

# **I. OVERVIEW OF THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

**Program Announcement for the Department of Defense**

**Defense Health Program**

**Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs**

**Melanoma Research Program**

**Melanoma Academy Scholar Award**

**Announcement Type: Modified**

**Funding Opportunity Number: W81XWH-21-MRP-MASA**

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 12.420 Military Medical  
Research and Development**

## **SUBMISSION AND REVIEW DATES AND TIMES**

- **Pre-Application Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (ET), August 4, 2021
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, August 26, 2021
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, August 31, 2021
- **Peer Review:** October 2021
- **Programmatic Review:** January 2022

*This program announcement must be read in conjunction with the General Application Instructions, version 605. The General Application Instructions document is available for downloading from the Grants.gov funding opportunity announcement by selecting the “Package” tab, clicking “Preview,” and then selecting “Download Instructions.”*

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## **II. DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

### **II.A. Program Description**

Applications to the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Melanoma Research Program (MRP) are being solicited by the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA) using delegated authority provided by United States Code, Title 10, Section 2358 (10 USC 2358). The execution management agent for this program announcement is the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). The MRP was initiated in 2019 to provide support for research of exceptional scientific merit in the field of melanoma. Appropriations for the MRP from FY19 through FY20 totaled \$30 million (M). The FY21 appropriation is \$30M.

*The proposed research must be relevant to active-duty Service Members, Veterans, military beneficiaries, and/or the American public.*

*The vision of the MRP is to prevent melanoma initiation and progression.*

*The mission of the MRP is to promote earlier interventions to enhance mission readiness and to diminish melanoma burden on Service Members, Veterans, and the American public.*

#### **II.A.1. FY21 MRP Challenge Statement and Focus Areas**

*All applications must address the FY21 MRP Challenge Statement.*

**FY21 MRP Challenge Statement:** The Melanoma Research Program (MRP) challenges the research community to redefine the concept of prevention. The clinical, research, and patient communities traditionally view prevention as the use of sunscreen/blockers to protect melanocytes from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation. While recognizing the usefulness of current primary prevention strategies (e.g., sunscreens and UV avoidance), the MRP tasks the research community to redefine prevention to include the entire melanomagenesis process and for all variants of melanoma. In recognizing that melanomagenesis is a multi-step process, a new paradigm of prevention may include detection, monitoring, and impeding the initiation and progression of primary melanoma, blocking emergence from tumor dormancy and development of micro-metastases. Each step along the disease process from initiation to metastasis is an opportunity to detect, monitor, or for innovative therapeutic modalities to stop disease progression. The MRP challenges the research community to prevent melanoma earlier in the disease cycle thus preventing metastasis. The MRP looks to shift the paradigm of prevention of all types of melanoma by investing in research studies focused on eliminating the development and progression of cutaneous or a rare melanoma subtype. For more information on the MRP Challenge Statement, review [https://cdmrp.army.mil/mrp/pdfs/Challenge\\_statement2021.pdf](https://cdmrp.army.mil/mrp/pdfs/Challenge_statement2021.pdf).

*With the exception of those studies investigating rare melanomas, the FY21 MRP is not requesting research into established macrometastatic disease, models of metastatic disease using established cell lines, or treatment of macrometastatic disease. The MRP encourages*

*studies for rare melanomas across the entire spectrum from initiation to distant macro-metastasis.*

*Studies involving non-melanoma skin cancers are not allowed under the FY21 MRP.*

*The MRP strongly encourages the use of Department of Defense (DOD)/Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) databases and participation by DOD/VA investigators.*

**FY21 MRP Focus Areas:** The FY21 MRP Focus Areas promote the role of prevention throughout the disease process. Applicants are encouraged to review the FY21 MRP Landscape: <https://cdmnp.army.mil/mrp/pdfs/Melanoma%20Research%20Program%20Landscape%20Document.pdf>.

To be considered for funding, applications for the MRP FY21 Melanoma Academy Scholar Award **must** address at least one of the following FY21 MRP Focus Areas:

- Identify methods to decrease risk of melanoma development beyond sunscreen and protective clothing.
- Identify and understand risk factor determinants for melanoma, including variants (e.g., uveal, acral, mucosal melanoma).
- Identify how the tumor microenvironment (e.g., stromal, immune, microbiome) impact tumor initiation, response to therapy, progression, and dormancy.
- Understand how precursor lesions and endogenous host factors may lead to melanomagenesis.
- Develop new decision-making tools for the detection and diagnosis of melanoma that includes easily accessible technology (beyond the dermoscope) for primary care physicians and dermatologists.
- Develop prediction and surveillance tools for distinguishing patient at risk for recurrence and/or metastasis. Identify biological determinants to differentiate patient populations.
- Understand mechanisms that underlie metastatic spread to different (regional/nodal) sites or the different distant sites of metastasis from acral, mucosal, and uveal melanomas.
- Delineate the molecular pathways, tumor microenvironment, immune response that influence metastatic spread, recurrence, and/or dormancy.

## **II.B. Award Information**

The MRP Melanoma Academy (MA) is a unique, interactive virtual academy providing intensive monitoring, national networking, collaborations, and a peer group for early-career faculty. The overarching goal of the MA is to develop successful, highly productive melanoma researchers in a collaborative research and career development environment.

The MA is a virtual career development and research training platform that consists of Scholars, and their Career Guides (primary mentors) from different institutions, and an Academy Director and Deputy Director. The MRP Melanoma Academy Scholar Award is not a traditional career development award; the Scholar is expected to participate in monthly webinars and annual workshops and to communicate and collaborate with other members of the Academy (other Scholars, Career Guides, Director, and Deputy Director) as well as with the advocacy community.

The Academy Leadership members (the Director and the Deputy Director) serve as a resource for the Scholars and Career Guides, assessing the progress of Scholars, and facilitating communication and collaboration among all of the Scholars and Career Guides, as well as with national research and advocacy communities. In addition to fostering scientific development, the Academy, through its Leadership, provides for professional and leadership development of the Scholars to include skills and competencies needed to fund and manage a productive laboratory.

This FY21 program announcement is soliciting Scholars to join the Academy. This award mechanism enables the Scholar (the investigator named as the Principal Investigator [PI] on the application) to pursue a melanoma project that may be basic, translational, and/or clinical research, under the guidance of the Career Guide. ***The Career Guide is not required to be at the same institution as the Scholar.*** The Scholar is required to participate in monthly webinars, and the Scholar, with their Career Guide, is required to attend a DOD MRP biennial multi-day Academy workshop. In alternate years, they must also attend a DOD MRP 1-day workshop.

***The MRP encourages applications from Scholars whose ability to commit to conducting melanoma research is limited by minimal resources or a lack of resources, such as a qualified Career Guide at their institution, access to melanoma research tools, opportunities for establishing collaborations, or other obstacles. The MRP also encourages applications from minorities.***

***The critical components of the Melanoma Academy Scholar Award:***

- **Principal Investigator:** The PI must be an early-career researcher or physician-scientist within ***7 years after completion of their terminal degree by the time of the application deadline*** (excluding time spent in residency, clinical training, or on family medical leave). Time spent as a postdoctoral fellow is ***not*** excluded. ***Postdoctoral fellows are not considered independent and are not eligible for this award mechanism.*** The PI's record of accomplishments and the proposed research will be evaluated regarding their potential for contributing to the FY21 MRP Challenge Statement and FY21 MRP Focus Areas in [Section II.A.1](#). Because career development is the focus of this award, the PI's organization must demonstrate a commitment to the PI through confirmation of laboratory space and ***at least 50% protected time*** for melanoma research.
- **Career Guide:** The Scholar must designate a Career Guide. The Career Guide must be an experienced melanoma researcher, as demonstrated by a strong record of funding and publications. In addition, the Career Guide must demonstrate a commitment to advancing the PI's career in melanoma research. ***The Career Guide for applications applying to the***

*MASA must also be committed to fully participating in the MA and serving on the MA Advisory Board as requested by MA Leadership.*

- **Career Development:** A Career Development and Sustainment Plan ([Attachment 6](#)) is required and should be prepared with appropriate guidance from the Career Guide. The career development plan should include a clearly articulated strategy for acquiring the necessary skills, competence, and expertise to advance an independent career at the forefront of melanoma research. The Scholar must show milestones and career pathways toward achieving the milestones. The Scholar must articulate commitment to interactions with the MA.
- **Impact:** The applicant must articulate the potential impact the proposed work will have on melanoma research and/or patient care. Impactful research should accelerate the movement of promising ideas in melanoma research into clinical applications.

