efficacy of educational and health-tracking programs and platforms to increase awareness for prevention and/or contribute to shared decision making and treatment preferences.

NEUROSCIENCE

All applications under this portfolio must be aligned to Neuroscience by addressing <u>one</u> Topic Area and <u>one</u> Strategic Goal listed below:

TOPIC AREAS

- Computational Biology for Precision Health
- Eating Disorders
- Maternal Mental Health
- Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/ Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

- Neuroactive Steroids
- Peripheral Neuropathy
- Proteomics
- Suicide Prevention

STRATEGIC GOALS

Foundational Studies

- Identify mechanisms underlying the disease/condition including sex and/or gender, potential relationships to environmental or neurotoxic exposures, injury, stress, or infection.
- Integrate data using computational methods to improve understanding of and/or assess the treatment of the disease/condition.

Prevention

• Develop and test the efficacy of methods (e.g., screening, education programs, counseling) to prevent the disease/condition and/or comorbidities.

Diagnosis

- Improve and validate diagnostics for neurological health, psychological health and/or cognitive assessment, which may include developing and testing personalized clinical decision-making tools or developing objective diagnostic criteria.
- Develop and test strategies, such as predictive analytics, to provide early diagnosis and/or monitoring.
- Develop and test strategies to identify and prioritize at-risk individuals who would benefit from screening and/or diagnostic testing.

Treatment

- Develop and evaluate novel pharmacological or nonpharmacological treatments, strategies, or therapeutic targets, which may include repurposing of existing drugs.
- Develop and test targeted treatment strategies that address sex/gender differences for diseases/conditions that disproportionately affect women.

Epidemiology

- Conduct population-based studies to identify risk factors (e.g., genetic, behavioral, lifestyle, psychosocial, sex and/or gender) that contribute to disease/condition onset and progression.
- Population-based studies to understand how implementing treatment and preventative strategies within a community impacts patient outcomes.
- Identify barriers to treatment access and develop strategies to mitigate these barriers.
- Conduct population-based studies to identify prevalence, medical service usage, and/or quality of life for those affected by the disease/condition.

ORTHOPAEDIC MEDICINE

All applications under this portfolio must be aligned to Orthopaedic Medicine by addressing one Topic Area and one Strategic Goal listed below:

TOPIC AREAS

- Accelerated Aging Processes Associated with Military Service
- Computational Biology for Precision Health
- Musculoskeletal Disorders Related to Acute and Chronic Bone Conditions and Injuries
- Proteomics

STRATEGIC GOALS

Foundational Studies

- Understand mechanisms underlying the pathology of associated musculoskeletal disorders including, but not limited to aging, pain, mechanobiology, gut microbiome, and cell senescence.
- Determine factors that lead to accelerated degeneration following joint injuries, including research focused on the entire joint rather than a specific tissue and studies investigating the role of aberrant mechanobiology or multi-omics studies.
- Elucidate the role of steroid hormones and/or biological sex in orthopaedic health.

Prevention

 Develop strategies for improved point-of-injury care to mitigate risk of secondary complications and to address joint preservation.

- Develop and test strategies to prevent bacterial and/or fungal infections that occur with severe fractures or trauma.
- Develop and test strategies to prevent orthopaedic-related conditions in women.

Diagnosis

• Develop and test novel strategies for early and precise diagnosis, including but not limited to research involving patient profiling, omics, and machine learning/artificial intelligence approaches.

Treatment

- Advance intra-articular treatments for joint injuries to address whole joint preservation, regeneration, or resurfacing, and to improve joint microenvironment.
- Develop and test strategies to increase quality of life or halt/slow disease progression (may include regenerative medicine approaches and/or biologics).
- Develop and test strategies for rehabilitation regimens for the musculoskeletal system and associated disorders to facilitate Service Members returning to duty.
- Develop and test treatment strategies for orthopaedic-related conditions in women.

Epidemiology

• Conduct patient-reported outcomes research to inform treatment guidelines and/or improve exercise recommendations to optimize joint longevity; research with a focus on large data sets is encouraged.

RARE DISEASES AND CONDITIONS

All applications under this portfolio must be aligned to Rare Diseases and Conditions by addressing one Topic Area and one Strategic Goal listed below:

TOPIC AREAS

- Computational Biology for Precision Health
- Dystonia
- Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome
- Epidermolysis Bullosa
- Fibrous Dysplasia/McCune-Albright Syndrome
- Fragile X
- Frontotemporal Degeneration

- Hereditary Ataxia
- Hydrocephalus
- Mitochondrial Disease
- Myotonic Dystrophy
- Proteomics
- Rett Syndrome
- Sickle-Cell Disease
- Von Hippel-Lindau Syndrome

STRATEGIC GOALS

Foundational Studies

- Identify biological mechanisms underlying disease onset, disease progression, or phenotype/symptomatic heterogeneity, including studies to address sex, gender, ethnic and/or racial differences.
- Elucidate how biomarkers (including genotype) are linked to disease phenotype or subtype.
- Develop novel preclinical models that recapitulate the phenotype of human disease.

Diagnosis

- Identify and validate objective biomarkers to predict onset, response to therapy, disease complications and/or disease progression.
- Develop and validate improved diagnostic criteria and screening tools for early detection or to track disease progression.
- Determine the physiological impact related to diagnosis and/or timing of a diagnosis.

Treatment

- Develop and test pharmacological or nonpharmacological treatments, or improve upon existing treatments, especially those that will minimize side effects.
- Develop and test curative strategies to include tissue engineering, genetic approaches, or protein replacement.
- Develop and test interventions to improve neuropsychological outcomes and cognitive symptoms and other comorbidities as defined by those with lived experience.
- Develop and test strategies to support ongoing treatments during life transitions (i.e., pediatric to adult care).

