



PANCREATIC CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM

Pancreatic Cancer and PCARP History:

Based on data from the National Cancer Institute, an estimated 56,770 new cases of pancreatic cancer were diagnosed in the United States during 2019. Pancreatic cancer is also the eleventh most common type of cancer in the United States, representing 3.2% of all new cancer diagnoses every year. The 5-year survival rate for those with pancreatic cancer is just over 9%. Since 2011, the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) has funded pancreatic cancer research through the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP). From fiscal year 2011 (FY11) through FY18, the PRCRP invested over \$23 million (M) in pancreatic cancer research.

In FY20, the \$6M Peer-Reviewed Pancreatic Cancer Research Congressional appropriation established the Pancreatic Cancer Research Program (PCARP). The PCARP released FY20 program announcements for the Idea Development Award (IDA) and Translational Research Partnership Award (TRPA). The IDA has a single Principal Investigator (PI) option, as well as a partnering PI option, which includes an early-career investigator. The PCARP will continue to invest in research focusing on advancing our understanding of pancreatic cancer for the benefit of Service members, Veterans, their families, and the American public.

FY20 PCARP Focus Areas

During the FY20 Vision Setting Meeting, the PCARP established the following list of Focus Areas that applications are required to address:

- Understanding precursors, origins and early progression of pancreatic cancer
- Understanding the events that promote pancreatic cancer metastasis
- Understanding the relationship between oncogenic signaling and the tumor microenvironment that drives drug resistance and therapeutic response
- Integration of biologic and imaging biomarkers to drive more precise and earlier detection and prognosis
- Defining viable tumor burden
- Supportive care and patient reported outcomes, quality of life, and perspectives during treatment and survivorship
- New drug development targeted toward cancer sensitivity and resistance mechanisms including immune mechanisms of resistance
- Development of pharmacological, immunological, or genetic interception approaches

PCARP Funding Opportunities for FY20

Award Mechanism	Key Elements
Idea Development Award with Early Career Investigator Option	Supports new ideas that represent innovative, high-risk/high-gain approaches to pancreatic cancer research and have the potential to make an important contribution to one or more of the FY20 PCARP Focus Areas. Early Career Investigator Option will support researchers early in their faculty appointments to promote his/her career development in pancreatic cancer research.
Translational Research Partnership Award	Supports partnerships between clinicians and laboratory scientists that accelerate ideas in pancreatic cancer into clinical applications.

Vision: A diminished burden of pancreatic cancer among Service members, Veterans, their families, and the American public.

Mission: Promote rigorous, innovative, high-impact research that leads to new pancreatic cancer diagnostic and therapeutic tools through collaboration.



“The establishment of the CDMRP Pancreatic Cancer Research Program is a vote of confidence by Congress on the critical importance of reducing the burden of pancreatic cancer in our society, especially amongst active duty personnel, Veterans and their family members. I am hopeful that it will bring together a united front of clinicians and researchers pursuing the most innovative science geared towards newer treatments and early detection strategies against this disease.”
*Anirban Maitra M.B.B.S., M.D.,
PCARP Programmatic Panel Chair*

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs



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