

Fiscal Year 2002 (FY02)
Department of Defense (DOD)
Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP)
Supplement to the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC)
Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) 02-1

A. Overview of the FY02 PRMRP

The USAMRMC has been directed to conduct innovative research and development with specific goals and end points. The Defense Appropriations Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-117) provides \$50 million (M) to fund peer-reviewed medical research. As the executive agent for the PRMRP, the USAMRMC has assigned this program to the Office of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). Based on congressional guidance published in previous fiscal years' Defense Appropriations Acts, the PRMRP was established to provide support for military health-related research of clear scientific merit. Thus, proposals submitted to the FY02 PRMRP must be scientifically meritorious and address the military relevance of the proposed efforts.

Proposals are being solicited from agencies of local, state, and federal governments; educational institutions; non-profit organizations; and private industry. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with federal agencies (military treatment facilities and research laboratories, Department of Veterans Affairs, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, etc.).

In order to complete requirements for submission to the FY02 PRMRP, applicants will need a copy of this FY02 Supplement and the USAMRMC BAA 02-1, which is available at <http://www-usamraa.army.mil>. Once you access the web site, select "Products" on the navigation bar located on the left hand side. Click on the "Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) List" link. The USAMRMC BAA 02-1, Appendices, and sample Abstract and Statement of Work are located at the "USAMRMC BAA 02-1" link. The FY02 Supplement is located at the "USAMRMC BAA Announcements" link. All guidelines contained in the FY02 Supplement supercede BAA 02-1 instructions. Those sections in BAA 02-1 that must be referenced for proposal preparation are noted in this supplement by page number.

Proposals will be assessed based on how they complement existing DOD research. Applicants are expected to survey the peer-reviewed literature in order to avoid duplication of previously described research efforts, including those previously supported by the DOD and/or its investigators. An additional source containing documentation of previously accomplished research supported by the DOD can be found at the Defense Technical Information Center web site at <http://www.dtic.mil>. To help identify DOD specific areas of interest within each FY02 PRMRP research topic listed on the following page , applicants are encouraged to review ongoing research described on the following web sites:

- <http://www-usamraa.army.mil>
- <http://www.onr.navy.mil>
- <http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil>
- <http://www.nhrc.navy.mil>
- <http://www.afrl.af.mil>

- <http://www.brooks.af.mil>
- <http://www.va.gov/resdev>
- <http://www.acq.osd.mil>

The FY02 PRMRP's intent is for no individual award to exceed \$3M, inclusive of direct and indirect costs, with a maximum performance period of 4 years. Budget requests are a component of the peer and programmatic review evaluation process.

B. FY02 PRMRP Topic Areas

Proposals are being solicited for the following topic areas:

- Complex rAD-Vector vaccine for MGBV¹
- Chemo-preventative approaches to smoking related illness
- Childhood asthma
- Chiropractic care
- Closed loop frozen blood processing systems
- Counter Narcotics Tactical Operations Medical Support Program (CONTOMS)
- Dengue Fever vaccine
- High risk infectious disease
- Medications for fungal and bacterial infections such as Fungi Free
- Metabolically engineered tissue for trauma care
- Military nutrition research
- Padget's² disease
- Pre-clinical and clinical activities of the Novonex/Ex-Rad drugs
- Radiation protection
- Real-time heart rate variability
- Self test methods of screening for cervical cancer
- Smoking cessation
- Social work research
- Traumatic brain injury
- Volume Angio Cat (VAC) research
- VRE³ research
- Acute Lung Injury Research
- Laser Eye Injury
- Military Relevant Disease Management (e.g., pre-hospital trauma care)
- Sleep Management

¹ In the FY02 congressional language, MGBV stands for Marburg Virus.

² In the FY02 congressional language, "Padget's" refers to Paget's disease.

³ In the FY02 congressional language, VRE stands for Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci.

C. Application Materials and Procedures

1. Letter of Intent – 1-page limit – Note: Pre-proposals are not required

All applicants considering submission of a proposal in response to the FY02 PRMRP are requested to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) by **April 26, 2002**. The LOI should not exceed one page and should include the selected topic areas, the name of the Principal Investigator(s) (PIs), a complete mailing address, institutional/organizational affiliation(s) and collaboration(s), and the research objective. Clearly identify all LOI submissions as “PRMRP LOI.” Submit the LOI to Mr. Scott Glisson via fax at 703-834-1160 or e-mail at usamraa@aibs.org.