Epidemiology

- Conduct population-based studies to identify risk (i.e., carrier status), lifestyle determinates of health or protective factors that influence onset, progression and/or outcomes.
- Conduct natural history/longitudinal studies to understand incidence, prevalence, and progression of the disease/condition and carrier and modifier gene status.
- Develop and validate research tools to collect, mine, and integrate real-world data (patient-reported data, longitudinal data, etc.) with electronic medical records to guide precision medicine approaches.
- Develop clinically relevant endpoints for clinical trials.

RESPIRATORY HEALTH

All applications under this portfolio must be aligned to Respiratory Health by addressing <u>one</u> Topic Area and <u>one</u> Strategic Goal listed below:

TOPIC AREAS

- Computational Biology for Precision Health
- Proteomics

- Pulmonary Fibrosis
- Respiratory Health

STRATEGIC GOALS

Foundational Studies

- Determine how airborne hazards cause respiratory injury/disease (i.e., climate change-related, toxin/toxicant or nanomaterial exposure).
- Improve understanding of how genetics and/or immune system activation lead to respiratory distress.

Prevention

- Prevent lung injury caused by trauma, transfusion, mechanical ventilation, infection, or hemorrhagic shock.
- Develop and test interventions to prevent lung diseases following exposure to environmental and/or occupational respiratory toxicants.
- Develop methods and devices to minimize the extent of population exposure to environmental pollutants.

Diagnosis

- Develop and validate physiological sensors to assess environmental and/or physiological levels of exposure to airborne hazards or toxins.
- Develop a fieldable toolset to monitor lung dysfunction/failure.
- Improve early detection for respiratory illnesses, including developing and validating wearable sensors for early detection of chronic pulmonary diseases.
- Identify biomarkers to diagnose and/or monitor progression of chronic respiratory diseases.

Treatment

- Develop and test novel treatments, including precision medicine approaches, to slow progression and/or promote lung repair.
- Develop improved fieldable systems to treat traumatic/acute lung injury in far forward settings (e.g., miniature and/or semi-automated ventilator or devices that will enable correct airway placement of oxygenation in austere settings).
- Develop and test minimally invasive or noninvasive methods of facilitating gas exchange when the lungs are compromised.

Epidemiology

• Improve understanding of difference in incidence, risk factors, outcomes, and disease progression in populations based on race, genetics, and/or age.

II.A.3. Award History

The PRMRP Impact Award is being offered for the first time in FY24.

II.B. Award Information

The FY24 PRMRP Impact Award supports applied research, defined as use-inspired and practice-oriented science that brings together outcomes from basic research, and insights from the real-world environment, to foster clinical applicability. The intent of the Impact Award is to translate the fundamental understanding of underlying mechanisms toward practical applications that have the potential for major near-term impact on patients affected by one of the diseases and conditions included in the FY24 PRMRP Topic Areas.

Proposed research should refine mature concepts and ideas into translatable solutions with a view toward evaluating technical feasibility of promising new pharmacological agents, knowledge products, behavioral and rehabilitation interventions, diagnostic and therapeutic techniques, clinical guidance, and/or emerging approaches and technologies. The FY24 PRMRP Impact Award is not intended to support basic research.

For the purposes of this funding opportunity, basic research is defined as exploratory science directed toward greater knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena or outcomes, without specific applications toward process and products. Examples include, but are not limited to, high-risk/high-gain approaches, mechanistic studies, and preliminary data generation/validation. Applicants seeking funding for research that meets this definition should consider one of the other FY24 PRMRP program announcements being offered. For information about these award mechanisms, see Section II.A.1, FY24 PRMRP Research Development Pipeline.

Key aspects of the FY24 PRMRP Impact Award:

• **Impact:** The Impact Award is intended to support research that demonstrates the potential to have a major impact in the near term on an area of paramount importance in medical research. The proposed study should demonstrate how the research will impact, transform, and improve patient outcomes in one of the <u>FY24 PRMRP Topic Areas</u> and address one of the <u>FY24 PRMRP Strategic Goals</u>. Proposed projects may include applied preclinical or

clinical research, but not clinical trials. The application must articulate the potential impact the proposed work will have on patient outcomes and how the results obtained will be leveraged to ensure clinical applicability.

- **Preliminary Data:** The Impact Award is intended to support transformative investigations that leapfrog patient outcomes by utilizing previous research findings. Applications must include preliminary data to support feasibility of the study. Preliminary data may be published or unpublished. Any unpublished preliminary data provided should originate from the laboratory of the Principal Investigator (PI) or a member of the research team.
- Continuity of Research: The Impact Award is intended to support established projects that have moved beyond the realm of basic research and have the potential to result in a near-term impact in clinical research or the clinic. The potential impact of the proposed research is expected to be near-term, and while it fundamentally may include the next step in research, it must be significant and go beyond an incremental advance.
- **Data Evaluation:** The proposed research should be rigorously designed to include a statistical plan and data analysis plan. The Impact Award is intended to have near-term relevance to patients; therefore, the statistical plan and data analysis plan should represent how significant the results may be on patient outcomes.
- Relevance to Military Health: Relevance to the health care needs of military Service Members, Veterans, and their Families is a key feature of this award. Investigators are encouraged to consider the following characteristics as examples of how a project may demonstrate relevance to military health:
 - Explanation of how the project addresses an aspect of the target disease/condition/ technology that has direct relevance to the health of military Service Members, Veterans, and/or other Military Health System Beneficiaries.
 - Description of how the knowledge, information, products, or technologies gained from the proposed research could be implemented in a dual-use capacity to benefit the civilian population and also address a military need.
 - Use of military or Veteran populations, samples, or datasets in the proposed research, if appropriate.
 - Collaboration with Department of Defense (DOD) or Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) investigators or consultants. A list of websites that may be useful in identifying additional information about ongoing DOD and VA areas of research interest or potential opportunities for collaboration within the FY24 PRMRP Topic Areas can be found in <u>Appendix 2</u>.

