



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH AND MATERIEL COMMAND
1077 PATCHEL STREET
FORT DETRICK MD 21702-5024

June 28, 2010

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Dear Advocacy Organization Leader:

We would like to request nominations from you and your organization for consumer representatives to participate on the Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) scientific peer review panels. Currently, we are seeking nominations or recommendations from individuals and organizations nationwide, and we hope that you will participate in this worthwhile endeavor.

A nominee must be endorsed or referred by your organization and must be

- A survivor of a genetic cancer, melanoma or other skin cancer
- A military personnel or a veteran who is a survivor of a genetic cancer, melanoma or other skin cancer that may be related to their military deployments or exposures unique to the military.
- A survivor or family caregiver of an individual diagnosed with a pediatric brain cancer;
- An active participant in a related organization (support, outreach, advocacy), if not military personnel or a veteran;
- A high school graduate or equivalent;
- Able to read and write English;
- Able to demonstrate an interest in extending his personal scientific knowledge;
- Willing and able to represent the views of his community rather than his personal perspective; and
- Able to access a computer with a connection to the Internet.

If you are nominating individuals, please complete one application form (attachment) for each consumer you are nominating. Individuals who are military personnel must complete all the nominee portions of the nomination packet. Those nominated will be evaluated based on 1) the extent of their participation in advocacy; 2) commitment to learning about and sharing scientific and medical information; 3) communication skills; 4) participatory skills, and 5) ability to represent their community's perspective. Military personnel will not be evaluated on advocacy participation.

There is no limit to the number of members you may nominate from your organization; however, it is necessary that each letter sent in support of the candidate demonstrate the individual's strengths in the above areas.

Complete nomination packets must be received by **September 6, 2010**.
Submit your application forms and accompanying materials to:

Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program
Consumer Reviewer Recruitment
ATTN: Ann Dodelin
8490 Progress Drive, suite 200
Frederick, MD 21701

* Military personnel are not required to be involved in a cancer-related organization.

You may either use the attached nomination form or download the nomination form through our Web site at <http://cdmrp.army.mil/cwg/process.htm>. Please note that the address above differs from the published address online. You may submit to either address. We have included a brochure to post (attachment). Please review the attached materials or forward them to the appropriate organization/support group leader as soon as possible. In addition, provide the nominated individuals with the information included in this mailing.

The 2010 Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program

The Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program responded to advocates by involving consumers (an individual living with or caring for individuals with these cancers) in the review process. Selected consumers bring their community's perspective, their firsthand experiences, and a sense of urgency to the process of identifying research focused on cancer. Consumers underscore the need for good basic and clinical science, improved medical care, enhanced quality of life, and increased survival.

Congress has appropriated \$15 million in fiscal year 2010 (FY10) for the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program. Applications submitted for these funds go through a two-tier review process to identify the best research applications. In the first tier, applications are reviewed for merit through a process known as peer review. In the second tier, applications identified as having the greatest merit during peer review are evaluated for programmatic relevance during a process called programmatic review.

We are recruiting consumer reviewers for peer review. Approximately 4 weeks before the peer review meeting, scientists and consumers will be assigned applications to review. Scientist reviewers are required to develop detailed written comments on each assigned application's feasibility, trial design, impact, etc. Consumer reviewers focus their written reviews on the significance of the proposed work as it relates to improved medical care, enhanced quality of life, and increased survival. Preparation time is estimated to be at least 5 days.

The Peer Review Meeting

Panels are assembled for formal discussions of the applications, at which time scientists and consumers present their comments orally. Following deliberation, the panel scores each application's merit. For the FY10 Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program, peer review of submitted applications will include Online Discussion, and Onsite Peer Review, December 2010 in the Washington, DC, area.

The staff of the CDMRP Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program is dedicated to involving consumers. The rapid return of your nomination materials will ensure full consumer participation in this process. For questions about the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program or the recruitment of consumer reviewers, contact Ann Dodelin at 301-360-2050, ext 2070 or cdmrp.consumers@det.amedd.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Marielena McGuire, Ph.D.
Chair, Consumer Working Group

Attachments