2. Proposal Cover Booklet

Complete proposals **must** include the original and three copies of the Proposal Cover Booklet. If an LOI has been submitted, a proposal cover booklet and instructions will be sent by mail. Booklets with instructions can be requested via phone at 301-619-7079, fax at 301-619-7792, or e-mail at cdmrp.pa@det.amedd.army.mil. Please allow sufficient time for delivery.

3. Research Proposal Cover Page

Prepare the research proposal cover page as indicated in BAA 02-1, Appendix 3. Use the form provided on page 3-3.

4. Proposal Abstract – Start on a new page – 1-page limit

Prepare a 1-page, structured, technical abstract using the outline described below, the instructions in BAA 02-1, Appendix 4, and the form provided on page 4-2. Each abstract must contain the title of the proposal and the name of the submitting applicant. Do not include figures in the abstract. Proprietary information should not be included in the abstract.

Abstracts are vitally important to the review of the proposal. **Programmatic evaluation includes the review of the abstract as part of the peer review summary statement; therefore, it is essential that the applicant submit a structured, technical abstract that fully describes the proposed work.** A sample abstract can be found at the “USAMRMC BAA 02-1” link.

Please use the outline below for preparing the structured, technical abstract.

- (i) **Background:** Provide a brief statement of the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed work.
- (ii) **Objective/hypothesis:** State the objective/hypothesis to be tested. Provide evidence or rationale that supports the objective/hypothesis.
- (iii) **Specific Aims:** State concisely the specific aims of the study.
- (iv) **Study Design:** Briefly describe the study design.

- (v) **Relevance:** Provide a brief statement explaining the potential relevance of the proposed work to the military health issues in the specific topic area being addressed. For example, how the study will prevent or improve the detection or treatment of the disease.

5. Proposal Table of Contents – 1-page limit

Prepare a Table of Contents using the outline provided in BAA 02-1, page 20 and Appendix 5.

6. Statement of Work – Start section on a new page – 1-page limit

Prepare a Statement of Work using the guidelines provided in BAA 02-1, page 20. A sample Statement of Work can be found at the “USAMRMC BAA 02-1” link.

7. Body of Proposal – Start section on a new page – 25-page limit

Prepare the proposal body using the guidelines provided in BAA 02-1, page 21. **This section is limited to 25 pages.**

8. Detailed Cost Estimate – No page limit

Budget is a key consideration in both scientific peer review and programmatic review; applicants are cautioned to use discretion in budget requests. Use the Detailed Cost Estimate instructions provided in BAA 02-1, pages 21–24 and forms provided in Appendix 6.

9. Addenda – Page limits apply to certain addenda

Use the instructions and forms provided in BAA 02-1 (see pages 24–25 and Appendices 7 through 11). Refer to each section below for specific details.

- Acronym and Symbol Definition: See BAA 02-1, page 24.
- Bibliography: See BAA 02-1, page 24.
- Biographical Sketch: See BAA 02-1, pages 24 and 7-1 and 7-2.
- Existing/Pending Support: See BAA 02-1, page 25.
- Collaboration and Joint Sponsorship: See BAA 02-1, page 25. In addition, in cases where the proposed studies involve military recruits or military personnel, a letter of support confirming access to recruits/military subjects and signed by the appropriate base or troop Commander is required. This letter of support should be submitted to the PRMRP preferably by the proposal receipt deadline (May 29, 2002), but **no later than August 20, 2002 at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time**. Failure to submit such a letter (if applicable) will result in proposal rejection at programmatic review.
- Facilities/Equipment Description: See BAA 02-1, page 25.
- Research Involving Human Subjects and/or Anatomical Substances: See BAA 02-1, pages 25 and 9-1 through 9-27.
- Certificate of Environmental Compliance: See BAA 02-1, pages 25 and 8-1.
- Research Involving Animals: See BAA 02-1, pages 25 and 10-1 through 10-5.
- Facility Safety Plan: See BAA 02-1, pages 25 and 11-1 through 11-5.