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.

All projects should adhere to a core set of standards for rigorous study design and reporting to maximize the reproducibility and translational potential of clinical and preclinical research. The standards are described in SC Landis et al., 2012, A call for transparent reporting to optimize the predictive value of preclinical research, *Nature* 490:187-191 (http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v490/n7419/full/nature11556.html). While these standards are written for preclinical studies, the basic principles of randomization, blinding, sample-size estimation, and data handling derive from well-established best practices in clinical studies.

Partnering PI Option: The FY24 PRMRP Impact Award includes an option for more than one PI. The FY24 Impact Award – Partnering PI Option supports partnerships between clinicians and research scientists that will accelerate the movement of promising ideas toward clinical application. One PI will be identified as the Initiating PI and will be responsible for the majority of the administrative tasks associated with application submission. The other PI will be identified as the Partnering PI. One partner in the collaboration must function as a research scientist and the other partner as a clinician investigator. Multi-institutional partnerships are encouraged. A proposed project in which a partner merely supplies tissues or access to patients will not meet the intent of this partnership. Both PIs should contribute significantly to the development and execution of the proposed research project. Projects involving convergence science partnerships are strongly encouraged. If recommended for funding, each PI will be named on a separate award to the recipient organization(s). Each award will be subject to separate reporting, regulatory, and administrative requirements. For individual submission requirements for the Initiating and Partnering PI, refer to Section II.D.2, Content and Form of the Application Submission.

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.

Applications to the FY24 PRMRP Impact Award must support preclinical applied research or clinical research studies and may not be used for clinical trials.

A clinical trial is defined in the Code of Federal Regulations, 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 PRMRP Impact Award should not exceed \$2.0M. The anticipate direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance for an FY24 PRMRP Impact Award with Partnering PI Option will not exceed \$2.6M. 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 \$47.4M to fund approximately 14 FY24 PRMRP Impact 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

Investigators at or above the level of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) may be named by the organization.

Industry titles may not be analogous to the faculty hierarchy in academia. For industry, investigators at or above an independent scientist level may be named by the company as the PI on the application.

For the Partnering PI Option, one partner in the collaboration must be a clinician investigator (M.D., M.D./Ph.D., D.O., or equivalent) with clinical duties and/or responsibilities. Postdoctoral and clinical fellows are not eligible to be named as an Initiating or Partnering PI.

An investigator may be named on only one FY24 PRMRP Impact Award application as an Initiating or Partnering PI.

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 <u>Section II.H.2</u>, <u>Administrative Actions</u>, 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

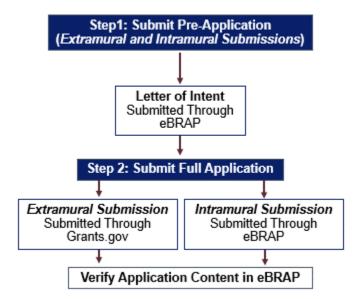
Submission is a two-step process requiring both a *pre-application* submitted via the Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP.org) and a *full application* (eBRAP.org or Grants.gov). Depending on the type of submission (i.e., extramural vs. intramural), certain aspects of the submission 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 <u>extramural organization</u> 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 HT942524PRMRPIPA from Grants.gov (https://grants.gov). Full applications from extramural organizations *must* be submitted through Grants.gov.

Intramural Submission: An application submitted by an <u>intramural DOD organization</u> for an investigator employed by that organization. Intramural DOD organizations <u>may</u> submit full applications to either eBRAP or Grants.gov. Download application package components for HT942524PRMRPIPA 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 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 PRMRP 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 (letter of intent) components must be submitted by the PI through eBRAP (https://eBRAP.org/).

Partnering PI Option: All pre-application components (letter of intent) must be submitted by the Initiating PI through eBRAP (https://eBRAP.org/), including the submission of contact information for the Partnering PI if exercising the Impact Award – Partnering PI Option.

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 each PI, the Business Official(s), performing organization(s), and contracting organization(s) 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:
Single PI	Impact Award
Initiating PI and Partnering PI	Impact Award – Partnering PI Option

Select the FY24 PRMRP Portfolio addressed by the proposed research.

Select the FY24 PRMRP Topic Area addressed by the proposed research.

Select the FY24 PRMRP Continuum of Care category addressed by the proposed research.

Select the FY24 PRMRP Strategic Goal addressed by the proposed research.

Partnering PI Option: After the Initiating PI confirms submission of the pre-application, the Partnering PI will be notified of the pre-application submission via an email from eBRAP. *The Partnering PI must follow the link in the notification email to associate the partnering pre-*

application with their eBRAP account. If not previously registered, the Partnering PI must register in eBRAP.

After associating the pre-application to their eBRAP account, the Partnering PI should email the eBRAP Help Desk (help@ebrap.org) to have the desired contact information associated to their pre-application. The email should include the pre-application log number, the name of the Business Official, the name(s) of the Performing/Contracting Organization(s), and the submission-type for the pre-application (extramural or intramural).