Collaborations between researchers at military or Veteran institutions and non-military institutions are strongly encouraged. These relationships can leverage knowledge, infrastructure, and access to unique clinical populations that the partners bring to the research effort, ultimately advancing cancer research that is of significance to the Warfighter, the military, and/or the American public.

The types of awards made under the program announcement will be assistance agreements. An assistance agreement is appropriate when the federal government transfers a “thing of value” to a “state, local government,” or “other recipient” to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States instead of acquiring property or service for the direct benefit and use of the U.S. government. An assistance agreement can take the form of a grant or cooperative agreement. The level of involvement on the part of the DOD during project performance is the key factor in determining whether to award a grant or cooperative agreement. If “no substantial involvement” on the part of the funding agency is anticipated, a grant award will be made (31 USC 6304). Conversely, if substantial involvement on the part of the funding agency is anticipated, a cooperative agreement will be made (31 USC 6305), and the award will identify the specific substantial involvement. Substantial involvement may include, but is not limited to, collaboration, participation, or intervention in the research to be performed under the award. The award type, along with the start date, will be determined during the negotiation process.

A congressionally mandated Metastatic Cancer Task Force was formed with the purpose of identifying ways to help accelerate clinical and translational research aimed at extending the lives of advanced state and recurrent patients. As a member of the Metastatic Cancer Task Force, CDMRP encourages applicants to review the recommendations (<https://health.mil/Reference-Center/Congressional-Testimonies/2018/05/03/Metastatic-Cancer-Research>) and submit research ideas to address these recommendations provided they are within the limitations of this funding opportunity and fit within the FY21 MRP priorities.

The anticipated direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance for an FY21 Melanoma Academy Scholar Award will not exceed **\$500,000**. Refer to [Section II.D.5, Funding Restrictions](#), for detailed funding information.

Awards will be made no later than September 30, 2022. For additional information refer to [Section II.F.1, Federal Award Notices](#).

*The CDMRP expects to allot approximately \$3.20M to fund approximately four Melanoma Academy Scholar Award applications. Funding of applications received is contingent upon the availability of federal funds for this program as well as the number of applications received, the quality and merit of the applications as evaluated by scientific and programmatic review, and the requirements of the government. Funds to be obligated on any award resulting from this funding opportunity will be available for use for a limited time period based on the fiscal year of the funds. It is anticipated that awards made from this FY21 funding opportunity will be funded with FY21 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2027.*

**Research Involving Human Anatomical Substances, Human Subjects, or Human Cadavers:** All DOD-funded research involving new and ongoing research with human anatomical substances, human subjects, or human cadavers must be reviewed and approved by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC) Office of Research Protections (ORP), Human Research Protection Office (HRPO), prior to research implementation. This administrative review requirement is in addition to the local Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Ethics Committee (EC) review. Local IRB/EC approval at the time of submission is *not* required. *Allow a minimum of 2 to 3 months for HRPO regulatory review and approval processes.* Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, and the Human Research Protections Office Resources and Overview document available on the electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP) “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>) for additional information.

If the proposed research is cooperative (i.e., involving more than one institution), a written plan for single IRB review arrangements must be provided at the time of application submission or award negotiation. The lead institution responsible for developing the master protocol and master consent form should be identified and should be the single point of contact for regulatory submissions and requirements.

*Clinical trials are not allowed.*

*A clinical trial is defined* as a research study in which one or more human subjects are prospectively assigned to one or more interventions (which may include placebo or other control) to evaluate the effects of the interventions on biomedical or behavioral health-related outcomes

*Clinical research is defined* as: (1) patient-oriented research. Research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens, and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator (or colleague) directly interacts with human subjects. Excluded from this definition are in vitro studies that utilize human tissues that cannot be linked to a living individual. Patient-oriented research includes: (a) mechanisms of human disease, (b) therapeutic interventions, (c) clinical trials, and (d) development of new technologies; (2) epidemiologic and behavioral studies; and (3) outcomes research and health services research. **Note:** Studies that meet the requirements for IRB Exemption 4 are not considered CDMRP-defined clinical

research. IRB Exemption 4 refers to research involving the collection or study of existing de-identified specimens or data, if these sources are publicly available.

**Use of DOD or Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Resources:** If the proposed research involves access to active-duty military patient populations and/or DOD or VA resources or databases, the application must describe the access at the time of submission and include a plan for maintaining access as needed throughout the proposed research. Refer to [Section II.D.2.b.ii, Full Application Submission Components](#), for detailed information. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional information.

**Research Involving Animals:** All DOD-funded research involving new and ongoing research with animals must be reviewed and approved by the USAMRDC ORP Animal Care and Use Review Office (ACURO), in addition to the local Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of record. IACUC approval at the time of submission is *not* required. ***Allow at least 3 to 4 months for ACURO regulatory review and approval processes for animal studies.*** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional information.

## **II.C. Eligibility Information**

### **II.C.1. Eligible Applicants**

**II.C.1.a. Organization:** All organizations, including foreign organizations, foreign public entities, and international organizations, are eligible to apply.

**Government Agencies Within the United States:** Local, state, and federal government agencies are eligible to the extent that applications do not overlap with their fully funded internal programs. Such agencies are required to explain how their applications do not overlap with their internal programs.

As applications for this program announcement may be submitted by extramural and intramural organizations, these terms are defined below.

**Extramural Organization:** An eligible non-DOD organization. Examples of extramural organizations include academic institutions, biotechnology companies, foundations, federal government organization other than the DOD, and research institutes.

**Intramural DOD Organization:** A DOD laboratory, DOD military treatment facility, and/or DOD activity embedded within a civilian medical center. ***Intramural Submission: Application submitted by a DOD organization for an intramural investigator working within a DOD laboratory or military treatment facility or in a DOD activity embedded within a civilian medical center.***

**USAMRAA makes awards to eligible organizations, not to individuals.**



## II.C.1.b. Principal Investigator

- **Scholar**

- Must be within 7 years of terminal degree as of the full application submission deadline.
  - A Statement of Eligibility is required with the submission of the full application.
  - Time spent as a medical resident, clinical training, or on family medical leave is excluded.
  - Time spent as a postdoctoral research fellow is not excluded.
- May be in a non-tenure track or tenure track position.
- Must not have a concurrent career-development-like award at the time of this award.
- Must have an institutional commitment of 50% protected time for melanoma research and Academy activities including participation in monthly webinars.
- *Individuals in a postdoctoral research position (Ph.D.) or clinical fellowship (M.D.), or equivalent at the time of full application are not eligible.*

- **Career Guide**

- Must be an independent, established melanoma researcher at the level of Associate Professor or equivalent.
- Must have melanoma research funding (past and present).
- Must have a record of melanoma publications in peer-reviewed journals.
- Must demonstrate a commitment to develop and sustain the Scholar's independent career in melanoma research.
- Neither the current Director nor the Deputy Director of the MA can be listed as a Career Guide.
- Be committed to the MA and participate on the MA Advisory Board.

An eligible PI, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or citizenship status, must be employed by, or affiliated with, an eligible organization.

