

# Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity

## Summary

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Breast cancer is a complex disease and its eradication is likely to require a multidisciplinary approach or partnership of diverse scientific disciplines. The Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Award is designed to identify and fund exceptionally talented recent doctoral graduates committed to broadening the scope of their research by adding significant, mentored training in more than one major discipline. Mentors should be identified for each discipline represented in the proposed project. Major disciplines for this award include, but are not limited to, laboratory, clinical, social/behavioral science, and public health research. The Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) is especially interested in proposals that integrate training in disciplines currently underrepresented in breast cancer, such as engineering, physics, and mathematics; however, innovative proposals that incorporate any combination of the major disciplines listed above will be considered. Funding up to \$125,000 per year in direct costs, for a maximum of \$375,000 plus indirect costs as appropriate over 3 years can be requested.

**A. Title of Award:** Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Award (MPA)

**B. Program Name:** Department of Defense (DOD) Fiscal Year 2005 (FY05) BCRP.

**C. Funding Opportunity Number:** BC05-MPA.

**D. Agency Name:** US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC), Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP), 1077 Patchel Street, Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5024.

#### E. Agency Contact(s)

**1. Questions related to the Program, proposal format, or required documentation** may be addressed to the CDMRP at:

Phone: 301-619-7079  
Fax: 301-619-7792  
E-mail: [cdmrp.pa@det.amedd.army.mil](mailto:cdmrp.pa@det.amedd.army.mil)  
Mail: Commander  
US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command  
ATTN: MCMR-ZB-C (BC05-MPA)  
1077 Patchel Street (Building 1077)  
Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5024

**2. Questions related to electronic submission:** The help line phone number is 301-682-5507 and is also provided on the Web. Other help desk contact information is:

Website: <https://cdmrp.org/> (User's Guide located in upper right corner of the proposal submission website)  
E-mail: [help-proposals-cdmrp@cdmrp.org](mailto:help-proposals-cdmrp@cdmrp.org)

**F. Anticipated Instrument Type(s):** Grants/Cooperative Agreements.

**G. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s):** 12.420; Military Medical Research and Development.

**H. Website Address to Access Application Package:** Proposals must be submitted electronically at <https://cdmrp.org/>. The website contains all the information, forms, documents, and links needed to apply.

**I. Award/Regulatory Approval:** Once an award is made, the applicant may not use, employ, or subcontract for the use of any human subjects, human anatomical substances/cadavers, or laboratory animals without written permission from the applicable USAMRMC regulatory office. The applicable USAMRMC regulatory office will forward applied-for written approvals directly to the applicant.

## **II. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION**

The Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Award enables exceptionally talented recent doctoral degree graduates to obtain significant training and experience in at least two **major** disciplines so that they may pursue an independent career at the forefront of breast cancer research. Mentors should be identified for each discipline represented in the proposed project. Major disciplines for this award include, but are not limited to, laboratory research, clinical research, social/behavioral science research, and public health research. The BCRP strongly encourages proposals that integrate research disciplines currently underrepresented in breast cancer, such as engineering, physics, and mathematics; however, innovative proposals that incorporate any combination of the major disciplines listed above will be considered.

## **III. AWARD INFORMATION**

- Type of award: grant/cooperative agreement.
- Approximately \$8 million (M) is available to fund FY05 BCRP Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Awards in this announcement.
- Depending on the number and quality of the applications, it is anticipated that approximately 20 proposals will be funded.
- Funding for Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Awards can be requested for \$125,000 in direct costs per year for a maximum of \$375,000 for direct costs plus indirect costs as appropriate for up to a 3-year performance period.

#### **IV. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

**A. Applicants:** Eligible applicants should have been in the laboratory or research setting in which the proposed research is to be performed for no longer than 2 years at the time of submission and should have a total of less than 5 years of postdoctoral research experience (excluding clinical residency or fellowship training).

All individuals, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or citizenship status, may apply as long as they are employed by, or affiliated with, an eligible institution as defined below.

**B. Institutions:** Eligible institutions include for-profit, non-profit, public, and private organizations. Agencies of local, state, and federal governments are eligible to the extent that proposals do not overlap with their fully funded intramural programs. Federal agencies will be expected to explain how their proposals do not overlap with their intramural programs.

**C. Cost Sharing:** It is expected that institutions will cost share. Please see “Major Equipment” located in Subsection V.G.2.c of the Full Text of Program Announcement for details.

**D. Other Eligibility Criteria:** Please see the Full Text of Program Announcement for details regarding duplicate submissions, applications from Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions, and administrative compliance issues.

#### **V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

**A. Proposal Information:** Applicants are required to submit the Proposal Information prior to upload of the proposal. Complete the Proposal Information as described at <https://cdmrp.org/>.

**B. Proposal Preparation:** All proposals must be converted into an electronic PDF (Portable Document Format) file for electronic proposal submission. Please see the Full Text of Program Announcement for details.

**C. Proposal Contacts:** The Proposal Contacts **must** include the e-mail address of a representative from the Sponsored Programs Office (or equivalent) who is authorized to negotiate on behalf of the institution. The Proposal Contacts must be “Finalized” for approval by the applicant’s Sponsored Programs Office’s (or equivalent) representative.

**D. Submission Date and Time:** Deadline: May 24, 2005. Proposals must be approved on the CDMRP eReceipt system by the Contract Representative at the applicant’s institution’s Sponsored Programs Office (or equivalent) by 5:00 p.m. Eastern time.

**E. Electronic Submission Requirements:** Electronic submission is required. No paper submissions will be accepted. Proposals must be submitted electronically at <https://cdmrp.org/>. Please see the Full Text of Program Announcement for details.

## **VI. PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION**

The CDMRP uses a two-tier review process for proposals: scientific peer review, followed by programmatic review. Details of both tiers of review can be found in the Full Text of Program Announcement.

## **VII. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

**A. Award Notices and Administrative Requirements:** Details of award notification procedures and administrative requirements, including regulatory documents (Certificate of Environmental Compliance, Research Involving Human Subjects and/or Anatomical Substances/Cadavers, Research Involving Animals, and Safety Program Plan), can be found in the Full Text of the Program Announcement.

**B. Reporting Requirements:** Annual reporting requirements apply.

# Full Text of Program Announcement

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Breast cancer is a complex disease and its eradication is likely to require a multidisciplinary approach or partnership of diverse scientific disciplines. The Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Award is designed to identify and fund exceptionally talented recent doctoral graduates who are committed to broadening the scope of their research by adding significant, mentored training in more than one *major* discipline. Mentors should be identified for each discipline represented in the proposed project. Major disciplines for this award include, but are not limited to, laboratory, clinical, social/behavioral science, and public health research. The Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) is especially interested in proposals that integrate training in disciplines currently underrepresented in breast cancer, such as engineering, physics, and mathematics; however, innovative proposals that incorporate any combination of the major disciplines listed above will be considered. Funding up to \$125,000 per year in direct costs, for a maximum of \$375,000 plus indirect costs as appropriate over 3 years can be requested.

**A. Title of Award:** Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Award (MPA).

**B. Program Name:** Department of Defense (DOD) Fiscal Year 2005 (FY05) BCRP.

**C. Funding Opportunity Number:** BC05-MPA.

**D. Agency Name:** US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC), Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP), 1077 Patchel Street, Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5024.

