

United States Army
Medical Research
and Materiel
Command



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
BROAD AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT
for Extramural Medical Research

W81XWH-17-R-BAA1

(Rev 1)
October 2016

Fort Detrick, Maryland

This Broad Agency Announcement must be read in conjunction with the General Submission Instructions, which is available for downloading from Grants.gov.

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NEW FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

The Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command's (USAMRMC) Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for Extramural Medical Research contains several changes from previous USAMRMC BAAs. Read each section carefully. Note the following:

- “Attachment 4: Lay Abstract,” has been added as a required component for the “Grants.gov application package components.”
- The “Program Description” that describes the “Research Areas of Interest” has been updated and can be found in the Appendix.
- For assistance agreements:
 - The total period of performance may be proposed for up to 4 years in length; additional periods may be considered.
 - Any assistance agreement (grant or cooperative agreement) awarded under this BAA will be governed by the award terms and conditions that conform to the Department of Defense's (DoD) implementation of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circulars applicable to financial assistance. Terms and conditions of awards made after December 26, 2014, may include revisions to reflect DoD implementation of new OMB guidance in 2 CFR¹ part 200, “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.”
- For contract awards:
 - The total period of performance may be proposed for up to 5 years in length.
 - The Subcontracting Plan Requirement has been updated. The subcontracting plan requirements can be found in [Section IV., Eligibility Information](#).
 - Applicants can now apply for conference or symposium support.

¹ Code of Federal Regulations

I. OVERVIEW OF THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

A. Administrative Overview

1. **Federal Agency Name:** Department of Defense (US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command)
2. **Funding Opportunity Title:** US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Broad Agency Announcement for Extramural Medical Research
3. **Announcement Type:** Broad Agency Announcement
4. **Funding Opportunity Number:** W81XWH-17-R-BAA1 (Initial for Fiscal Year 2017)
5. **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:** 12.420 Military Medical Research and Development
6. **Key Dates:**

Release/Posted Date:	October 1, 2016
Opening Date:	October 1, 2016
Revised Date:	December 14, 2016
Closing Date:	September 30, 2017, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time

This Funding Opportunity Announcement is a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA). It is continuously open for a 12-month period, from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. This BAA must be read in conjunction with the application guidelines in [Grants.gov/Apply for Grants](https://www.grants.gov/Apply) (hereafter called Grants.gov/Apply). It must also be read in conjunction with the document titled “General Submission Instructions,” available with this BAA in Grants.gov.

Pre-Proposals/Pre-Applications: To conserve both submitters’ and Federal Government resources, organizations are *required to submit preliminary proposals/applications (pre-proposals/pre-applications)* so that the Government can determine whether a proposed research idea meets the USAMRMC’s mission and requirements described herein. Pre-proposals/pre-applications may be submitted at any time throughout the 12-month period noted above. All pre-proposals/pre-applications must be submitted through Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP) (<https://eBRAP.org/>). A registration process through eBRAP (https://eBRAP.org) must be completed before a pre-proposal/pre-application can be submitted.

Full Proposals/Applications: To submit a full proposal/application, the PI must have received an invitation to submit from a Contracting or Grants Officer. For research support, an invited full proposal/application must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov/>) using the SF424 Research and Related (R&R) forms and the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide. For conference or symposium support, an invited full proposal must be submitted electronically through eBRAP (https://eBRAP.org).

Proposals/Applications will not be accepted by mail or in person.

Invited full proposals/applications can be submitted under the FY17 BAA through September 30, 2017. If an invited full proposal/application is not submitted by this date, the applicant must wait for the next available opportunity for submission, i.e., the release of the FY18 BAA (to be posted October 1, 2017).

An invited full proposal/application submitted under this FY17 BAA will be considered for funding for a period of 24 months from the date of submission to Grants.gov.

A compatible version of Adobe is required for download from Grants.gov. For assistance downloading this or any Grants.gov package, contact Grants.gov Customer Support at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html>.

B. General Program Overview

The USAMRMC mission is to provide solutions to medical problems of importance to the American Service member at home and abroad, as well as to the general public at large. The scope of this effort and the priorities attached to specific projects are influenced by changes in military and civilian medical science and technology, operational requirements, military threat assessments, and national defense strategies. The extramural research and development programs play a vital role in the fulfillment of the objectives established by the USAMRMC. General information on USAMRMC can be obtained at <http://mrmc.amedd.army.mil/index.cfm>.

This BAA is intended to solicit extramural research and development ideas and is issued under the provisions of the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-369), as implemented in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 6.102(d)(2) and 35.016 and in DoD Grant and Agreement Regulations (DoDGARS) 22.315. In accordance with FAR 35.016, projects funded under this BAA must be for basic and applied research to support scientific study and experimentation directed towards advancing the state of the art or increasing knowledge or understanding rather than focusing on development of a specific system or hardware solution. Research and development funded through this BAA are intended and expected to benefit and inform both military and civilian medical practice and knowledge.

The selection process is highly competitive and the quantity of meaningful submissions (both pre-proposals/pre-applications and full proposals/applications) received typically exceeds the number of awards that available funding can support.

This BAA provides a general description of USAMRMC's research and development programs, including research areas of interest, evaluation and selection criteria, pre-proposal/pre-application and full proposal/application preparation instructions, and general administrative information. Specific submission information and additional administrative requirements can be found in the document titled "General Submission Instructions" available in Grants.gov along with this BAA.

The USAMRMC strongly encourages applicants to incorporate Common Data Elements (CDEs) measures appropriate to each field of study, such as:

- Mental Health Research Collection (Psychiatric, Psychosocial, Alcohol, Tobacco, and other substances as well as Substance Abuse and Addiction) of the PhenX Toolkit (<https://www.phenxtoolkit.org/index.php>) into all studies involving human subjects as applicable.
- Traumatic brain injury CDEs related to Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury Research (FITBIR) data sharing requirements, which can be found at <http://fitbir.nih.gov>.
- Spinal cord injury research CDEs developed through the collaboration of the International Spinal Cord Society, the American Spinal Injury Association, and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke CDE team, as referenced at <http://www.commondataelements.ninds.nih.gov/SCI.aspx>.

The execution management agent for this BAA will be the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). The CDMRP manages the eBRAP system and retrieval and processing of full proposal/application submissions from Grants.gov. Refer to [Section X, Agency Contacts](#), for additional information.

The USAMRMC's supporting acquisition office, the US Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA), will be the awarding and administering office for proposals/applications selected for funding, unless approval is obtained from the USAMRAA Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting to allow another Federal acquisition office to execute and administer an award.

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A. Research Areas of Interest

1. Military Infectious Diseases Research Program

The Military Infectious Diseases Research Program (MIDRP) focuses on vaccines, drugs, field-deployable clinical diagnostics and vector detection assays (human and vector), and novel therapeutics to treat multidrug-resistant organisms in combat wound infections, as well as vector control measures for insect vectors that transmit naturally occurring endemic diseases with demonstrated or potential capability to decrease military operational effectiveness. Diseases of principal interest to the MIDRP are malaria, dengue, diarrheal disease caused by bacteria, multidrug-resistant bacteria and fungi, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The MIDRP also has smaller research programs focused on scrub typhus, adenovirus, and hemorrhagic fever viruses not found on the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) biothreat list. The MIDRP does not support proposals/applications for funding research on viral or bacterial biowarfare threats, chemical weapon threats, or cancer.

Research efforts that focus on novel technologies for the detection, prevention, and treatment of naturally occurring infectious diseases such as norovirus and other viral diarrhea, Q fever

(*Coxiella burnetii*), Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, protozoal diarrhea, Rickettsiosis, Zika virus, Chikungunya virus, multidrug-resistant bacteria and fungi, as well as technologies that leverage current DoD intramural research efforts in malaria, dengue, bacterial diarrhea, and HIV are needed. MIDRP is interested in Investigational New Drug (IND)-enabling preclinical and clinical studies to facilitate the development of therapeutics for prevention or treatment of multidrug-resistant bacteria, fungi, and emerging infectious disease threats (e.g., Chikungunya virus, MERS-CoV, Zika virus).

The MIDRP is also interested in proposals/applications incorporating a systems biology approach. For more information, refer to [Section V.E.2, Attachment 7](#), Data- and Research Resource-Sharing Plan.

Research Areas of Interest to the MIDRP are found in [Appendix, Section I](#). Applicants are urged to read and consider these before preparing their applications.

2. Combat Casualty Care Research Program

The Combat Casualty Care Research Program (CCCRP) provides integrated capabilities for current and future operations to reduce the mortality and morbidity associated with major combat-related trauma across the spectrum of combat casualty care including point of injury and pre- or out-of-hospital care, the spectrum of en-route care, and facilities-based treatment. A primary emphasis of the CCCRP is to identify and develop medical techniques, knowledge products, and materiel² (medical devices, drugs, and biologics) for early intervention in life-threatening battle injuries and prolonged field care³ (PFC). Because battlefield conditions impose severe constraints on available manpower, equipment, and medical supplies available for casualty care, the CCCRP places a premium on medical interventions that can be used within the battle area or as close to it as possible, before or during medical evacuation. Preferred medical techniques and materiel that can be used by combat medics must be easily transportable (i.e., small, lightweight, and durable in extreme environments and handling); devices must be easy to use, low maintenance, with self-contained power sources as necessary. Drugs and biologics, ideally, should not require refrigeration or other special handling. Ideally, materiel solutions should be stable within opposite extremes of temperatures. All materiel and techniques must be simple and rapid to employ. The CCCRP is interested in existing materiel for which concept and/or patient care efficacy have already been demonstrated, but that require improvement to meet military requirements. The CCCRP is also interested in proposals/applications incorporating a systems biology approach. For more information, refer to [Section V.E.2, Attachment 7](#), Data- and Research Resource-Sharing Plan.

Research efforts are needed in principles and technologies to enhance self- and buddy-aid, also referred to as tactical care; techniques, methods, or materiel to improve basic and advanced life support for all injured persons; monitoring, sustainment, and management of all injured casualties during episodes of delayed or prolonged field care; and enhanced

² Materiel is defined as equipment and supplies of a military force.