The CDMRP encourages all PIs to participate in a digital identifier initiative through Open Researcher and Contributor ID, Inc. (ORCID). Registration for a unique ORCID identifier can be done online at <https://orcid.org/>.

## **II.C.2. Cost Sharing**

Cost sharing/matching is not an eligibility requirement.

## **II.C.3. Other**

Organizations must be able to access **.gov** and **.mil** websites in order to fulfill the financial and technical deliverable requirements of the award and submit invoices for payment.

For general information on required qualifications for award recipients, refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3.

Refer to [Section II.H.2, Administrative Actions](#), for a list of administrative actions that may be taken if a pre-application or application does not meet the administrative, eligibility, or ethical requirements defined in this program announcement.

## **II.D. Application and Submission Information**

*Submission of applications that are essentially identical or propose essentially the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year is prohibited and will result in administrative withdrawal of the duplicative application(s).*

### *Extramural Submission:*

- Pre-application content and forms must be accessed and submitted at [eBRAP.org](http://eBRAP.org).
- Full application packages must be accessed and submitted at Grants.gov.

### *Intramural DOD Submission:*

- Pre-application content and forms must be accessed and submitted at [eBRAP.org](http://eBRAP.org).
- Full application packages must be accessed and submitted at [eBRAP.org](http://eBRAP.org).

*Note: Applications from an intramural DOD organization or from an extramural federal government organization may be submitted to Grants.gov through a research foundation.*

### **II.D.1. Address to Request Application Package**

eBRAP is a multifunctional web-based system that allows PIs to submit their pre-applications electronically through a secure connection, to view and edit the content of their pre-applications and full applications, to receive communications from the CDMRP, and to submit documentation during award negotiations and period of performance.

Contact information for the CDMRP Help Desk and the Grants.gov Contact Center can be found in [Section II.G, Federal Awarding Agency Contacts](#).

## II.D.2. Content and Form of the Application Submission

Submission is a two-step process requiring both *pre-application* (eBRAP.org) and *full application* (eBRAP.org or Grants.gov) as indicated below. The submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. There are no grace periods. Full application submission guidelines differ for extramural (Grants.gov) and intramural (eBRAP.org) organizations (refer to [Table 1, Full Application Guidelines](#)).

*The application title, eBRAP log number, and all information for the PI, Business Official(s), performing organization, and contracting organization must be consistent throughout the entire pre-application and full application submission process.* Inconsistencies may delay application processing and limit or negate the ability to view, modify, and verify the application in eBRAP. If any changes need to be made, the applicant should contact the CDMRP Help Desk at [help@eBRAP.org](mailto:help@eBRAP.org) or 301-682-5507 prior to the application submission deadline.

### II.D.2.a. Step 1: Pre-Application Submission Content

*The initial release of the MASA PA funding opportunity (W81XWH-21-MRP-MASA) required a pre-application preproposal narrative submission, screening of the pre-application preproposal narrative, and an invitation to submit a full application. This modified version of the funding opportunity requires a letter of intent (LOI) that will be used for administrative purposes only. An invitation to submit a full application is NOT required.*

*During the pre-application process, eBRAP assigns each submission a unique log number. This unique eBRAP log number is required during the full application submission process.*

To begin the pre-application process, first select whether the submitting organization is extramural or intramural, then confirm your selection or cancel. **Incorrect selection of extramural or intramural submission type will delay processing.**

If an error has been made in the selection of extramural versus intramural and the pre-application submission deadline has passed, the PI or Business Official must contact the CDMRP Help Desk at [help@eBRAP.org](mailto:help@eBRAP.org) or 301-682-5507 to request a change in designation.

All pre-application components must be submitted by the PI through eBRAP (<https://eBRAP.org/>).

The applicant organization and associated PI and Career Guide identified in the pre-application should be the same as those intended for the subsequent application submission. If any changes are necessary after submission of the pre-application, the applicant must contact the CDMRP Help Desk at [help@eBRAP.org](mailto:help@eBRAP.org) or 301-682-5507.

PIs with an ORCID identifier should enter that information in the appropriate field in the “My Profile” tab in the “Account Information” section of eBRAP.

The pre-application consists of the following components, which are organized in eBRAP by separate tabs (refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.B, for additional information on pre-application submission):

- **Tab 1 – Application Information**

Submission of application information includes assignment of primary and secondary research classification codes, which may be found at <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review and confirm the codes prior to making their selection.

- **Tab 2 – Application Contacts**

Enter contact information for the PI. Enter the organization’s Business Official responsible for sponsored program administration (the “person to be contacted on matters involving this application” in Block 5 of the Grants.gov SF424 Research & Related Form). The Business Official must be either selected from the eBRAP list or invited in order for the pre-application to be submitted.

Select the performing organization (site at which the PI will perform the proposed work) and the contracting organization (organization submitting on behalf of the PI, which corresponds to Block 5 on the Grants.gov SF424 Research & Related Form), and click on “Add Organizations to this Pre-application.” The organization(s) must be either selected from the eBRAP drop-down list or invited in order for the pre-application to be submitted.

It is recommended that applicants identify an Alternate Submitter in the event that assistance with pre-application submission is needed.

- **Tab 3 – Collaborators and Key Personnel**

Enter the name, organization, and role of all collaborators and key personnel associated with the application.

[FY21 MRP Programmatic Panel members](#) should not be involved in any pre-application or application. For questions related to panel members and pre-applications or applications, refer to [Section II.H.2.c, Withdrawal](#), or contact the CDMRP Help Desk at [help@eBRAP.org](mailto:help@eBRAP.org) or 301-682-5507.

- **Tab 4 – Conflicts of Interest**

List all individuals other than collaborators and key personnel who may have a conflict of interest in the review of the application (including those with whom the PI has a personal or professional relationship).

- **Tab 5 – Pre-Application Files**

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

*New!* An invitation to submit is *not* required.

- **Tab 6 – Submit Pre-Application**

This tab must be completed for the pre-application to be accepted and processed.

**II.D.2.b. Step 2: Full Application Submission Content**

*The CDMRP cannot make allowances/exceptions to its policies for submission problems encountered by the applicant organization using system-to-system interfaces with Grants.gov.*

Each application submission must include the completed full application package for this program announcement. The full application package is submitted by the Authorized Organizational Representative through Grants.gov (<https://www.grants.gov/>) for extramural organizations or through eBRAP (<https://ebrap.org/>) for intramural organizations. See Table 1 below for more specific guidelines.

**II.D.2.b.i. Full Application Guidelines**

Extramural organizations must submit full applications through Grants.gov. Applicants must create a Grants.gov Workspace for submission, which allows the application components to be completed online and routed through the applicant organization for review prior to submission. Applicants may choose to download and save individual PDF forms rather than filling out webforms in Workspace. A compatible version of Adobe Reader **must** be used to view, complete, and submit an application package consisting of PDF forms. If more than one person is entering text into an application package, the *same version* of Adobe Reader software should be used by each person. Check the version number of the Adobe software on each user’s computer to make sure the versions match. Using different versions of Adobe Reader may cause submission and/or save errors – even if each version is individually compatible with Grants.gov. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, and the “Apply For Grants” page of Grants.gov (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html>) for further information about the Grants.gov Workspace submission process. Submissions of extramural applications through eBRAP may be withdrawn.

*Do not password protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.*

**Table 1. Full Application Submission Guidelines**

Extramural Submissions	Intramural DOD Submissions
<b>Application Package Location</b>	
Download application package components for W81XWH-21-MRP-MASA from Grants.gov ( <a href="https://www.grants.gov/">https://www.grants.gov/</a> ) and create a Grants.gov Workspace. Workspace allows online completion of the application components and routing of the application package through the applicant organization for review prior to submission.	Download application package components for W81XWH-21-MRP-MASA from eBRAP ( <a href="https://ebrap.org/">https://ebrap.org/</a> ).

