

Program Announcement

for the

Department of Defense

Defense Health Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Joint Program Committee 8 / Clinical and Rehabilitative Medicine Research Program

Reconstructive Transplant Research Concept Award

Funding Opportunity Number: W81XWH-15-RTR-CA

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 12.420

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW DATES AND TIMES

- **Pre-Application Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (ET), September 16, 2015
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET October 14, 2015
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET October 20, 2015
- **Peer Review:** December 2015
- **Programmatic Review:** March 2016

The CDMRP eReceipt System has been replaced with the electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP). Principal Investigators and organizational representatives should register in eBRAP as soon as possible. All pre-applications must be submitted through eBRAP. In addition, applications submitted through Grants.gov will now be available for viewing, modification, and verification in eBRAP prior to the end of the application verification period.

This Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity is one of two documents with instructions to prepare and submit an application for this funding opportunity. The second document, the General Application Instructions, is available for downloading from Grants.gov.

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I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Program Description

Applications to the Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) Reconstructive Transplant Research (RTR) program are being solicited for the Defense Health Agency, Research, Development, and Acquisition (DHA RDA) Directorate, by the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA). As directed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the DHA RDA Directorate manages and executes the Defense Health Program (DHP) Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) appropriation. This Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity and subsequent awards will be managed and executed by the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) with strategic oversight from Joint Program Committee 8/Clinical and Rehabilitative Medicine Research Program (JPC-8/CRM RP).

The RTR program was initiated in 2012 to fund innovative projects that have the potential to make a significant impact on improving the function, wellness, and overall quality of life for injured military Service members and Veterans, their caregivers and family members, and the American public. Appropriations for the RTR from FY12 through FY14 totaled \$30 million (M). The FY15 appropriation is \$15M.

The JPC-8/CRM RP mission is to implement long-term strategies to develop knowledge and materiel products to reconstruct, rehabilitate, and provide definitive care for injured Service members. The ultimate goal is to return Service members to duty and restore their quality of life. Through the RTR program, the JPC-8/CRM RP challenges the scientific community to design innovative research that will foster new directions for, and address neglected issues in, the field of reconstructive transplantation (RT), specifically vascularized composite allotransplantation (VCA)-focused research, also known as composite tissue allotransplantation. VCA refers to the transplantation of multiple tissues such as muscle, bone, nerve, and skin, as a functional unit (e.g., a hand or face) from a deceased donor to a recipient with a severe injury.

Applications from investigators within the military Services and applications involving multidisciplinary collaborations among academia, industry, the military Services, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and other Federal Government agencies are highly encouraged. Though the RTR award mechanisms support groundbreaking research, all projects must demonstrate solid scientific rationale with military-relevant utility.

B. FY15 RTR Focus Areas

To meet the intent of the FY15 RTR award mechanisms, applicants must address one or more of the Focus Areas listed below.

- Immune system regulation
 - Understanding mechanisms of immune rejection
 - Immunomodulation approaches and mechanisms (e.g., tolerance induction, chimerism)
 - Optimizing immunosuppressive drug regimens

- Exploiting inflammatory processes, controlling and modulating a patient's immune response to improve existing therapies and maximize outcomes (e.g., immuno-engineering)
- Improved access to reconstructive transplantation
 - Improved tissue preservation techniques or technologies to extend radius of donor procurement
 - Development of educational programs for health care providers to improve referrals of potential reconstructive transplantation candidates
 - Identification of patient-driven barriers to transplantation (i.e., patient is suitable anatomically and immunologically, but declines opportunity for transplant)
 - Identification of barriers to donor offers for reconstructive transplantation, and strategies to address the same
- Reconstructive transplantation rehabilitation
 - Novel rehabilitation strategies that improve reconstructive transplant function
 - Development of Quality of Life outcome measures for VCA
- Graft surveillance – clinical monitoring
 - Non-invasive imaging technologies
 - Immune profiling, e.g., gene expression, graft rejection markers, cytokine screens
- Psychosocial issues associated with VCA
 - Identification of strategies and behavioral interventions that optimize patient engagement and adherence

C. Award Information

The RTR Concept Award (RTR CA) mechanism is being offered for the first time in FY15. A synopsis of all FY15 RTR Program Announcements/Funding Opportunities is available at <http://cdmrp.army.mil/funding/pdf/15rtrpreftable.pdf>

The intent of the RTR CA is *to support the exploration of a highly innovative new concept or untested theory* that addresses an important problem relevant to RT. The Concept Award is not intended to support a logical progression of an already established research project but, instead, supports high-risk studies that have the potential to reveal entirely new avenues for investigation.

