



## **FY26 CDMRP Funding Opportunity and Application Process**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

The CDMRP funds innovative and impactful research with special emphasis and relevance to the military community, including enhancing Warfighter lethality, force readiness and health care solutions for our Veterans and military Families.

### **Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Melanoma Research Program (MRP) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

#### **CDMRP Questions:**

Please refer to the [FY26 CDMRP Funding Opportunity and Application Process Frequently Asked Questions](#) for additional information applicable to all programs at CDMRP. The questions addressed below are specific to the MRP.

#### **Program Questions:**

##### **General MRP Application and Program Information**

##### **For which FY26 MRP funding opportunities do I need to be invited to submit a full application?**

For FY26 applicants must receive an invitation to submit full applications for the *Idea Award*, *Team Science Award*, and *Focused Program Award – Rare Melanomas*. These three mechanisms require a *pre-proposal* for the pre-application, which will undergo a review and selection process. The MRP will reject full application submissions from uninvited proposals.

In contrast, the FY26 Melanoma Academy Scholar Award, Melanoma Academy Leadership Award, and Survivorship Research Award only require a Letter of Intent (LOI) to be submitted for the pre-application. The MRP will not issue invitations to submit a full application after LOI submission. However, PIs must submit an LOI no later than the FY26 pre-application deadline prior to full application submission. LOIs are used for program planning purposes only, e.g., reviewer recruitment, and will not be reviewed during either peer or programmatic review.

##### **Where can I find information about MRP funding statistics?**

Information about how many compliant applications were received and recommended for funding for the FY25 MRP funding opportunities can be found in the [FY25 MRP Information Paper](#). Although each funding opportunity provides an estimate for how many applications the MRP anticipates funding in FY26, the actual number of applications



recommended for funding is based on the number and quality of the compliant applications received. The anticipated number of each funding opportunity that the MRP anticipates funding may change from one FY to the next.

### **Where can I find information about research previously funded by the MRP?**

Investigators can find lists of recent applications (institutions and PIs) recommended for funding on the [MRP webpage](#). However, these lists are not updated after award negotiations are completed and may not reflect changes that occur during negotiations.

Historical CDMRP award records, to include those for the MRP, can be accessed via the Grant Awards Search interface, which is publicly available at the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC), [DOD Grant Awards - Dimensions for DTIC](#). Users can filter for Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs as the funder organization.

### **I do mucosal melanoma research. How might National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, Section 732, impact the types of research I can propose?**

In accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, Section 732, CDMRP does not support the conduct of painful research ([U.S. Department of Agriculture pain category D or E](#)) involving domestic cats or dogs, except for studies relating to military or service animals.

However, the MRP acknowledges that domestic dogs can spontaneously develop mucosal melanoma. FY26 applications proposing mucosal melanoma studies involving pets that are voluntarily enrolled in studies at the owner's discretion may be considered (e.g., a pet owner enrolling their domestic dog in a clinical trial administered in a veterinary hospital setting). Such studies, if recommended for funding, must first obtain a waiver of National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, Section 732, before initiating the research. If such an application is recommended for funding, CDMRP personnel will assist the investigators in seeking the waiver. Receipt of such a waiver is not guaranteed.

### ***Funding Opportunity-Specific Questions***

#### **I am interested in applying to the FY26 Melanoma Academy Scholar Award. Are there restrictions as to who can be the Career Guide named in my application?**

Yes, the full list of eligibility criteria for the named Career Guide are listed in section [2.1. Eligible Applicants](#) of the FY26 Melanoma Academy Scholar Award funding opportunity. The named Career Guide **must not be**: the current [Director or Deputy Director of the Melanoma Academy](#); named as Career Guide on any previously funded Melanoma Academy Scholar Award applications; or named on more than one FY26 Melanoma Academy Scholar Award application.

However, there are no restrictions regarding the physical location of the Scholar, i.e., the PI, and the Career Guide; the Scholar and Career Guide **do not** have to be located at the same organization.

### **Is preliminary data truly discouraged for the Idea Award?**

Yes, preliminary data is discouraged for the FY26 MRP Idea Award because the intent of the funding opportunity is to spark innovation and generate *novel* research avenues in the melanoma field. The inclusion of preliminary data other than serendipitous findings is not consistent with the exploratory/innovative nature of this award. If preliminary data are included, they should be unanticipated outcomes or results from an unrelated project or study. The Idea Award is *not* intended to expand or extend previously published findings or continue a line of research already established and/or funded in a PI's laboratory.

### **Do the FY26 MRP funding opportunities define “rare melanoma”?**

No, the FY26 MRP funding opportunities do not provide a definition of rare melanoma because there is no commonly accepted definition for what constitutes a rare melanoma. The FY26 MRP funding opportunities *do* provide a description of types of rare melanoma research the program is interested in funding. Although the FY26 MRP will accept applications addressing topics relevant to uveal melanoma, the MRP is particularly interested in receiving applications that address other uncommon presentations of melanoma, including but not limited to:

- Genetic (molecular subtypes).
- Histologic (desmoplastic and acral lentiginous).
- Tissue of origin (mucosal, acral).
- Clinical presentation (pediatric, leptomeningeal disease).

Ultimately, it is up to the investigator to compose their application materials to adequately articulate how the proposed research meets the intent of the Focus Area and/or funding opportunity. The application's adherence to the intent of the Focus Area and/or funding opportunity will be assessed during review.

### ***Melanoma Consumer Collaboration Questions***

#### **For which FY26 funding opportunities are investigators encouraged or required to include collaborations with melanoma consumers?**

Collaboration with melanoma consumers is *encouraged*, but not required, in applications to the FY26 *Team Science Award*. Applicants that choose to integrate the consumer perspective within their research team should be sure to choose the “Team Science Award – Consumer Collaboration Option” when starting the pre-application.

Collaboration with melanoma consumers is *required* in applications to the FY26 *Survivorship Research Award* and, new for FY26, the *Focused Program Award – Rare Melanomas*.

#### **What is the definition of a “melanoma consumer”?**

For the purposes of the FY26 MRP Team Science Award and the FY26 Survivorship Research Award a melanoma consumer is a melanoma survivor, active or post-treatment, family member, and/or care partner who can provide melanoma lived experience expertise.

For the purposes of the FY26 Focused Program Award – Rare Melanomas a *rare melanoma* consumer is a *rare melanoma survivor*, active or post-treatment, family member, and/or the care partner of a *rare melanoma survivor* who can provide *rare melanoma* lived experience expertise to the research team.

**I do basic or preclinical research. How can a melanoma consumer be meaningfully integrated into my research team?**

Even if the proposed research is too basic for short-term clinical applicability, MRP-funded basic/preclinical research is expected have the long-term goal of advancing the melanoma field and/or impacting patient care. Keeping this in mind, there are many ways that investigators can meaningfully incorporate the melanoma consumer perspective throughout the duration of a research project, including in research that may be more basic or preclinical in nature. Some examples of collaborative research approaches include incorporating a melanoma consumer within the research team to help identify research questions that have relevance to melanoma survivors and/or their care partners, introduce investigators to melanoma community-supporting organizations, present research results to patients, etc.

**Where can I find additional information and resources for establishing collaborative research approaches with melanoma consumers?**

Section 3.2 of the FY26 MRP Team Science Award, Focused Program Award – Rare Melanomas, and Survivorship Research Award provides additional information about the intent of establishing collaborative research approaches and includes the following list of resources that investigators are encouraged to explore; this is not an exhaustive list:

- Cancer Research UK. [Patient involvement toolkit for researchers](#).
- Spears PA. 2021. Patient engagement in cancer research from the patient’s perspective. *Future Oncology* 17(28):3717-3728. doi: [10.2217/fo-2020-1198](#). Epub 2021 Jul 2. PMID: 34213358.
- Tivey A., Huddar P., Shotton R., et al. Patient Engagement in Melanoma Research: From Bench to Bedside. *Future Oncol.* 2021 Oct;17(28):3705-3716. doi: [10.2217/fo-2020-1165](#). Epub 2021 Jul 2. PMID: 34213356.
- Salamone JM, Lucas W, Brundage SB, et al. Promoting Scientist-Advocate Collaborations in Cancer Research: Why and How. *Cancer Res.* 2018 Oct 15;78(20):5723-5728. doi: [10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-18-1600](#). Epub 2018 Aug 17. PMID: 30120210; PMCID: PMC6548189.
- Food and Drug Administration. Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) [Patient-Focused Drug Development](#).



### ***FY26 MRP FOA Locations***

The FY26 MRP funding opportunities and associated General Application Instructions can be found at the following three locations:

- [eBRAP.org](http://eBRAP.org)
- [grants.gov](http://grants.gov), use “MRP” in the Keyword(s) search
- [CDMRP website](http://CDMRP website)

### ***Need additional assistance?***

- Requests for technical assistance related to pre-application or intramural application submissions should be directed to the eBRAP Help Desk, [help@eBRAP.org](mailto:help@eBRAP.org).
- Questions regarding Grants.gov registration and Workspace should be directed to [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).
- General questions about the MRP or the FY26 MRP funding opportunities may be directed to [dha.detrick.cdmp.mbx.mrp@health.mil](mailto:dha.detrick.cdmp.mbx.mrp@health.mil).
- Watch the CDMRP’s Journey of an Application videos to learn more about [Funding Opportunities](#) and the [Two-Tier Review Process](#).

### ***List of Acronyms***

CDMRP – Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs  
DOW – Department of War  
DTIC – Defense Technical Information Center  
FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions  
FOA – Funding Opportunity Announcement  
FY – Fiscal Year  
LOI – Letter of Intent  
MRP – Melanoma Research Program  
PI – Principal Investigator