Partnering PIs should not initiate a new pre-application based on the same research project submitted by the Initiating PI. Partnering PIs are urged to complete these steps as soon as possible. If they are not completed:

- The Partnering PI will not be able to view and modify their full application during the verification period in eBRAP.
- Any intramural Partnering PI will not be able to submit their full application package components to eBRAP.

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 PRMRP Portfolio, <u>FY24 PRMRP Topic Area</u>, and <u>FY24 PRMRP Strategic Goal</u> 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 preapplication and full application components concurrently and submit a full application *after* successful submission of the pre-application.

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

Partnering PI Option: The CDMRP requires separate full application package submissions for the Initiating PI and each Partnering PI, even if the PIs are located within the same organization. Each full application package must be submitted using the unique eBRAP log number received by the Initiating and Partnering PIs during pre-application submission. *All associated applications (the Initiating PI's and the Partnering PI's) must be submitted by the full application submission deadline.*

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 CMDRP 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 for the PI or Initiating PI

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

(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 (10-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.

Background: The background section should detail the scientific rationale for the study, establish the study's relevance, and clearly explain the basis for the study questions and/or study hypotheses. Describe how the proposed project addresses an FY24 PRMRP Topic Area. Additionally, describe how the proposed research project relates to an FY24 PRMRP Strategic Goal.

- Hypothesis and Objective: State the hypothesis to be tested and the objective to be reached regarding a critical scientific or clinical issue that addresses one of the FY24 PRMRP Topic Areas and one of the FY24 PRMRP Strategic Goals.
- **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the study.
- **Study Design:** Describe the proposed study in sufficient detail to evaluate its appropriateness and feasibility.
 - Describe the rationale, experimental design, and methodology appropriate to test the hypothesis and reach the final objective.
 - Include preliminary data and reconcile it with objectives of the research proposed. Demonstrate how the research is based on strong preliminary data and/or previous clinical and/or translational research outcomes. Preliminary data such as published or unpublished results from the laboratory and/or clinic of the PI(s) or collaborators named on this application must be included.
 - Provide a well-developed, well-integrated, and detailed research plan that supports the translational feasibility and promise of the approach.
 - Describe all animal studies and how the studies are designed to achieve the objectives, including the choice of model and endpoints/outcome measures to be used, if applicable.
 - Demonstrate the availability of tissue, data, or human subjects for the collection of samples, if applicable. If human subjects or human anatomical samples will be used, include a plan for the recruitment of subjects or the acquisition of samples and document the experience of the PI(s) and/or key collaborators in recruiting human subjects for similar projects. This award may not be used to conduct clinical trials.
 - Describe potential problems and potential pitfalls and address alternative approaches.
 - Describe how data will be reported and how it will be assured that the documentation will support a regulatory filing with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), if applicable.
 - Statistical Plan and Data Analysis for all applications must be submitted in Attachment 10.
- 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.
- List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols: Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols.
- Facilities, Existing Equipment, and Other Resources: Describe the facilities and equipment available for performance of the proposed project and any additional facilities or equipment proposed for acquisition at no cost to the award. Indicate whether government-furnished facilities or equipment are proposed for use. If so, reference should be made to the original or present government award under which the facilities or equipment items are now accountable. There is no form for this information.
- Publications and/or Patents: Include a list of relevant publication URLs and/or patent abstracts. If articles are not publicly available, then copies of up to five published manuscripts may be included in Attachment 2. Extra items will not be reviewed.
- Letters of Organizational Support: Provide a letter (or letters, if applicable) signed by the Department Chair or appropriate organization official, confirming the laboratory space, equipment, and other resources available for the project. Letters of support not requested in the program announcement, such as those from members of Congress, do not impact application review or funding decisions.
- Letters of Collaboration (if applicable): Provide a signed letter from each collaborating individual and/or organization demonstrating that the PI has the support and resources necessary for the proposed work. If an investigator at an intramural DOD organization is named as a collaborator on a full application submitted through an extramural organization, the application must include a letter from the collaborator's Commander or Commanding Officer at the intramural DOD organization authorizing the collaborator's involvement.
- DOD Data Management Plan (two-page limit is recommended): Describe the data management plan in accordance with Section 3.c, Enclosure 3, <u>DoD Instructions</u> 3200.12. Do not duplicate the Data and Research Resources Sharing Plan. Refer to General Application Instructions, Section IV.B, Attachments Form, Attachment: Supporting Documentation, for detailed information regarding Data Management Plan content.
- Inclusion Enrollment Plan (only required if clinical research is proposed):
 Provide an anticipated enrollment table(s) for the inclusion of women and minorities using the Public Health Service (PHS) Inclusion Enrollment Report, a three-page

fillable PDF form that can be downloaded from eBRAP at https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm. The enrollment table(s) should be appropriate to the objectives of the study with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex/gender, race, and ethnicity. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, gender, ethnicity, or race (typically classified as exempt from Institutional Review Board [IRB] review) are exempt from this requirement.

- Data and Research Resources Sharing Plan: Describe the type of data or research resource to be made publicly available as a result of the proposed work. Describe how data and resources generated during the performance of the project will be shared with the research community. Include the name of the repository(ies) where scientific data and resources arising from the project will be archived, if applicable. If a public repository will not be used for data or resource sharing, provide justification. Provide a milestone plan for data/results dissemination including when data and resources will be made available to other users, including dissemination activities with a particular focus on feeding back the data to affected communities and/or research participants. Refer to CDMRP's Policy on Data & Resource Sharing located on the eBRAP "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm for more information about CDMRP's expectations for making data and research resources publicly available.
- Use of DOD Resources (*if applicable*): 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.
- Use of VA Resources (if applicable): 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 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.

- **Background:** Present the scientific rationale behind the proposed research project.

