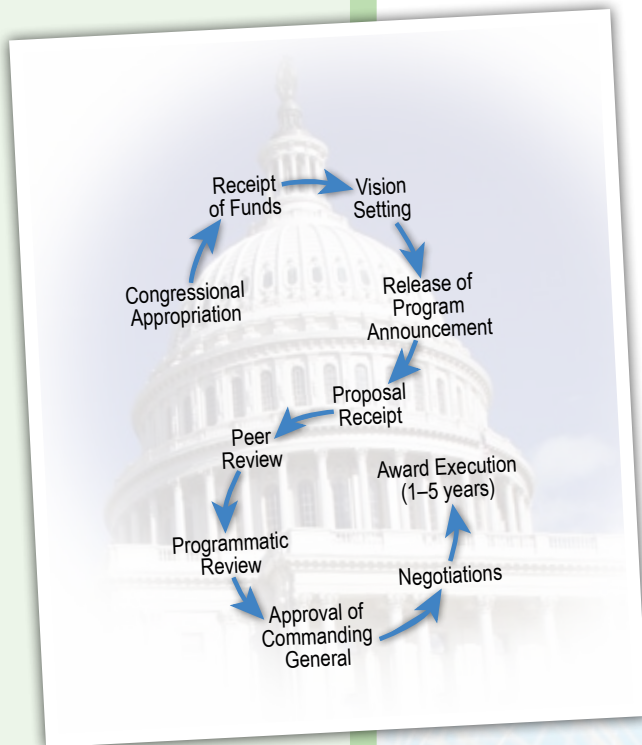


Genetic Studies of Food Allergies Research Program



Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

History The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) was born in 1992 from a powerful grassroots effort led by the breast cancer advocacy community that resulted in a congressional appropriation of funds for breast cancer research. This resulted in the initiation of a unique partnership among the public, Congress, and the military, which has persisted and grown to encompass multiple targeted programs. Funds for the CDMRP are added by Congress to the Department of Defense budget annually to provide support for targeted research programs focused on a variety of cancers, genetic diseases, trauma-induced problems, childhood diseases, and other areas of health interest to military personnel and their families, the veteran population, and the general public. Under the auspices of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC), the CDMRP manages these programs from receipt of funds, through competitive selection of proposals and individual project performance, to award closeout.



Proposal Review Process

The CDMRP program management cycle includes a two-tier review process for proposal evaluation recommended by the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine. Each level of review is conducted by members of panels composed of scientists and clinicians, who are subject matter experts, and consumers, who are individuals affected by a disease or condition. The first tier of evaluation is an external scientific peer review of applications against established criteria for determining scientific merit. The second tier is a programmatic review conducted by members of an Integration Panel who compare submissions and make funding recommendations based on programmatic priorities and mechanism-specific criteria. The Commanding General of USAMRMC issues the final approval for funding prior to award negotiations and execution of the proposed research project.

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Food allergy is an immune system reaction that occurs soon after eating a certain food. Ingestion of **even a tiny amount of the allergy-causing food may trigger the sudden release of chemicals**, including histamine, resulting in symptoms of an allergic reaction. The symptoms may be mild (rashes, hives, itching, swelling, etc.) or severe (trouble breathing, wheezing, loss of consciousness, etc.). A food allergy is potentially life-threatening and affects an estimated 6 to 8 percent of children under age 3 and about 4 percent of adults. Currently, there is no cure for food allergies.

Through offering a variety of award mechanisms, the Genetic Studies of Food Allergies Research Program (GSFARP) plans to fund a broad research portfolio of innovative basic, translational, and preclinical studies.

The **FY09 GSFARP** offered an Investigator-Initiated Research Award intended to support genetic studies that make an important contribution to the field of food allergies research and/or patient care; four awards were supported.

“Genes Associated with Food Allergy and Eosinophilic Esophagitis”

David Broide, M.D.

University of California, San Diego

“Genetic and Epigenetic Predictors of Development, Persistence, and Remission of Sensitization and Food Allergy in a Prospective Infant Cohort”

Katrina Allen, M.D., Ph.D.

Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, Australia

“Genetics of Eosinophilic Esophagitis”

Marc Rothenberg, M.D., Ph.D.

Cincinnati Children’s Hospital

“Genetics, Epigenomics and Food Allergy”

Xiaobin Wang, M.D., M.P.H., Sc.D

Children’s Memorial Hospital, Chicago

Funding Level (\$ millions)



The **FY10 GSFARP** solicited research proposals through two award mechanisms - the Concept Award, intended to support the **exploration of a highly innovative new concept or untested theory**, and the Idea Award designed to support **innovative ideas and high-impact research approaches**.



For more information, visit
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