³ Prolonged field care is defined as field medical care, applied beyond “doctrinal planning timelines” by a NATO Special Operations Combat Medic (NSOCM) or higher, in order to decrease patient mortality and morbidity. PFC utilizes limited resources and is sustained until the patient arrives at an appropriate level of care.

capability for triage of large numbers of casualties and staged treatment in the field. The principal causes of death among Service members who die within the first hour of wounding are hemorrhage and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

The CCCRP supports additional aspects of casualty care. These include drugs, devices, and/or novel surgical techniques to decontaminate, debride, protect, monitor, repair, and/or stabilize hard and soft tissue wounds to mitigate secondary tissue damage; orthopaedic and maxillofacial trauma repair strategies; and the prevention and/or mitigation of wound infection and disease in austere environments. The CCCRP is also interested in the development of noninvasive sensors; diagnostic and prognostic algorithms; data gathering or capture modalities; processors to improve our capability for remote triage, monitoring, and management of casualties; and products to maintain casualties during prolonged evacuation.

The CCCRP also supports the conduct of military-relevant clinical research aimed at translating knowledge or materiel from basic and preclinical trauma research into clinical practice. This includes, but is not limited to, single- and multi-center clinical trials performed in the civilian setting to clarify the safety, efficacy, and optimal use of products stemming from the previously mentioned research areas.

The CCCRP supports the conduct of military-relevant, large data research projects including the use of large databases of common elements from trauma research projects (preclinical, translational, and clinical). Such studies should directly contribute to or effectively enable the data-driven conduct of combat casualty care. Examples include, but are not limited to, post-hoc analysis of data from completed trauma research projects, meta-analyses of a number of otherwise separate but completed studies, and the ability to harmonize data from planned or ongoing but otherwise separate research studies.

The Research Areas of Interest to the CCCRP are found in [Appendix, Section II](#). Applicants are urged to read and consider these before preparing their applications.

3. Military Operational Medicine Research Program

The Military Operational Medicine Research Program (MOMRP) conducts biomedical research to deliver products and solutions to the Service member and that addresses health and performance throughout the Service member's lifecycle. The MOMRP is centered on cutting-edge scientific research and bringing science to the Service member on the battlefield in a relevant, timely manner. The MOMRP is divided into four research focus areas: Injury Prevention and Reduction, Psychological Health and Resilience, Physiological Health and Performance, and Environmental Health and Protection.

The mission of the MOMRP is to develop effective countermeasures against military-relevant stressors and to maximize readiness, health, performance, and fitness to protect the whole Service member, head-to-toe, inside and out, at home, and on the battlefield. The MOMRP is interested in proposals/applications and products incorporating a systems biology approach. Applications are encouraged to leverage existing resources and infrastructure to support lifecycle logistics and sustainability. For more information, refer to [Section V.E.2, Attachment 7](#), Data- and Research Resource-Sharing Plan.

The MOMRP supports research focused on solving critical problems facing the military today and in the future. Service- and platform-specific issues are addressed through close coordination with all Services to prevent unnecessary duplication of effort.

The Research Areas of Interest to the MOMRP are found in [Appendix, Section III](#). Applicants are urged to read and consider these before preparing their applications.

4. Clinical and Rehabilitative Medicine Research Program

The Clinical and Rehabilitative Medicine Research Program (CRM RP) focuses on the innovations required to reset our wounded Service members, both in terms of duty performance and quality of life. Innovations developed from CRM RP-supported research efforts are expected to improve restorative treatments and rehabilitative care to maximize function for return-to-duty (RTD) or civilian life. Medical technologies (drugs, biologics, and devices) and treatment/rehabilitation strategies (methods, guidelines, standards, and information) that will significantly improve the medical care our wounded Service members receive within the DoD healthcare system are of particular interest. Implementation of these technologies and strategies should improve the rate of RTD of Service members, the time to RTD, clinical outcome measures, and quality of life, as well as reduce the hospital stay lengths, clinical workload (patient encounters, treatments, etc.), and initial and long-term costs associated with restorative and rehabilitative or acute care.

Development and validation of in-vitro and in-vivo assessment models that represent military-relevant conditions in wounded Service members, as well as those that incorporate a systems biology approach, are of interest to the CRM RP when they can be used to identify and describe, in a predictable manner, the safety and efficacy of novel technologies in patients. For more information, refer to [Section V.E.2, Attachment 7](#), Data- and Research Resource-Sharing Plan.

The CRM RP focuses its efforts on the following research areas: neuromusculoskeletal injury (including limb trauma and amputation), sensory systems (including hearing, balance, tinnitus, and vision), acute and chronic pain, and regenerative medicine. While research topics of highest priority and interest are listed below for each of these areas, proposals/applications for topics that align within an overall research area will also be considered, except as specifically noted. TBI research proposals/applications will only be considered if the focus is related to one or more of the following: hearing, balance, tinnitus, vision, or pain related to TBI. Novel manufacturing technologies necessary to translate innovative therapies or devices into clinical development are a focus.

All projects should adhere to a core set of reporting standards for rigorous study design. The CRM RP strongly encourages award recipients to follow the Animal Research: Reporting *In Vivo* Experiments (ARRIVE) guidelines (http://www.elsevier.com/data/promis_misc/622936arrive_guidelines.pdf). While these standards are written for animal studies, the basic principles of randomization, blinding, sample size estimation, and data handling derive from well-established best practices in clinical studies and should be applied to those projects as well.

The Research Areas of Interest to the CRMRP are found in [Appendix, Section IV](#). Applicants are urged to read and consider these before preparing their applications.

5. Medical Biological Defense Research Program

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) Joint Science and Technology Office for Chemical and Biological Defense (JSTO-CBD) manages research directed towards medical biological defense. The DTRA JSTO-CBD has limited funding for proposals/applications submitted through the USAMRMC BAA. DTRA also seeks proposals/applications for its requirements through the Federal Business Opportunities (FedBizOpps) and the DoD Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program solicitations. For information regarding DTRA business opportunities, visit the website at <http://www.dtra.mil/Contracts/BusinessOpportunities.aspx>.

The Medical Biological Defense Research Program (MBDRP) provides medical countermeasures for biological warfare agents. These countermeasures include specialized medical materiel or procedures designed to enhance protection. The priorities of the program are (a) prophylaxis or pretreatment to prevent any casualty; (b) identification and diagnosis of biological agents; and (c) treatment or supportive care regimens. The MBDRP is interested in proposals/applications and products incorporating a systems biology approach. For more information, refer to [Section V.E.2, Attachment 7](#).

Examples of some of the infectious agents of interest are those causing anthrax, plague, and glanders; the Ebola, Marburg, Venezuelan, Western and Eastern equine encephalitis viruses; and poxvirus models of variola virus. Examples of toxins of interest include those from plants (Ricin) and bacteria (Staphylococcal enterotoxins, botulinum).

The Research Areas of Interest to the MBDRP are found in [Appendix, Section V](#). Applicants are urged to read and consider these before preparing their applications.

6. Medical Chemical Defense Research Program

The DTRA JSTO-CBD manages research directed towards medical chemical defense; the program has limited funding for proposals/applications submitted through the USAMRMC BAA. DTRA also seeks proposals/applications for its requirements through FedBizOpps and DoD SBIR program solicitations. For information on DTRA business opportunities, visit its website at <http://www.dtra.mil/Contracts/BusinessOpportunities.aspx>.

The Medical Chemical Defense Research Program (MCDRP) seeks to preserve combat effectiveness through timely provision of medical countermeasures in response to Joint Service Chemical Warfare Defense Requirements. The fundamental orientation of the program is to protect U.S. forces from the effects of chemical warfare agents by developing protective, pretreatment, and prophylactic products, providing products usable by the individual Service member for immediate treatment of chemical warfare agent exposures, developing antidotes/therapeutics to chemical warfare agents, defining care procedures for chemical warfare agent casualties, and advancing management of these casualties. The medical countermeasures are intended to preserve and sustain the Service members' combat effectiveness in the face of combined threats from chemical and conventional munitions on

the integrated battlefield. The MCDRP is interested in proposals/applications and products incorporating a systems biology approach. For more information, refer to [Section V.E.2, Attachment 7](#), Data- and Research Resource-Sharing Plan.

The broad goals of this program are described below:

- a. *Maintain the technologic capability to meet present requirements and counter future chemical warfare agent threats:*** The program will maintain the scientific base and technological capability to develop timely medical countermeasures for both current and future chemical warfare agent threats. Research funded by this program will be used to identify concepts and candidate medical countermeasures for use by the individual Service member or by medical personnel. Basic and applied research are both supported and may address topics as diverse as determining sites/mechanisms of action and effects of exposure to chemical warfare agents with emphasis on exploitation of neuroscience technology, and respiratory, ocular, and dermal pathophysiology; identifying sites and biochemical mechanisms of action of medical countermeasures; exploiting molecular biological and biotechnological approaches for development of new approaches for medical countermeasures to chemical warfare agents; and exploiting molecular modeling and quantitative structure-activity relationships in support of drug discovery and design.
- b. *Provide medical countermeasures for the individual Service member to maintain combat effectiveness and prevent or reduce injury from chemical warfare agents:*** This goal encompasses research supporting development of new concepts for prophylaxes, pretreatments, antidotes, and therapeutic countermeasures; development of skin protectants and decontaminants; identification of factors that influence safety and efficacy of candidate medical countermeasures; and development and maintenance of preformulation, formulation, and radiolabeling capabilities.
- c. *Provide medical management of chemical casualties to enhance survival and expedite the RTD of chemical warfare agent casualties through definitive therapies and life support technologies:*** This goal includes developing concepts and therapeutic regimens and procedures for the management of chemical warfare agent casualties; developing diagnostic and prognostic indicators for chemical warfare agent casualties; and developing life-support equipment for definitive care of chemical warfare agent casualties.

Recent changes in the security situation facing the U.S. have not materially reduced the threat that chemical weapons present to American forces in the field. Many Third World countries and terrorist groups have the capability of producing and delivering chemical warfare agents, thus posing a substantial and serious threat to the Armed Forces of the U.S.

Classical chemical agent threat categories include vesicant or blister agents (e.g., sulfur mustard), blood agents (e.g., cyanide), respiratory agents (e.g., phosgene), and nerve agents (e.g., GA or Tabun, GB or Sarin, GD or Soman, and VX).

The Research Areas of Interest to the MCDRP are found in [Appendix, Section VI](#). Applicants are urged to read and consider these before preparing their applications.

7. Medical Simulation and Information Sciences Research Program

The mission of the Medical Simulation and Information Sciences Research Program (MSISRP) is to explore the implications of models and technology for medical education and for the provision, management, and support of health services in the military. The MSISRP plans, coordinates, and oversees a responsive world-class, tri-service science and technology program focused on two areas of research. One area is focused on improving military medical training through medical modeling, simulation, educational gaming, assessment systems, and objective training metrics. The second area is focused on improving technologies and the capture, movement, storage, usability, and use and sharing of health-related data for better clinical care, strategic planning, process development, and software applications.