Presentation of preliminary data is not allowed. However, a rationale for the proposed work must be provided. ***Reviewers at both tiers of review will be blinded to the identity of the Principal Investigator (PI), collaborators, and their organizations.*** Applications that identify the PI, collaborators, or their organizations in certain components of the application ([see Section II.C., Full Application Submission Content](#), for details) will be rejected for noncompliance. A document describing common blinding mistakes to avoid can be found on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>). Young/early career investigators are encouraged to apply.

Use of human subjects and human biological substances: Because these awards are designed for preliminary investigations, projects involving human subjects or specimens will not be supported unless they are exempt under Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 219, Section 101(b)(32 CFR 219.101[b]). *Studies that do not qualify for exempt status will be administratively withdrawn and will not be funded.* For studies using only commercially available unidentified specimens, a Claim of Exemption Form will be requested. Additional information regarding exempt status may be found on the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) Human Research Protection Office website) (https://mrmc.amedd.army.mil/index.cfm?pageid=research_protections.orp_faq).

Research Involving Animals: All DoD-funded research involving new and ongoing research with animals must be reviewed and approved by the USAMRMC ORP Animal Care and Use Review Office (ACURO), in addition to the local Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of record. IACUC approval at the time of submission is not required. Specific documents relating to the use of animals in the proposed research will be requested if the application is selected for funding. The ACURO must review and approve all animal use prior to the start of working with animals. PIs must submit the institutional animal use protocol, IACUC approval of that protocol, and a version of the animal use appendix titled “Research Involving Animals.” *Allow at least 3 to 4 months for regulatory review and approval processes for animal studies.* Refer to General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, for additional information.

DoD Collaboration and Alignment Encouraged: Relevance to the health care needs of the Armed Forces, their family members, and/or the U.S. Veteran population is a key feature of this award. Therefore, Principal Investigators (PIs) are strongly encouraged to collaborate, integrate, and/or align their research projects with military and/or VA research laboratories and programs. The following websites may be useful in identifying information about ongoing DoD areas of research interest:

Air Force Research Laboratory
<http://www.wpafb.af.mil/afrl>

Armed Forces Institute of Regenerative
Medicine <http://www.afirm.mil>

Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative
Medicine <http://www.usuhs.mil/cnrm/>

Clinical and Rehabilitative Medicine
Research Program
<https://crmrp.amedd.army.mil>

Combat Casualty Care Research Program
<https://ccc.amedd.army.mil>

Congressionally Directed Medical Research
Programs <http://cdmrp.army.mil>

Defense Advanced Research Projects
Agency <http://www.darpa.mil>

Defense Health Agency – Research,
Development, and Acquisition Directorate
<http://www.health.mil/About-MHS/Defense-Health-Agency/Research-Development-Acquisition>

Defense Technical Information Center
<http://www.dtic.mil>

Military Infectious Diseases Research
Program <https://midrp.amedd.army.mil>

Military Operational Medicine Research
Program <https://momrp.amedd.army.mil>

National Center for Telehealth and
Technology <http://t2health.org/>

National Museum of Health and Medicine
<http://www.medicalmuseum.mil/index.cfm>

Naval Health Research Center
<http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhrc>

Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center
<http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc>

Office of Naval Research
<http://www.med.navy.mil>

Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics
<http://www.acq.osd.mil/>

U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity <https://www.usamraa.army.mil/>

U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command <https://mrmc.amedd.army.mil>

U.S. Army Research Laboratory
<http://www.arl.army.mil>

U.S. Department of Defense Blast Injury Research Program
<https://blastinjuryresearch.amedd.army.mil/>

U.S. Naval Research Laboratory
<https://www.nrl.navy.mil>

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Research and Development
<http://www.research.va.gov>

Walter Reed Army Institute of Research
<http://wrair-www.army.mil>

The CDMRP intends that information, data, and research resources generated under awards funded by this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity be made available to the research community (which includes both scientific and consumer advocacy communities) and to the public at large. For additional guidance, refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3, Section L.

