

Press Release for Personal Use

Re: Consumer Participation on Scientific Peer Review Panels

For Immediate Press Release:

SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS' PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs' (CDMRP), **Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP)** consumer advocate William P. Mahr (LTC, US Army, Ret) recently participated in the evaluation of research applications submitted to the **PCRP**. Mr. Mahr was nominated for participation in the program by the Us TOO Chapter at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC). As a consumer reviewer, he was a full voting member, (along with prominent scientists) at meetings to help determine how the **\$100 million** appropriated by Congress for Fiscal Year **2019** will be spent on **PCRP** research.

Consumer reviewers are asked to represent the collective view of patients by preparing comments on the impact of the research on issues such as diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life. When commenting on serving as a consumer reviewer, Mr. Mahr said that, "Serving in this capacity for the DoD was a way for me to show my gratitude for the excellent care I received as a patient from the Center for Prostate Disease Research at WRNMMC".

Consumer advocates and scientists have worked together in this unique partnership to evaluate the scientific merit of research applications since **FY97**. Colonel Stephen J. Dalal, Director of the CDMRP, expressed his appreciation for the consumer advocate's perspective during the scientific review sessions. "Consumer advocates are an integral part of the CDMRP's scientific review process. They provide a key ingredient to the review process, the patient's perspective, which is real and urgent. The collaboration of Consumer advocates alongside the scientists' subject matter expertise is a truly unique collaboration that is difficult to find in most medical research programs."

Scientists applying propose to 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. The **PCRP** fills important gaps not addressed by other funding agencies by supporting groundbreaking, high-risk, high-gain research while encouraging out-of-the-box thinking.

More information about the CDMRP's PCRCP is available at the website: [https://
cdmrp.army.mil/pcrp/default](https://cdmrp.army.mil/pcrp/default).

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Ripple Effect

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