- Relevance to Topic Area: State the relevance of the project to one of the FY24 PRMRP Topic Areas. Additionally, describe how the proposed research project addresses one of the FY24 PRMRP Strategic Goals.
- **Hypothesis/Objective(s):** State the hypothesis to be tested and/or objective(s) to be reached.
- **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the study.
- **Study Design:** Describe the study design, including appropriate controls.
- **Impact:** Briefly describe how the proposed project will have an impact on research and patient care in the specified disease(s)/condition(s).
- **Relevance to Military Health:** Describe the study's relevance to the health care needs of military Service Members, Veterans, and their Families.
- 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. Lay abstracts should be labeled for easy identification and differentiation from the technical abstract.

- State the <u>FY24 PRMRP Topic Area</u> addressed by the proposed research project.
 Additionally, describe how the proposed research project addresses one of the <u>FY24 PRMRP Strategic Goals</u>.
- Summarize the objectives and rationale for the proposed research.
- What population will the research help, and how will it help them?
- What are the potential applications, benefits, and risks of the anticipated outcomes?
- What are the likely contributions of the proposed research project to advancing research, patient care, and/or quality of life?
- Attachment 5: Statement of Work (SOW) (three-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 SOW format and recommended strategies for assembling the SOW.

For the FY24 PRMRP Impact Award, refer to either the "Example: Assembling a Clinical Research and/or Clinical Trial Statement of Work" or "Example: Assembling a Generic Statement of Work", whichever example is most appropriate for the proposed effort, for guidance on preparing the SOW. Use the "Suggested SOW Format" to develop the SOW for the proposed research. Submit as a PDF.

Partnering PI Option: Each PI must submit an identical copy of a jointly created SOW. The contributions of the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI should be noted for each task.

• Attachment 6: Impact Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "Impact.pdf".

- Explain how the proposed research project will address a critical problem or question in one of the <u>FY24 PRMRP Topic Areas</u>. Additionally, describe how the project addresses one of the <u>FY24 PRMRP Strategic Goals</u>.
- Describe how the proposed research project, if successful, will make important scientific advances in the relevant field of research, and advance patient care for the target population in the near term.
- Describe the short-term impact: Detail the anticipated outcome(s)/product(s)
 (knowledge and/or materiel) that will be directly attributed to the results of the
 proposed research. Describe how the results of the research will impact the field of
 study and/or improve patient care in the near term as compared to current practice or
 currently used treatments.
- Describe the long-term impact: Explain the anticipated long-term gains from this research. Compare to information known/products currently available, if applicable.
 Describe the anticipated long-range impact of the anticipated research findings on the field of study and/or patient care.

• Attachment 7: Relevance to Military Health Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "MilRel.pdf".

- Describe how the proposed study is responsive to the health care needs of military Service Members, Veterans, and their Families. Provide information about the incidence and/or prevalence of the disease or condition in the general population as well as in military Service Members, Veterans, and/or their Families.
- If active-duty military, military Families, and/or Veteran population(s) or datasets will be used in the proposed research project, describe the population(s)/dataset(s) and the appropriateness of the population(s)/dataset(s) for the proposed study. If a non-military population will be used for the proposed research project, explain how the population simulates the targeted population (i.e., military Service Members, Veterans, and their Families).
- If applicable, show how the proposed research project aligns with DOD and/or VA areas of research interest. Provide a description of how the knowledge, information, products, or technologies gained from the research could be implemented in a dual-

use capacity to benefit the civilian population and address a military need, as appropriate.

• Attachment 8: Translation Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "Translation.pdf".

- Describe where the project fits between the basic scientific research phase and implementation into clinical practice.
- Describe how the research incorporates use-inspired knowledge from the real-world environment into the scientific research process.
- Explain how the research design minimizes differences between laboratory conditions and the real-world environment.
- Describe how the research plan supports the translational feasibility and promise of the approach.
- Attachment 9: Animal Research Plan (three-page limit): Upload as "AnimalResPlan.pdf". (Attachment 9 is only applicable and required for applications proposing animal studies.)

If the proposed study involves animals, a summary describing the animal research that will be conducted must be included in the application. Consult the ARRIVE guidelines 2.0 (Animal Research: Reporting In Vivo Experiments) to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous animal research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported. The ARRIVE guidelines 2.0 can be found at https://arriveguidelines.org/arrive-guidelines. The Animal Research Plan may not be an exact replica of the protocol(s) submitted to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The Animal Research Plan should address the following points to achieve reproducible and rigorous results for each proposed animal study:

- Briefly describe the research objective(s) of the animal study. Explain how and why
 the animal species, strain, and model(s) being used can address the scientific
 objectives and, where appropriate, the study's relevance to human biology.
- Summarize the procedures to be conducted. Describe how the study will be controlled.
- Describe the randomization and blinding procedures for the study, and any other measures to be taken to minimize the effects of subjective bias during animal treatment and assessment of results. If randomization and/or blinding will not be utilized, provide justification.
- Provide a sample size estimate for each study arm and the method by which it was derived, including power analysis calculations.