Extramural Submissions	Intramural DOD Submissions
<b>Full Application Package Components</b>	
<p><b>SF424 Research &amp; Related Application for Federal Assistance Form:</b> Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.1, for detailed information.</p>	<p><b>Tab 1 – Summary:</b> Provide a summary of the application information.</p> <p><b>Tab 2 – Application Contacts:</b> This tab will be pre-populated by eBRAP; add Authorized Organizational Representative.</p>
<p>Descriptions of each required file can be found under Full Application Submission Components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Attachments</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Research &amp; Related Personal Data</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Research &amp; Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Research &amp; Related Budget</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Tab 3 – Full Application Files:</b> Upload files under each Application Component in eBRAP. Descriptions of each required file can be found under Full Application Submission Components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Attachments</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Key Personnel</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Budget</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Performance Sites</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Tab 4 – Application and Budget Data:</b> Review and edit proposed project start date, proposed end date, and budget data pre-populated from the Budget Form.</p>
<b>Application Package Submission</b>	
<p><b>Create a Grants.gov Workspace.</b> Add participants (investigators and Business Officials) to Workspace, complete all required forms, and check for errors before submission.</p> <p><b>Submit a Grants.gov Workspace Package.</b> An application may be submitted through Workspace by clicking the “Sign and Submit” button on the “Manage Workspace” page, under the “Forms” tab. Grants.gov recommends submission of the application package <b>at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date</b> to allow time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or if the Project Narrative or the budget needs to be modified, an updated Grants.gov application package must be submitted via Grants.gov as a “Changed/Corrected Application” with the previous Grants.gov Tracking ID <i>prior to</i> the application submission deadline. <b><i>Do not password protect any files of the</i></b></p>	<p><b>Submit package components to eBRAP (<a href="https://ebrap.org">https://ebrap.org</a>).</b></p> <p><b>Tab 5 – Submit/Request Approval Full Application:</b> After all components are uploaded and prior to the full application submission deadline, enter your password in the space provided next to “Enter Your Password Here” and press the “Submit Full Application” button. eBRAP will notify your Resource Manager/ Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official by email. <b><i>Do not password protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.</i></b></p>

Extramural Submissions	Intramural DOD Submissions
<i>application package, including the Project Narrative.</i>	
<u><a href="#">Application Verification Period</a></u>	
<p>The full application package submitted to Grants.gov may be viewed and modified in eBRAP until the end of the application verification period. During the application verification period, the full application package may be modified <i>with the exception of the Project Narrative and Research &amp; Related Budget Form</i>.</p>	<p>After eBRAP has processed the full application, the organizational Resource Manager/Comptroller/ Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official and PI will receive email notification of this status and will be able to view and modify application components in eBRAP. During the application verification period, the full application package may be modified <i>with the exception of the Project Narrative and Research &amp; Related Budget Form</i>. Your Resource Manager/ Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official should log into eBRAP to review and to approve prior to the application verification deadline.</p>
<b>Further Information</b>	
<p><b>Tracking a Grants.gov Workspace Package.</b> After successfully submitting a Workspace package, a Grants.gov Tracking Number is automatically assigned to the package. The number will be listed on the “Confirmation” page that is generated after submission.</p> <p>Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, for further information regarding Grants.gov requirements.</p>	<p>Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV, for further information regarding eBRAP requirements.</p>

The full application package must be submitted using the unique eBRAP log number to avoid delays in application processing.

#### **II.D.2.b.ii. Full Application Submission Components**

- **Extramural Applications Only**

**SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance Form:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.1, for detailed information.

- **Extramural and Intramural Applications**

**Attachments:**

*Each attachment to the full application components must be uploaded as an individual file in the format specified and in accordance with the formatting guidelines listed in the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4.*

For all attachments, ensure that the file names are consistent with the guidance. Attachments will be rejected if the file names are longer than 50 characters or have incorrect file names that contain characters other than the following: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, underscore, hyphen, space, and period. In addition, there are file size limits that may apply in some circumstances. Individual attachments may not exceed 20 MB, and the file size for the entire full application package may not exceed 200 MB.

- **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (12-page limit): Upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf”.** The page limit of the Project Narrative applies to text and non-text elements (e.g., figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, drawings) used to describe the project. Inclusion of URLs that provide additional information to expand the Project Narrative and could confer an unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

- **Scholar’s Career Goals:** Discuss the Scholar’s record of accomplishments (e.g., awards, honors, first author publications, publications in high-impact journals, presentations/speaking engagements, committees, etc.) demonstrating the potential for becoming an established investigator in melanoma research.
- **Research Project and Feasibility:** Present the ideas and strong scientific rationale behind the proposed research; include relevant literature citations. Preliminary data are not required. Concisely explain the project’s specific aims to be funded by this application. Describe the experimental design, methods, and analyses, including appropriate randomization, blinding, sample-size estimation, and controls, in sufficient detail for analysis. Address potential problem areas and present alternative methods and approaches.
  - Describe how data will be collected, handled, and analyzed in a manner that is consistent with the study objectives.
  - Describe the statistical plan including a power analysis to demonstrate that the sample size is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study.
  - If cell lines or animals are to be used, *justify why the proposed cell line(s) or animal model(s) were chosen.*
  - If human subjects, human biological samples, or datasets will be used, describe the study population and include a detailed plan for the recruitment of human



subjects or the acquisition of samples. ***This award cannot be used to conduct clinical trials.***

- Describe the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities appropriate to the objectives of the study, including a description of the composition of the proposed study population in terms of sex/gender, racial, and ethnic group, and an accompanying rationale for the selection of subjects. If women and minorities are excluded, provide a rational justification for the exclusion.
- **Commitment to the MA:** Describe why participation in the MA is important in developing the Scholar’s career. Describe the Scholar’s motivation and commitment to participating in the MA, to include networking and collaborating with the other Scholar/Career Guide pairs and the Academy Leadership.
- **Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation: Combine and upload as a single file named “Support.pdf”.** Start each document on a new page. If documents are scanned to PDF, the lowest resolution (100 to 150 dpi) should be used. The Supporting Documentation attachment should not include additional information such as figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, or drawings. These items should be included in the Project Narrative.

***There are no page limits for any of these components unless otherwise noted. Include only those components described below; inclusion of items not requested or viewed as an extension of the Project Narrative will result in the removal of those items or may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.***

- **References Cited:** List the references cited (including URLs, if available) in the Project Narrative 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).
- **List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols:** Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols.
- **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 award. Indicate whether or not government-furnished facilities or equipment are proposed for use. If so, reference should be made to the original or present government award under which the facilities or equipment items are now accountable. There is no form for this information.
- **Publications and/or Patents:** Include a list of relevant publication URLs and/or patent abstracts. If articles are not publicly available, then copies of up to five published manuscripts may be included in Attachment 2. Extra items will not be reviewed.

- **Letters of Organizational Support (two-page limit per letter):** Provide a letter (or letters, if applicable) signed by the Department Chair or appropriate organization official, confirming the laboratory space, equipment, and other resources available for the project.
  - At least 50% protected time for melanoma research and Academy activities including participation in monthly webinars. *While an institutional commitment of 50% protected time in melanoma research is required, it is not required that the 50% protected time be designated for the proposed research project.*
  - Although not a requirement of this award mechanism, if applicable, describe any institutional support (e.g., supplies, staff, salary, start-up package) that may be provided for the 4 years of the Melanoma Academy Scholar Award.
- **Letters of Collaboration (if applicable):** Provide a signed letter from each collaborating individual or organization that will demonstrate that the PI has the support or resources necessary for the proposed work. If an investigator at an intramural organization is named as a collaborator on an application submitted through an extramural organization, the application must include a letter from the collaborator’s Commander or Commanding Officer at the intramural organization that authorizes the collaborator’s involvement.
- **Intellectual Property:** Information can be found in Code of Federal Regulations, Title 2, Part 200.315 (2 CFR 200.315), “Intangible Property.”
  - **Intellectual and Material Property Plan (if applicable):** Provide a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations.
  - **Commercialization Strategy (if applicable):** Describe the commercialization plan. The plan should include intellectual property, market size, financial analysis, strengths and weaknesses, barriers to the market, competitors, and management team. Discuss the significance of this development effort, when it can be anticipated, and the potential commercial use for the technology being developed.
- **Data and Research Resources Sharing Plan:** Describe how data and resources generated during the performance of the project will be shared with the research community. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, Section K, for more information about the CDMRP expectations for making data and research resources publicly available.
- **Inclusion Plan (only for applications proposing accrual of human subjects):** Provide an anticipated enrollment table(s) for the inclusion of women and minorities appropriate to the objectives of the study with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex/gender, race, and ethnicity. The suggested Inclusion Enrollment Report format is a one-page fillable PDF form, which can be downloaded from eBRAP at <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>.