### E. Agency Contact(s)

**1. Questions related to the Program, proposal format, or required documentation:**

Applicants should submit questions as early as possible. Every effort will be made to answer questions within 5 working days.

Phone: 301-619-7079  
Fax: 301-619-7792  
E-mail: [cdmrp.pa@det.amedd.army.mil](mailto:cdmrp.pa@det.amedd.army.mil)  
Mail: Commander  
US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command  
ATTN: MCMR-ZB-C (BC05-MPA)  
1077 Patchel Street (Building 1077)  
Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5024

**2. Questions related to electronic submission:** Help lines are available to answer specific questions regarding the preparation of proposals for electronic submission or the process of

electronic submission. The help line phone number is 301-682-5507 and is also provided on the Web. Other help desk contact information is:

Website: <https://cdmrp.org/> (User's Guide located in upper right corner of the proposal submission website)  
E-mail: [help-proposals-cdmrp@cdmrp.org](mailto:help-proposals-cdmrp@cdmrp.org)

**F. Anticipated Instrument Type(s):** The USAMRMC implements its extramural research program predominantly through the award of grants and cooperative agreements. More information on these funding instruments may be obtained by request from:

Fax: 301-619-2937  
E-mail: [qa.baa@det.amedd.army.mil](mailto:qa.baa@det.amedd.army.mil)  
Mail: Director  
US Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity  
ATTN: MCMR-ZB-A  
820 Chandler Street  
Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5014

**G. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number 12.420:** Military Medical Research and Development.

**H. Website to Access Application Package:** Proposals must be submitted electronically at <https://cdmrp.org/>. This website contains all the information, forms, documents, and links needed to apply. If you experience difficulties in downloading documents, contact the CDMRP as indicated in Subsection E.2 above.

**I. Award/Regulatory Approval:** Once an award is made, the applicant may not use, employ, or subcontract for the use of any human subjects, human anatomical substances/cadavers, or laboratory animals without written permission from the applicable USAMRMC regulatory office. The applicable USAMRMC regulatory office will forward applied-for written approvals directly to the applicant.

## **II. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION**

**A. Program History:** The Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Award is part of the DOD BCRP, which was established in FY92 to promote innovative research directed toward the eradication of breast cancer. Appropriations for the BCRP since FY92 total \$1.68 billion. The FY05 BCRP appropriation is \$150 million (M). Of this, approximately \$8M will be available for Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Awards.

**B. Program Objectives:** The overall goal of the FY05 BCRP is to promote research focused on eradicating breast cancer. Therefore, the BCRP challenges the scientific community to design innovative research that will foster new directions for, address neglected issues in, and bring new

investigators to the field of breast cancer research. The BCRP focuses its funding on innovative projects, particularly those involving multidisciplinary and/or multi-institutional collaborations and alliances, with the potential to make a significant impact on breast cancer. Under-investigated avenues of research and novel applications of existing technologies are strongly encouraged. The BCRP encourages risk-taking research; however, such projects must demonstrate solid scientific judgment and rationale.

Within this context, the BCRP's objective is to fund a balanced portfolio of scientifically meritorious research related to all aspects of breast cancer. Proposals are sought across all areas of laboratory, clinical, behavioral, and epidemiologic research, including all disciplines within the basic, clinical, psychosocial, behavioral, sociocultural, and environmental sciences; nursing; occupational health; alternative therapies; public health and policy; ethics; and economics. Proposals that address the needs of minority, low-income, rural, and other underrepresented and/or medically underserved populations are strongly encouraged.

**C. Award Mechanism Description:** The Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Award enables exceptionally talented recent medical or other doctoral degree graduates to obtain significant experience in at least two major disciplines, so that they may pursue an independent career at the forefront of breast cancer research.

Proposals should emphasize a multidisciplinary training program in which at least two, but preferably three, *major* disciplines are integrated into a common research and training environment. For this award, major disciplines include, but are not limited to:

- Laboratory research,
- Clinical research,
- Social/behavioral science, and
- Public health research.

Special emphasis is placed on proposals that integrate *major disciplines that are currently underrepresented in breast cancer*. These disciplines include, but are not limited to:

- Engineering,
- Physics, and
- Mathematics.

However, innovative proposals that incorporate any combination of the major disciplines listed above will be considered.

Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Award proposals should either (1) extend the candidate's ongoing research related to breast cancer by adding significant training and/or experience in other disciplines, or (2) broaden the scope of this research to include an interdisciplinary approach to breast cancer, under the guidance of the designated mentors.

The multidisciplinary training program should offer a well-rounded, integrated experience in more than one approach to breast cancer research. A primary mentor who will oversee the postdoctoral fellow's overall research and training should be designated. However, ***additional mentors must be identified for each discipline area***, and a diverse, well-qualified faculty should be available to provide suitable training opportunities within a multidisciplinary research framework. Each mentor should play a significant role in the postdoctoral fellow's training and research. All mentors should work together as a leadership team under the primary mentor's oversight to promote a team-oriented, multidisciplinary training experience for the postdoctoral fellow. Mentors may be from the same or different institutions. If the proposal is multi-institutional, letters of support from all participating institutions must be included.

The ***research project must be multidisciplinary***, incorporating aspects of each major discipline for which a mentor is named. The research focus of the proposal must address an issue relevant to breast cancer biology, etiology, prevention, detection, diagnosis, and/or therapy and be highly innovative, with the potential for making a significant impact on breast cancer. The research should be of sufficient depth to produce publications relevant to the disciplines of all mentors.

Eligible applicants should have been in the laboratory or research setting in which this research is to be performed for no longer than 2 years at the time of submission and should have a total of less than 5 years of postdoctoral research experience (excluding clinical residency or fellowship training).

Recipients of the Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Award will meet with each other, the recipients of the Innovator and Era of Hope Scholar Awards, the BCRP Integration Panel (IP), and CDMRP Staff annually for the purpose of open communication and mutual benefit.

### **III. AWARD INFORMATION**

Funding can be requested for up to \$125,000 per year for direct costs plus indirect costs as appropriate, for a maximum of \$375,000 over 3 years. Proposals requiring lower levels of funding may also be submitted. Direct funds can cover salary, tuition, research supplies, equipment, and travel to scientific/technical meetings. The travel allotment is \$1,500 per year to attend scientific/technical meetings. An additional \$1,500 should be requested for annual meetings with Innovator Award and Era of Hope Scholar Award recipients, the IP, and CDMRP Staff. In addition, travel funding of \$1,500 must be requested to attend a one-time, 3½-day Breast Cancer Era of Hope meeting to disseminate the results of the DOD-sponsored research.

The nature of the BCRP does not allow for renewal or supplementation of grants. Depending on the quality and number of proposals received, the CDMRP expects to allot approximately \$8M to fund approximately 20 Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Awards.



## IV. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

**A. Applicants:** Eligible applicants should have been in the laboratory or research setting in which the proposed research is to be performed for no longer than 2 years at the time of submission and should have a total of less than 5 years of postdoctoral research experience (excluding clinical residency or fellowship training). Individuals with any doctoral degree are encouraged to apply.

Proposals will not be evaluated and awards will not be made for “to be named” trainees. All individuals, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or citizenship status, may apply as long as they are employed by, or affiliated with, an eligible institution as defined below.