MSISRP is organized into two portfolios, one for each of the two focus areas.

The sub-focus areas and Research Areas of Interest to the MSISRP are found in [Appendix, Section VII](#). Applicants are urged to read and consider these before preparing their applications.

8. Radiation Health Effects Research Program

The Radiation Health Effects Research Program (RHERP) focuses on developing medical countermeasures for acute ionizing radiation injury. The program has interest in the following research focus areas: post-exposure mitigation of radiation injury; protection and prevention of injury from ionizing radiation exposure (prophylaxis); mechanism of radiation injury; and development of novel biodosimetry tools. The RHERP is interested in proposals/applications and products incorporating a systems biology approach. For more information, refer to [Section V.E.2, Attachment 7](#).

9. Conference or Symposium Support

The USAMRMC may, on a very limited basis, provide financial support for the management and execution of conferences or symposia that are critical to USAMRMC's mission accomplishment. Funding for conference or symposium support may require approval outside of USAMRMC and will only be considered if the event significantly furthers the mission of the DoD and has a quantifiable benefit or return on investment. If a conference or symposium proposal is selected for funding, the award will be issued as a contract.

B. Research and Development of Devices or Technologies

This BAA is intended to solicit extramural research and development ideas and is issued under the provisions of the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-369), as implemented in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 6.102(d)(2) and 35.016 and in DoDGARS 22.315. In accordance with FAR 35.016, projects funded under this BAA must be for basic and applied research to support scientific study and experimentation directed towards advancing the state of the art or increasing knowledge or understanding rather than focusing on

development of a specific system or hardware solution. Research and development funded through this BAA are intended and expected to benefit and inform both military and civilian medical practice and knowledge.

Additional information is required for such projects as indicated below:

- Discussion of the technical feasibility of the proposed project including background of the problem, theoretical model/approach, previous and current solutions, an awareness of similar projects previously undertaken, and knowledge of related activities.
- Discussion of the engineering/technical design to achieve the project goals demonstrating feasibility of the proposed product development. Discussion of the perceived engineering/design strengths and flaws and recommendations for overcoming/preventing them.
- Discussion of the background intellectual property relevant to the project.
- Discussion of the plans for translation, implementation, and/or commercialization for the device or technology.

III. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards

The funding amount for this BAA is unspecified, and the number of awards is indeterminate and contingent upon funding availability. Selection of research projects is a highly competitive process and is based on the evaluation of the proposal/application's technical merit, programmatic considerations, and the availability of funds. The quantity of meaningful submissions received normally exceeds the number of awards that the available funding can support. Any funding that is received by the USAMRMC and is appropriate for a research area described within this BAA may be utilized to fund proposals/applications.

B. Award Amounts and Periods of Performance

There are no specified funding limitations identified for a proposal/application submitted under this BAA. A budget should be commensurate with the nature and complexity of the proposed research. Researchers should submit budgets that include the entire period of performance of the research project. Budgets should include all direct and indirect costs, based on supportable, verifiable estimates. The budget for the full proposal/application should not differ significantly from the Pre-Proposal/Pre-Application Budget Summary Form provided in the pre-proposal/pre-application submission.

For an assistance agreement the total period of performance may be proposed for up to 4 years in length; additional periods may be considered. For research support contract awards, the total period of performance may be proposed for up to 5 years in length. For conference or symposium support contract awards, the total period of performance may be proposed for up to 2 years of length. Because the nature and scope of each proposed research project will vary, it is anticipated that the size and duration of each award will vary. Start dates will vary, depending on when proposals/applications were submitted and reviewed and the negotiation process.

However, no proposal/application submitted under this BAA will be considered for funding after 24 months from the date of submission to Grants.gov.

PIs seeking additional or continuation funding must submit new pre-proposals/pre-applications and be invited to submit full proposals/applications.

Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Section II.D.5., for additional information regarding the research and related budget.

C. Mechanisms of Support

The USAMRMC executes its extramural research program primarily through the award of contracts and assistance agreements (grants and cooperative agreements). The type of instrument used to reflect the business relationship between the organization and the Government is at the discretion of the Government, in accordance with the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, 31 USC⁴ 6301-6308, which provides the legal criteria to select a procurement contract or an assistance agreement. Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Appendix 4, for additional information.

D. Use of Military and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Populations or Resources

If the proposed research involves access to active duty military and/or VA population(s) and/or resource(s), the Principal Investigator (PI) is responsible for establishing access. If possible, access to target active duty military and/or VA patient population(s) should be confirmed at the time of proposal/application submission. A letter of support, signed by the lowest ranking person with approval authority, should be included for studies involving Service members, Veterans, military and/or VA-controlled study materials, and military and/or VA databases. Use [Attachment 2, Supporting Documentation](#) to provide this documentation.

IV. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

Awards are made to organizations only. Organizations eligible to apply include national, international, for-profit, non-profit, public, and private organizations. Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Appendix 1, for general eligibility information.

NOTE: In accordance with FAR 35.017, Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) are not eligible to directly receive awards under this BAA. However, teaming arrangements between FFRDCs and eligible organizations are allowed so long as they are permitted under the sponsoring agreement between the Federal Government and the specific FFRDC.

The USAMRMC is committed to supporting small businesses. Small business, Veteran-owned small business, Service-disabled Veteran-owned small business, HUBZone small business, small disadvantaged business, and woman-owned small business concerns must be given the maximum

⁴ United States Code

practical opportunity to participate through subawards on research proposals/applications submitted through the BAA.

B. Eligible Investigators

Eligible investigators include all individuals, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or citizenship status, who are employed by, or affiliated with, an eligible organization.

Investigators are cautioned that awards are made to organizations, not individuals.

C. Cost Sharing or Matching is not required under this announcement.

D. Other Review Information

The following information will be reviewed prior to the award of a contract or assistance agreement:

1. Use of the System for Award Management (SAM) and the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIS)

To protect the public interest, the Federal Government ensures the integrity of Federal programs by striving to conduct business only with responsible organizations. The USAMRMC uses the “Exclusions” within the Performance Information functional area of the SAM and data from FAPIS, a component within SAM, to verify that an organization is eligible to receive Federal awards. More information about SAM and FAPIS is available at <https://www.sam.gov/>. Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Appendix 3, for additional information.

2. Conflicts of Interest

All awards must be free of conflicts of interest (COIs) that could bias the research results. Prior to award of an assistance agreement or contract, applicants will be required to disclose all potential or actual COIs along with a plan to manage them. An award may not be made if it is determined by the Grants Officer or Contracting Officer that COIs cannot be adequately managed. Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional information.

3. Review of Risk

The following areas may be reviewed in evaluating the risk posed by an applicant: Financial stability; quality of management systems and operational controls; history of performance; reports and findings from audits; ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities; degree of institutional support; integrity; adequacy of facilities; and conformance with safety and environmental statutes and regulations.

4. Subcontracting Plan

If the resultant award is a contract that exceeds \$700,000 and the offeror is other than a small business, the contractor will be required to submit a subcontracting plan for small business and small disadvantaged business concerns, in accordance with FAR 19.704 and DFARS 219.704. A mutually agreeable plan will be incorporated as part of the resultant contract. Information on the USAMRMC small business goals can be obtained at <http://www.mrmc.smallbusopps.army.mil/>

V. SUBMISSION INFORMATION FOR RESEARCH AWARDS

Note: For submission information for conference or symposium support, refer to [Section VI](#).

A. Where to Obtain the Submission Package for Research Awards

To obtain the complete Grants.gov proposal/application package (hereinafter, submission package), including all required forms, perform a Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov/>) basic search using the Funding Opportunity Number **W81XWH-17-R-BAA1**.

Submission is a two-step process requiring both: (1) Pre-proposal/pre-application submission through eBRAP (<https://eBRAP.org/>); and (2) Full proposal/application submission through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov/>).

B. Pre-Proposal/Pre-Application Submission and Content for Research Awards

Submission of a pre-proposal/pre-application is required and must be submitted through eBRAP (<https://eBRAP.org/>). If the USAMRMC is interested in receiving a full proposal/application, the PI will be sent an invitation via eBRAP to submit.

Because the invitation to submit a proposal/application is based on the contents of the pre-proposal/pre-application, a PI should not change the title or research objectives after the pre-proposal/pre-application is submitted. A PI and organization identified in the pre-proposal/pre-application should be the same as those intended for the full proposal/application submission. If any changes are necessary after submission of the pre-proposal/pre-application, the PI must contact the CDMRP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507. A change in PI or organization after submission of the pre-proposal/pre-application will be allowed only at the discretion of the USAMRAA Contracting or Grants Officer.

The organization, Business Official, and PI must register in eBRAP before submitting a pre-proposal/pre-application. Upon completion of an organization's registration in eBRAP and approval by the CDMRP Help Desk, the organization name will be displayed in eBRAP to assist the organization's Business Officials and PIs as they register. The organization, Business Officials, and PIs must all be registered and affiliated in eBRAP. (See *eBRAP User Guide* at <https://eBRAP.org/eBRAP/public/UserGuide.pdf>.)

Pre-proposals/pre-applications may be submitted at any time prior to the BAA closing date. Pre-proposals/pre-applications should describe specific ideas or projects that pertain to any of the areas described under "Program Description" in this BAA. A pre-proposal/pre-application must include a brief description of the scientific methods and design to address the problem as described below. Brochures or other descriptions of general organizational or individual capabilities will not be accepted as a pre-proposal/pre-application. ***DO NOT include any proprietary information in the pre-proposal/pre-application.***

The pre-proposal/pre-application consists of the following components, which are organized in eBRAP by separate tabs. Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Section II.C., for additional information on pre-proposal/pre-application submission.

- **Tab 1 – Application Information:**

- Enter the information as described in eBRAP before continuing the pre-proposal/pre-application.

- **Tab 2 – Application Contact:**

- Enter contact information for the PI. Enter the organization’s Business Official responsible for sponsored program administration (the “person to be contacted on matters involving this application” in Block 5 of the Grants.gov SF424 Form). The Business Official must either be selected from the eBRAP list or invited for the pre-proposal/pre-application to be submitted.
- Select the performing organization (site at which the PI will perform the proposed work) and contracting organization (organization submitting on behalf of the PI, which corresponds to Block 5 on SF424), and click on “Add Organizations to this Pre-application.” The organization(s) must either be selected from the eBRAP drop-down list or invited for the pre-proposal/pre-application to be submitted.
- It is recommended that PIs identify an Alternate Submitter in the event that assistance with pre-proposal/pre-application submission is needed.