D. Proposal Receipt Deadline and Procedures

Unlike other proposals submitted under BAA 02-1, which can be submitted throughout the year, **complete FY02 PRMRP proposal packages are due no later than May 29, 2002 at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time.** Clearly mark all packages as “Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program.” The complete submission should include: the original proposal, 30 copies of the proposal, an electronic copy of the proposal (in a format readable by IBM-compatible versions of Microsoft Office or Adobe Acrobat) on a formatted disk, the original Proposal Cover Booklet, and three copies of the Proposal Cover Booklet. **Please note that proposals should be submitted to a different address from the one used in previous years.** Proposals should be sent by mail, courier, or hand delivered to the following address:

American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS)
107 Carpenter Drive
Suite 100
Sterling, VA 20164

For driving directions, please refer to page 7 of this document.

Any proposal received by AIBS after the exact time and date specified for receipt will not be considered unless it is received before FY02 award negotiations have been completed and:

1. It was sent by mail, and it is determined by the Government that late receipt was due solely to mishandling by the Government after receipt at the Government installation; or
2. It was sent by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail Next Day Delivery to Addressee (do not use Second Day Delivery) and postmarked no later than 8:00 p.m. (local time at point of origination) the day before the proposal receipt deadline; or
3. It was placed into the control of a commercial courier service no later than 8:00 p.m. (local time at point of origination) the day before the proposal receipt deadline and guaranteed for delivery by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the due date by the courier service. **(International Applicants: Please be advised that NEXT DAY DELIVERY MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE from your location; check with your commercial courier service.);** or
4. The Government, in its sole discretion, decides to accept the late proposal if it determines that no competitive advantage has been conferred and that the integrity of the competitive grants process will not be compromised.

Investigators are advised that documentation of the time of receipt by the delivery agent may be necessary if a problem should occur.

E. Proposal Evaluation and Selection

The proposal evaluation criteria listed below are specific to the FY02 PRMRP and supercede any evaluation criteria that are listed in BAA 02-1. The CDMRP uses a two-tiered review process for proposal evaluation, which consists of scientific peer review and programmatic review, as recommended by the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine. The two tiers are fundamentally different.

The first tier is a scientific peer review of proposals against established criteria for determination of scientific merit. Panels organized by scientific discipline or specialty area conduct peer review. These panels provide unbiased, expert advice on the scientific and technical merit of proposals, based upon the following review criteria:

- research strategy and objectives
- impact
- PI and key personnel qualifications
- facilities
- budget

The peer review summary statement is a product of scientific peer review. Each statement includes the applicant's structured, technical abstract, the peer review score, and an evaluation of the project as assessed by the peer reviewers according to the above evaluation criteria. Summary statements are forwarded to the next stage of the review process, programmatic review.

The second tier of review, programmatic review, is conducted by a team of federal civilian and military scientists and researchers. Programmatic review is a comparison-based process in which proposals from multiple research areas compete in a common pool. Panel members use the peer review summary statements to make funding recommendations. The Statement of Work may also be reviewed at this level. Programmatic review uses the following four criteria to make their recommendations:

- peer review recommendations
- relevance of proposed research to military health
- programmatic priorities, which include:
 - congressional guidance
 - DOD priorities
 - Veterans Affairs priorities
 - collaborations with federal researchers
- portfolio balance

Scientifically sound proposals that best fulfill the above criteria and most effectively address the unique focus and goals of the PRMRP will be recommended to the Commanding General, USAMRMC, for funding.

F. Proposal Compliance

Failure to adhere to deadlines specified within this supplement may result in proposal rejection.

Driving Directions to AIBS

From Washington, DC or the Virginia/Maryland Suburbs

Take Interstate 495 to Route 267 East (Dulles Toll Road) towards Dulles Airport/Washington. Proceed for approximately 11 miles and take the Route 28 North exit. At the third traffic light, make a right onto Sterling Boulevard. Proceed past Shaw Road and turn right onto Glenn Road. Turn left onto Carpenter Drive. Take the first right past the U.S. mailbox into the 107 Carpenter Drive parking lot.

For further details, please contact Dr. John Pugh (AIBS) at 703-834-0812, extension 101.