D. Eligibility Information

- Independent investigators at all academic levels (or non-academic equivalent) are eligible to submit applications.
- Cost sharing/matching is not an eligibility requirement.
- Eligible investigators must apply through an organization. Organizations eligible to apply include national, international, for-profit, nonprofit, public, and private organizations.
- Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for general eligibility information.

E. Funding

- The maximum period of performance is **1** year.
- The anticipated total costs (direct and indirect) budgeted for the entire period of performance will not exceed **\$150,000**. Indirect costs are to be budgeted in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate. No budget will be approved by the Government exceeding **\$150,000** total costs or using an indirect rate exceeding the organization's negotiated rate.
- The applicant may request the entire maximum funding amount for a project that may have a period of performance less than the maximum **1** year.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.5., for budget regulations and instructions for the Research & Related Budget. ***For all Federal agencies or organizations collaborating with Federal agencies, budget restrictions apply as are noted in Section II.C.5. of the General Application Instructions.***

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

- Salary
- Research supplies
- Travel between collaborating organizations
- Travel costs to attend scientific/technical meetings

Intramural (DoD), other Federal agency, and extramural investigators are encouraged to apply to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. An intramural investigator is defined as a DoD military or civilian employee working within a DoD laboratory or medical treatment facility, or working in a DoD activity embedded within a civilian medical center. Intramural applicants and collaborators are reminded to coordinate receipt and commitment of funds through their respective resource managers. It is permissible for an intramural investigator to be named as a collaborator on an application submitted by an extramural investigator. ***In such cases, the extramural investigator must include a letter from the intramural collaborator's Commander or Commanding Officer that authorizes the involvement of the intramural collaborator.***

As required of all applicants to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity, if PIs from Federal agencies submit applications, they must submit through Grants.gov. Therefore, Federal applicants must be familiar with Grants.gov requirements, including the need for an active System for Award Management (SAM) registration and a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. Refer to Section II.A. of the General Application Instructions for further information regarding Grants.gov requirements.

Awards to extramural organizations will consist solely of assistance agreements (Cooperative Agreements and Grants). Awards to intramural agencies and other Federal agencies may be executed through a direct fund transfer (e.g., the Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request [MIPR] or Funding Authorization Document [FAD] process). Direct transfer of funds from the recipient to a Federal agency is not allowed except under very limited circumstances. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.5. Research & Related Budget, for additional information on budget considerations for applications involving Federal agencies.

The CDMRP expects to allot approximately \$1.8M of the \$15M FY15 RTR appropriation to fund approximately 12 FY15 RTR Concept Award applications, depending on the quality and number of applications received. Funding of applications received in response to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity is contingent upon the availability of Federal funds for this program.

II. SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Submission of applications that are essentially identical or 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.

Submission is a two-step process requiring both (1) pre-application submission through the electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP) (<https://eBRAP.org/>) and (2) application submission through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov/>). Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.A. for registration and submission requirements for eBRAP and Grants.gov.

eBRAP is a multifunctional web-based system that allows PIs to submit their pre-applications electronically through a secure connection, to view and edit the content of their pre-applications and full applications, to receive communications from the CDMRP, and to submit documentation during award negotiations and period of performance. A key feature of eBRAP is the ability of an organization's representatives and PIs to view and modify the Grants.gov application submissions associated with them. eBRAP will validate Grants.gov application files against the specific Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity requirements and discrepancies will be noted in an email to the PI and in the Full Application Files tab in eBRAP. It is the applicant's responsibility to review all application components for accuracy as well as ensure proper ordering as specified in this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

PIs should ensure that their name and email address are the same as the name and email address that will be provided on the SF-424 Form of the Grants.gov application package submitted to Grants.gov. The organization, Business Officials, PI(s), and eBRAP log number named in the full application submitted to Grants.gov must match those named in the pre-application in eBRAP.