- Describe how data will be handled, including rules for stopping data collection,
 criteria for inclusion and exclusion of data, how outliers will be defined and handled,
 statistical methods for data analysis, and identification of the primary endpoint(s).
- Attachment 10: Statistical Plan and Data Analysis (five-page limit): Upload as "Stats.pdf". All applicants are required to submit a Statistical Plan and Data Analysis.
 - Describe the statistical methodology and plan including how it supports the stated hypothesis or objective. If an existing dataset is to be used, describe the dataset and how it supports the aims of the project.
 - State the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the subjects with sound rationale for the criteria, if applicable.
 - Describe the power analysis and whether it determined population numbers; if not, justify why the power analysis is not essential to the statistical evaluation.
 - State whether the study will include univariate, bivariate, or multivariate analyses.
 State the variables to be used in the main analysis; include covariates and how the data will be adjusted to account for covariates, if applicable. Stratification of data (if applicable) should be described and justified.
 - Describe how the study will conform to HIPAA, the 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, if applicable.
 - Explain data capture, verification, disposition, if applicable. Describe how data will be evaluated for reproducibility and adjusted for confounding variables.
 - Articulate how large datasets will be evaluated, if applicable. For laboratory projects, describe the organization and maintenance of large datasets, if applicable.
- Attachment 11: Partnership Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "Partnership.pdf". This attachment is only required for applications submitted under the Partnering PI Option.
 - Describe the expertise of the Initiating and Partnering PIs and how each will bring different strengths to the proposed project. Describe how the combined clinical background and experience of the partnering investigators and other key personnel will enhance the application's impact on patient outcomes.
 - Describe how the PIs' unique expertise combined as a partnership will better address the research question, how the unique expertise that each PI brings to the project is critical for the research strategy and completion of the SOW, and why the work should be done together rather than through separate efforts.
 - Outline the contribution and time commitment of each partner and how each will have equal intellectual input on the design, conduct, and analysis of the project.

 Describe how the PIs will manage the collaboration and workflow to optimize research efforts.

• Attachment 12: Post-Award Transition Plan (three-page limit): Upload as "Transition.pdf".

Describe/discuss the methods and strategies proposed to move the research products to the next phase of development (FDA-required Investigational New Drug/ Investigational Device Exemption [IND-/IDE]-enabling studies, clinical trials, commercialization, and/or delivery to the civilian or military market) after successful completion of the award. Applicants are encouraged to work with their organization's Technology Transfer Office (or equivalent) to develop the transition plan. PIs are encouraged to explore developing relationships with industry and/or other funding agencies to facilitate moving the product into the next phase of development. The post-award transition plan should include the components listed below:

- Details of the funding strategy to transition to the next level of development and/or commercialization (e.g., specific industry partners, specific funding opportunities to be applied for). Include a description of collaborations and other resources that will be used to provide continuity of development.
- For knowledge products, a description of collaborations and other resources that will be used to provide continuity of development, including proposed development or modification of clinical practice guidelines and recommendations, provider training materials, patient brochures, and other clinical support tools, scientific journal publications, models, simulations, and applications. (A "knowledge product" is a non-material product that addresses an identified need, Topic Area, or capability gap; is based on current evidence and research; aims to transition into medical practice, training, or tools or to support material solutions [systems to develop, acquire, provide, and sustain medical solutions and capabilities]; and educates or impacts behavior throughout the continuum of care, including primary prevention of negative outcomes.)
- A brief schedule and milestones for transitioning the intervention to the next level of development (e.g., FDA-required IND-/IDE-enabling studies, next-phase clinical trials, commercialization, delivery to the military or civilian market, incorporation into clinical practice, approval by a Regulatory Agency).
- Ownership rights/access to the intellectual property necessary for the development and/or commercialization of products or technologies supported with this award and the government's ability to access such products or technologies in the future.
- A risk analysis for cost, schedule, manufacturability, and sustainability.
- Attachment 13: Prior Outcomes Statement (if applicable; one-page limit): Upload as "Outcomes.pdf". If applicable, list all of the PI's prior or in-progress CDMRP/PRMRP research projects/awards including resulting publications, abstracts, patents, or other tangible outcomes. Only research and outcomes directly relevant to this

- application should be listed. Attachment 13 will be available for programmatic review only.
- Attachment 14: 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 15: 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.
 - o PI Biographical Sketch (five-page limit): Upload as "Biosketch LastName.pdf".
 - 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.
 - Application (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.

Partnering PI Option: Initiating and Partnering PIs must have a separate budget and justification specific to their distinct portions of the effort that the applicant organization will submit as separate Grants.gov or eBRAP application packages. The Initiating PI should not include budget information for Partnering PI(s) even if they are located within the same organization. Refer to Section II.D.5, Funding Restrictions, for detailed information.

- (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.
 - Extramural Subaward: Complete the Research & Related Subaward Budget Form and upload through Grants.gov.
 - 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 15.

II.D.2.b.iii. Full Application Submission Components for the Partnering PI

The application submission process for the Partnering PI uses an abbreviated full application package. Refer to the equivalent attachment above for details specific to each of the following application components.

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

(b) Attachments:

- Attachment 5: Statement of Work (three-page limit): Upload as "SOW.pdf". Each PI must submit an identical copy of a jointly created SOW.
- Attachment 14: Representations (*Extramural submissions only*): Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf".
- Attachment 15: Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form: Upload as "IGBudget.pdf".
- (c) Research & Related Personal Data: For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(c), and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.A.(c), for detailed information.

- (d) Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded): For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(d), and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.A.(d), for detailed information.
 - o PI Biographical Sketch (five-page limit): Upload as "Biosketch LastName.pdf".
 - 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 information.
 - Budget Justification (no page limit): Upload as "BudgetJustification.pdf".

The Initiating and Partnering PI must each submit a budget and justification specific to their own portion of the efforts as part of their separate Grants.gov or eBRAP application packages. The Research & Related Budget for the Partnering PI should not include budget information for the Initiating PI, even if they are located within the same organization. Refer to Section II.D.5, Funding Restrictions, for detailed information.