- **Use of DOD Resources (if applicable):** Provide a letter of support signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority confirming access to active-duty military populations and/or DOD resources or databases.
- **Use of VA Resources (if applicable):** Provide a letter of support from the VA Facility Director(s) or individual designated by the VA Facility Director(s), such as the Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development (ACOS/R&D) or Clinical Service Chief, confirming access to VA patients, resources, and/or VA research space. For VA PIs, if the VA non-profit corporation is not identified as the applicant institution for administering the funds, include a letter from the VA ACOS/R&D confirming this arrangement and identifying the institution that will administer the funds associated with the proposed research.
- **Attachment 3: Technical Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as “TechAbs.pdf”.** The technical abstract is used by all reviewers. Abstracts of all funded research projects will be posted publicly. ***Do not include proprietary or confidential information.*** Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard. Spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters, and symbols. Graphics are not allowed.

Of particular importance, programmatic reviewers typically do not have access to the full application and therefore rely on the technical abstract for appropriate description of the project’s key aspects. Therefore, clarity and completeness within the space limits of the technical abstract are highly important. Technical abstracts should be written using the outline below:

- **Personnel:** Describe the PI’s potential for a career at the forefront of melanoma research.
- **Career Development and Sustainment Plan**
  - Summarize how the proposed research and Career Development and Sustainment Plan will facilitate and sustain the Scholar’s independent career at the forefront of melanoma research.
  - Describe how the proposed research project will allow the PI to make valuable contributions to melanoma.
- **Research Plan**
  - **Background:** Present the scientific rationale behind the proposed work.
  - **Hypothesis:** State hypothesis to be tested.
  - **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the study.
  - **Study Design:** Briefly describe the study design, including appropriate controls.

- **Impact:** Describe how the proposed research will make an important contribution toward the goal of preventing melanoma especially as it is related to the FY21 MRP Challenge Statement and at least one of the FY21 MRP Focus Areas in [Section II.A.1](#). Describe the potential impact of the proposed research on the health and well-being of Service Members, Veterans, their family members, and all people impacted by this disease.
- **Attachment 4: Lay Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as “LayAbs.pdf”.** The lay abstract is used by all reviewers. Abstracts of all funded research projects will be posted publicly. *Do not include proprietary or confidential information. Do not duplicate the technical abstract.* Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard. Spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters, and symbols. Graphics are not allowed.

The lay abstract is an important component of the application review process because it addresses issues of particular interest to the consumer advocate community.

Lay abstracts should be written using the outline below:

- Describe the scientific objective and rationale for the proposed project in a manner that will be *readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine*.
- Describe the PI’s career goals in melanoma research. How do the research and career development and sustainment plans support the PI in attaining these goals?
- In laypersons’ terms, describe the ultimate applicability of the research. What types of patients will it help, and how will it help them? What are the potential clinical applications, benefits, and risks? If the research is too basic for clinical applicability, describe the interim outcomes expected and their applicability to the field. What is the projected time it may take to achieve a clinically relevant outcome? What are the likely contributions of this study to advancing the field of cancer research and/or patient care? If the research is basic, describe the long-term goals that are related to patient care, outcomes, or survivorship. Basic research should be framed toward the goal of the betterment of the cancer patient or family, etc.
- Describe how the proposed research will benefit active-duty Service Members, Veterans, and other military beneficiaries.
- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (three-page limit): Upload as “SOW.pdf”.** The suggested Statement of Work (SOW) format and examples specific to different types of research projects are available on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>). Recommended strategies for assembling the SOW can be found at <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>.

- **Attachment 6: Career Development and Sustainment Plan (two-page limit): Upload as “CareerSustain.pdf”.**
  - Describe the individualized career and professional development plan, which may include workshops, conferences, seminars, journal clubs, teaching responsibilities, and/or clinical responsibilities. Include milestones and career pathways toward achieving the milestones. Explain how this development plan will enable the Scholar to obtain independent melanoma research funding and publish in peer-reviewed journals.
  - Discuss how the Career Guide will assist the Scholar in not only developing, but also sustaining, a career as an independent melanoma researcher. Explain how the Career Development and Sustainment Plan is supported by the environment; this should include a description of resources available to the Scholar at their institution, and, if different, at the Career Guide’s institution.
  - Outline how the Scholar and Career Guide, together, will evaluate the Scholar’s progress of achieving and, more importantly, sustaining a productive and independent career in melanoma research.
- **Attachment 7: Impact Statement (one-page limit): Upload as “Impact.pdf”.** Describe how the proposed research will make an important contribution toward the goal of preventing melanoma especially as it is related to the FY21 MRP Challenge Statement and at least one of the FY21 MRP Focus Areas in [Section II.A.1](#). Describe how the PI’s career development path, including the PI’s specific research goals, would, if achieved, make an impact on melanoma research and/or patient outcomes. Describe the potential impact of the proposed research on the health and well-being of Service Members, Veterans, their family members, and all people impacted by melanoma.
- **Attachment 8: Career Guide’s Letter (three-page limit): Upload as “GuideLetter.pdf”.**
  - The Career Guide’s letter should describe the Scholar’s background and potential to become an established melanoma researcher. Explain how this award will enhance the Scholar’s capabilities to sustain a career in melanoma research.
  - Describe the Career Guide’s background and experience in melanoma research, success in acquiring funding in melanoma research, and record of mentoring and training early-career investigators. Specify the commitment of the Career Guide and their staff to the Scholar’s professional development and career sustainment. Describe the specific resources that will facilitate success for the Scholar.
  - Describe why the Career Guide will be a “great” fit in the Academy. Describe the Career Guide’s motivation and commitment to participating in the MA.

**Attachment 9: Statement of Eligibility (one-page limit): Upload as “Eligible.pdf”.** Provide a letter signed by the PI and the Department Chair, Dean, or equivalent official to verify that the eligibility requirements have been met. The letter should verify that the PI

is no more than 7 years from their terminal degree (Refer to [Section II.C, Eligibility Information](#)). Include the organizational commitment for independent laboratory space and protection of at least 50% of the PI's time for melanoma research.

- **Attachment 10: Representations, if applicable (extramural submissions only): Upload as “RequiredReps.pdf”.** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the Required Representations template available on eBRAP (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>). For more information, see the General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, Section B, Representations.
- **Attachment 11: Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format, if applicable: Upload as “MFBudget.pdf”.** If a military facility (Military Health System facility, research laboratory, medical treatment facility, dental treatment facility, or a DOD activity embedded with a civilian medical center) will be a collaborator in performance of the project, complete a separate budget, using “Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format”, available for download on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>, including a budget justification, for each military facility as instructed. The costs per year should be included on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under subaward costs. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.8, for detailed information.

- **Extramural and Intramural Applications**

To evaluate compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC 1681[a] et seq.), the DOD is collecting certain demographic and career information to be able to assess the success rates of women who are proposed for key roles in applications in science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics (STEM) disciplines. To enable this assessment, each application must include the following forms completed as indicated.