**B. Institutions:** Eligible institutions include for-profit, non-profit, public, and private organizations. Examples include universities, colleges, hospitals, laboratories, and companies. The USAMRMC is especially interested in receiving applications from Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions (HBCU/MI). Agencies of local, state, and federal governments are eligible to the extent that proposals do not overlap with their fully funded intramural programs. Federal agencies will be expected to explain how their proposals do not overlap with their intramural programs.

**C. Cost Sharing:** It is expected that institutions will cost share. Please see full details under “Major Equipment” in Subsection V.G.2.c.

### D. Other Eligibility Criteria

**1. Duplicate Submissions:** Submission of the same research project to the BCRP under different award mechanisms or to other CDMRP programs is discouraged. The Government reserves the right to reject duplicative proposals.

**2. HBCU/MI:** A goal of the DOD is to allocate funds for the CDMRP’s peer reviewed research to fund proposals from HBCU/MI. This provision is based on guidance from Executive Orders.<sup>1</sup> Proposals submitted to the DOD are assigned HBCU/MI status if the submitting institution is so designated by the Department of Education on the date the program announcement is released. The Department of Education list is posted on the CDMRP website at <http://cdmrp.army.mil/spp> under Minority Institutions.

**3. Administrative Compliance Issues:** Compliance guidelines have been designed to ensure the presentation of all proposals in an organized and easy-to-follow manner. Peer reviewers expect to see a consistent, prescribed format for each proposal. Non-adherence to format requirements makes proposals difficult to read, may be perceived as an attempt to gain an unfair competitive advantage, and may result in proposal rejection or a lower global priority score.

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<sup>1</sup>Executive Orders 12876, 12900, and 13021

The following will result in administrative rejection of the entire proposal prior to peer review:

- Font size is less than 12 point.
- Font type is not Times New Roman.
- Line spacing is greater than six lines per vertical inch.
- Margins are less than 0.5 inches on any side.
- Proposal body exceeds page limit.
- Proposal body is missing.
- Applicant does not meet eligibility criteria (see Subsection IV.A).
- Proposal does not integrate at least two major disciplines.
- Applicant does not identify at least two mentors; one primary mentor and an additional secondary mentor for each discipline listed must be identified.
- Required administrative documentation is missing (see Subsection V.F.12).
- Proposal is incomplete after the deadline.

For any other sections of a proposal with a defined page limit, any pages exceeding the specified limit will be removed from the proposal and not forwarded for peer review.

Unless specifically requested by the Government, any material submitted after the submission deadline will not be forwarded for peer review.

## **V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

**A. Proposal Components Summary:** This subsection is a summary of submission requirements. Details, URLs, and other links are provided in the appropriate subsections of this program announcement.

The Principal Investigator (PI) is responsible for uploading the following information:

- **Proposal Information:** The Proposal Information consists of two parts, both of which are entered as data fields. A Letter of Intent is generated when Part 1 of the Proposal Information is saved.
- **Proposal Contacts:** Contact information for the PI and the Contract Representative are required to complete the proposal submission process.
- **SOW and Proposal Abstracts:** The SOW, Technical Abstract, and Public Abstract are each entered as a separate data field.
- **Proposal:** The proposal is uploaded as a PDF (Portable Document Format) file under the “Required Files” tab.

- **Budget Information:** The budget information is uploaded as a PDF file under the “Required Files” tab.
- **Regulatory Documents:** The Certificate of Environmental Compliance and the Principal Investigator Safety Program Assurance form are each uploaded as separate PDF files under the “Required Files” tab.

The Contract Representative or institutional official responsible for sponsored program administration (or equivalent) from the applicant’s institution is responsible for the following:

- **The Contract Representative’s Contact Information Profile: This must be completed prior to electronic approval of all proposal components.**
- **US Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA)-Required Documents:** The institution’s currently negotiated “Rate Agreement,” “Certifications and Assurances for Assistance Agreements,” and the “Representations for Assistance Agreements” are to be uploaded as separate PDF files under the Contract Representative’s “My Profile” tab.
- **Approval:** The Contract Representative or institutional official responsible for sponsored program administration (or equivalent) must provide approval of all proposal components (Proposal Information, Proposal Contacts, SOW, Abstracts, Proposal, Budget Information, and regulatory documents). Contract Representative approval must occur prior to the submission deadline of 5:00 p.m. Eastern time May 24, 2005. The eReceipt system will **not** accept data entry, file uploads, or approvals submitted after the 5:00 p.m. Eastern time deadline.

**B. Proposal Information:** Applicants are required to submit the Proposal Information, Parts 1 and 2, prior to upload of the proposal and the budget information. Complete the Proposal Information as described in <https://cdmrp.org/>. The Proposal Information may be “Verified & Saved” for editing purposes until “Submit Final” for approval by their Sponsored Programs Office’s (or equivalent’s) representative.

- **Letter of Intent:** An electronic Letter of Intent should be submitted by April 26, 2005. To accomplish this, the applicant should complete Part 1 of the Proposal Information section at <https://cdmrp.org/>, then save the information by clicking on the “Save and Forward Letter of Intent” button. This information may be changed at any time until the applicant submits the final Proposal Information by clicking on the “Submit Final” button.

**C. Proposal Contacts:** The Proposal Contacts **must** include the e-mail address of a representative from the Sponsored Programs Office (or equivalent) who is authorized to negotiate on behalf of the institution. The Proposal Contacts must be “Finalized” for approval by the applicant’s Sponsored Programs Office’s (or equivalent) representative.

**D. SOW – 11,400-character limit, including spaces (approximately two pages):** The SOW is captured as a data field under the “SOW/Abstract” tab in the CDMRP eReceipt system. To submit the SOW, the applicant may either type in the SOW or “cut and paste” it from a word

processing application into the data field. Sample SOWs can be found at <https://cdmrp.org/samples.cfm>.

The SOW is a concise restatement of the research proposal that outlines, step by step, how each of the major goals or objectives of the proposed research/services will be accomplished during the timeline for which the USAMRMC will provide financial support.

As appropriate, the SOW should:

- Describe both the training and research to be accomplished as tasks (tasks may relate to specific aims);
- Identify the timeline and milestones for training and research over the period of the proposed effort;
- Indicate the number of research subjects (animal or human) projected or required for each task;
- Identify methods; and
- Identify outcomes, products, and deliverables for each phase of the project.

**E. Proposal Abstracts – 5,700-character limit, including spaces (approximately one page), for each abstract:** Both a structured technical abstract and a public (nontechnical) abstract are required. These abstracts are vitally important to both the peer and programmatic review process.

Programmatic review is based on the IP’s review of these two abstracts as part of the peer review summary statements; therefore, it is paramount that the PI submit abstracts that fully describe the proposed work.

Each abstract must contain the title of the proposal and the name of the PI. Each abstract must be submitted as a data field under the “SOW/Abstracts” tab of the CDMRP eReceipt system. Applicants can either type in their abstracts or “cut and paste” them from a word processing application into the respective data fields. Do not include figures or tables in either abstract. Spell out all Greek or other non-English letters.

Abstracts of all funded proposals will be posted on the CDMRP website at <https://cdmrp.army.mil>. Thus, proprietary or confidential information should not be included in the abstract.

**1. Technical Abstract:** Sample technical abstracts can be found at <https://cdmrp.org/samples.cfm>. The structured technical abstract should provide a clear and concise overview of the proposed work, including the background, objective or hypothesis and its supporting rationale, specific aims of the study, study design, and significance of the proposed work to the Program’s goals.