- **(f) Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form:** For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(f), and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to General Application Instructions, Section V.A.(f), for detailed information.
- (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 information.
 - Extramural Subaward: Complete the Research & Related Subaward Budget Form through Grants.gov.
 - o **Intramural Subaward:** Complete the "Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form" and upload to Grants.gov as Attachment 15.

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/SAM/) 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 <u>Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity</u>.

II.D.5. Funding Restrictions

The maximum period of performance is 4 years.

Application submission with a Single PI: The application's direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed \$2.0M for applications with a single PI. 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 4 years.

Application submission with the Partnering PI Option: The applications' combined direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance in the applications of the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI should not exceed **\$2.6M**. 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 total direct costs of the primary award.

A separate award will be made to each PI's organization.

The Initiating and Partnering PIs are expected to be partners in the research, and direct cost funding should be divided accordingly unless otherwise warranted and clearly justified.

The applicant(s) may request the entire maximum funding amount for a project that may have a period of performance less than the maximum 4 years.

Any application that requests the higher level of funding and that does not include a collaborative PI will have its budget reduced as appropriate.

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

- Travel in support of multi-institutional collaborations.
- Travel costs for the PI(s) to disseminate project results at one DOD-supported meeting to be specified by the program office during award negotiations (e.g., the Military Health System Research Symposium)
- Costs for up to two investigators to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year in addition to the optional meeting described above. The intent of travel costs to scientific/technical meetings is to disseminate project results from the FY24 PRMRP Impact Award.

Must not be requested for:

- Costs for travel to scientific/technical meeting(s) beyond the limits stated above.
- Tuition

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 listed in decreasing order of importance:

• Impact

- To what extent the project impacts a critical problem or question in the PI-selected FY24 PRMRP Topic Area.
- To what extent the proposed research project addresses the PI-selected <u>FY24 PRMRP</u> <u>Strategic Goal</u>.
- Whether the application demonstrated a pathway from the proposed research to making a near-term impact on patient outcomes and/or caregiver issues. How well the application's specific research goals would fit into the pathway of achieving clinical applicability.
- To what extent the research will accelerate promising findings toward clinical applicability to have maximal impact.
- o To what extent the results of the research will impact the field of study and/or improve patient care in the near term as compared to current practice or currently used treatments.

Research Strategy and Feasibility

- How well the scientific rationale supports the project and its feasibility, as demonstrated by a critical review and analysis of the literature, supporting data, and logical reasoning.
- How well the hypothesis, specific aims, and objective(s) are developed.
- How well the experimental design, methods, data collection procedures, and analyses are developed and support completion of the aims.
- If animal studies are included, how well they are designed to achieve reproducible and rigorous results, including the choice of model and the endpoints/outcomes to be measured.
- If human subjects, human biological samples, or datasets will be used, how well the
 application provides evidence of availability of, and access to, the necessary study
 populations and/or resources.
- o If applicable, whether the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities and distribution of proposed enrollment are appropriate for the proposed research. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, gender, ethnicity, or race (typically classified as exempt from IRB review) are exempt from this requirement.
- o If applicable, whether data will be appropriately reported and documented to support a regulatory filing with the FDA.
- How well potential problems are identified and alternative methods or approaches are addressed.

Translation

- How well the research plan supports the translational feasibility and promise of the approach.
- o To what extent the research incorporates use-inspired knowledge from the real-world environment into the scientific research process.
- o To what extent the research design minimizes differences between laboratory conditions and the real-world environment.

• Statistical Plan and Data Analysis

- To what extent the statistical methodology and plan supports the stated hypothesis or objective.
- o If applicable, how well the described dataset supports the aims of the project.
- o If applicable, whether the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the subjects are sound.
- How well the application describes the power analysis and whether it determined population numbers. If applicable, how well the application justified why a power analysis is not essential to the statistical evaluation.
- Whether the application states whether the analyses will be univariate, bivariate, or multivariate.
- How well the variables are described and how well any covariates are identified (if applicable). How well the application accounts for covariates and whether the adjustment is justified (if applicable).
- o If applicable, how well the stratification of data is described and if it is justified.
- How well the data management is described and justified to include all methods for data collection (e.g., identifiers, confidentiality).
- To what extent the data management plans support the generation, analyses, standardization, and storage of data.
- How well the application explains the data capture, verification, and disposition, if applicable.
- o If applicable for laboratory projects, to what extent evaluations to be made, storage of samples, and organization and maintenance of large datasets are described and justified.
- To what extent the data have been evaluated for reproducibility and adjusted for confounding variables.
- Whether there is a plan to evaluate large datasets, if applicable.

• Whether the application describes plans to conform to HIPAA, the 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, if applicable.

Personnel

- How appropriate the levels of effort are for successful conduct of the proposed work.
- How well the PI's record of accomplishment demonstrates their ability to perform the proposed work.
- How appropriate the PI and research team's background and expertise are with regard to their ability to accomplish the proposed work.
- **Partnering PI Option only**: How the partners' combined expertise will better address the research question.

For applications submitted under the **Partnering PI Option**:

Partnership

- How well the research project is supported by the nature of the collaboration.
- How well the application demonstrates that the combined clinical background and experience of the partnering investigators will enhance the application's impact on patient outcomes.
- o To what extent the PIs' unique expertise, combined as a partnership, will better address the research question rather than through separate efforts.
- How well the skills and perspectives of the Initiating and Partnering PIs complement each other, bring different strengths to the project, and are critical for the research strategy and completion of the SOW.
- How well the application reflects the requirement that the partners have equal intellectual input into the design of the project.

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**:

Post-Award Transition Plan

- Whether the application describes the anticipated research outcomes (e.g., knowledge products, clinical products for development).
- How well the application demonstrates methods (e.g., funding opportunities, collaborations, and intellectual property rights) to move the anticipated research outcomes to the next phase of development or clinical application after successful completion of the project.

