



Frequently Asked Questions : MS Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program

What is the mission of the MS Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP)?

To support pioneering concepts and high impact research relevant to the prevention, etiology, pathogenesis, assessment and treatment of multiple sclerosis.

How does MS activism relate to the CDMRP?

MS activists advocated for Congress to establish the MS CDMRP and as a result, Congress added the program in 2008. Since 2008, activists have engaged annually to ensure it has been funded. From 2008-2014, it has received \$28 million in funding.

Is the CDMRP the only funding the federal government dedicates to MS research?

No, the government also funds MS research through the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In Fiscal Year 2013, MS researchers received \$112 million from the NIH. Unlike the CDMRP, however, Congress does not specify how much the NIH has to spend on MS research.

Does any money from the CDMRP come to the National MS Society research department?

No. This program is run out of the Department of Defense and the CDMRP solicits their own applications for funding. There have been instances, however, where the Society has co-funded larger research projects with the CDMRP.

How does the CDMRP interact with the National Institutes of Health (NIH)?

The CDMRP is a separate program from the NIH but it coordinates with the NIH to ensure there is no overlap in funding initiatives. Some larger projects have one piece of the project funded by the CDMRP and another portion funded by the NIH.



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society

Does all the funding go to research programs?

Most of the funding goes directly to research programs; however, there is approximately a 20% administration fee to run the program.

How does the CDMRP review research proposals?

The CDMRP uses a two-step review process to decide the research they will fund each year. Both steps are done by a panel of individuals including leading scientists, clinicians, and patient advocates.

The first step is a scientific peer review of applications measured against established criteria for determining scientific merit. After applications pass this step, a panel compares applications to each other and makes recommendations for funding based on scientific merit, portfolio composition, and relevance to program goals.

How can I get more information about becoming a patient representative for the MS CDMRP?

More information can be found on the CDMRP website.

<http://cdmrp.army.mil/cwg/default.shtml>

Where can I get more information about the MS CDMRP?

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How can I continue to ensure Congress prioritizes MS research funding?

Sign up at: www.nationalmssociety.org/MSactivist to be an MS Activist and you will receive alerts when there is an opportunity to contact Congress.