Use the outline below to prepare the structured technical abstract.

- Background: Provide a brief statement of the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed work.
- Objective/Hypothesis: State the objective/hypothesis to be tested. Provide evidence or rationale that supports the objective/hypothesis.
- Specific Aims: State concisely the specific aims of the study.
- Study Design: Briefly describe the study design.
- Relevance: Provide a brief statement explaining the relevance of the proposed work to the Program's goals. For example, describe how the study will cure, prevent, or improve the detection or treatment of breast cancer.

**2. Public Abstract:** Sample public abstracts can be found at <https://cdmrp.org/samples.cfm>. The public abstract is intended to communicate the purpose of, and rationale for, the study to non-scientific audiences. The public abstract is an important component of the proposal review process because consumer advocates, who are part of the review and funding decision process, use this abstract as a part of their review. It must be composed in a way to make the scientific objectives and rationale for the proposal understandable to non-scientifically trained readers. **The public abstract should not be a duplicate of the technical abstract**, but should describe the goals and objectives of the research project and its relevance to the Program.

In addition to describing the project, the public abstract must answer the following questions:

- (1) What will be the ultimate applicability of the research?
  - What types of patients will it help and how?
  - What are the potential clinical applications, benefits, and risks?
  - What is the projected time it may take to achieve a consumer-related outcome?
- (2) If the research is too basic for clinical applicability, what are the interim outcomes?
  - What types of contributions will this study make to advance research?
  - How will the research enhance this or other studies being conducted?

## F. Proposal

**1. Format:** All proposal components (proposal body, biographical sketches, publications, letters of support, etc.) must be converted into a single PDF file for electronic submission. Proposals must be uploaded under the "Required Files" tab of the CDMRP eReceipt system. Applicants unfamiliar with the preparation of PDF files are

encouraged to acquire appropriate software and learn the process before the submission deadline. To prepare proposals for PDF submission, the instructions in this subsection must be followed carefully.

**Please Note New Format Requirements**

The proposal must be clear and legible and conform to the following guidelines:

- **Font size: 12 point or larger.**
- **Font type: Times New Roman.**
- **Spacing: Single-spaced between lines of text, no more than six lines of type within a vertical inch.**
- **Margins: Minimum of 0.5 inches in all directions.**
- **Print area: 7.5 inches x 10.0 inches (approximately 19 cm x 25.5 cm).**

<b>Failure to follow the requirements for font size, font type, spacing, margins, and print area will result in administrative rejection of the entire proposal prior to peer review.</b>
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- **Color, Resolution, and Multimedia Objects:** Proposals may include color, high resolution, or multimedia objects (e.g., MPEG, WAV, or AVI files) embedded in the PDF files, but applicants should keep in mind that some reviewers work from black and white printed copies. Applicants may wish to include text in the proposal directing the reviewer to the electronic file for parts of the proposal that may be difficult to interpret when printed in black and white.
- **Language:** English.

**2. Title/Referral Page: No page limit.** Complete the [Title/Referral Page](#). Please note that all forms are available on the “Summary Tab” of eReceipt. Complete each section as described:

- a. Proposal title (up to 160 characters).
- b. Proposal log number (this will be automatically provided when the Proposal Information is completed and saved).
- c. PI’s full name (first, middle initial, last).
- d. Submitting institution.
- e. Name of primary mentor (first, middle initial, last).
- f. Names of additional mentors (first, middle initial, last).
- g. Award mechanism: Type in “Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Award.”
- h. Keyword descriptive technical terms: To assist the staff in assigning proposals to the appropriate scientific peer review panel, please specify the subject area of the proposal. Also, list specific keywords and descriptive technical terms that best describe the project’s technical aspects.

- i. Conflicts of interest: To avoid real and apparent conflicts of interest during the review process, list the names of all scientific participants in the proposal including consultants, collaborators, and subawardees. In addition, list the names of other individuals outside the scope of this proposal who may have a conflict of interest in reviewing this proposal. Provide the following information for each participant: name, institutional affiliation(s), and, if applicable, his or her role(s) on the proposed project.

**3. Table of Contents/Checklist: Start section on a new page; one-page limit.** Prepare a [Table of Contents/Checklist](#), with page numbers. Number all pages consecutively at the bottom center, beginning with the Title/Referral Page. Please note that headers should not be included, as the proposal log number will be electronically captured on each page of the proposal after receipt.

**4. Proposal Relevance Statement: Start section on a new page; one-page limit.** Describe the training value of the proposed research relative to the applicant's career goals and how the proposed research is pertinent to one or more critical issues in breast cancer biology, etiology, prevention, detection, diagnosis, and/or therapy explicitly. Describe how the combination of the multidisciplinary training experience and relevance of the research project to breast cancer will prepare the candidate for an independent career at the forefront of the battle against breast cancer. *Note that for Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Awards, the Proposal Relevance Statement will be available for programmatic review.*

**5. Main Body: Start section on a new page; six-page limit including any figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, pictures, pictorials, cartoons, and other relevant information needed to judge the proposal.**

Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Award proposals, with appropriate direction from the mentors, are to be written and signed by the trainee as the PI and author of the proposal. The mentors are also responsible for preparing certain components of the proposal.

Describe the proposed project using the following outline:

- **Description of the multidisciplinary training program:** Provide a detailed training plan that identifies each of the mentors and describes the interactions of the mentors with each other and the applicant. In addition, describe coursework, conferences, and/or journal clubs in which the applicant will participate, as well as laboratory techniques that he or she will use. Explain how the training program will be structured to integrate *at least two major disciplines* into a common research and training environment. Examples of major disciplines include, but are not limited to:
  - Laboratory research,
  - Clinical research,
  - Social/behavioral science research,
  - Public health research,
  - Engineering,
  - Physics, and
  - Mathematics.

Specify which of these major disciplines will be integrated and how this training program and environment are innovative for training multidisciplinary breast cancer researchers.

- **Career/Research Plans:** Briefly describe the applicant's career development plan and how the proposed training will promote the applicant's career development in the area(s) of breast cancer research. Discuss the applicant's research plans after the completion of this award.
- **Description of Research Project:** Describe the proposed multidisciplinary research project using the following outline:
  - **Background:** Describe briefly the ideas behind the proposed work and cite relevant literature references.
  - **Hypothesis/Rationale/Purpose:** State the hypothesis to be tested and the expected results.
  - **Objectives:** State concisely the project's specific aims and research strategy. Describe the multidisciplinary nature of the research project.
  - **Methods:** Discuss the experimental design and methodology.
  - **Innovation:** Explain briefly how the proposed research uses innovative hypotheses or methods to advance the prevention, detection, diagnosis, and/or treatment of breast cancer.

**6. Abbreviations: Start section on a new page; one-page limit.** Provide a list of all acronyms, abbreviations, and symbols used.

**7. References: Start section on a new page; no page limit.** List all relevant references 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).

**8. Biographical Sketches: Four-page limit per individual.** Biographical sketches should be included for each of the key personnel listed on the budget page, including primary and secondary mentors, collaborating investigators and support staff. These documents are a critical component of the review process. Incomplete or missing biographical sketches may result in lower global priority scores. The [Biographical Sketch form](#) may be used. Use of this form is not mandatory, but the information requested shall be presented in a similar format.