**Research & Related Personal Data:** For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.3, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.2, for detailed information.

**Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded):** For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.

- **PI Biographical Sketch (five-page limit):** Upload as “Biosketch\_LastName.pdf”. The suggested biographical sketch format is available on the “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>) in eBRAP. The National Institutes of Health Biographical Sketch may also be used. All biographical sketches should be submitted in uneditable PDF format.

- PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support\_LastName.pdf”.
  - For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4 for detailed information.
  - For intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.
- Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (five-page limit each): Upload as “Biosketch\_LastName.pdf”.
  - Include the Career Guide’s biographical sketch.
- Key Personnel Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support\_LastName.pdf”.
  - Include the Career Guide’s previous/current/pending support.

**Research & Related Budget:** For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.4, for detailed information.

**Budget Justification (no page limit): Upload as “BudgetJustification.pdf”.** The budget justification for the entire period of performance must be uploaded to the Research & Related Budget after completion of the budget for Period 1. Budget justification should include level of effort by each team member. If a team member is not requesting salary, then the justification should delineate their level of effort.

**Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form:** For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.6, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.5, for detailed information.

- **Extramural Applications Only**

**Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (if applicable):** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.7, for detailed information.

- **Extramural Subaward:** Complete the Research & Related Subaward Budget Form through Grants.gov. (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.7, for detailed information.) Verify subaward budget(s) and budget justification forms are present in eBRAP during the application verification period. If these components are missing, upload them to eBRAP before the end of the application verification period.
- **Intramural DOD Collaborator(s):** Complete the “Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format” and upload to Grants.gov attachment form as

[Attachment 11](#). (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.4, for detailed information.) Each Intramural DOD Collaborator should include costs per year on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under subaward costs.

### **II.D.3. Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM)**

Applicant organizations and all sub-recipient organizations must have a DUNS number to submit applications to Grants.gov. The applicant organization must also be registered in the Entity Management functional area of the SAM with an “Active” status to submit applications through the Grants.gov portal. Verify the status of the applicant organization’s Entity registration in SAM well in advance of the application submission deadline. Allow several weeks to complete the entire SAM registration process. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements at the time the federal awarding agency is ready to make a federal award, the federal awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, for further information regarding Grants.gov requirements.

***Announcement of Transition to SAM-Generated Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):*** Through April 2022, a transition from DUNS to the SAM-generated UEI will occur. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.1, DUNS Number, for more information on the transition and timing.

### **II.D.4. Submission Dates and Times**

All submission dates and times are indicated in [Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity](#). Pre-application and application submissions are required. The pre-application and application submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. There are no grace periods. Failure to meet either of these deadlines will result in submission rejection.

### **Applicant Verification of Full Application Submission in eBRAP**

***For Both Extramural and Intramural Applicants:*** eBRAP allows an organization’s representatives and PIs to view and modify the full application submissions associated with them. Following retrieval and processing of the full application, eBRAP will notify the organizational representatives and PI by email to log into eBRAP to review, modify, and verify the full application submission. eBRAP will validate full application files against the specific program announcement requirements, and discrepancies will be noted in an email to the PI and in the “Full Application Files” tab in eBRAP. eBRAP does not confirm the accuracy of file content. Application viewing, modification, and verification in eBRAP are strongly recommended, but not required. It is the applicant’s responsibility to review all application components and ensure proper ordering as specified in the program announcement. ***If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or needs to be modified, an updated full application package must be submitted prior to the application submission deadline. The Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline.*** Other application components may be changed until the end of the application verification period. Verify that subaward budget(s) and budget justification



forms are present in eBRAP during the application verification period. If these components are missing, upload them to eBRAP before the end of the application verification period. After the end of the application verification period, the full application cannot be modified.

***Extramural Submission:*** The full application package submitted to Grants.gov may be viewed and modified in eBRAP until the end of the application verification period. During the application verification period, the full application package, ***with the exception of the Project Narrative and Budget Form***, may be modified.

***Intramural DOD Submission:*** After eBRAP has processed the full application, the organizational Resource Manager/Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official and PI will receive email notification of the status and will be able to view and modify application components in eBRAP. During the application verification period, the full application package, ***with the exception of the Project Narrative and Budget Form***, may be modified. The Resource Manager/Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official should log into eBRAP to review and to approve the application package prior to the application verification deadline.

***For All Submissions:*** Verify that subaward budget(s) with budget justification are present in eBRAP during the application verification period. If these components are missing, upload them to eBRAP before the end of the application verification period.

#### **II.D.5. Funding Restrictions**

The maximum period of performance is **4** years.

The anticipated direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance will not exceed **\$500,000**. If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate. No budget will be approved by the government exceeding **\$500,000** direct costs or using an indirect cost rate exceeding the organization's negotiated rate.

All direct and indirect costs of any subaward or contract must be included in the total direct costs of the primary award.

For this award mechanism, direct costs must be requested for:

- Travel costs for the Scholar and Career Guide to attend a DOD MRP 1-day Melanoma Academy Workshop with the Academy Leadership and other Academy members every other year.
- Travel costs for the Scholar and Career Guide to attend a biennial DOD MRP multi-day Melanoma Academy Workshop with the MRP staff, Academy Leadership, and other Academy members.

May be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Maximum allowable funding for the Career Guide(s) is \$30,000 per year in direct costs

- Travel costs between/among collaborating organizations
- Costs associated with participating in the virtual Academy (e.g., hardware and/or software for the audio- or video-teleconferencing or web-based communications)
- Travel costs for one investigator to travel to two scientific/technical meetings per year, in addition to the required Academy meetings/workshops described above. The intent of travel costs to scientific/technical meetings is to present project information or disseminate project results and/or attend workshops as designated in the Career Development and Sustainment Plan of the MRP Melanoma Academy Scholar Award.

Must not be requested for:

- Tuition of graduate students
- Clinical trials

For extramural awards with an intragovernmental component, direct transfer of funds from an extramural award recipient to a DOD or other federal agency is not allowed except under very limited circumstances. Funding to intramural DOD and other federal agencies will be managed through a direct funds transfer. Intramural applicants are responsible for coordinating through their agency's procedures the use of contractual or assistance funding awards or other appropriate agreements to support extramural collaborators.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5, for budget regulations and instructions for the Research & Related Budget. *For federal agencies or organizations collaborating with federal agencies, budget restrictions apply as are noted in the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5.*

#### **II.D.6. Other Submission Requirements**

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, for detailed formatting guidelines.

### **II.E. Application Review Information**

#### **II.E.1. Criteria**

##### **II.E.1.a. Peer Review**

To determine technical merit, all applications will be evaluated according to the following **scored criteria**, which are listed in decreasing order of importance:

- **Scholar**
  - To what extent the Scholar's record of accomplishments demonstrate the potential for the PI becoming an established investigator in melanoma.

- Whether the application demonstrates that participation in the MA is important in developing the Scholar's career.
  - To what extent the application describes the Scholar's motivation and commitment to participating in the MA, to include networking and collaborating with the other Scholar/Career Guide pairs and the Academy Leadership.
  - The extent to which the Scholar's record of accomplishments (e.g., awards, honors, first author publications, publications in high-impact journals, presentations/speaking engagements, committees, etc.) demonstrates their potential for becoming an independent investigator in melanoma research.
- **Research Project and Feasibility**
    - Whether the presented the ideas and scientific rationale behind the proposed research; including relevant literature citations support the research project and its feasibility.
    - Whether the application explains the specific aims and how well the hypotheses, experimental design, methods, and analyses are developed and support analyses aims.
    - Whether the application addresses potential problems and pitfalls including alternative methods and approaches.
    - How well the data collection plan including how it will be handled, and analyzed in a manner that is consistent with the study objectives is described.
    - To what extent the statistical plan including a power analysis demonstrates that the sample size is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study.
    - Whether the strategies for the inclusion of women and minorities are appropriate to the objectives of the study, including a description of the composition of the proposed study population in terms of sex/gender, racial, and ethnic group, and an accompanying rationale for the selection of subjects. If women and minorities are excluded, to what extent the application provided a rational justification.
    - If applicable, how well the application justifies the cell lines or animals are to be used.
    - If applicable, how well the application describes the human subjects, human biological samples, or datasets to be used, describes the study population and includes a detailed plan for the recruitment of human subjects or the acquisition of samples.
  - **Career Development and Sustainment Plan**
    - Whether the individualized career and professional development plan includes workshops, conferences, seminars, journal clubs, teaching responsibilities, and/or clinical responsibilities.

