Program Announcement

Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Breast Cancer Research Program

Era of Hope Scholar Award

Funding Opportunity Number: W81XWH-10-BCRP-EOHS

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I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Program Description

The Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) was established in fiscal year 1992 (FY92) to promote innovative research focused on eradicating breast cancer. Appropriations for the BCRP from FY92 through FY09 totaled over $2.3 billion. The FY10 appropriation is $150 million (M).

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 that have the potential to make a significant impact on breast cancer, particularly those involving multidisciplinary and/or multi-institutional collaborations. The BCRP encourages risk-taking research; however, all projects must demonstrate solid judgment and rationale.

B. Award Description

The BCRP Era of Hope Scholar Award mechanism was first offered in FY04. Since that time, 126 Era of Hope Scholar Award proposals have been received, and 27 have been recommended for funding. The Era of Hope Scholar Award supports individuals who are early in their careers and have high potential for innovation in breast cancer research. These individuals should be exceptionally talented scientists who have demonstrated that they are the "best and brightest" in their field(s) through extraordinary creativity, vision, and productivity. They also should exhibit strong potential for leadership in the breast cancer research community, and be able to articulate a vision for the eradication of breast cancer. Individuals should challenge current dogma and demonstrate an ability to look beyond tradition and convention.

The Era of Hope Scholar Award applications must focus on the Principal Investigator's (PI) record of creative and original accomplishments, potential for leadership in the breast cancer research community, and vision for eradicating breast cancer. These aspects of the application will receive significant consideration in the review process in addition to the proposed research project.

Experience in breast cancer research is not required; however, the application should focus on breast cancer research, and the PI must commit at least 50% of his/her full-time professional effort during the award period to breast cancer research.

C. Eligibility

PIs must be independent, non-mentored investigators within 6 years of their last mentored position as of the application submission deadline. Postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows (including residents and interns), and other "mentored" researchers are not eligible for this award. Refer to General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for general eligibility information.

D. Funding

- The maximum period of performance is **5** years.

- The maximum allowable funding for the entire period of performance is **$2.5M** in direct costs.

- The applicant may request the entire maximum direct cost amount for a project that may be less than the maximum 5-year period of performance.

- Regardless of the period of performance proposed, the applicant may not exceed the maximum direct cost. In addition to the direct costs, indirect costs may be proposed in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate agreement.

Within the guidelines provided in the General Application Instructions, funds can cover:

- Salary

- Research supplies

- Equipment

- Clinical costs

- Training

- Workshops

- Support for multidisciplinary collaborations

- Travel between collaborating organizations

- Travel costs of up to $3,600 per year to attend scientific/technical meetings

- Other direct costs as described in the General Application Instructions for the Detailed Budget and Justification.

In addition, funding must be requested for the PI to attend one 3½-day Department of Defense BCRP Era of Hope meeting, which is held to disseminate the results of BCRP-sponsored research. Era of Hope Scholar Award recipients must also request funding for attendance at the annual 1½-day LINKS (Leading Innovative Networking and Knowledge Sharing) meeting along with BCRP Innovator Award recipients, the BCRP Integration Panel (IP), and CDMRP staff for the purpose of open communication and mutual benefit.

The Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) expects to allot approximately $18.8M of the $150M FY10 BCRP appropriation to fund approximately five Era of Hope Scholar Award applications, depending on the quality and number of applications received. Funding of applications received in response to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity is contingent upon the availability of Federal funds for this program.

E.   Award Administration

Awards will be made approximately 4 to 6 months after receiving a funding notification letter, but no later than September 30, 2011. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, for general award administration information.

II. TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

- **Pre-application Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (ET), March 24, 2010**

- **Confidential Letters of Recommendation: 5:00 p.m. ET, April 7, 2010**

- **Application Submission Deadline: 11:59 p.m. ET, April 7, 2010**

- **Scientific Peer Review: May 2010**

- **Programmatic Review, Stage 1:   July 2010**

- **Invitation for Oral Presentation: July 2010**

- **Programmatic Review, Stage 2:   September 16, 2010**

Application submissions will not be accepted unless the pre-application process is completed by the pre-application deadline.

III. SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submission is a two-step process requiring both (1) pre-application submission through the CDMRP eReceipt system (https://cdmrp.org/) and (2) application submission through Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov/).

Submission of the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year is discouraged. The Government reserves the right to reject duplicative applications.

PIs and organizations identified in the application should be the same as those identified in the pre-application. No change in PI will be allowed after the pre-application deadline. If a change in organization is necessary after submission of the pre-application, the PI must contact the eReceipt help desk at help@cdmrp.org or 301-682-5507.

A.   Step 1 – Pre-Application Components

All pre-application components must be submitted through the CDMRP eReceipt system by *5:00 p.m. ET on the deadline*.

The pre-application consists of the following components, which are organized in the CDMRP eReceipt system by separate tabs: (Refer to the General Application Instructions for additional information on pre-application submission.)

- **Proposal Information – Tab 1**

- **Proposal Contacts – Tab 2**

- **Collaborators and Conflicts of Interest – Tab 3**

- **Required Files – Tab 4**

Letter of Intent (LOI) Narrative (one-page limit): Provide a brief description of the research to be conducted. LOI Narratives are used for program planning purposes only (e.g., reviewer recruitment) and *will not be reviewed* during either the peer or programmatic review sessions.

List of Individuals Providing Confidential Letters of Recommendation: Enter into the appropriate data fields the names, position titles, email addresses, and phone numbers for three individuals who will provide letters of recommendation. Each individual will receive an email generated from the CDMRP eReceipt system containing specific instructions on how to upload his/her letter.

- **Submit Pre-application – Tab 5**

- **Other Documents Tab**

  Not applicable.

B.   Step 2 – Application Components

Applications are submitted by the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) through Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov/). Applications must be submitted **by *11:59 p.m. ET on the deadline.***

Each application submission must include the completed application package of forms and attachments identified in Grants.gov for this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

The Grants.gov application package consists of the following components (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.B., for additional information on application submission.):

1. **SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance Form:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.B., for detailed information.

2. **Attachments Form**

   - **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (5-page limit):** Upload as "ProjectNarrative.pdf."

     The content should clearly state your *vision for the eradication of breast cancer* and *why you, the PI, should be considered for this unique award,* and should address the following items specifically.

     ○ What is your vision for the eradication of breast cancer? Include your current research goals (without listing specific projects) and how these goals might change should you receive this award. Explain how these plans/goals are innovative.

     o What have you accomplished that demonstrates your extraordinary creativity, vision, and productivity? Have these accomplishments had an impact beyond your own laboratory or research setting into the broader scientific, clinical, and/or patient community?

- o What experience do you have that suggests a strong potential for leadership in the breast cancer research community?

- o How would you bring your creative energy and experience together to make an impact on breast cancer?

- o Describe the environment in which you work. How will this environment facilitate your development as an innovator and leader in breast cancer research?

- o Describe the proposed research team and discuss how their particular talents will contribute to the success of the project.

- o What are your long-term career goals, and how would these be affected by receiving this award?

- o Aside from funding, what barriers exist that could inhibit your research and career goals, and what strategies will you employ to overcome these barriers? How would this award aid you in overcoming these barriers?

- ○ What inspired you to pursue innovative, high-risk research rather than pursuing more traditional research?

- **Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation.** Start each document on a new page. Combine and upload as a single file named "Support.pdf." If documents are scanned to pdf, the lowest resolution (100 to 150 dpi) should be used. *Each component has no page limit unless otherwise noted.*

  - ○ References Cited: 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). The inclusion of Internet URLs to references is encouraged.

  - ○ List of Acronyms and Symbols: Provide a list of acronyms and symbols (e.g., PCR = polymerase chain reaction).

  - ○ Facilities, Existing Equipment, and Other Resources: Describe the facilities and equipment available for performance of the proposed project, and any additional facilities or equipment proposed for acquisition at no cost to the US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC). Indicate if Government-owned facilities or equipment are proposed for use. Reference should be made to the original or present contract under which the facilities or equipment items are now accountable. There is no form for this information.

