

# PEER REVIEWED CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM



**MISSION:** To successfully promote high-impact research in cancer prevention, detection, treatment, quality of life and survivorship for Service Members, their Families, Veterans and the American public.

## Congressional Appropriations

FY09-FY25:  
**\$1.175B** total



"In every cancer breakthrough and triumph, I see echoes of the countless lives touched by the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program. It's a reminder of the incredible impact we can make when we come together with a shared sense of purpose. With every beat of my heart, I am honored to be a part of this extraordinary journey, where hope shines brightest in the face of adversity, and miracles happen."

Brandi Benson, Sarcoma Alliance,  
FY23-FY24 Programmatic Panel Member

## PROGRAM PRIORITIES

### FY25 Topic Areas

All applications for PRCRP funding must specifically address one of the PRCRP topic areas as directed by the U.S. Congress.



#### Blood Cancers

- Blood
- Lymphoma
- Myeloma



#### Gastroenterological Cancers

- Colorectal
- Esophageal
- Liver
- Pancreatic
- Stomach



#### Metastatic Disease

- Metastatic Cancers



#### Neurological Cancers

- Brain Cancer
- Pediatric Brain Tumors



#### Pediatric, Adolescent and Young Adult Cancers, or PAYAC

- Germ Cell Cancers
- Neuroblastoma
- PAYAC
- Sarcoma
- Thyroid Cancer



#### Solid Tumors

- Bladder Cancer
- Endometrial Cancer
- Germ Cell Cancers
- Kidney Cancer
- Lung Cancer
- Mesothelioma
- Neuroendocrine Tumors
- Sarcoma
- Thyroid Cancer

## MILITARY HEALTH FOCUS AREAS

- Environmental exposure risk factors associated with cancer
- Mission readiness and gaps in cancer research

## SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM



In 2024, the American Cancer Society estimates **nearly 700,000** new cancer cases and **over 270,000** cancer-related deaths related to PRCRP topic areas



**Six of the top ten** cancers with the **lowest 5-year survival rates** relate to PRCRP topic areas<sup>1</sup>

## RELEVANCE TO MILITARY HEALTH

More than **55%** of cancer-related medical encounters by Service Members in 2022 relate to a PRCRP topic area<sup>2</sup>

More than **43,000** Veterans receive a cancer diagnosis each year and more than **450,000** Veterans receive cancer care at a VA hospital or institution<sup>3</sup>

Members of the military may be exposed to hazardous environments, putting them at risk for the development of many types of cancers

<sup>1</sup> <https://cancerstatisticscenter.cancer.org/>

<sup>2</sup> Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch. *MSMR* 30, no 6, 2023:3-11.

<sup>3</sup> <https://news.va.gov/107976/va-did-that-advancing-cancer-moonshot/>



For more information, visit: <https://cdmrp.health.mil/prcrp/>



## PROGRAM IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

### Approaches and Initiatives Investigated in Multiple Cancer Types

#### Chimeric Antigen Receptor-T Cell Therapy

Leveraging the strength of an individual's immune system, CAR-T therapy delivers a personalized approach to cancer treatment

**8**  
AWARDS  
**\$6.1M**  
INVESTED

**TOPIC AREAS:** Brain and Esophageal Cancers; Immunotherapy; Mesothelioma; Neuroblastoma; Pediatric Brain Tumors



#### Thriving Beyond Treatment

Lasting effects of cancer diagnoses and treatment come into focus with new investments in quality of life and survivorship for Service Members and their Families

**21**  
AWARDS  
**\$29.4M**  
INVESTED

**TOPIC AREAS:** Brain; Germ Cell; Head and Neck; Metastatic Cancers; Pediatric, Adolescent, Young Adult Cancers, Mesothelioma, Colorectal, and Endometrial Cancer



#### Oncolytic Virus Therapy

Engineering a new way to selectively target and kill tumors without harming healthy cells; OV therapy attacks the most difficult-to-treat cancers

**14**  
AWARDS  
**\$8.7M**  
INVESTED

**TOPIC AREAS:** Brain, Stomach, and Bladder Cancers; Melanoma; Sarcoma

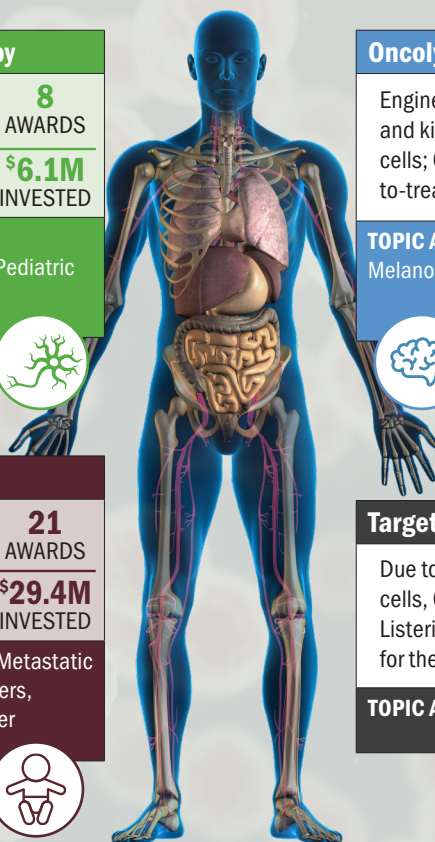


#### Targeting Guanylyl Cyclase C

Due to overexpression in colorectal cancer cells, GUCY2C offers hope as a target for Listeria-based vaccines and CAR-T cells for the prevention and treatment of CRC

**7**  
AWARDS  
**\$7.4M**  
INVESTED

**TOPIC AREAS:** Colorectal Cancer, Listeria Vaccine



## RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGHS — MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- **CIBERSORTx** – A computational tool that characterizes gene expression data to improve understanding of patient responses to treatments for **diverse and complex cancer types**
- **Selinexor** – An FDA-approved treatment for relapsed/refractory **multiple myeloma** and diffuse large B-cell **lymphoma** currently in clinical trials for treating additional cancers including advanced or recurrent **endometrial cancer**
- **EsoCheck™** – A triaging tool to improve the accuracy of **esophageal cancer** diagnoses in asymptomatic individuals



### CONVERGENT SCIENCE VIRTUAL CANCER CENTER

- Focuses research on improving cancer patient outcomes
- Expands research capacity by engaging early career investigators across the U.S.
- Incorporates military health experts on the leadership team