A. Where to Obtain the Grants.gov Application Package

To obtain the Grants.gov application package, including all required forms, perform a basic search using the Funding Opportunity Number W81XWH-15-RTR-CA in Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov/>).

B. Pre-Application Submission Content

All pre-application components must be submitted by the PI through eBRAP (<https://eBRAP.org/>).

PIs and organizations identified in the pre-application should be the same as those intended for the subsequent application submission. If any changes are necessary after submission of the pre-application, the PI must contact the CDMRP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507.

The pre-application consists of the following components, which are organized in eBRAP by separate tabs (refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.B., for additional information on pre-application submission):

- **Application Information – Tab 1**
- **Application Contacts – Tab 2**
 - Enter contact information for the PI. Enter the organization’s Business Official responsible for sponsored program administration (the “person to be contacted on matters involving this application” in Block 5 of the Grants.gov SF-424 Form). The Business Official must either be selected from the eBRAP list or invited in order for the pre-application to be submitted.
 - It is recommended that PIs identify an Alternate Submitter in the event that assistance with pre-application submission is needed.
- **Collaborators and Key Personnel – Tab 3**
 - Enter the name, organization, and role of all collaborators and key personnel associated with the application.
 - **FY15 JPC-8 Regenerative Medicine Working Group** members should not be involved in any pre-application or application. For questions related to JPC-8 Regenerative Medicine Working Group members and pre-applications or applications, refer to **Section IV.C., Withdrawal**, or contact the CDMRP Help Desk at **help@eBRAP.org** or 301-682-5507.
- **Conflicts of Interest (COIs) – Tab 4**
 - List all individuals other than collaborators and key personnel who may have a COI in the review of the application (including those with whom the PI has a personal or professional relationship).
- **Pre-Application Files – Tab 5**
 - **Letter of Intent (LOI) (one-page limit):** Provide a brief description of the research to be conducted. Include the focus area 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 sessions.
- **Submit Pre-Application – Tab 6**
 - This tab must be completed for the pre-application to be accepted and processed.

C. Full Application Submission Content

The CDMRP cannot make allowances/exceptions to its policies for submission problems encountered by the applicant organization using system-to-system interfaces with Grants.gov.

Each application submission must include the completed Grants.gov application package provided in Grants.gov for this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. The Grants.gov application package is submitted by the Authorized Organizational Representative through the Grants.gov portal (<http://www.grants.gov/>).

Note: The Project Narrative and Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline. If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or if the Project Narrative or Budget Form needs to be modified, an updated Grants.gov application package must be submitted via Grants.gov as a “Changed/Corrected Application” with the previous Grants.gov Tracking ID *prior to the application submission deadline*.

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

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

Grants.gov application package components: For the FY15 RTR Concept Award, the Grants.gov application package includes the following components (refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for additional information on application submission):

- 1. SF-424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance Form:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for detailed information.

- 2. Attachments Form**

Each attachment to the Grants.gov application forms must be uploaded as an individual PDF file in accordance with the formatting guidelines listed in Appendix 2 of the General Application Instructions. For all attachments, ensure that the file names are consistent with the guidance. Grants.gov will reject attachments with file names longer than 50 characters or incorrect file names that contain characters other than the following: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, underscore, hyphen, space, and period. In addition, Grants.gov has file size limits that may apply in some circumstances. Individual attachments may not exceed 20 MB and the file size for the entire Grants.gov application package may not exceed 200 MB.