**9. Existing/Pending Support: Start section on a new page; no page limit.** List on a separate page the titles, time commitments, supporting agencies, durations, and levels of funding for all existing and pending research projects involving the PI and key personnel. If no support exists, state "none." Proposals submitted under this program announcement should not duplicate other funded research projects.



**10. Facilities/Equipment Description: No page limit.** Describe the facilities available for performance of the proposed research/services. Describe the institutional commitment, including any additional facilities or equipment proposed for purchase or available for use at no cost to the USAMRMC. Indicate if government-owned facilities or equipment are proposed for use.

**11. Questionnaires, Survey Instruments, or Clinical Protocols: No page limit.** Include an appropriately titled page listing the documents included in this section.

**12. Administrative Documentation: No page limit.** Submit only material specifically requested or required in this program announcement. **This section is not for additional figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, pictures, pictorials, cartoons, or other relevant information needed to judge the proposal.** Unrequested material that is submitted may be construed as an attempt to gain a competitive advantage and will be removed; it may be grounds for administrative rejection of the proposal.

The first item in this section must be a list of all the items included in the Administrative Documentation section.

- **Official transcripts** from undergraduate and graduate institutions. All foreign-language transcripts must be accompanied by an English translation.
- A [Statement of Eligibility form](#) signed by the Department Chair, Dean, or equivalent official verifying that the applicant (1) has or will have successfully completed a doctoral or medical degree at the time of award negotiation, (2) has been in the laboratory or research setting in which the proposed research is to be performed for no longer than 2 years at the time of submission, and (3) has a total of less than 5 years of postdoctoral research experience (excluding clinical residency or fellowship training) and therefore is eligible for this award.
- Letter of support from **each mentor** describing his or her commitment to the training, career development, and mentorship of the applicant.

**Each mentor** should address the following in his or her letter of support:

- The applicant's potential as a future breast cancer researcher;
- The mentor's role in training the candidate;
- The training environment, including how the training program's structure will integrate two or more major disciplines into breast cancer research;
- How the mentor can assist in training the applicant for a career in breast cancer research, including interactions and communication with other mentors and faculty members;
- The mentor's record of training other postdoctoral students; and

- The resources available to demonstrate the adequacy of support for the trainee’s project (specific details on existing support should be covered in the Existing/Pending Support section; see Subsection V.E.9.).
- Two additional letters of recommendation.
- Letters of support from collaborating investigators and/or institutions, if applicable.

*All administrative documentation must be incorporated into the electronic PDF version of the proposal.* Support documentation will not be accepted separately from the electronic proposal submission. All documents or letters requiring signatures must be signed and then incorporated into the submitted proposal.

**13. Publications and/or Patent Abstracts: Five-document limit.** Include up to five relevant publication reprints and/or patent abstracts. A patent abstract should provide a non-proprietary description of the patent application. If more than five such items are included in the submission, the extra items will not be peer reviewed.

**G. Budget Information:** Budget Information includes the [Detailed Cost Estimate form and Budget Justification form](#). Budget Information is uploaded under the “Required Files” tab of the CDMRP eReceipt system.

**1. Funding Restrictions:** Funding for a maximum of \$125,000 per year for direct costs, for up to \$375,000 plus indirect costs as appropriate over 3 years can be requested. Proposals requiring lower levels of funding also may be submitted. Direct funds can cover salary, tuition, research supplies, equipment, and travel to scientific/technical meetings. The allotment for travel is \$1,500 per year to attend scientific/technical meetings. Funds must also be requested for annual meetings with Innovator Award and Era of Hope Scholar Award recipients, the IP, and CDMRP Program Staff. Travel funding of \$1,500 to attend a one-time, 3½-day Breast Cancer Era of Hope meeting to disseminate the results of the DOD-sponsored research also must be requested.

*Training awards frequently have a different institutional indirect charge than research awards. Since the Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Award is intended to train researchers for a career in breast cancer research, applicants are encouraged to check with their institution concerning indirect costs.*

**2. Detailed Cost Estimate Form and Budget Justification Instructions:** The budget is an important consideration in both peer and programmatic review, and applicants are cautioned to use discretion in budget requests. Budgets also will be reviewed during award negotiations. **Organizations must provide sufficient detail and budget justification so that the Government can determine the proposed costs to be allocable and reasonable for the proposed research.** The Detailed Cost Estimate form and Budget Justification for the proposal must be uploaded as a PDF file, separate from the proposal.

Costs proposed must conform to the following regulations and principles:

- **Commercial Firms:** Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) Part 31 and Defense FAR Supplement Part 31, (<http://farsite.hill.af.mil>), Contract Cost Principles and Procedures.
- **Educational Institutions:** Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-21, Cost Principles for Educational Institutions ([http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants\\_circulars.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants_circulars.html)).
- **Nonprofit Organizations:** OMB Circular A-122, Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations. OMB Circular A-133, Audits of Institutions of Higher Education and Other Nonprofit Organizations ([http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants\\_circulars.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants_circulars.html)).
- **State, Local, and Tribal Governments:** OMB Circular A-87, Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments ([http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants\\_circulars.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants_circulars.html)).

The following section provides instructions for preparing the Detailed Cost Estimate form. All amounts entered should be in U.S. dollars.

**a. Personnel**

**i. Name:** Starting with the PI, list the names of all participants who will be involved in the project during the initial budget period, regardless of whether salaries are requested. Include all collaborating investigators, research associates, individuals in training, and support staff. Only **ONE** person may be identified as the PI of the proposal.

**ii. Role on Project:** Identify the role of each individual listed on the project. Describe his or her specific functions in the Budget Justification section of the Detailed Cost Estimate form.

**iii. Type of Appointment (Months):** List the number of months per year reflected in an individual's contractual appointment with the applicant organization. The DOD staff assumes that appointments at the applicant organization are full time for each individual. If an appointment is less than full time, e.g., 50%, note this with an asterisk (\*) and provide a full explanation in the Budget Justification section of the Detailed Cost Estimate form. Individuals may have split appointments (e.g., for an academic period and a summer period). For each type of appointment, identify and enter the number of months on separate lines.

**iv. Annual Base Salary:** Enter the annual institutional base salary for each individual listed for the project.

**v. Percentage of Effort on Project:** The qualifications of the PI and the amount of time that he or she and other professional personnel will devote to the research are important factors in selecting research proposals for funding. For each key staff

member identified on the budget form, list the percentage of each appointment to be spent on this project.

**vi. Salaries Requested:** Enter the salaries in whole dollar figures for each position for which funds are requested. The salary requested is calculated by multiplying an individual's institutional base salary by the percentage of effort on the project.

**vii. Fringe Benefits:** Fringe benefits may be requested in accordance with institutional guidelines for each position, provided the costs are treated consistently by the applicant organization for all sponsors. Documentation to support the fringe benefits should be provided.

**viii. Totals:** Calculate the totals for each position and enter these as subtotals in the columns indicated.

**b. Consultant Costs:** Regardless of whether funds are requested, provide the names and organizational affiliations of all consultants.

**c. Major Equipment:** It is the policy of the DOD that all commercial and non-profit recipients provide the equipment needed to support proposed research. In those rare cases in which specific additional equipment is approved for commercial and non-profit organizations, such approved cost elements shall be separately negotiated. Moreover, it is expected that institutions will share 50% of the cost of equipment purchased for this research proposal when individual equipment costs are equal to or exceed \$5,000.