NOTE: The eBRAP system does not require approval of the pre-proposal/pre-application by the PI’s organization.

- **Tab 3 – Collaborators and Key Personnel:**

- To enable the USAMRMC to avoid COI during the screening and review processes, list the name, organization, and role of all scientific participants in the proposed research project, including co-investigators, mentors, collaborators, consultants, and subrecipients/subawardees.

- **Tab 4 – Conflicts of Interest**

- List all individuals other than collaborators and key personnel who may have a COI in the review of the proposal/application (including those with whom the PI has a personal or professional relationship).

Federal agency personnel involved in the review process and/or with making funding recommendations are prohibited from being involved in the research proposed or assisting in any pre-proposal/pre-application, including, but not limited to, concept design, application development, budget preparation, and the development of any supporting documentation. ***If formal collaboration with Military Facility personnel is planned (i.e., included in the proposal/application in performance of the research), this prohibition is not applicable. However, these Military Facility personnel cannot be involved in the review process and/or with making funding recommendations.***

Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional information. For questions related to COI, contact the CDMRP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507.

- **Tab 5 – Required Files**

NOTE: No figures, charts, graphs, or other additional material will be accepted during the pre-proposal/pre-application process.

Provide responses in the appropriate data fields for the following in eBRAP. **DO NOT LEAVE ANY FIELDS BLANK.** eBRAP will truncate characters exceeding the limit specified for each data field. Enter “none” if there is no information to be included.

- Problem To Be Studied (4,000 character limit, including spaces).
- Theoretical Rationale, Scientific Methods, and Design (4,000 character limit, including spaces).
- Significance and/or Uniqueness of the Proposed Effort (4,000 character limit, including spaces).
- Military Relevance and Impact (4,000 character limit, including spaces).
- Brief Description of Research Involving Animals, Human Anatomical Substances and/or Human Subjects (4,000 character limit, including spaces).
- Plans and Strategy for Translation, Implementation, and/or Commercialization (4,000 character limit, including spaces).

Upload document(s) as individual PDF files. eBRAP will not allow a document to be uploaded in the Required Files tab if the number of pages exceeds the limits specified below.

- Budget Summary: Upload as “BudgetSummary.pdf.” Complete the two-page Budget Summary Form (available for download in eBRAP) as instructed.
- PI and Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (five-page limit per individual): Use boldfaced type or highlight titles of publications relevant to the proposed project. All biosketches should be uploaded as a single combined file.

Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Section II.C., for detailed information.

- **Tab 6 – Submit Pre-Application:** This tab must be completed for the pre-proposal/pre-application to be accepted and processed.

C. Notification of Pre-Proposal/Pre-Application Screening Results

USAMRMC scientists or outside experts will screen pre-proposals/pre-applications for technical merit and programmatic considerations. Based on the screening of the pre-proposal/pre-application, a PI may be invited to submit a full proposal/application.

Following the pre-proposal/pre-application screening, PIs will be notified as to whether or not they are invited to submit full proposals/applications; however, they will not receive feedback (e.g., a critique of strengths and weaknesses) on their pre-proposals/pre-applications. Within 120 days of submission, PIs should receive email notification via eBRAP regarding disposition of their pre-proposals/pre-applications.

D. Full Proposal/Application Submission Content and Forms

A proposal/application will not be accepted unless the PI has received an invitation to submit.

If the USAMRMC is interested in receiving a full proposal/application, the PI will be sent, via email from eBRAP, an invitation to submit. An invited full proposal/application must be submitted through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov/>) within 90 days of the PI's receipt of an invitation to submit. Agency receipt of a full proposal/application will be acknowledged by an email sent to the PI via eBRAP. The proposal/application log number for the full proposal/application will be the same number as used for the pre-proposal/pre-application, e.g., BA17xxxx.

The organization and PI will have registered in eBRAP during the pre-proposal/pre-application stage. This will permit an organization's representatives and PIs to be able to view and modify Grants.gov proposal/application submissions associated with them, but only if the organization, Business Officials, and PIs are registered and affiliated in eBRAP.

Proposal/Application viewing, modification, and verification in eBRAP are strongly recommended, but not required. Modification of proposal/application components is permitted at any time *within 5 calendar days of proposal/application submission to Grants.gov, i.e., the verification period. If the Project Narrative exceeds the page limit or the Budget form contains only zeros, an updated Grants.gov application package must be submitted via Grants.gov as a "Changed/Corrected Application" with the previous Grants.gov Tracking ID.* If modification and/or verification are not completed by the end of the verification period, the proposal/application will be reviewed as submitted through Grants.gov, provided there is no cause for administrative rejection of the proposal/application ([Section VIII.A., Rejection](#)).

Each proposal/application submission must include the completed submission package of forms and attachments provided in Grants.gov for this BAA. The submission package is to be submitted by the Authorized Organizational Representative through the Grants.gov portal (<http://www.grants.gov/>). Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Section II, for submission information.

Proprietary information should *only be included if necessary* for evaluation of the proposal/application. Conspicuously and legibly mark any proprietary information that is included in the proposal/application.

The PI should receive disposition regarding the proposal/application via an email from eBRAP within 180 days of submission.

E. Grants.gov Proposal/Application Package Components

The Grants.gov submission package includes the following components (refer to the General Submission Instructions, Section II.D., for additional information on proposal/application submission):

- 1. SF424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance Form:** Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Section II.D.2, for detailed information.

2. Attachments Form

- **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (20-page limit):** Upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf.” There is no form for this information. The attachments must be PDF files in accordance with the formatting guidelines specified for full proposal/application preparation.

A detailed description of the research to be undertaken should be submitted. This should include the areas provided below and address their relationship to the state of knowledge in the field and to comparable work in progress elsewhere. Evaluation of the proposed research will be influenced by the adequacy of this information.

Literature references and curriculum vitae will be shown in separate addenda entries. The following general outline should be followed:

- **Background:** Provide a brief statement of ideas and theoretical reasoning behind the proposed study. Describe previous experience most pertinent to this proposal/application. Cite relevant literature references. Include discussion of any findings (if available) from relevant pilot or preliminary work or any related work underway. For development of devices and technologies, provide an intellectual property plan as part of the [supporting documentation](#).
- **Hypothesis:** State the hypothesis to be tested and the expected results. For development of devices and technologies, discuss the technical feasibility of the proposed project including background of the problem, previous and current solutions, similar projects previously undertaken, and related development activities.
- **Technical Objectives:** State concisely the question to be answered by each research objective.
- **Project Milestones:** Identify timelines for critical events that must be accomplished in order for the project to be successful in terms of cost, schedule, and performance. For development of devices and technologies, discuss the timelines and provide a commercial strategy plan for the technology being developed.
- **Military Significance:** State precisely the estimates as to the immediate and/or long-range usefulness of this study to the Armed Forces, as distinguished from general advancement of knowledge in medicine.
- **Public Purpose:** If appropriate, provide a concise, detailed description of how this research project will benefit the general public.
- **Methods:** Give details about the experimental design and methodology. If the methodology is new or unusual, describe it in sufficient detail for evaluation. For synthetic chemistry proposals/applications, include a clear statement of the rationale for the proposed syntheses. Outline and document the routes to the syntheses. For development of devices and technologies, discuss the engineering/technical design to achieve the project goals demonstrating the feasibility of the proposed product development. Discuss the perceived

engineering/design strengths and flaws and recommendations for overcoming/preventing them. For studies involving human subjects, describe recruitment plan and access to populations. The proposal/application should describe a plan for data access and sharing. (Access to subjects and data is the sole responsibility of the investigator.) As relevant, describe plans for addressing issues unique to working with military populations. For studies involving human and animal studies, provide a statistical and data analysis plan. Describe the statistical model and data analysis plan with respect to the study objectives as appropriate to the type of study. For clinical trials and applied research involving human subjects, specify the approximate number of human subjects that will be enrolled. If multiple study sites are involved, state the approximate number to be enrolled at each site. Include a complete power analysis to demonstrate that the sample size is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study.

- **Additional Information:** If human subjects, animals, or cadavers are involved in the research, proposals/applications may be submitted prior to human, animal, or cadaver protocol institutional approvals. However, protocols with required institutional approvals must be submitted no later than 60 days after award to demonstrate continued progress and ensure continuation of payment. The Contracting or Grants Officer may make exceptions in situations where human and/or animal use are not expected to begin until after the first year of the research project. In such cases, a timeframe for submission of the appropriate protocols and institutional approvals will be established prior to award.

PIs and collaborating organizations may not use, employ, or subcontract for the use of any human participants, including the use of human anatomical substances, human data, and/or human cadavers, or laboratory animals until applicable regulatory documents are reviewed and approved by the USAMRMC's Office of Research Protections to ensure that DoD regulations have been met.

- For studies with prospective accrual of human subjects, indicate quarterly enrollment targets.
- For use of human anatomical substances, identify the commercial or organizational source(s) of the material. For cell lines, identify cell line(s) to be used. If human anatomical substances (including cell lines) will be used, specify whether or not identifiable information is accessible to the research team by any means.
- If applicable, indicate time required for submission and/or approval of documents (e.g., Investigational New Drug and Investigational Device Exemption) to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or appropriate Government regulatory agency.
- For studies involving human subjects, allow at least 2 to 3 months for regulatory review and approval by the USAMRMC Human Research

Protection Office (HRPO); this does not include the additional time required for local Institutional Review Board (IRB) review and approval.