- **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (one-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, etc.) used to describe the project. Inclusion of URLs that provide additional information to expand the Project Narrative and could confer an unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in

administrative withdrawal of the application. *The Project Narrative will be available for both peer and programmatic review.*

Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

- **Innovation:** Innovation should be the primary feature of the proposed study and the PI must address at least one of the FY15 RTR Focus Areas.
- **Hypothesis/Rationale/Purpose:** State the rationale for the proposed research. Do not include preliminary data.
- **Objectives:** State concisely the specific aims and research strategy of the study. Do not request funding as part of a larger study. ***Projects involving human subjects or specimens must be either exempt under 32 CFR 219.101(b) or eligible for expedited review (32 CFR 219.110 or 21 CFR 56.110).***
- **Methods:** Describe the experimental design and methodology. If the methodology is new or unusual, describe it in sufficient detail for evaluation.
- **Significance/Relevance:** Provide a brief statement, in nontechnical terms, describing the importance of this research to at least one of the FY15 RTR Focus Areas. It is the responsibility of the applicant to clearly and explicitly articulate the project’s potential impact on Service members and military beneficiaries.

Due to the blinded nature of the review process, identifying or making references to the PI, collaborators, or their organization(s) in the Project Narrative is prohibited and will result in administrative rejection of the application.

- **Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation.** Start each document on a new page. **Combine and upload as a single file named “Support.pdf.”** If documents are scanned to pdf, the lowest resolution (100 to 150 dpi) should be used. ***There are no page limits for any of these components unless otherwise noted. Include only those components described below; inclusion of items not requested will result in the removal of those items or may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.***
 - References Cited (five-citation limit): List the references cited (including URLs if available) in the Project Narrative using a standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., author[s], year published, title of reference, source of reference, volume, chapter, page numbers, and publisher, as appropriate). ***Do not include URLs that identify the PI(s), collaborator(s), or the organization(s) of the PI(s) or collaborator(s).***
 - List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols: Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols. ***Do not include information that identifies the PI(s), collaborator(s), or the organizations(s) of the PI(s) or collaborator(s).***
- **Attachment 3: Technical Abstract**

Not required at this time. Leave Attachment 3 space blank.

- **Attachment 4: Lay Abstract.**

Not required at this time. Leave Attachment 4 space blank.

- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (SOW) (one-page limit): Upload as “SOW.pdf.”** The suggested SOW format and examples specific to different types of research projects are available on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>). For the Concept Award mechanism, use the SOW format example titled “SOW for Basic Research.” The SOW must be in PDF format prior to attaching. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.3., for detailed guidance on creating the SOW.

Identifying or making references to the PI(s), collaborator(s), or their organization(s) in the SOW is prohibited and will result in administrative rejection of the application.

- **Attachment 6: Collaborating DoD Military Facility Budget Form(s), if applicable: Upload as “MFBudget.pdf.”** If a Military Facility (military health system facility, research laboratory, treatment facility, dental treatment facility, or a DoD activity embedded with a civilian medical center) will be a collaborator in performance of the project, complete the Collaborating DoD Military Facility Budget Form (available for download on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page), including a budget justification, for each Military Facility as instructed. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.8., for detailed information.

3. Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded): Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.4., for detailed information.

- **PI Biographical Sketch (five-page limit):** Upload as “Biosketch_LastName.pdf.” The suggested biographical sketch format is available on the “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>) in eBRAP. The five-page National Institutes of Health Biographical Sketch may also be used.
- **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.”

4. Research & Related Budget: Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.5., for detailed information.

- **Budget Justification (no page limit):** Upload as “BudgetJustification.pdf.” The budget justification for the entire period of performance must be uploaded to the Research & Related Budget after completion of the budget for Period 1.

5. **Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.6., for detailed information.
6. **R & R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (if applicable):** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.7., for detailed information.

Although requested, the Statement of Work, Detailed Budget and Justification, Subaward Detailed Budget and Justification (if applicable), biographical sketch and current/pending support, and Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form will not be forwarded for peer or programmatic review. These documents will be used for administrative purposes only.