  - ○ Publications and/or Patent Abstracts (five-document limit): Include relevant publication URLs and/or patent abstracts. If publications are not publicly available, then they must be included. Extra items will not be reviewed.

- ○ Letters of Organizational Support: Provide a letter (or letters if applicable), signed by the Department Chair or appropriate organization official, indicating the level of commitment to supporting the PI in the execution of this award. The letter should reflect the availability of laboratory space, equipment, and other resources and also include the extent to which the PI will be relieved of academic, clinical, or administrative responsibilities and allowed at least 50% protected time for breast cancer research.

  - ○ Letters of Collaboration (if applicable) (two-page limit per letter): Provide a signed letter from each collaborating individual or organization that will demonstrate that the PI has the support and resources necessary for the proposed work.

  - ○ Intellectual and Material Property Plan (if applicable): Provide a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations.

- **Attachment 3: Technical Abstract (one-page limit):**

  Not required at this time. Leave Attachment 3 space blank.

- **Attachment 4: Public Abstract (one-page limit):**

  Not required at this time. Leave Attachment 4 space blank.

- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (SOW) (three-page limit):**

  Not required at this time. Leave Attachment 5 space blank.

- **Attachment 6: Detailed Budget and Justification:** Upload as "Budget.pdf." Use the Detailed Budget and Justification form (available for download on the Full Announcement page in Grants.gov). Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.B., for detailed information.

- **Attachment 7: Subaward Detailed Budget and Justification (if applicable):** Use a separate Detailed Budget and Justification form for each subaward budget. Combine into a single file and upload as "SubBudgets.pdf." Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.B., for detailed information.

3. Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) Form: Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.B., for detailed information.

- PI Biographical Sketch (no page limit)
- PI Current/Pending Support (no page limit)
- Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (four-page limit each)
- Key Personnel Current/Pending Support (no page limit)

4. Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form: Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.B., for detailed information.

Additional Application Components: In addition to the completed Grants.gov application package of forms and attachments, BCRP Era of Hope Scholar Award applications also require the following components:

1. **Confidential Letters of Recommendation (three letters total, two-pages each):**
Three confidential letters of recommendation must be submitted by the individuals designated during the pre-application process. All letters must be submitted electronically through the CDMRP eReceipt system by *5:00 p.m. ET on the application deadline*. The PI should monitor whether the letters have been received; however, the PI is not able to view these letters. If confidential letters of recommendation cannot be submitted by the individuals named in the pre-application, the PI should contact the CDMRP eReceipt help desk at help@cdmrp.org or 301-682-5507.

    Each letter should describe the PI's unique qualifications and accomplishments that highlight his/her potential for success in pursuing highly innovative research avenues. Specifically, each letter should offer the writer's perspective on the PI's:

    - Creative and original accomplishments,

    - Likelihood of continued innovation and productivity,

    - Potential for leadership in the breast cancer research community,

    - Likelihood of establishing a successful career at the forefront of breast cancer research; and

    - Ability to manage the technical and administrative aspects of this award.

2. **Oral Presentation:** PIs whose applications are selected for Programmatic Review, Stage 2, will be invited to give an oral presentation that will be held in the Baltimore/Washington, DC area on or about September 16, 2010. Each presentation will include a 10-minute talk by the PI, followed by a 20-minute question and answer session with Integration Panel members.

    The following questions will be the topics for discussion during the PI's talk and the question and answer session. PIs who are invited should prepare a presentation consisting of no more than 4 slides that specifically address these questions:

    - What are the conceptual or intellectual barriers that you consider the most urgent to overcome to eradicate breast cancer?

    - How does your vision for breast cancer challenge current dogma and look beyond tradition and convention?

    - How do you envision your research contributing to the next leap forward in our understanding of how to treat or prevent breast cancer?

    - What challenges do you expect to encounter in your research efforts, and why do you believe the potential payoff of your research outweighs the perceived risks?