- How well this plan will enable the Scholar to obtain independent melanoma research funding and publish in peer-reviewed journals.
  - Whether milestones and career pathways toward the milestones is included and achievable within the allotted period of performance.
  - To what extent the Career Guide will assist the Scholar in not only developing, but also sustaining, a career as an independent melanoma researcher.
  - Whether the Career Development and Sustainment Plan is supported by the environment; including a description of resources available to the Scholar at their institution, and, if different, at the Career Guide's institution.
  - To what degree the Scholar and Career Guide, together, will evaluate the Scholar's progress of achieving and, more importantly, sustaining a productive and independent career in melanoma research.
- **Career Guide**
    - To what extent the Career Guide's letter describes the Scholar's background and supports the potential of Scholar to become an established melanoma researcher.
    - Whether the Career Guide's letter explains how this award will enhance the Scholar's capabilities to sustain a career in melanoma research.
    - Whether Career Guide's background and experience in melanoma research, success in acquiring funding in melanoma research, and record of mentoring and training early-career investigators supports the position of guidance of early-career investigators (including the commitment of the Career Guide and their staff to the Scholar's professional development and career sustainment, and the specific resources that will facilitate success for the Scholar).
    - To what degree the Career Guide is motivated and committed to participating in the MA.
- **Impact**
    - To what degree the proposed research will make an important contribution toward the goal of preventing melanoma especially as it is related to the FY21 MRP Challenge Statement and at least one of the FY21 MRP Focus Areas in [Section II.A.1](#).
    - Whether the PI's career development path, including the PI's specific research goals, would, if achieved, make an impact on melanoma research and/or patient outcomes.
    - Whether there is potential impact of the proposed research to the health and well-being of Service Members, Veterans, their family members, and all people impacted by melanoma.

In addition, the following **unscored** criteria will also contribute to the overall evaluation of the application:

- **Resources and Environment**
  - How well the commitment from the institution (of at least 50% protected time) supports the career development of the Scholar including time for research and participation in Academy activities such as monthly webinars.
  - If applicable, the degree to which the intellectual and material property plan is appropriate.
- **Budget**
  - Whether the **direct** costs exceed the allowable direct costs as published in the program announcement.
  - Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.
- **Application Presentation**
  - To what extent the writing, clarity, and presentation of the application components influence the review.

#### **II.E.1.b. Programmatic Review**

To make funding recommendations and select the application(s) that, individually or collectively, will best achieve the program objectives, the following criteria are used by programmatic reviewers:

- Ratings and evaluations of the peer reviewers
- Relevance to the mission of the DHP and FY21 MRP, as evidenced by the following:
  - Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism
  - Program portfolio composition
  - Relevance to the FY21 MRP Challenge Statement in [Section II.A.1](#)
  - Relevance to at least one of the FY21 MRP Focus Areas in [Section II.A.1](#)
  - Relative Impact
  - Career potential of the Scholar

## **II.E.2. Application Review and Selection Process**

All applications are evaluated by scientists, clinicians, and consumers in a two-tier review process. The first tier is **peer review**, the evaluation of applications against established criteria to determine technical merit, where each application is assessed for its own merit, independent of other applications. The second tier is **programmatic review**, a comparison-based process in which applications with high scientific and technical merit are further evaluated for programmatic relevance. Final recommendations for funding are made to the Commanding General, USAMRDC. *The highest-scoring applications from the first tier of review are not automatically recommended for funding. Funding recommendations depend on various factors as described in [Section II.E.1.b, Programmatic Review](#).* Additional information about the two-tier process used by the CDMRP can be found at <https://cdmrp.army.mil/about/2tierRevProcess>. An information paper describing the funding recommendations and review process for the award mechanisms for the MRP will be provided to the PI and posted on the CDMRP website.

All CDMRP review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the merit-based selection process. Panel members sign a statement declaring that application and evaluation information will not be disclosed outside the panel. Violations of confidentiality can result in the dissolving of a panel(s) and other corrective actions. In addition, personnel at the applicant or collaborating organizations are prohibited from contacting persons involved in the review and approval 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 panel members or applicants that compromise the confidentiality of the review and approval process may also result in suspension or debarment from federal awards. Furthermore, the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information of one party to another third party is a crime in accordance with 18 USC 1905.

## **II.E.3. Integrity and Performance Information**

Prior to making an assistance agreement award where the federal share is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold, as defined in 2 CFR 200.88, over the period of performance, the federal awarding agency is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is available in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS).

An applicant organization may review FAPIIS, accessible through SAM, and submit comments to FAPIIS on any information about the organization that a federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently available in FAPIIS.

The federal awarding agency will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when determining a recipient's qualification prior to award, according to the qualification standards of the Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations (DoDGARs), Section 22.415.

## **II.E.4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates**

All application review dates and times are indicated in [Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity](#).

Each PI and organization will receive email notification of posting of the funding recommendation in eBRAP. Each PI will receive a peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the application.

## **II.F. Federal Award Administration Information**

### **II.F.1. Federal Award Notices**

Awards supported with FY21 funds are anticipated to be made no later than September 30, 2022. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, for additional award administration information.

After email notification of application review results through eBRAP, and if selected for funding, a representative from USAMRAA will contact the Business Official authorized to negotiate on behalf of the PI's organization.

**Pre-Award Costs:** An institution of higher education, hospital, or other non-profit organization may, at its own risk and without the government's prior approval, incur obligations and expenditures to cover costs up to 90 days before the beginning date of the initial budget period of a new award. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5.

***Only an appointed USAMRAA Grants Officer may obligate the government to the expenditure of funds.*** No commitment on the part of the government should be inferred from discussions with any other individual. **The award document signed by the Grants Officer is the official authorizing document.**

**Federal Government Organizations:** Funding made to federal government organizations (to include intramural DOD organizations) will be executed through the Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR) or Funding Authorization Document (FAD) process. Transfer of funds is contingent upon appropriate safety and administrative approvals. Intramural applicants and collaborators are reminded to coordinate receipt and commitment of funds through their respective Resource Manager/Task Area Manager/Comptroller or equivalent Business Official.

#### **II.F.1.a. PI Changes and Award Transfers**

Changes in PI are not allowed, except under extenuating circumstances that will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the Grants Officer.

An organizational transfer of an award will not be allowed in the last year of the (original) period of performance or any extension thereof.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, Section B, for general information on organization or PI changes.

## II.F.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Applicable requirements in the DoDGARs found in 32 CFR, Chapter I, Subchapter C, and 2 CFR, Chapter XI, apply to grants and cooperative agreements resulting from this program announcement.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, for general information regarding administrative requirements.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, for general information regarding national policy requirements.

Refer to full text of the latest [DoD R&D General Terms and Conditions](#); the [USAMRAA General Research Terms and Conditions with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Non-Profit Organizations: Addendum to the DoD R&D General Terms and Conditions](#); and the [USAMRAA General Research Terms and Conditions with For-Profit Organizations](#) for further information.