D. Applicant Verification of Grants.gov Submission in eBRAP

Prior to the end of the application verification period, PIs and organizational representatives can review and modify in eBRAP certain components of an application submitted to Grants.gov. Following retrieval and processing of the Grants.gov application, eBRAP will notify the organizational representatives and PI by email to log into eBRAP to review, modify, and verify the Grants.gov application submission. eBRAP will validate retrieved files against the specific Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity requirements and discrepancies will be noted in both the email and in the Full Application Files tab in eBRAP. 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/Funding Opportunity. *If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation, an updated Grants.gov application package must be submitted via Grants.gov as a "Changed/Corrected Application" with the previous Grants.gov Tracking ID prior to the application submission deadline.* The Project Narrative and Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline.

E. Submission Dates and Times

All submission dates and times are indicated on the [title page](#) of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. Pre-application and application submissions are required. Failure to meet either of these deadlines will result in application rejection.

F. Other Submission Requirements

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

All applications must be submitted through Grants.gov. Applicant organizations and all subrecipient organizations must have a DUNS number to submit applications to Grants.gov. The applicant organization must also be registered in the Entity Management functional area of the SAM with an "Active" status to submit applications through the Grants.gov portal. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.A., for information on Grants.gov registration requirements.

III. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. Application Review and Selection Process

All applications are evaluated by scientists, clinicians, and consumer advocates using a two-tier review process. The first tier is peer review of applications against established criteria for determining technical merit. The second tier is a programmatic review that makes recommendations for funding to the DHA RDA Directorate and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, based on (a) technical merit and (b) the relevance to the mission of the DHP,JPC-8/CRM RP, the FY15 RTR program, and to the specific intent of the award mechanism. The highest-scoring applications from the first tier of review are not automatically recommended for funding. Additional information about the two-tier process used by the CDMRP can be found at <http://cdmrp.army.mil/about/fundingprocess>. For this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity, reviewers at both tiers of review will be blinded to the identity of the PI(s), collaborator(s), and their organization(s).

All CDMRP review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the merit-based selection process. Panel members sign a nondisclosure statement that application and evaluation information will not be disclosed outside the panel. Violations of confidentiality can result in the dissolving 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 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 process may also result in suspension or debarment from Federal awards. Furthermore, the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information of one party to another third party is a crime in accordance with Title 18 United States Code 1905.

B. Application Review Process

1. Peer Review: To determine technical merit, all applications will be evaluated according to the following scored criteria, which are of equal importance.

- **Innovation**
 - To what extent the proposed concept is innovative.
 - Whether the concept is untested (no preliminary data allowed).
- **Relevance**
 - To what extent the proposed research project addresses an important scientific question relevant to at least one of the FY15 RTR Focus Areas.
- **Research Strategy**
 - Whether the research strategy is appropriate to answer the question
 - To what degree the proposed research is supported by a sound scientific rationale.

The following will not be individually scored, but may impact the overall evaluation of the application:

- **Application Presentation**

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

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

- a. Ratings and evaluations of the peer reviewers**

- b. Relevance to the mission of the DHP, JPC-8/CRM RP, and FY15 RTR, as evidenced by the following:**

- Programmatic relevance
- Relative innovation
- Program portfolio composition
- Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism

C. Recipient Qualification

For general information on required qualifications for award recipients, refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1.

D. Application Review Dates

All application review dates and times are indicated on the [title page](#) of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

E. Notification of Application Review Results

Each PI and organization will receive email notification of posting of the funding recommendation in eBRAP. Each PI will receive a peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the application.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

After receipt of applications from Grants.gov, the following administrative actions may occur:

A. Rejection

The following will result in administrative rejection of the application:

- Pre-application was not submitted.
- Project Narrative exceeds page limit.

- Project Narrative is missing.
- Budget is missing.
- Submission of the same research project to different Program Announcements/Funding Opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.
- The PI(s), collaborator(s), or their organization(s) are identified or referenced in the Project Narrative, List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols. Use of “I,” “we,” “our,” “this organization,” or similar phrases that refer to the PI(s), collaborator(s), or their organization(s) through the references listed, or the use of formatting (e.g., bolding, underlining, names in headers/footers), inclusion of citations to unpublished manuscripts, or in any other way highlighting (and therefore revealing) the names of the PI(s), collaborator(s), or their institution(s).