IV. INFORMATION FOR APPLICATION REVIEW

A. Application Review and Selection Overview

All applications are evaluated by scientists, clinicians, and consumer advocates using a two-tier review process. The first tier is a scientific peer review of applications against established criteria for determining scientific merit. The second tier is a programmatic review that compares applications to each other and makes recommendations for funding to the Commanding General, USAMRMC, based on scientific merit, the overall goals of the program, and specific intent of the award mechanism. Additional information about the two-tier review process used by the CDMRP may be found at http://cdmrp.army.mil/fundingprocess

All CDMRP review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the merit-based selection process. Each level of review requires panelists to sign a nondisclosure statement attesting that application and evaluation information will not be disclosed outside the panel. Violations of the non-disclosure statement can result in the dissolving of a panel(s) and other corrective actions. Organizational personnel and PIs are prohibited from contacting persons involved in the review process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process. Violations of these prohibitions will result in the administrative withdrawal of the organization's application. Violations by panelists or PIs that compromise the confidentiality of the review process may also result in suspension or debarment of their employing organizations from Federal awards. Furthermore, it is a crime for Federal officials to disclose confidential information of one party to another third party (Title 18 United States Code 1905).

B. Review Criteria

1. Peer Review: All applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria, which are of equal importance:

- **Principal Investigator**
  - How the PI's record of accomplishment supports his/her future abilities as an independent and visionary scholar/investigator.
  - How the proposal provides sufficient evidence to suggest that the PI will become a leader in the field of breast cancer research.
  - How the letters of recommendation support the PI as one of the "best and brightest" in his/her field and as a future leader in breast cancer.

- **Accomplishments**
  - How the PI's work has challenged the status quo and/or resulted in a significant effect on the broader scientific, clinical, and/or patient community.
  - Whether any products, patents, or licenses have resulted from the PI's work.
  - Whether the PI's work has resulted in publications in high-impact journals and/or presentations at international scientific meetings.

- ○ Whether the PI has received awards or other forms of acknowledgment for his/her achievements.
- **Vision and Ideas**
  - ○ How the PI's research goals and vision for the eradication of breast cancer suggest innovative, creative thinking that is not hindered by convention.
  - ○ How the PI communicates a clear vision of what he/she hopes to accomplish during the tenure of the award.
- **Project Impact**
  - ○ How the project addresses an important problem(s) in breast cancer.
  - ○ Whether the PI presents a clear and compelling argument for how this award will be used to pursue creative and potentially groundbreaking work in breast cancer.
  - ○ How the PI's goals have the potential to significantly impact breast cancer.
  - ○ How the letters of recommendation suggest that the PI could direct his/her creative energy to significantly impact breast cancer.
- **Personnel and Environment**
  - ○ How well the PI describes his/her plans to assemble a team of researchers with the appropriate expertise to accomplish the project goals.
  - ○ How the application indicates that the environment will facilitate the PI's growth as an emerging innovator and leader.
  - ○ Whether appropriate documentation of institutional support reflects the extent to which the PI will be relieved of academic or administrative responsibilities and allowed to pursue his/her goals.
  - ○ Whether the PI indicates that he/she will commit at least 50% effort during the award period to breast cancer research.
  - ○ Whether the PI has the necessary technical and administrative experience and/or ability to manage this award.
- **Eligibility**
  - ○ Whether the PI meets the eligibility requirements.
- **Budget**
  - ○ Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research and within the limitations of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.
- **Application Presentation**
  - ○ How the writing and components of the application influenced the review.

2. **Programmatic Review:** The following criteria are used by programmatic reviewers to make funding recommendations.