**d. Materials, Supplies, and Consumables:** A general description and total estimated cost of expendable equipment and supplies are required. Itemize supplies in separate categories (e.g., glassware, chemicals, radioisotopes). Categories in amounts less than \$1,000 do not need to be itemized. If animals are to be purchased, state the species, strain (if applicable), and the number to be used. If human cell lines are to be purchased, state the source and the description.

**e. Travel Costs:** Travel costs to scientific/technical meetings may not exceed \$1,500 per year. An additional \$1,500 for annual meetings with Innovator Award and Era of Hope Scholar Award recipients, the IP, and CDMRP Staff should be requested. In addition, travel funding of \$1,500 must be requested to attend a one-time, 3½-day Breast Cancer Era of Hope meeting to disseminate the results of the DOD-sponsored research.

**f. Research-Related Subject Costs:** Itemize costs of subject participation in the research study. These costs are strictly limited to expenses specifically associated with the proposed study. The USAMRMC will not provide funds for ongoing medical care costs that are not related to a subject's participation in the research study.

**g. Other Direct Costs:** Itemize other anticipated direct costs such as publication and report costs, rental for computers and other equipment (provide hours and rates), and

communication costs. Unusual or expensive items should be fully explained and justified. Estimate the costs of publishing and reporting research results, including direct charges for clerical preparation, illustrations, reprints, and distribution.

**h. Subaward Costs:** A description of services or materials that are to be awarded by subcontract or subgrant is required. For awards totaling \$10,000 or more, specify:

- Identification of the type of award to be used (e.g., cost reimbursement, fixed price);
- Identification of the proposed subcontractor or subgrantee, if known, and an explanation of why and how the subcontractor or subgrantee was selected or will be selected;
- Whether the award will be competitive and, if noncompetitive, rationale to justify the absence of competition; and
- The proposed acquisition price.

**i. Indirect Costs (overhead, general and administrative, and other):** The most recent rates, dates of negotiation, base(s), and periods to which the rates apply should be disclosed with a statement identifying whether the proposed rates are provisional or fixed.

**j. Total Costs for the Entire Proposed Period of Support (second page of the Detailed Cost Estimate form):** Enter the totals under each budget category for all additional years of support requested and itemize these totals in the Budget Justification section of the Detailed Cost Estimate form. Note with an asterisk (\*) and explain any significant increases or decreases from the initial year budget. All amounts should be in U.S. dollars. Total costs for the entire proposed period of support should equal the amount previously entered online in the Proposal Information at <https://cdmrp.org/>.

**3. Budget Justification (third page of the Detailed Cost Estimate form):** Each item in the budget should be clearly justified in the Budget Justification section of the Detailed Cost Estimate form.

**H. Regulatory Requirements:** Completed and signed copies of the [Certificate of Environmental Compliance](#) and [Principal Investigator Safety Program Assurance](#) form must be uploaded under the “Required Files” tab of the CDMRP eReceipt system as separate PDF files.

Do not submit other regulatory documents (Research Involving Human Subjects and/or Anatomical Substances/Cadavers; Research Involving Animals) with the proposal. Instead, the applicant should provide these documents to the USAMRMC only upon request.

**I. USAMRAA-Required Documents:** The most current version of the institution’s negotiated “Rate Agreement,” the “[Certifications and Assurances for Assistance Agreements](#),” and the “[Representations for Assistance Agreements](#)” must be uploaded by the Contract Representative

from the Sponsored Programs Office (or equivalent). These documents must be uploaded as separate PDF files under the Contract Representative's "My Profile" tab of the CDMRP eReceipt system prior to negotiations.

**J. Submission Date and Time:** Proposals must be approved on the CDMRP eReceipt system by the Contract Representative at the applicant's institution's Sponsored Programs Office (or equivalent) by the deadline. If the proposal is either incomplete or not approved electronically before the deadline, it will not be considered for review. The eReceipt system will **not** accept data entry, file uploads, or approvals submitted after the 5:00 p.m. Eastern time May 24, 2005 deadline.

**The timeline for the Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Award is:**

Online Letter of Intent:	Expected by <b>April 26, 2005</b>
Online Proposal Information:	Prior to proposal submission
<b>Proposal Submission/Approval Deadline:</b>	<b>5:00 p.m. May 24, 2005</b>
Peer Review:	August 2005
Programmatic Review:	November 2005
Request for Additional Documents:	As early as 2 weeks after the completion of programmatic review
Notification Letter:	Approximately 4 weeks after programmatic review
Award Start Date:	Anticipated between December 2005 and September 2006

**K. Electronic Submission Requirements:** Electronic submission is required. Proposals will be accepted only as PDF files submitted through the CDMRP eReceipt system at <https://cdmrp.org/>.

Several steps are critical to successful proposal submission:

- The Proposal Information must be submitted prior to submission of the proposal. Applicants are encouraged to begin this part of the submission process early.
- Proposal Contacts must be submitted prior to submission of the proposal. The e-mail address of a Contract Representative from the Sponsored Programs Office (or equivalent) must be included in the Proposal Contacts. Applicants are encouraged to begin this part of the submission process early.
- Applicants are encouraged to coordinate early with their Sponsored Programs Office (or equivalent).
- The Contract Representative from the Sponsored Programs Office (or equivalent) who is authorized to negotiate on behalf of the institution is required to provide final approval before the proposal is accepted.
- The eReceipt system will **not** accept data entry, file uploads, or approvals submitted after the 5:00 p.m. Eastern time May 24, 2005 deadline.

- Any supporting documentation that the applicant includes with the proposal must be incorporated into the PDF file prior to upload.
- Some items to be included in the proposal will need to be scanned. These items might include figures, tables, letters, or publications. All scanned documents, including figures, tables, and graphs, should be scanned at a resolution of 300-400 dpi or less.
- Budget Information includes the Detailed Cost Estimate form and the Budget Justification form. Budget Information must be uploaded under the “Required Files” tab of the CDMRP eReceipt system.
- The regulatory documents required at submission include a completed, signed Certificate of Environmental Compliance and a completed, signed Principal Investigator Safety Program Assurance form. These must be uploaded under the “Required Files” tab of the CDMRP eReceipt system.

## VI. PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

### A. Proposal Review and Selection Overview

**1. Process:** The CDMRP uses a two-tier review process for proposal evaluation. The two tiers are fundamentally different. The first tier is a scientific peer review of proposals against established criteria for determination of scientific merit. The second tier is a programmatic review of proposals that compares submissions to each other and recommends proposals for funding based on scientific merit as well as overall program goals.

**2. Peer Review:** Peer review is conducted by panels organized according to scientific discipline or specialty area. The primary responsibility of the peer review panels is to provide unbiased, expert advice on the scientific/technical merit and relevance of proposals based on the review criteria published for each award mechanism.

Peer review panels are composed of a chair, scientific reviewers, consumer reviewers, and a nonvoting scientific review administrator. Scientific reviewers are selected based on their expertise and their experience with scientific peer review. Consumer reviewers are nominated by an advocacy or support organization and are selected on the basis of their leadership skills, commitment to advocacy, and interest in science. Consumers augment the peer review by bringing the patient perspective to the assessment of science and to the relevance of research.