- For animal studies, allow at least 2 to 3 months for regulatory review and approval by the USAMRMC Animal Care and Use Review Office (ACURO); this does not include the additional time required for local Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) review and approval.
 - Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Appendix 6, for additional regulatory information.
- **Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation:** Start each document on a new page. Combine and upload as a single file named “Support.pdf.” If documents are scanned to pdf, the lowest resolution (100 to 150 dpi) should be used. *There are no page limits for any of these components unless otherwise noted.*
 - **Bibliography & References Cited:** List the references in the order they appear in the proposal/application narrative. Use a reference format that gives the title of the citation. Do not send or attach copies of articles in print. There is no form for this information. The attachments should be in PDF in accordance with the formatting guidelines specified for full proposal/application preparation.
 - **List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols:** Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols.
 - **Facilities and Other Resources:** Describe the facilities available for performance of the proposed request and any additional resources proposed for acquisition at no cost to the USAMRMC. Indicate if a Government-owned facility is proposed for use. Reference should be made to the original or present award under which the facilities or resources are now accountable. There is no form for this information. The attachments must be in PDF in accordance with the formatting guidelines outlined for full proposal/application preparation.
 - **Equipment:** Include a description of existing equipment to be used for the proposed research project.
 - **Publications and/or Patent Abstracts (five-document limit):** Include relevant publication URLs and/or patent abstracts. If publications are not publicly available, then a copy/copies of the published manuscript(s) must be attached.
 - **Letters of Organizational Support:** Provide a letter (or letters, if applicable), signed by the Department Chair or appropriate organization official, confirming the laboratory space, equipment, and other resources available for the project. A letter from each organization involved in the project should be provided.
 - **Collaboration:** Provide letter(s) supporting stated collaborative efforts necessary for the project’s success, even if provided at no cost.

- **Letter of Support for Use of Military and VA Populations or Resources** (if applicable, 1-page limit per letter is recommended): If the proposed research plan involves access to active duty military and/or VA patient populations or resources, include a letter(s) of support, signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority, confirming such access. If access cannot be confirmed at the time of application submission, the Government reserves the right to withhold or revoke funding until the PI has demonstrated support for and access to the relevant population(s) and/or resources.
- ***If the project involves collaboration with a Military Facility (military health system [MHS] facility, research laboratory, treatment facility, dental treatment facility, or a DoD activity embedded with a civilian medical center), special requirements apply.*** A DoD researcher, to include collaborating DoD PIs, must obtain a letter from his/her commanding officer or Military Facility director authorizing his/her participation in the research project. This letter must be included with the proposal/application.
- **Joint Sponsorship:** Describe present or prospective joint sponsorship of any portion of the program outlined in the proposal/application. In the absence of agreements among sponsors for joint support, the proposal/application should be structured so that the research can be carried out without the resources of any other sponsor. If, however, it is desirable to request partial support from another agency, the proposed plan should be stated and the reasons documented. If the plan cannot be formulated at the time the proposal/application is submitted, information should be sent later as an addendum to the proposal/application. Prior approval from both agencies must be secured for research to be undertaken under joint sponsorship. Provide letters of support related to recruitment, subject access, and data access plans.
- **Intellectual Property (if applicable):**
 - **Background and Proprietary Information:** All software and data first produced under the award are subject to a Federal purpose license. A term of the award requires the recipient to grant the Government all necessary and appropriate licenses, which could include licenses to background and proprietary information that have been developed at private expense.
Therefore, it is important to disclose/list any intellectual property (software, data, patents, etc.) that will be used in performance of the project or provide a statement that none will be used. If applicable, all proprietary information to be provided to the Government should be stated and identified; the applicant should indicate whether a waiver of the Federal purpose license will be required.
 - **Intellectual and Material Property Plan:** Provide a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations.
- **Attachment 3: Technical Abstract (one-page limit):** Upload as “TechAbs.pdf.” The abstract is vitally important to both the scientific peer and programmatic review processes. In accordance with Section 8123 of the DoD Appropriations Act, 2015

(Pub. L. 113-235), the PI is required to submit a technical abstract that fully describes the proposed work. The abstract must contain the title of the project and the name of the PI. Do not include figures or tables in the abstract. Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard. Spell out all Greek or other non-English letters. Abstracts of all funded research projects will be posted publicly; therefore, proprietary or confidential information should *not* be included.

The structured technical abstract should be clear and concise and, at a minimum, provide the following information:

- **Background:** Provide a brief statement of the ideas and theoretical reasoning behind the proposed work.
 - **Objective/Hypothesis:** State the objective/hypothesis to be tested. Provide evidence or rationale that supports the objective/hypothesis.
 - **Specific Aims:** State concisely the specific aims of the study.
 - **Study Design:** Briefly describe the study design.
 - **Relevance:** Provide a brief statement explaining the potential relevance of the proposed work to the specific topic area being addressed and its impact on health outcomes.
- **Attachment 4: Lay Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as “LayAbs.pdf.”** The lay abstract is used by all reviewers. Abstracts of all funded research projects will be posted publicly. *Do not include proprietary or confidential information.* Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard. Spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters, and symbols. Graphics are not allowed.

Lay abstracts should be written using the outline below. Do not duplicate the technical abstract.

- Clearly describe the objectives and theoretical reasoning behind the proposed work in a manner readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine.
 - Clearly describe the problem or question to be addressed and the ultimate applicability and impact of the research.
 - What types of patients will it help, and how will it help them? Include the current available statistics to the related injury/condition.
 - What are the potential clinical applications, benefits, and risks?
 - What is the projected timeline it may take to achieve the expected patient-related outcome?
 - Describe how the proposed project will benefit Service members, Veterans, and/or their family members.
- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (SOW) (two-page limit):** Upload as “SOW.pdf.” The SOW outlines and establishes the PI and an organization’s performance expectations for which the USAMRMC may provide funding. Unlike

the general objectives, which are agreed to in a grant or cooperative agreement SOW, the contract SOW sets rather specific goals and conditions for each year of the contracted project. The PI and contractor are expected to meet the provisions and milestones of the SOW. The SOW will be incorporated into the award document and, as such, is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act. The SOW should identify all collaborating research sites involved in the performance of the research. Suggested SOW formats and examples specific to different types of research projects are available on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>).

A series of relatively short statements should be included that comprise the approach to each of the major goals or objectives of the proposed research. The statements should outline the specific tasks, systems, and materials that are reasonable estimates for testing the proposed hypotheses of the study. An outline should be included that shows the work statements to be accomplished in each year of the award. Allow at least 2 to 3 months for the USAMRMC Office of Research Protections’ regulatory review and approval processes for studies involving human subjects and 2 to 3 months for studies involving animal subjects.

- **Attachment 6: Impact/Outcomes Statement (one-page limit):** Upload as “Impact.pdf.” Explain the potential impact of the research in the field, the significance of this impact, and when it can be anticipated. Explain how the results of this research are expected to impact the intended beneficiaries. Expand upon the dual (military and public) purpose for the research, as appropriate.
- **Attachment 7: Data- and Research Resource-Sharing Plan (one-page limit):** Upload as “Sharing.pdf.” Describe how unique and/or final research data will be shared with the research community, along with any resulting research resources. This includes cases where pre-existing data or research resources will be utilized and/or modified during the course of the proposed project. If there are limitations associated with a pre-existing agreement for the original data or research resources that preclude subsequent sharing, the applicant should explain this in the data- and/or research resource-sharing plan. For projects involving clinical trials, PIs may be required to register their clinical trials on Clinicaltrials.gov (<https://clinicaltrials.gov/>). For projects involving TBI, PIs may be required to report data to the FITBIR informatics system (<http://fitbir.nih.gov/>). If the project includes systems biology-related research, the PI may be required to make the systems biology data, generated via an award, available to the research community by depositing research data into the SysBioCube system (<https://sysbiocube-abcc.ncifcrf.gov>). Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Appendix 4, for additional information.
- **Attachment 8: Transition Plan:** Upload as “Transition.pdf.” Provide information on the methods and strategies proposed to move the anticipated research outcomes (e.g., knowledge, models, devices, technologies, interventions) from this project to the next level (e.g., additional research, clinical trials, delivery to the military or civilian market, incorporation into clinical practice) after

successful completion of the award. Applicants are encouraged to work with their organization's Technology Transfer Office to develop the transition plan. The transition plan should include the components listed below, as applicable.

- Details of the funding strategy that will be used to bring the outcomes to the next level (e.g., specific potential industry partners, specific funding opportunities to be pursued).
 - Description of collaborations and other resources that will be used to provide continuity of development.
 - Brief schedule/timeline and milestones for bringing the outcome(s) to the next level.
 - For knowledge outcomes, a description of how the knowledge will be further developed, disseminated, and incorporated into clinical care.
 - Identification of the anticipated regulatory strategy (e.g., additional nonclinical or clinical studies anticipated/required, FDA or regulatory authority meetings desired, industry partnerships) for movement of the research into later phases of development and to support a potential marketing application (e.g., New Drug Application, Biologics License Application).
 - Outline of ownership rights and/or access to the intellectual property necessary for the development and/or commercialization of products or technologies supported with this award and the Government's ability to access such products or technologies in the future.
 - Evidence for involvement of appropriate intellectual property, licensing, and/or business professionals.
 - A risk analysis for cost, schedule, manufacturability, and sustainability.
 - A commercialization strategy including intellectual property, market size, financial analysis, strengths and weaknesses, barriers to market, competitors and management team. Discuss the significance of this development effort, when it can be anticipated, and the potential commercial use for the technology being developed.
- **Attachment 9: Collaborating DoD Military Facility Budget Form(s), if applicable:** Upload as "MFBudget.pdf." If a Military Facility will be a collaborator in performance of the project complete the Collaborating DoD Military Facility Budget Form (available for download on eBRAP "Funding Opportunities and Forms" web page), including a budget justification for each year. If more than one Military Facility is proposed, submit a separate budget form for each site. Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Section II.D.5 and Section II.D.8., for detailed information.

3. **Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded):** Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Section II.D.4., for detailed information.
 - PI Biographical Sketch (five-page limit): Upload as “Biosketch_LastName.pdf.”
 - PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support_LastName.pdf.”
 - Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (five-page limit each): Upload as “Biosketch_LastName.pdf.”
 - Key Personnel Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support_LastName.pdf.”
4. **Research & Related Budget:** Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Section II.D.5, for detailed information.
 - Budget Justification (no page limit): Upload as “BudgetJustification.pdf.”

NOTE: Proposals/Applications from **Federal agencies** must include in their budget justifications a **Federal Financial Plan**. Proposals/Applications from organizations that include **collaborations with DoD Military Facilities** must comply with special requirements. Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Section II.D.5., Research & Related Budget, for detailed information.
5. **R & R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (if applicable):** Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Section II.D.6., for detailed information.
6. **Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form:** Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Section II.D.7, for detailed information.

F. Verification of Grants.gov Proposal/Application in eBRAP

Organizational representatives and PIs can view their proposals/applications as submitted through Grants.gov within a period of 5 calendar days of proposal/application submissions to Grants.gov, i.e., *the verification period*. This will enable applicants to make modifications to proposals/applications until the end of the verification period, prior to scientific and programmatic evaluations.

