

# PEER REVIEWED CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM



**CDMRP**  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED  
MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

**MISSION:** To successfully promote high-impact research in cancer prevention, detection, treatment, quality of life and survivorship for Service Members, their Families, Veterans and the American public.

## Congressional Appropriations

FY09-FY24:

**\$1.045B** total



“In every cancer breakthrough and triumph, I see echoes of the countless lives touched by the Peer

Reviewed Cancer Research Program. It’s a reminder of the incredible impact we can make when we come together with a shared sense of purpose. With every beat of my heart, I am honored to be a part of this extraordinary journey, where hope shines brightest in the face of adversity, and miracles happen.”

Brandi Benson, Sarcoma Alliance,  
FY23-FY24 Programmatic Panel Member

## SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM



In 2024, the American Cancer Society estimates **nearly 700,000** new cancer cases and **over 270,000** cancer-related deaths related to PRCRP topic areas



**Six of the top ten** cancers with the **lowest 5-year survival rates** relate to PRCRP topic areas<sup>1</sup>

## PROGRAM PRIORITIES

### FY24 Topic Areas

All applications for PRCRP funding must specifically address one of the PRCRP topic areas as directed by the U.S. Congress.



Bladder Cancer



Blood Cancers



Brain Cancer (excluding glioblastoma)



Colorectal Cancer



Endometrial Cancer



Esophageal Cancer



Germ Cell Cancers



Liver Cancer



Lymphoma



Mesothelioma



Metastatic Cancers



Myeloma



Neuroblastoma



Pediatric, Adolescent, and Young Adult Cancers



Pediatric Brain Tumors



Sarcoma



Stomach Cancer



Thyroid Cancer

### Military Health Focus Areas

- Environmental exposure risk factors associated with cancer
- Mission readiness and gaps in cancer research

## RELEVANCE TO MILITARY HEALTH

Greater than **50%** of cancer-related medical encounters by Service Members in 2022 relate to a PRCRP topic area<sup>2</sup>

More than **43,000** Veterans receive a cancer diagnosis each year and more than **450,000** Veterans receive cancer care at a VA hospital or institution<sup>3</sup>

Members of the military may be exposed to hazardous environments, putting them at risk for the development of many types of cancers

<sup>1</sup> <https://cancerstatisticscenter.cancer.org/>

<sup>2</sup> Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch. *MSMR* 30, no.6, 2022:7-10.

<sup>3</sup> <https://news.va.gov/107976/va-did-that-advancing-cancer-moonshot/>



For more information, visit: <https://cdmrp.health.mil/prcrp/>



# PROGRAM IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

## Approaches and Initiatives Investigated in Multiple Cancer Types

### Chimeric Antigen Receptor-T Cell Therapy

Leveraging the strength of an individual's immune system, CAR-T therapy delivers a personalized approach to cancer treatment

**8**  
AWARDS  
**\$6.1M**  
INVESTED

**TOPIC AREAS:** Brain and Esophageal Cancers; Immunotherapy; Mesothelioma; Neuroblastoma; Pediatric Brain Tumors



### Oncolytic Virus Therapy

Engineering a new way to selectively target and kill tumors without harming healthy cells; OV therapy attacks the most difficult-to-treat cancers

**14**  
AWARDS  
**\$8.7M**  
INVESTED

**TOPIC AREAS:** Brain, Stomach, and Bladder Cancers; Melanoma; Sarcoma



### Behavioral Health Science Award

Lasting effects of cancer diagnoses and treatment come into focus with new investments in quality of life and survivorship for Service Members and their Families

**12**  
AWARDS  
**\$17M**  
INVESTED

**TOPIC AREAS:** Brain; Germ Cell; Head and Neck; Metastatic Cancers; Pediatric, Adolescent, and Young Adult Cancers

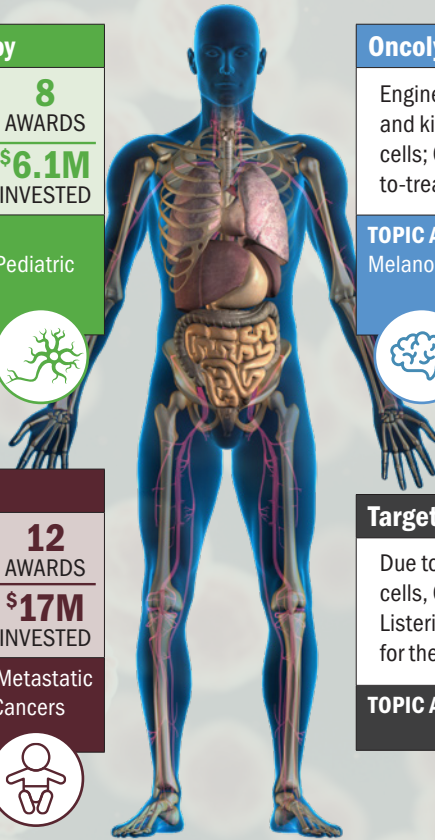


### Targeting Guanylyl Cyclase C

Due to overexpression in colorectal cancer cells, GUCY2C offers hope as a target for Listeria-based vaccines and CAR-T cells for the prevention and treatment of CRC

**7**  
AWARDS  
**\$7.4M**  
INVESTED

**TOPIC AREAS:** Colorectal Cancer, Listeria Vaccine



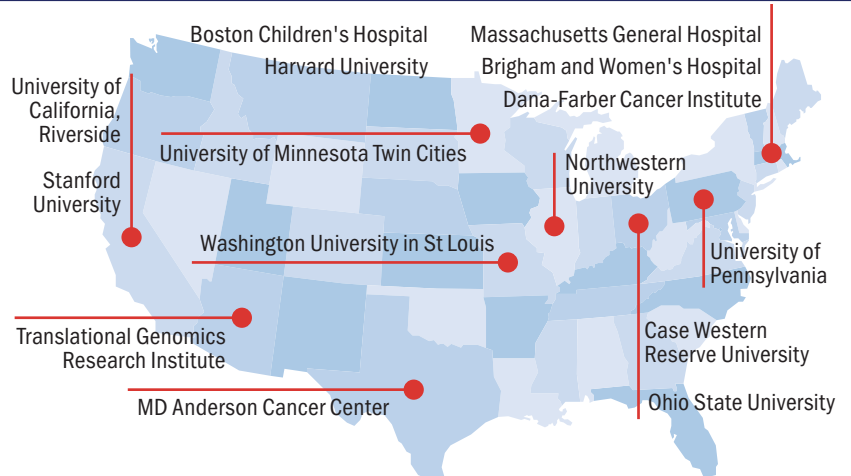
## RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGHS – MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- **CIBERSORTx** – A computational tool that characterizes gene expression data to improve understanding of patient responses to treatments for **diverse and complex cancer types**
- **Selinexor** – An FDA-approved treatment for relapsed/refractory **multiple myeloma** and diffuse large B-cell **lymphoma** currently in clinical trials for treating additional cancers including advanced or recurrent **endometrial cancer**
- **EsoCheck™** – A triaging tool to improve the accuracy of **esophageal cancer** diagnoses in asymptomatic individuals



### CONVERGENT SCIENCE VIRTUAL CANCER CENTER

- Focuses research on improving cancer patient outcomes
- Provides mentorship for early-career investigators across the U.S.
- Incorporates military health experts on the leadership team



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