Panel members rate each proposal based on specific evaluation criteria developed for each award mechanism (see below). Two types of ratings are used. First, each of the evaluation criteria, except for the budget, is rated on a scale of 1 (lowest merit) to 10 (highest merit). This criteria scoring ensures that each component is considered in peer review. Second, the overall proposal is given a global priority score using a scale of 1 (highest merit) to 5 (lowest merit). Criteria scores are neither averaged nor mathematically manipulated to determine the global priority score. Instead, reviewers use the criteria scores as a guide in determining the global priority score. In rare instances, a proposal may be disapproved at peer review if

gravely hazardous or unethical procedures are involved, or if the proposal is so seriously flawed that its completion is implausible.

The peer review summary statement is a product of scientific peer review. Each summary statement includes the peer review scores and an evaluation of the project as assessed by the peer reviewers according to the evaluation criteria published in this program announcement.

**3. Programmatic Review:** The second tier is programmatic review. Programmatic review is accomplished by the IP, which is composed of scientists, clinicians, and consumer advocates. The scientific members of the IP represent diverse disciplines and specialty areas, and the consumer members represent national advocacy constituencies. One of the functions of programmatic review is to maintain a broad portfolio of grants across all disciplines. Programmatic review is a comparison-based process in which proposals from multiple research areas compete in a common pool. IP members primarily use the peer review summary statements and the proposal abstracts. *Note that the Proposal Relevance Statement for Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Awards will be available for programmatic review.* SOWs may also be reviewed. Full proposals are not forwarded to programmatic review.

HBCU/MI proposals will be reviewed concurrently with all others in the same research area during scientific peer review, but may be evaluated separately during programmatic review. Consistent with the CDMRP's goal, recommendations for funding HBCU/MI submissions will be based on scientific excellence and program relevance.

## **B. Review Criteria**

**1. Peer Review:** Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Award proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **Candidate:** Do the candidate's achievements to date (based on his or her background, academic performance, awards, and honors) make him or her stand out from his or her peers? Does the candidate show exceptional potential for an independent career at the forefront of breast cancer research after completing this project? Is the candidate well qualified for multidisciplinary postdoctoral training? What are the candidate's research plans after completing this project? Has the candidate demonstrated a strong personal commitment to pursuing a career in breast cancer research? Do the letters of recommendation support the candidate's abilities and potential for a productive research career in breast cancer?
- **Mentor(s):** Is a primary mentor listed, and will this mentor assume responsibility for overseeing the team-oriented multidisciplinary training and experience of the candidate? Does the proposal include letters of support from mentors representing each major discipline addressed by the candidate's research and training program? Do the mentors have experience in breast cancer research? Does each mentor have the background, qualifications, research resources, and time needed to supervise the candidate's training program? Does each mentor have previous research training experience with doctoral students, fellows, residents, etc.? Does each mentor identify



diverse, well-qualified faculty to provide additional training opportunities? Is a description of interactions and communications with the mentors and other faculty

members provided? Do the mentors indicate a commitment to team-oriented research and training for the candidate?

- **Multidisciplinary Training and Environment:** Does the applicant provide a detailed training plan? Does the training plan describe the interactions among the mentors and between the mentors and the applicant? Does the multidisciplinary training program offer a structured, well-rounded, team-oriented experience in more than one approach to breast cancer research? Does the multidisciplinary program support opportunities for collaboration and communication with various members of the training faculty? Will the training result in a valuable experience for the applicant in preparing him or her for an independent career in breast cancer research? Will the training take place in an environment appropriate to accomplishing the candidate's goals? Is evidence that the research requirements are adequately supported by the scientific environment, resources, and collaborative arrangements proposed provided? Does the proposal provide evidence of a strong institutional commitment to research training in breast cancer?
- **Relevance:** Does the training relate to an important problem in breast cancer research? Is the proposed research likely to train and encourage the candidate to pursue a career at the forefront of breast cancer research? If the aims of the training are achieved, will the results of the training and research benefit breast cancer research? Does the proposal make a convincing case for the relevance of the research to breast cancer? Does the proposal describe how this approach will advance progress toward the eradication of breast cancer?
- **Research Strategy:** Does the research strategy integrate two or more major disciplines into the aims of the project in sufficient depth that publications relevant to these disciplines could result? Are the conceptual framework, hypotheses, design, methods, and analyses developed adequately and well integrated into the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative methods or tactics? Has a sound scientific rationale been presented through a critical review and analysis of the literature, logical reasoning, and/or the use of preliminary data? If the research plan requires statistical analysis, does the proposal include a clear statistical plan with power analysis?
- **Innovation:** Is the proposed research innovative in study concept or question, research methods or technologies, clinical interventions, adaptations of existing methods or technologies, or other ways? Does the proposal draw on expertise from diverse fields, employ novel approaches or methods, and/or challenge existing assumptions and paradigms?
- **Budget:** Is the budget appropriate for the work proposed? Are the overall financial resources sufficient to support the proposed research?

**2. Programmatic Review:** The ratings and evaluations of scientific peer review panels are primary factors in programmatic review. The IP also considers other criteria to maintain the BCRP's broad portfolio. The criteria the IP uses to make funding recommendations are:

- Ratings and evaluations of the scientific peer review panels,
- Programmatic relevance,
- Relative innovation,
- Program portfolio balance, and
- Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism.

Scientifically sound proposals that best fulfill the above criteria and most effectively address the unique focus and goals of the program are selected by the IP and recommended to the Commanding General, USAMRMC, for funding.

## **VII. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

**A. Award Notices:** After the two-tier evaluation process is completed, every applicant will receive notification of the award status of his or her proposal and a copy of the peer review summary statement. Applicants can expect to be notified of the agency's decision in November 2005.

**B. Administrative Requirements:** All awards are made to organizations, not individuals. A PI should submit a proposal through, and be employed by or affiliated with, a university, college, nonprofit research institution, commercial firm, or government agency (including military laboratories) to receive support. To be eligible for an award, a prospective recipient should meet certain minimum standards pertaining to institutional support, financial resources, prior record of performance, integrity, organization, experience, operational controls, facilities, and conformance with safety and environmental statutes and regulations (OMB Circular A-110 and DOD Grant and Agreement Regulations). *Any organization requesting receipt of an award from this announcement must be registered in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database. Access to the CCR online registration is through the CCR homepage at <http://www.ccr.gov>.*

**Any change in the institution and/or the SOW will require the PI to resubmit contact information.** Any delay in the submission of updated information could result in a delay in the contracting and regulatory review and a subsequent delay in payment.

***The transfer of funds from one PI to another is not allowed under the Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Award mechanism.*** Should the PI move to another institution, the US Army reserves the right to transfer the existing award to the new institution. ***However, the Government strongly discourages transferring any award that includes a Phase I, Phase II, or Phase III clinical trial.***

**C. Award Negotiation:** Award negotiation consists of discussions, reviews, and justifications of critical issues involving the USAMRAA. A Contract Specialist and/or representative from the

USAMRAA will contact the Contract Representative from the Sponsored Programs Office (or equivalent) who is authorized to negotiate contracts and grants at the applicant's institution. As part of the negotiation process, additional documentation and justifications related to the budget may be required.

Note that the award start date will be determined during the negotiation process.

#### **D. Regulatory Review**

**1. Overview:** Concurrent with the USAMRAA negotiation, the Office of Surety, Safety and Environment will review the Certificate of Environmental Compliance and the Principal Investigator Safety Program Assurance form submitted with the proposal. The applicable USAMRMC regulatory office will review documents related to research involving animal use, human subjects/anatomical substance use, and cadaver use submitted upon request to ensure that Army regulations are met.