After proposal/application submission to Grants.gov, eBRAP will retrieve and validate the submission. eBRAP will notify the organizational representatives and PI via email and instruct them to log into eBRAP to review, modify, and verify the proposal/application. Files that fail eBRAP validation will be noted in both the email and in the Full Application Files tab. eBRAP does not validate the accuracy or completeness of content in the files. PIs are strongly encouraged to review all proposal/application components. *If the Project Narrative exceeds the page limit or the Budget form contains only zeros, an updated Grants.gov application package must be submitted via Grants.gov as a “Changed/Corrected Application” with the previous Grants.gov Tracking ID.* Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Section II.E., for more information.

G. Data Universal Number System Numbers, Commercial and Government Entity Code, and System for Award Management

An applicant organization and any subaward organization must have Data Universal Number System (DUNS) numbers (issued by Dun and Bradstreet) before submitting a proposal/application to Grants.gov. In addition, an applicant organization must have a Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code. Also, the organization must be registered as an Entity with the SAM and have an “Active” status before submitting a proposal/application through Grants.gov or receiving an award from the Federal Government.

Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Appendix 3, for additional information.

H. Submission Dates and Times

The BAA is an open and continuous announcement for a 12-month period, from October 1 through September 30 of each year. A pre-proposal/pre-application may be submitted at any time throughout the 12-month period. A full proposal/application may only be submitted if the PI has submitted a pre-proposal/pre-application and received an invitation to submit. No pre-proposal/pre-application or full proposal/application may be submitted to this BAA after September 30, 2017, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. If an invited proposal/application is not submitted by September 30, 2017, the applicant must wait for the next available opportunity for submission, i.e., the release of the FY18 BAA (to be posted to Grants.gov on October 1, 2017).

I. Intergovernmental Review

This BAA is not subject to Executive Order (EO) 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.” The EO provides for State and local government coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development. The EO allows each State to designate an entity to perform this function. This coordination and review is not required under this BAA.

J. Funding Restrictions

There are no specified funding limitations identified for a proposal/application submitted under this BAA. Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Section II.D.5, “Research & Related Budget,” for discussion of allowable costs, including pre-award costs and collaborations with Military Facilities.

K. Other Submission Requirements

Proposals/applications must be submitted electronically to Grants.gov. Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Appendix 3, for detailed Grants.gov formatting guidelines.

VI. SUBMISSION INFORMATION FOR CONFERENCE OR SYMPOSIUM SUPPORT

Submission is a two-step process requiring both: (1) Pre-proposal submission and (2) Full proposal submission, through eBRAP (<https://eBRAP.org/>).

A. Pre-Proposal Submission and Content

Submission of a pre-proposal is required and must be submitted through eBRAP (<https://eBRAP.org/>). If the USAMRMC is interested in receiving a full proposal, the PI will be sent an invitation via eBRAP to submit.

Because the invitation to submit a proposal is based on the contents of the pre-proposal, a PI should not change the title or proposed objectives after the pre-proposal is submitted. A PI and organization identified in the pre-proposal should be the same as those intended for the full proposal submission. If any changes are necessary after submission of the pre-proposal, the PI must contact the CDMRP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507. A change in PI or organization after submission of the pre-proposal will be allowed only at the discretion of the USAMRAA Contracting or Grants Officer.

The organization, Business Official, and PI must register in eBRAP before submitting a pre-proposal. Upon completion of an organization's registration in eBRAP and approval by the CDMRP Help Desk, the organization name will be displayed in eBRAP to assist the organization's Business Officials and PIs as they register. The organization, Business Officials, and PIs must all be registered and affiliated in eBRAP. (See *eBRAP User Guide* at <https://eBRAP.org/eBRAP/public/UserGuide.pdf>.)

Pre-proposals may be submitted at any time prior to the BAA closing date. Pre-proposals should describe specific ideas or projects that pertain to the conference or symposium support area described under "Program Description" in this BAA. Brochures or other descriptions of general organizational or individual capabilities will not be accepted as a pre-proposal. ***DO NOT include any proprietary information in the pre-proposal.***

The pre-proposal consists of the following components, which are organized in eBRAP by separate tabs. Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Section II.C., for additional information on pre-proposal submission.

- **Tab 1 – Application Information:**
 - Enter the information as described in eBRAP before continuing the pre-proposal.
- **Tab 2 – Application Contact:**
 - Enter contact information for the PI. Enter the organization's Business Official responsible for sponsored program administration. The Business Official must either be selected from the eBRAP list or invited for the pre-proposal to be submitted.
 - Select the performing organization (site at which the PI will perform the proposed work) and contracting organization (organization submitting on behalf of the PI),

and click on “Add Organizations to this Pre- application.” The organization(s) must either be selected from the eBRAP drop-down list or invited for the pre-proposal to be submitted.

- It is recommended that PIs identify an Alternate Submitter in the event that assistance with pre-proposal submission is needed.

NOTE: The eBRAP system does not require approval of the pre-proposal by the PI’s organization.

- **Tab 3 – Collaborators and Key Personnel:** To enable the USAMRMC to avoid COI during the screening and review processes, list the name, organization, and role of all participants in the proposed conference or symposium support, including collaborators, consultants, and subrecipients/subawardees.
- **Tab 4 – Conflicts of Interest**
 - List all individuals other than collaborators and key personnel who may have a COI in the review of the proposal (including those with whom the PI has a personal or professional relationship).

Federal agency personnel involved in the review process and/or with making funding recommendations are prohibited from being involved in the conference or symposium support proposed or assisting in any pre-proposal, including, but not limited to, application development, budget preparation, and the development of any supporting documentation. *If formal collaboration with Military Facility personnel is planned (i.e., included in the proposal/application in performance of the research), this prohibition is not applicable. However, these Military Facility personnel cannot be involved in the review process and/or with making funding recommendations.*

Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional information. For questions related to COI, contact the CDMRP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507.

- **Tab 5 – Required Files**

NOTE: Figures, charts, graphs, or other additional material will not be accepted during the pre-proposal process.

Provide responses in the appropriate data fields for the following in eBRAP. **DO NOT LEAVE ANY FIELDS BLANK.** eBRAP will truncate characters exceeding the limit specified for each data field. Enter “none” if there is no information to be included.

- **Conference or Symposium Objectives:** (4,000 character limit, including spaces).
- **Impact and Outcomes of the Proposed Conference or Symposium:** (2,000 character limit, including spaces).
- **Proposed Budget to Include Direct and Indirect Costs:** (1,000 character limit, including spaces).

- PI and Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (five-page limit per individual): Use boldfaced type or highlight titles of publications or specific expertise relevant to the proposed conference or symposium support. All biosketches should be uploaded as a single combined file.

Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Section II.C., for detailed information.

- **Tab 6 – Submit Pre-Application:** This tab must be completed for the pre-proposal/pre-application to be accepted and processed.

B. Notification of Pre-Proposal Screening Results

USAMRMC staff and other experts (as needed) will screen pre-proposals for technical merit and programmatic considerations. Based on the screening of the pre-proposal/pre-application, a PI may be invited to submit a full proposal.

Following the pre-proposal screening, PIs will be notified as to whether or not they are invited to submit full proposals; however, they will not receive feedback (e.g., a critique of strengths and weaknesses) on their pre-proposals. Within 120 days of submission, PIs should receive email notification via eBRAP regarding disposition of their pre-proposals.

C. Full Proposal Submission Content and Forms

A proposal will not be accepted unless the PI has received an invitation to submit.

The pre-proposal process in eBRAP must be completed before the proposal can be submitted.

After pre-proposal submission, go to “My Applications” and click on “Start Full Application” for the log number under which the pre-proposal was submitted.

All application components must be submitted by the indicated deadline by the PI through eBRAP (<https://eBRAP.org/>). Material submitted after the deadline, unless specifically requested by the Government, will not be forwarded for processing. **The organization’s Business Official or Authorized Organization Representative (or Resource Manager/Comptroller) must approve/verify the full proposal submission prior to the verification/approval deadline.**

eBRAP application package components: For the **FY17 BAA Conference or Symposium Support** contract award, the eBRAP application package includes the following components, which are organized in eBRAP by separate tabs. **To access these tabs, go to “My Applications” and click on “Start Full Application”** for the log number under which the pre-application was submitted.

- **Tab 1 – Summary:** Provides a summary of the application information.
- **Tab 2 – Application Contacts:** This tab will be populated by eBRAP. Add Authorized Organization Representative.

- **Tab 3 – Full Application Files:** Under each Application Component in eBRAP, upload each as an individual PDF file. Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Appendix, 1 for detailed formatting guidelines.

Application Component: Attachments: Each attachment must be uploaded as an individual PDF file unless otherwise stated.

- **Attachment 1: Conference or Symposium Objectives: (5-page limit): Upload as “Objectives.pdf.”** The page limit applies to text and non-text elements (e.g., figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, drawings, etc.) used to describe the conference or symposium. Inclusion of URLs that provide additional information to expand the Project Narrative and could confer an unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

A detailed description of the conference or symposium to be undertaken should be submitted. This should include the areas listed below and address the relevance to the USAMRMC mission. Evaluation of the proposed conference or symposium will be influenced by the adequacy of this information.

Literature-relevant publications and curriculum vitae will be shown in separate addenda entries. The following general outline should be followed:

- **Background:** Provide a brief statement of ideas and theoretical reasoning behind the proposed conference or symposium. Describe previous experience most pertinent to this application such as participation in professional societies and attendance at other relevant meetings. Cite relevant literature references.
- **Technical Objectives:** State concisely the question(s) to be answered during the conference or symposium, and how the outcomes of the conference or symposium will benefit the USAMRMC mission.
- **Project Milestones:** Identify timelines for critical events that must be accomplished in order for the conference or symposium to be successful in terms of cost, schedule, performance, and outcomes.
- **Attachment 2: Agenda (two-page limit): Upload as “Agenda.pdf.”** The proposed agenda should include potential topics and speakers and a schedule format that will meet the conference or symposium objectives.
- **Attachment 3: List of Relevant Publications (two-page limit): Upload as “References.pdf.”** Relevant publications should provide supportive evidence for why the conference or symposium, with the proposed agenda and speakers, should be supported.
- **Attachment 4: Statement of Work (SOW) (two-page limit): Upload as “SOW.pdf.”** The SOW outlines and establishes the PI’s and an organization’s performance expectations for which the USAMRMC may provide funding. Unlike the general objectives, which are agreed to in a grant SOW, the contract SOW sets rather specific goals and conditions for each year of the contracted project. The PI

and contractor are expected to meet the provisions and milestones of the SOW. The SOW will be incorporated into the award document and, as such, is subject to release under Freedom of Information Act. The SOW should identify all collaborating research sites involved in the performance of the research. Suggested SOW formats and examples specific to different types of research projects are available on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>).