## II.F.3. Reporting

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, Section A, for general information on reporting requirements. ***If there are technical reporting requirement delinquencies for any existing USAMRAA-sponsored awards at the applicant organization, no new awards will be issued to the applicant organization until all delinquent reports have been submitted.***

Annual progress reports as well as a final progress report will be required.

The Award Terms and Conditions will specify if more frequent reporting is required.

**Award Expiration Transition Plan:** An Award Expiration Transition Plan must be submitted with the final progress report. Use the one-page template “Award Expiration Transition Plan,” available on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>) under the “Progress Report Formats” section. The Award Expiration Transition Plan must outline if and how the research supported by this award will progress and must include source(s) of funding, either known or pending.

**Inclusion Enrollment Reporting Requirement (*only required for clinical research studies*):** Enrollment on the basis of sex/gender, race, and/or ethnicity will be required with each annual and final technical report. The suggested Inclusion Enrollment Report format is available on the “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>) in eBRAP.

Awards resulting from this program announcement will incorporate additional reporting requirements related to recipient integrity and performance matters. Recipient organizations that have federal contract, grant, and cooperative agreement awards with a cumulative total value greater than \$10M are required to provide information to FAPIIS about certain civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings that reached final disposition within the most recent 5-year period and that were connected with performance of a federal award. Recipients are required to



disclose, semiannually, information about criminal, civil, and administrative proceedings as specified in the applicable Representations (see General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, Section B).

## **II.G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts**

### **II.G.1. CDMRP Help Desk**

Questions related to program announcement content or submission requirements as well as questions related to the pre-application or intramural application submission through eBRAP should be directed to the CDMRP Help Desk, which is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET. Response times may vary depending upon the volume of inquiries.

Phone: 301-682-5507

Email: [help@eBRAP.org](mailto:help@eBRAP.org)

### **II.G.2. Grants.gov Contact Center**

Questions related to extramural application submission through Grants.gov portal should be directed to the Grants.gov Contact Center, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed on U.S. federal holidays). Note that the CDMRP Help Desk is unable to provide technical assistance with Grants.gov submission.

Phone: 800-518-4726; International 1-606-545-5035

Email: [support@grants.gov](mailto: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 or by responding to the prompt provided by Grants.gov when first downloading the Grants.gov application package. If the Grants.gov application package is updated or changed, the original version of the application package may not be accepted by Grants.gov.

## **II.H. Other Information**

### **II.H.1. Program Announcement and General Application Instructions Versions**

Questions related to this program announcement should refer to the program name, the program announcement name, and the program announcement version code 605a. The program announcement numeric version code will match the General Application Instructions version code 605.

### **II.H.2. Administrative Actions**

After receipt of applications, the following administrative actions may occur:

### **II.H.2.a. Rejection**

The following will result in administrative rejection of the application:

- Pre-application was not submitted.
- Project Narrative exceeds page limit.
- Project Narrative is missing.
- Budget is missing.

### **II.H.2.b. Modification**

- Pages exceeding the specific limits will be removed prior to review for all documents other than the Project Narrative.
- Documents not requested will be removed.

### **II.H.2.c. Withdrawal**

The following may result in administrative withdrawal of the application:

- An FY21 MRP Programmatic Panel member is named as being involved in the research proposed or is found to have assisted in the pre-application or application processes including, but not limited to, concept design, application development, budget preparation, and the development of any supporting documentation. *A list of the FY21 MRP Programmatic Panel members can be found at <https://cdmrp.army.mil/mrp/panels/panels21>.*
- The application fails to conform to this program announcement description.
- Inclusion of URLs, with the exception of links in References Cited and Publication and/or Patent Abstract sections.
- Page size is larger than 8.5 inches x 11.0 inches (approximately 21.59 cm x 27.94 cm).
- To preserve the integrity of its peer and programmatic review processes, the CDMRP discourages inclusion of any employee of its review contractors having any role in the preparation, research or other duties for submitted applications. For FY21, the identities of the peer review contractor and the programmatic review contractor may be found at the CDMRP website (<https://cdmrp.army.mil/about/2tierRevProcess>). Applications that include names of personnel from either of these companies may be administratively withdrawn.
- Personnel from applicant or collaborating organizations are found to have contacted persons involved in the review or approval process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process.
- Applications from extramural organizations, including non-DOD federal agencies, received through eBRAP may be withdrawn.

- Applications submitted by an intramural DOD organization may be withdrawn if the intramural organization cannot coordinate the use of contractual, assistance, or other appropriate agreements to provide funds to extramural collaborators.
- Submission of the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.
- The application does not respond to the FY21 MRP Challenge Statement in [Section II.A.1.](#)
- The application does not respond to at least one FY21 MRP Focus Area in [Section II.A.1.](#)
- The named Scholar on the application does not meet the eligibility criteria.
- The named Career Guide does not meet the eligibility criteria.
- A clinical trial is proposed.
- The main subject of the research is non-melanoma skin cancers.

#### **II.H.2.d. Withhold**

Applications that appear to involve research misconduct will be administratively withheld from further consideration pending organizational investigation. The organization will be required to provide the findings of the investigation to the USAMRAA Grants Officer for a determination of the final disposition of the application.

### II.H.3. Application Submission Checklist

Application Components	Action	Completed
SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance ( <b>extramural submissions only</b> )	Complete form as instructed	
Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) ( <b>intramural submissions only</b> )	Complete tabs as instructed	
Attachments	Project Narrative: Upload as Attachment 1 with file name "ProjectNarrative.pdf"	
	Supporting Documentation: Upload as Attachment 2 with file name "Support.pdf"	
	Technical Abstract: Upload as Attachment 3 with file name "TechAbs.pdf"	
	Lay Abstract: Upload as Attachment 4 with file name "LayAbs.pdf"	
	Statement of Work: Upload as Attachment 5 with file name "SOW.pdf"	
	Career Development and Sustainment Plan: Upload as Attachment 6 with file name "CareerSustain.pdf"	
	Impact Statement: Upload as Attachment 7 with file name "Impact.pdf"	
	Career Guide's Letter: Upload as Attachment 8 with file name "GuideLetter.pdf"	
	Statement of Eligibility: Upload as Attachment 9 with file name "Eligible.pdf"	
	Representations (extramural submissions only): Upload as Attachment 10 with file name "RequiredReps.pdf" if applicable	
	Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format: Upload as Attachment 11 with file name "MFBudget.pdf" if applicable	
Research & Related Personal Data	Complete form as instructed	

Application Components	Action	Completed
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	Attach PI Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field	
	Attach PI Previous/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 Previous/Current/Pending (Support_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field	
Research & Related Budget ( <b>extramural submissions only</b> )	Complete as instructed. Attach Budget Justification (BudgetJustification.pdf) to the appropriate field	
Budget ( <b>intramural submissions only</b> )	Suggested DOD Military Budget Format, including justification	
Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form	Complete form as instructed	
Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form, if applicable	Complete form as instructed	

## APPENDIX 1: ACRONYM LIST

ACOS/R&D	Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development
ACURO	Animal Care and Use Review Office
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DHP	Defense Health Program
DOD	Department of Defense
DoDGARs	Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations
DUNS	Data Universal Numbering System
eBRAP	Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal
EC	Ethics Committee
ET	Eastern Time
FAD	Funding Authorization Document
FAPIIS	Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System
FY	Fiscal Year
HRPO	Human Research Protection Office
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IDE	Investigational Device Exemption
IND	Investigational New Drug
IRB	Institutional Review Board
LOI	Letter of Intent
M	Million
MA	Melanoma Academy
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
MRP	Melanoma Research Program
ORCID	Open Researcher and Contributor ID, Inc.
ORP	Office of Research Protections
PI	Principal Investigator
SAM	System for Award Management
SOW	Statement of Work
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics
UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
USAMRAA	U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity
USAMRDC	U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command
USC	United States Code
UV	Ultraviolet
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs