



Prostate Cancer Research Program

Prostate cancer is a real threat to U.S. Service members. According to the Defense Health Agency (DHA) Medical Surveillance Monthly Report (MSMR),¹ of the 8,973 new cancers diagnosed among active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces between 2005 and 2014, 11.7% were prostate cancer diagnoses. Prostate cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality rates vary markedly by race and ethnicity, with African American men experiencing the highest rates in the United States.² Similarly, the DHA MSMR reported that, among active duty military personnel, prostate cancer occurred 2.5 times more frequently in African American Service members compared to Caucasian American Service members.

VISION

Conquer prostate cancer

MISSION

Fund research that will lead to the elimination of death from prostate cancer and enhance the well-being of Service members, Veterans, and all men experiencing the impact of the disease

PROGRAM HISTORY

Since its inception in 1997 and over its 21-year history of Congressional support totaling \$1.72 billion (B), the Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP) has changed the landscape of biomedical research and energized the research community to conduct high-risk prostate cancer research that is more collaborative, innovative, and impactful. The PCRP has played a major role in supporting the development of new treatments for

advanced prostate cancer, has been the leading supporter of research toward understanding and resolving ethnic disparities in prostate cancer incidence and mortality, and has fostered the development of hundreds of new investigators who have become leaders in cutting-edge research that is making a difference for hundreds of thousands of prostate cancer patients and will ultimately conquer the disease.



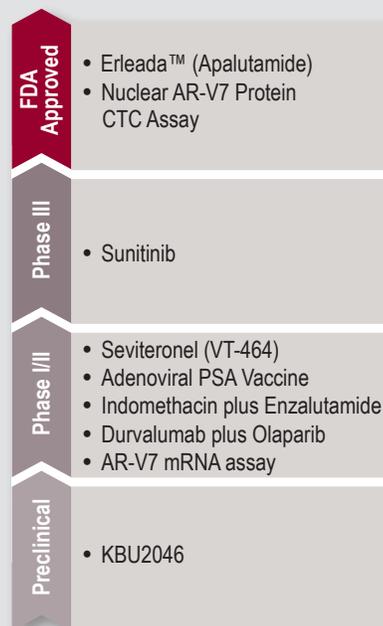
“The PCRP promotes results-oriented cutting edge research into prostate cancer’s origin, diagnosis, treatment, and post-treatment care without profit motive encumbrances possible in a civilian setting. Military operations are also results-oriented. So placing this program within the military structure makes perfect sense.

Since we in the military are a reflection of our population at large, we will reflect similar health conditions. However, we in the military are charged with maintaining a viable fighting force, making it essential that the military is able to effectively deal with the health conditions of its personnel. The PCRP is one of those tools that help maintain a healthy fighting force. I’m proud to be a military member—retired—and glad for the opportunity to contribute the PCRP’s success.”

Mr. Don Triplett, Prostate Cancer Survivor and Research Advocate, US Too International

LATEST PCRP CLINICAL ADVANCEMENTS

The PCRP has invested in the discovery and development of multiple therapies and diagnostic tools since the beginning of the program, many of which have continued to advance through the clinical pipeline.



¹ Lee T, Williams VF, Clark LL. 2016. Incident diagnoses of cancers in the active component and cancer-related deaths in the active and reserve components, U.S. Armed Forces, 2005-2014. *MSMR*. July 23(7):23-31.

² <https://www.cancer.org/research/cancer-facts-statistics/cancer-facts-figures-for-african-americans.html>.

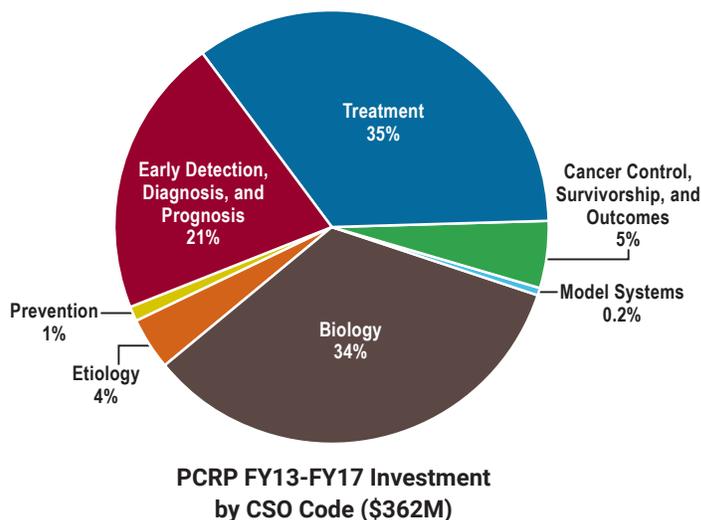
OVERARCHING CHALLENGES

The PCRP evaluated the current gaps in prostate cancer research and patient care and identified four overarching challenges that are critical for impacting current and future prostate cancer patients. To ensure that the critical needs of prostate cancer patients are being addressed by PCRP-funded research, all applicants are expected to focus research efforts in at least one of these key areas:

- Develop treatments that improve outcomes for men with lethal prostate cancer
- Reduce lethal prostate cancer in African Americans, Veterans, and other high-risk populations
- Define the biology of lethal prostate cancer to reduce death
- Improve the quality of life for survivors of prostate cancer

PROGRAM PORTFOLIO

From 1997–2017, the PCRP funded 3,265 research awards totaling \$1.4B. The PCRP strives to diversify its research portfolio with different scientific approaches that are ultimately focused on addressing the critical needs of prostate cancer patients. The supported projects range from exploratory studies that generate cutting edge ideas to multi-institutional consortia designed to create resources that will transform prostate cancer clinical care. By achieving innovative solutions to critical challenges faced by prostate cancer patients, PCRP-supported researchers can realize the goal of making a direct, positive impact on patients and their families.



NATIONAL RESOURCES PROVIDED THROUGH THE PCRP

The PCRP has established the following resources to support research across the nation and beyond:

The Prostate Cancer Clinical Trials Consortium (PCCTC) — Initiated in 2006, this collaboration of 10 major cancer centers works together to test novel drugs for the rapid development and utilization of effective treatments for patients. The PCCTC has completed 214 clinical trials, enrolled over 7,400 patients, and brought 12 new therapeutic agents to Phase III trials with unprecedented speed (<http://pcctc.org>).

The Prostate Cancer Biorepository Network (PCBN) — Initiated in 2010, the PCBN provides high-quality prostate cancer biospecimens, protocols, and potential collaborations to enable research at multiple institutions (www.prostatebiorepository.org).

The North Carolina – Louisiana Prostate Cancer Project (PCaP) — Initiated in 2003, the PCaP investigates major factors associated with health disparity based on a robust repository of data and specimens that are also available to the wider research community (<https://pcap.bioinf.unc.edu/>).



“It is impossible to overstate the impact this program has had on the lives of prostate cancer patients and their families. No other program works as hard to focus on science that has a meaningful and very rapid impact on lethal prostate cancer.”

Bill Dahut, M.D., FY18 Programmatic Panel Chair, National Cancer Institute

For more information about the PCRP, please visit <https://cdmrp.army.mil>

Research Funding Program Announcements and General Application Instructions are anticipated to be posted on the Grants.gov website in April 2019.

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