A series of relatively short statements should be included that comprise the approach to each of the major goals or objectives of the proposed research. The statements should outline the specific tasks, including but not limited to: planning committee meeting dates, speaker selection, meeting publication plan, invitation and Save-the-Date release dates, compilation of abstract submission guidelines, etc.

- **Attachment 5: Impact/Outcomes (two-page limit). Upload as “Impact/Outcomes.pdf.”** Describe the potential impact of the conference or symposium content in the field and the significance of this impact. Describe the potential impact of the conference or symposium for individual attendees at various levels. Provide the milestones and methods for publication and/or peer review of the conference or symposium results and recommendations.
- **Attachment 6: Key Personnel Qualifications (two-page limit): Upload as “Personnel.pdf.”** Describe the qualifications, capabilities, and experience of the proposed key personnel to demonstrate that they will be able to achieve the proposed objectives.
- **Attachment 7: Key Personnel Biosketches (five-page limit per biosketch); Upload all biosketches as a single document as “Biosketch.pdf.”**
- **Attachment 8: Budget (no page limit) Upload as “Budget.pdf.”** Prepare the budget using the Conference/Symposium Budget form and include a detailed budget justification.
- **Tab 4 – Application and Budget Data:**

Review and edit Proposed Project Start Date, Proposed End Date, and Budget data pre-populated from the Conference/Symposium Budget form.
- **Tab 5 – Submit/request Approval Full Application**

Once all components have been uploaded and prior to the full application submission deadline, enter your password in the space provided next to “Enter Your Password Here” and press the “Submit Full Application” button. eBRAP will validate files against the Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity requirements and discrepancies will be noted. If no discrepancies are noted, press the “Confirm Submission” button to complete the application submission. **eBRAP will notify your Business Official by email to log into eBRAP to review and to approve prior to the Approval deadline.**

The PI should receive disposition regarding the proposal/application via an email from eBRAP within 180 days of submission.

D. Conference or Symposium Support Proposal Checklist

eBRAP Application Components	Upload Order	Action	Completed
Attachments Form	1	Conference or Symposium Objectives (5-page limit): Upload Attachment 1 with file name "Objectives.pdf."	
	2	Agenda: Upload Attachment 2 with file name "Agenda.pdf."	
	3	List of Relevant Publications: Upload Attachment 3 with file name "References.pdf."	
	4	Statement of Work: Upload Attachment 4 with file name "SOW.pdf."	
	5	Impact/Outcomes Statement: Upload Attachment 5 with file name "Impact/Outcomes.pdf."	
	6	Key Personnel Qualifications: Upload Attachment 6 with file name "Personnel.pdf."	
	7	Key Personnel Biosketches: Upload Attachment 7 with file name "Biosketch.pdf."	
	8	Budget: Upload Attachment 8 with file name "Budget.pdf."	

VII. RESEARCH PROPOSAL/APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION INFORMATION

All invited research proposals/applications are evaluated by USAMRMC scientists, other Federal agency representatives, outside scientists with diverse expertise, clinicians, consumers, or combinations thereof, using a two-tier review process. The first tier is **peer review** of proposals/applications against established criteria for determining technical merit. The second tier is **programmatic review** based on established criteria for determining relevance to the mission of the USAMRMC and its programs.

All USAMRMC review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the merit-based selection process. Panel members sign agreements to (1) protect the confidentiality of the information in the proposal/application and (2) not disclose evaluation information outside the panel. Violations of confidentiality can result in the dissolving of a panel(s) and other corrective actions. In addition, personnel at the applicant or collaborating organizations are prohibited from contacting persons involved in the review process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process. Violations of these prohibitions will result in the administrative withdrawal of the organization's application. Violations by panel members or applicants that compromise the confidentiality of the review process may also result in suspension or debarment from Federal awards. Furthermore, the unauthorized disclosure of

confidential information of one party to another third party by military personnel or employee of the Federal Government is a crime in accordance with 18 USC 1905.

A. Peer and Programmatic Review

- 1. Peer Review:** To determine technical merit, all proposals/applications will be evaluated according to the following scored criteria, which are listed in descending order of importance:

Note: Applications for conference or symposium support will be evaluated according to those criteria outlined in [Section VI.C., Attachment 1](#).

- **Research Objectives:** The degree to which the stated objectives are clear, valid, and logical. For development of devices and technologies, the degree to which the performance objectives are plausible; the proposed effort demonstrates familiarity with the historical background of the problem and previous/current solutions; and the awareness of similar projects previously undertaken and related activities. The extent to which the proposed research projects demonstrate an innovative approach and relate to the Research Areas of Interest identified in Section II.A., Research Areas of Interest and the [Appendix](#).
- **Scientific Design Excellence:** The degree to which proposed plans, methods, techniques, and procedures are feasible, clear, valid, adequately referenced, and state of the art; the merit of the statistical features of the study; the extent to which literature searches were used to document the strengths of the proposed project. For development of devices and technologies, the feasibility of the proposed product/technology development plan; how well the engineering/technical design is likely to achieve the goals indicated; adequacy of the engineering/design solutions; and how well the perceived engineering/design strengths and flaws are addressed.
- **Impact/Outcomes:** The potential impact of the research in the field, the significance of this impact, and when it can be anticipated. For development of devices and technologies, the potential translation, implementation, and/or commercial use for the product/technology being developed.
- **PI and Key Personnel Qualifications:** The qualifications, capabilities, and experience of the proposed PI and other key personnel to demonstrate that the proposed staff has the knowledge, technical expertise, and management skills to achieve the proposed objectives as well as the time available for the percentage of efforts indicated for the project.
- **Facilities and Resources:** The proposed facilities and equipment, population resources, or unique combinations of these, to demonstrate that the organization has the necessary facilities and resources required for accomplishing the proposed objectives.
- **Budget:** The degree to which the budget reflects the actual needs of the proposed work, is thoroughly detailed, and fully justified so that the Government can evaluate and determine the costs to be allocable, allowable and reasonable, and commensurate with the complexity and nature of the research proposed.

2. **Programmatic Review:** To make funding recommendations, the following criteria will be used by programmatic reviewers:

Note: Applications for conference or symposium support will be evaluated according to those criteria outlined in [Section VI.C., Attachment 1.](#)

- Scientific peer review results
- Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism
- Program portfolio balance and priorities
- Relative military benefit
- Relative innovation, impact, and translatability

NOTE: Military-relevant research must be responsive to the healthcare needs of the Armed Forces, family members of the Armed Forces, and the U.S. Veteran population. Proposals/applications must address a military-relevant health problem responsive to one of the Research Areas of Interest identified in [Section II.A.](#) and the [Appendix.](#)

3. **Peer and Programmatic Review for Applications for Conference or Symposium Support**

- **Peer Review:** To determine technical merit, application will be evaluated according to the following scored criteria, which are listed in descending order of importance:
 - **Conference or Symposium Objectives and Plan:** The degree to which the stated objectives are clear, valid, and logical. The degree to which the performance objectives are plausible; the proposed effort demonstrates familiarity with the historical background of the problem and previous/current solutions (such as professional society meetings). The degree of quality and completeness of the overall management and execution plan. The extent to which the conference or symposium relates to the Research Areas of Interest identified in [Section II.A.](#) and the [Appendix.](#) The extent to which the conference or symposium circumstances do not create the appearance of Government impropriety.
 - **Scientific Excellence:** The degree to which proposed conference or symposium procedures are state of the art; the degree to which the conference or symposium includes expert peer review in rating and selection of presentation through methods such as abstract submission and established processes for invitation of appropriate participants.
 - **Impact/Outcomes:** The potential impact of the conference or symposium content in the field and for individual attendees, the significance of this impact, and when it can be anticipated, as well as methods for publication and peer review of conference or symposium results and recommendations.
 - **Key Personnel Qualifications:** The qualifications, capabilities, and experience of the proposed key personnel to demonstrate that the proposed staff has the

knowledge, technical expertise, and management skills to achieve the proposed objectives.

- **Budget:** The degree to which the budget reflects the actual needs of the proposed work, is thoroughly detailed, and fully justified so that the Government can evaluate and determine the costs to be allocable, allowable, and reasonable, and commensurate with the complexity and nature of the meeting proposed. The extent to which the costs reflect common sense and good judgment as to appropriate and necessary conference or symposium expenses and do not include expenses that are prohibited (e.g., entertainment-related expenses including hiring musicians or other entertainers, procurement of extraneous promotional items, decorations or other goods and services for participants that are unrelated to the purpose of the conference or symposium, procuring tickets to recreational activities outside of the conference setting, or using DoD funds to produce non-substantive audio/visual materials).
- **Programmatic Review:** The following criteria will be used by programmatic reviewers:
 - Programmatic relevance
 - Scientific merit and relative impact
 - Relevance to the DoD mission

B. Submission Review Dates

This is a continuously open announcement through September 30, 2017; therefore, reviews occur throughout the year. Pre-proposals/pre-applications may be submitted and will be evaluated at any time throughout the 12-month period noted above. An invited full proposal/application should be submitted within 90 days of the PI's receipt of an invitation to submit. No pre-proposal/pre-application or full proposal/application may be submitted under this BAA after September 30, 2017. If an invited proposal/application is not submitted by September 30, 2017, the applicant must wait for the next available opportunity for submission, i.e., the release of the FY18 BAA (to be posted to Grants.gov October 1, 2017). No proposal/application received under this BAA will be considered for funding after 24 months from the date of submission.

C. Proposal/Application Selection Process

After the two-tier evaluation, proposals/applications recommended for funding may be prioritized. A prioritized listing of alternates (deferred decisions) may also be prepared, when warranted. Subsequent awards depend upon the availability of funds and fulfillment of requirements and priorities determined to exist at the time of award. In some cases, funding priorities may change as certain scientific tasks are addressed and new mission assignments arise.

If selected for funding, the award may also be dependent on the organization providing adequate additional regulatory documentation, such as human subjects/anatomical substances/use of cadavers protocols and approvals, animal subjects protocols and approvals, and environmental

information. The award may also be dependent on additional supporting administrative and budgetary information.

D. Notification of Proposal/Application Review Results

Each PI and organization will receive email notification via eBRAP of the proposal/application status. Notifications should be sent within 180 days of submission. Each PI will receive a peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal/application.