**2. Certificate of Environmental Compliance:** The [Certificate of Environmental Compliance](#) must be submitted with the proposal. If multiple research sites/institutions are funded in your proposal, then a Certificate of Environmental Compliance for each site will be requested at a later date.

**3. Safety Program Documents:** The [Principal Investigator Safety Program Assurance form](#) must be submitted with the proposal.

A Facility Safety Plan is also required and will be requested at a later date. However, your institution may already have an approved Facility Safety Plan. To determine the status of approval, check the USAMRMC website at <https://mrmc.detrick.army.mil/crprcqsodhfsplan.asp>. If your institution is not listed on the aforementioned website, contact your Facility Safety Director/Manager to initiate completion of the institution-based Facility Safety Plan. Specific requirements for the Safety Program Plan can be found at <https://mrmc.detrick.army.mil/docs/rcq/FY02FSPAppendix.doc>.

If multiple research sites/institutions are funded in your proposal, then a Facility Safety Plan for each site/institution not listed in the aforementioned website will be requested at a later date.

**4. Research Involving Animal Use:** Animal use documents should not be submitted with the proposal and will be requested at a later date. Specific requirements for research involving animals can be found at <https://mrmc.detrick.army.mil/docs/rcq/FY05AnimalAppendix.doc>.

**5. Research Involving Human Subjects/Anatomical Substances/Cadavers:** (See Subsection V.H for information pertaining to the submission of documents related to the use of human subjects, human anatomical substances, and/or cadavers.) In addition to local Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval to conduct research involving human subjects and/or anatomical substances or cadavers, a second tier of IRB review and approval is also

required by the DOD. This second review is conducted by the Human Subjects Research Review Board (HSRRB), which is administered by the USAMRMC Office of Research Protections (formerly Regulatory Compliance and Quality). The HSRRB is mandated to comply with specific laws and directives governing all research involving human subjects that is conducted or supported by the DOD. These laws and directives are rigorous and detailed and will require information in addition to that supplied to the local review board. For example:

Intent to Benefit. Before writing a research protocol, investigators must consider the requirements of Title 10 United States Code 980, which are applicable to DOD-sponsored research. Title 10 United States Code 980 requires that “Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense may not be used for research involving a human being as an experimental subject unless (1) the informed consent of the subject is obtained in advance; or (2) in the case of research intended to be beneficial to the subject, the informed consent may be obtained from a legal representative of the subject.”

Furthermore and consistent with the Common Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects, if an individual cannot give his or her own consent to participate in a research study, consent of the individual’s legally authorized representative must be obtained prior to the individual’s participation in the research. Moreover, an individual not legally competent to consent (e.g., incapacitated individuals, incompetents, minors) may not be enrolled in DOD-sponsored research unless the research is intended to benefit each subject enrolled in the study. For example, a subject may benefit directly from medical treatment or surveillance beyond the standard of care. Investigators should be aware that this law makes placebo-controlled clinical trials problematic because of the “intent to benefit” requirement whenever participation is sought of subjects from whom consent must be obtained by the legally authorized representative.

Specific requirements for research involving human subjects, human anatomical substances, and/or cadavers can be found at

[https://mrmc.detrick.army.mil/docs/rcq/HumanSubjectsAppendix\(13May04\).doc](https://mrmc.detrick.army.mil/docs/rcq/HumanSubjectsAppendix(13May04).doc).

An informed consent form template can be located at

<https://mrmc.detrick.army.mil/docs/rcq/Proconsent/ConsentFormGuidelines.doc>.

**6. Award/Regulatory Approval:** Once an award is made, the applicant may not use, employ, or subcontract for the use of any human subjects, human anatomical substances/cadavers, or laboratory animals without written approval from the applicable USAMRMC regulatory office. The applicable USAMRMC regulatory office will forward applied-for written approvals directly to the applicant.

**E. Reporting:** All research awards will require the timely delivery of several reports during the research effort.

**1. Progress Report Requirements:** Reporting requirements consist of an annual report (for each year of effort) that presents a detailed summary of training, and scientific issues and accomplishments. *Failure to submit timely progress reports on or before the required deadline may result in a delay in or termination of award funding.*

**2. Fiscal Report Requirements:** Quarterly fiscal report requirements may include the Standard Form Report, SF 272, Federal Cash Transaction, used for grants and cooperative agreements to track the expenditure of funds on the research project.

## VIII. OTHER INFORMATION

**A. Disclosure of Proprietary Information outside the Government:** By submission of a proposal, the applicant understands that proprietary information may be disclosed outside the Government for the sole purpose of technical evaluation. The USAMRMC will obtain a written agreement from the evaluator that proprietary information in the proposal will only be used for evaluation purposes and will not be further disclosed or used. Funded proposals may be subject to public release under the Freedom of Information Act; proposals that are not selected for funding will not be subject to public release.

**B. Government Obligation:** Applicants are cautioned that only an appointed Contracting/Grants Officer may obligate the Government to the expenditure of funds. No commitment on the part of the Government to fund preparation of a proposal or to support research should be inferred from discussions with a technical project officer. Applicants who, or organizations that, make financial or other commitments for a research effort in the absence of an actual legal obligation signed by the USAMRAA Contracting/Grants Officer do so at their own risk.

**C. Information Service:** Offerors may use the technical reference facilities of the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161, for the purpose of surveying existing knowledge and avoiding needless duplication of scientific and engineering effort and the expenditure thereby represented. To the extent practical, all other sources should also be consulted for the same purpose.

**D. Inquiry Review Panel:** Applicants can submit a letter of inquiry to the USAMRMC in response to funding decisions made for a given proposal. Members of the CDMRP staff, the USAMRMC Judge Advocate General staff, and USAMRAA Grants Officers constitute an Inquiry Review Panel and review each inquiry to determine whether factual or procedural errors in either peer or programmatic review have occurred, and if so, what action should be taken.

**E. Title to Inventions and Patents:** In accordance with the Bayh-Dole Act (35 USC 200 et seq.<sup>2</sup>), title to inventions and patents resulting from such federally funded research may be held by the grantee or its collaborator, but the U.S. Government shall, at a minimum, retain nonexclusive rights for the use of such inventions. An investigator must follow

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<sup>2</sup>Title 35, United States Code, Section 200 et seq.

the instructions in the assistance agreement concerning license agreements and patents.

**F. J-1 Visa Waiver:** It is the responsibility of the awardee to ensure that the research staff is able to complete the work without intercession by the DOD for a J-1 Visa Waiver on behalf of a foreign national in the United States under a J-1 Visa.

## **IX. ACRONYM LIST**

AVI	Audio Video Interleave
BCRP	Breast Cancer Research Program
CCR	Central Contractor Registration
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFDA	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance
DOD	Department of Defense
FAR	Federal Acquisition Regulations
FY	Fiscal Year
HBCU/MI	Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions
HSRRB	Human Subjects Research Review Board
IP	Integration Panel
IRB	Institutional Review Board
M	Million
MPA	Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Award
MPEG	Moving Picture Experts Group
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
PDF	Portable Document Format
PI	Principal Investigator
SOW	Statement of Work
USAMRAA	US Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity
USAMRMC	US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
USC	United States Code
WAV	Wave