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.

C. Withdrawal

The following may result in administrative withdrawal of the application:

- A FY15 JPC-8 Regenerative Medicine Working Group 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. **A list of the FY15 JPC-8 Regenerative Medicine Working Group members can be found at <http://cdmrp.army.mil/rtrp/panels/panels15>**
- The application fails to conform to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity description to the extent that appropriate review cannot be conducted.
- Inclusion of URLs, with the exception of links in References Cited and Publication and/or Patent Abstract sections.
- Page size is larger than 8.5 inches x 11.0 inches (approximately 21.59 cm x 27.94 cm).
- Inclusion of any employee of CDMRP review contractors in applications for funding without adequate plans to mitigate conflicts of interest. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.B., for detailed information.
- Personnel from applicant or collaborating organizations are found to have contacted persons involved in the review process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process.
- Inclusion of studies that do not qualify for exempt status under Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 219, Section 101(b) (32 CFR 219.101[b]).
- Inclusion of preliminary data.

D. Withhold

Applications that appear to involve research misconduct will be administratively withheld from further consideration pending institutional investigation. The institution 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.

V. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Award Notice

Awards will be made no later than September 30, 2016. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3, for additional award administration information.

Any assistance instrument awarded under this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity will be governed by the award terms and conditions, which conform to DoD's implementation of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circulars applicable to financial assistance. Terms and conditions of new awards made after December 26, 2014 may include revisions to reflect DoD implementation of new OMB guidance in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 2, Part 200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards" (2 CFR part 200).

B. Administrative Requirements

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3 for general information regarding administrative requirements.

C. National Policy Requirements

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4 for general information regarding national policy requirements.

D. Reporting

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3, Section I, for general information on reporting requirements.

Quarterly technical progress reports and quad charts will be required.

In addition to written progress reports, in-person presentations may be requested.

E. Award Transfers

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3, Section M, for general information on organization or PI changes.

VI. AGENCY CONTACTS

A. CDMRP Help Desk

Questions related to Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity content or submission requirements as well as questions related to the submission of the pre-application through eBRAP should be directed to the CDMRP Help Desk, which is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET. Response times may vary depending upon the volume of inquiries.

Phone: 301-682-5507

Email: help@eBRAP.org

B. Grants.gov Contact Center

Questions related to application submission through Grants.gov portal should be directed to the Grants.gov Contact Center, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed on U.S. Federal holidays). Note that the CDMRP Help Desk is unable to provide technical assistance with Grants.gov submission.

Phone: 800-518-4726

Email: support@grants.gov

Sign up on Grants.gov for “send me change notification emails” by following the link on the Synopsis page for the Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity or by responding to the prompt provided by Grants.gov when first downloading the Grants.gov application package. If the Grants.gov application package is updated or changed, the original version of the application package may not be accepted by Grants.gov.

VII. APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Grants.gov Application Components	Upload Order	Action	Completed
SF-424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance		Complete form as instructed.	
Attachments Form	1	Project Narrative: Upload as Attachment 1 with file name "ProjectNarrative.pdf."	
	2	Supporting Documentation: Upload as Attachment 2 with file name "Support.pdf."	
	3	Technical Abstract: Not required with submission. Leave Attachment 3 space blank.	
	4	Lay Abstract: Not required with submission. Leave Attachment 4 space blank.	
	5	Statement of Work: Upload as Attachment 5 with file name "SOW.pdf."	
	6	Collaborating DoD Military Facility Budget Form(s): Upload as Attachment 6 with file name "MFBudget.pdf," if applicable.	
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)		Attach PI Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field.	
		Attach PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (Support_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field.	
		Attach Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field.	
		Attach Previous/Current/Pending (Support_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field.	
Research & Related Budget		Complete as instructed. Attach Budget Justification (BudgetJustification.pdf) to the appropriate field.	
Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form		Complete form as instructed.	
R & R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form		Complete form as instructed.	