• To what degree the application offers a well laid-out strategy to transition to the next level of investigation, development, and/or commercialization.

Budget

• Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.

Environment

- To what extent the scientific environment is appropriate for the proposed research project.
- How well the research requirements are supported by the availability of and accessibility to facilities and resources.
- To what extent the quality and level of institutional support are appropriate for the proposed research project.

• 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 Defense Health Program and FY24 PRMRP, as evidenced by the following:
 - Adherence to the intent of the funding opportunity
 - Relative impact
 - Relevance to the <u>FY24 PRMRP Topic Areas</u>
 - Relevance to the FY24 PRMRP Strategic Goals
 - Relevance to military health
 - Program portfolio composition
 - Relative outcomes from the PI's previous CDMRP-/PRMRP-funded research (if applicable)

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 <u>Section II.E.1.b</u>, <u>Programmatic Review</u>. Additional information about the two-tier process used by the CDMRP can be found at https://cdmrp.health.mil/about/2tierRevProcess.*

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 FY24 PRMRP 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. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(e), 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 supporting the Initiating PI or Partnering PI is discouraged and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

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 <u>DoD R&D General Terms and Conditions</u> and the <u>USAMRAA</u> <u>General Research Terms and Conditions</u>: <u>Addendum to the DoD R&D General Terms and Conditions</u> 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 (OHARO), prior to implementation. This administrative review requirement is in addition to the local IACUC, IRB, or Ethics Committee (EC) 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.

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 \$10M 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: <u>help@eBRAP.org</u>

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 900. The program announcement numeric version code will match the General Application Instructions version code 900.

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 (LOI) 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 full application:

- An FY24 PRMRP 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 PRMRP Programmatic Panel members can be found at https://cdmrp.health.mil/prmrp/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 application fails to address one of the congressionally directed <u>FY24 PRMRP Topic</u> Areas.
- The application fails to address one of the <u>FY24 PRMRP Strategic Goals</u>.
- The investigator is named as PI on more than one application submitted to the FY24 PRMRP Impact Award mechanism. Only the first application received per funding level will be accepted; additional applications will be administratively withdrawn.
- The PI does not meet the eligibility criteria.
- **Partnering PI Option:** Failure to submit all associated (Initiating and Partnering PI) applications by the deadline.
- **Partnering PI Option:** Neither the Initiating PI nor Partnering PI qualifies as a clinician investigator.
- A clinical trial is proposed.

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	
	Single or Initiating PI	Partnering PI
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"		
Impact Statement – Attachment 6; upload as "Impact.pdf"		
Relevance to Military Health Statement – Attachment 7; upload as "MilRel.pdf"		
Translation Statement – Attachment 8; upload as "Translation.pdf"		
Animal Research Plan – Attachment 9; upload as "AnimalResPlan.pdf" if applicable		
Statistical Plan and Data Analysis – Attachment 10; upload as "Stats.pdf"		
Partnership Statement – Attachment 11; upload as "Partnership.pdf" if applicable		
Post-Award Transition Plan – Attachment 12; upload as "Transition.pdf"		
Prior Outcomes Statement – Attachment 13; upload as "Outcomes.pdf" if applicable		
Representations (Extramural submissions only) – Attachment 14; upload as "RequiredReps.pdf"		
Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form (if applicable) – Attachment 15; upload as "IGBudget.pdf"		
Research & Related Personal Data		

Full Application Components	Uploaded	
	Single or Initiating PI	Partnering PI
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

DOD Department of Defense

DoDGARs Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations

eBRAP Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal

EC Ethics Committee ET Eastern Time

FAD Funding Authorization Document FDA U.S. Food and Drug Administration

FY Fiscal Year IA Impact Award

IACUC Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

IDE Investigational Device Exemption

IND Investigational New Drug
IRB Institutional Review Board

LOI Letter of Intent

M Million

MIPR Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request

OHARO Office of Human and Animal Research Oversight (previously Office of

Research Protections)

OHRO Office of Human Research Oversight (previously Human Research Protection

Office)

PDF Portable Document Format

PHS Public Health Service
PI Principal Investigator

PRMRP Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program
RPPR Research Performance Progress Report

SAM System for Award Management

SOW Statement of Work

STEM Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics

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

APPENDIX 2: DOD AND VA WEBSITES

PIs are encouraged to integrate and/or align their research projects with DOD and/or VA research laboratories and programs. Collaboration with DOD or VA investigators is also encouraged. Below is a list of websites that may be useful in identifying additional information about DOD and VA areas of research interest, ongoing research, or potential opportunities for collaboration within the FY24 PRMRP Topic Areas.

Air Force Office of Scientific Research https://www.afrl.af.mil/AFOSR/

Air Force Research Laboratory https://www.afrl.af.mil/

Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute

https://afrri.usuhs.edu/home

Combat Casualty Care Research Program https://cccrp.health.mil/Pages/default.aspx

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

https://cdmrp.health.mil/

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

https://www.darpa.mil/

Defense Health Agency
https://health.mil/About-
MHS/OASDHA/Defense-Health-Agency/

Defense Suicide Prevention Office https://www.dspo.mil/

Defense Technical Information Center https://www.dtic.mil/

Defense Threat Reduction Agency https://www.dtra.mil/

Military Health System Research Symposium https://mhsrs.health.mil/sitepages/home.aspx

Military Infectious Diseases Research Program https://midrp.health.mil/

Military Operational Medicine Research Program

https://momrp.health.mil/

Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery https://www.med.navy.mil/

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