Stage 1 - During the first stage of programmatic review, applications will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- Evaluations of the peer reviewers
- Programmatic relevance
- Relative innovation
- Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism

Stage 2 - Applications that best meet the Stage 1 programmatic review criteria will be selected for the second stage, which will consist of an oral presentation. During Stage 2, the following criteria will be used:

- Vision and leadership demonstrated in addressing the four discussion questions

V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

After receipt of applications from Grants.gov, the following administrative actions may occur:

A. Rejection

The following will result in administrative rejection of the application:

- Project Narrative exceeds page limit.
- Project Narrative is missing.
- Budget is missing.
- Page size is larger than 8.5 inches x 11.0 inches (approximately 21.59 cm x 27.94 cm).
- Pre-application is not submitted.

B. Modifications

- Pages exceeding the specified limits will be removed prior to review for all documents other than the Project Narrative.
- Documents not requested will be removed.
- Following the application deadline, you may be contacted by CDMRP via email with a request to provide certain missing supporting documents (excluding those listed in Section V-A, Rejection). The missing documents must be provided by 5:00 p.m. ET on the second full business day following the date the email was sent. Otherwise, the application will be reviewed as submitted.

C. Withdrawal

The following may result in administrative withdrawal of the application:

- FY10 BCRP Integration Panel (IP) member(s) is found to be involved in the preapplication or application processes including, but not limited to, concept design, application development, budget preparation, and the development of any supporting document. A list of the FY10 BCRP IP members may be found at http://cdmrp.army.mil/bcrp/panel10

- Submission of the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.

- The application does not conform to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity description to an extent that precludes appropriate review.

- Direct costs as shown on the detailed budget form exceed maximum allowed by this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

- Inclusion of URLs with the exception of links to published references.

- The PI does not meet the eligibility criteria as described in this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

D. Withhold

Applications that appear to involve research misconduct will be administratively withheld from further consideration pending institutional investigation. The institution will be requested to provide the findings of the investigation to the US Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA) Contracting/Grants Officer for a determination of the final disposition of the application.

VI.   CONTACT INFORMATION

A.   CDMRP Program Announcement Help Desk: Questions related to Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity content or submission requirements should be directed to the CDMRP Program Announcement help desk, which is available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET. Submit questions as early as possible. Response times will vary depending upon the volume of inquiries. Every effort will be made to answer questions within 5 working days.

Phone: 301-619-7079
Email: cdmrp.pa@amedd.army.mil

B.   CDMRP eReceipt System Help Desk: Questions related to the submission of the pre-application through the eReceipt system should be directed to the CDMRP eReceipt system help desk, which is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET.

Phone: 301-682-5507
Email: help@cdmrp.org

C.   Grants.gov Contact Center: Questions related to application submission through the Grants.gov portal should be directed to Grants.gov help desk, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please note that the CDMRP Program Announcement and eReceipt system help desks are unable to provide technical assistance regarding Grants.gov submissions.

Phone: 800-518-4726
Email: support@grants.gov

Sign up on Grants.gov for "send me change notification emails" by following the link on the Synopsis page for the Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. If the application package is updated or changed, the original version of the application package may not be accepted by Grants.gov.

VII. APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Grants.gov Application Components	Action	Completed
SF-424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance Form	Complete form as instructed	
Attachments Form	Upload Project Narrative (ProjectNarrative.pdf) as Attachment 1	
	Upload Supporting Documentation (Support.pdf) as Attachment 2	
	Technical Abstract not required with submission. Leave Attachment 3 space blank.	N/A
	Public Abstract not required with submission. Leave Attachment 4 space blank.	N/A
	Statement of Work not required with submission. Leave Attachment 5 space blank.	N/A
	Upload Detailed Budget and Justification (Budget.pdf) as Attachment 6	
	Upload Subaward Detailed Budget and Justification (SubBudgets.pdf) as Attachment 7 (if applicable)	
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	Attach PI Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field	
	Attach PI Current & Pending Support (Support_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field	
	Attach Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field	
	Attach Current & Pending Support (Support_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field	
Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form	Complete form as instructed	
Additional Application Components	**Action**	**Completed**
Confidential Letters of Recommendation	Confirm upload to CDMRP eReceipt System	
Oral Presentation	Confirm ability to give an oral presentation in the Baltimore/Washington, DC, area on or about September 16, 2010 (if selected for Stage 2)	