A recommended for funding notification is NOT an authorization to begin performance or a guarantee of an award. Awards are contingent upon availability of funding, adequacy of supporting documentation submitted, fulfillment of all requirements, and upon completion of successful negotiations. Authorization to begin performance will be received via an award document (contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, as applicable) signed by the USAMRAA Contracting or Grants Officer. Awards may be issued at any time throughout the year.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

After agency receipt of proposals/applications from Grants.gov, the following administrative actions may occur:

A. Rejection

The following will result in administrative rejection of the proposal/application:

- Project Narrative exceeds the page limit.
- Project Narrative is missing.
- Budget form contains only zeros.
- Full proposal/application submission in the absence of an invitation.

B. Modification

- Pages exceeding the specific limits may be removed prior to review for all documents other than the Project Narrative.
- Documents not requested may be removed.
- Following proposal/application submission to Grants.gov, the PI will receive an email request from eBRAP to review, modify, and verify the proposal/application submitted to Grants.gov. During this verification period, the PI may upload missing documents (excluding those listed above, [Section VIII.A., Rejection](#)), replace files, and re-categorize files. These modifications must be completed by the end of the application verification period; otherwise, the proposal/application will be reviewed as submitted. If either the Project Narrative exceeds the page limit or the Budget form contains only zeros, an updated Grants.gov application package must be submitted via Grants.gov as a “Changed/Corrected Application” with the previous Grants.gov Tracking ID.

C. Withdrawal

The following may result in administrative withdrawal of the pre-proposal/pre-application or proposal/application:

- Federal agency personnel involved in the review process and/or with making funding recommendations are named as being involved in the research proposed or found to have assisted in the pre-proposal/pre-application or proposal/application processes, including, but not limited to, concept design, proposal/application development, budget preparation, and the development of any supporting documentation. *If formal collaboration with Military Facility personnel is planned (i.e., included in the proposal/application in performance of the research), this prohibition is not applicable. However, these Military Facility personnel are prohibited from being involved in the review process and/or with making funding recommendations.*
- Inclusion of any employee of USAMRMC review contractors in pre-proposals/pre-applications or full proposals/applications for funding without adequate plans to manage conflicts of interest. Refer to General Submission Instructions, Appendix 1, for detailed information.
- Personnel from applicant or collaborating organizations are found to have contacted persons involved in the review process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process.
- The full proposal/application does not propose the same research project as described in the pre-proposal/pre-application.
- The full proposal/application budget differs significantly from the budget included in the pre-proposal/pre-application.
- Proposed research of work that was or is currently funded may result in withdrawal.

D. Withhold

Proposals/Applications that appear to involve research misconduct will be administratively withheld from further consideration pending organizational investigation. The organization will be required to provide the findings of the investigation to the USAMRAA Contracting or Grants Officer for a determination of the final disposition of the proposal/application.

IX. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Award Notice

The PI should receive disposition regarding the full proposal/application via an email from eBRAP within 180 days of submission. **A recommended for funding notification is NOT an authorization to begin performance nor a guarantee of an award.**

The awarding agency will be the USAMRAA. The USAMRAA Contracting and Grants Officers are the only individuals authorized to obligate funds and bind the Federal Government.

Authorization to begin performance will be received via an award document (contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, as applicable) signed by the USAMRAA Contracting or Grants Officer. No commitment on the part of the Government should be inferred from discussions with any other individual.

Awards will be made at any time throughout the year and are contingent upon availability of funding, adequacy of supporting documentation submitted, fulfillment of requirements, and completion of successful negotiations. No proposal/application submitted under this BAA will be considered for funding after 24 months from the date of submission to Grants.gov.

Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Appendix 4, Paragraph C, Award Notices, for additional information.

B. Administrative Requirements

Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Appendix 4, for general information regarding administrative requirements.

C. Reporting Requirements

Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Appendix 4, Paragraph H, for general information on reporting requirements.

D. Changes of Principal Investigator and Organization

Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Appendix 4, Paragraph M, for general information on changes to PIs and organizational transfers.

E. National Policy Requirements

Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Appendix 5, for general information regarding national policy requirements.

X. AGENCY CONTACTS

A. CDMRP Help Desk

Questions related to BAA content or submission requirements as well as questions related to the submission of the pre-proposal/pre-application through eBRAP should be directed to the CDMRP Help Desk, which is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Response times may vary depending upon the volume of inquiries.

Phone: 301-682-5507

Email: help@eBRAP.org

B. Grants.gov Contact Center

Questions related to full proposal/application submission through the Grants.gov portal should be directed to the Grants.gov Contact Center, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed on U.S. Federal holidays). Note that the CDMRP Help Desk is unable to provide technical assistance with Grants.gov submission.

Phone: 800-518-4726 (International: 1-606-545-5035)

Email: support@grants.gov

Sign up on Grants.gov for “send me change notification emails” by following the link on the Synopsis page for the BAA or by responding to the prompt provided by Grants.gov when first downloading the application package. If the application package is updated or changed, the original version of the application package may not be accepted by Grants.gov.

XI. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Contractor/Recipient Qualification

Refer to the General Submission Instructions, Appendix 1, for general information on required qualifications.

In addition to other information provided herein, by submitting a proposal/application and accepting an award, the organization is: (1) certifying that the investigators' credentials have been examined; (2) verifying that the investigators are qualified to conduct the proposed study and to use humans or animals as research subjects, if proposed. Investigators include all individuals, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or citizenship status, who are employed by, or affiliated with, an eligible organization.

Investigators are cautioned that awards are made to organizations, not individuals. A PI must submit a proposal/application through an organization in order to receive support.

Should the PI of a funded project leave the award organization, both the PI and organization must contact the USAMRAA as soon as possible to discuss options for continued support of the research project. Every effort should be made to notify the USAMRAA prior to the PI leaving the organization.

B. Proprietary Information

Do not include any proprietary information in the pre-proposal/pre-application. Proprietary information should *only be included* in the full proposal/application *if necessary for evaluation purposes*. Abstracts of all funded proposals/applications will be posted publicly. *Therefore, do not include proprietary information in the abstract.*

Conspicuously and legibly, mark any proprietary information that is included in the full proposal/application. Identify any proprietary information to be provided to the Government and indicate whether the applicant will request a waiver of Government purpose rights.

C. Common Submission Problems

- Failure to enter an email address for change notifications under the BAA Funding Opportunity Announcement in Grants.gov for notifications on any modification made to the initial posting.
- Attachments are uploaded into the incorrect form on Grants.gov forms. (See Proposal/ Application Submission Checklist below.)
- Failure to contact the Grants.gov Help Desk when needed.
- Failure to send attachments.
- Inability to locate attachment forms. (Select “Search Grants” at <http://www.grants.gov> and enter W81XWH-17-R-BAA1 in the “Opportunity Number” block; or in the “CFDA” block, enter 12.420, and perform a “Search.” Under the “Opportunity Number” column, look for number W81XWH-17-BAA1 in the list.)
- Use of “illegal” characters in attachment titles.
- Attachments exceed size limits.
- Upload attempts of unacceptable attachments: bitmap, TIFF, etc.
- Duplicate upload of documents.

XII. PROPOSAL/APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Grants.gov Application Components	Upload Order	Action	Completed
SF424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance		Complete form as instructed.	
Attachments Form	1	Project Narrative: Upload as Attachment 1 with file name "ProjectNarrative.pdf."	
	2	Supporting Documentation: Upload as Attachment 2 with file name "Support.pdf."	
	3	Technical Abstract: Upload as Attachment 3 with file name "TechAbs.pdf."	
	4	Lay Abstract: Upload as Attachment 4 with file name "LayAbs.pdf."	
	5	Statement of Work: Upload as Attachment 5 with file name "SOW.pdf."	
	6	Impact/Outcomes Statement: Upload as Attachment 6 with file name "Impact.pdf."	
	7	Data- and Research Resource-Sharing Plan: Upload as Attachment 7 with file name "Sharing.pdf."	
	8	Transition Plan: Upload as Attachment 8 with file name "Transition.pdf."	
	9	Collaborating DoD Military Facility Budget Form(s): Upload as Attachment 9 with file name "MFBudget.pdf," if applicable.	
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)		Attach PI Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field.	
		Attach PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (Support_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field.	
		Attach Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field.	
		Attach Previous/Current/Pending (Support_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field.	
Research & Related Budget		Complete as instructed. Attach Budget Justification (BudgetJustification.pdf) to the appropriate field.	
Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form		Complete form as instructed.	
R & R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form		Complete form as instructed.	

APPENDIX
RESEARCH AREAS OF INTEREST

I. MILITARY INFECTIOUS DISEASES RESEARCH PROGRAM

A. *Research and Development towards Preventive Measures for Infectious Diseases*

- **Vaccines:** The MIDRP supports studies to characterize infectious disease agents and immune responses to these agents that inform or facilitate vaccine product development. This includes characterization of mechanisms of pathogenesis and protective immune responses. The program also supports studies that develop field sites in regions endemic for pertinent infectious diseases to evaluate vaccine efficacy in humans, vaccine delivery methods, and biomarkers indicative of protective immunity induced by vaccine candidates.
- **Anti-Parasitic Drugs:** The MIDRP has an interest in studies applicable to discovery, design, and development of drugs to prevent malarial infections. This includes drug synthesis, characterization of modes of action, screening for antimalarial activity, and drug resistance mechanisms. Investigations into parasite metabolism, structural biology, genomics, proteomics, and metabolomics focused on identification of potential novel molecular targets for drug intervention are also relevant to the MIDRP.
- **Vector Control Products:** The MIDRP supports investigations focusing on arthropod vectors and arthropod vector-borne diseases (primary malaria, dengue, and scrub typhus). Current studies target vector-pathogen-human interactions, vector control measures (including personal protective equipment), and risk assessment (including identification and classification of vectors, improved surveillance techniques, and field-deployable assays for detecting pathogens in their vectors).
- **Combat Wound Infections:** The MIDRP supports research to inform or facilitate product development to detect, prevent, treat, and manage combat wound infections. In addition, novel chemotypes (chemical classes/materials) and/or biologics as potential prophylactics/treatments for combat wound infection and/or biofilm formation are of interest.

B. *Research and Development of Therapeutic Measures for Infectious Diseases*

For the MIDRP, therapeutic drug development (including studies to screen, synthesize, and develop therapeutic drugs for malaria and other military-relevant infectious agents) is secondary to prophylactic drug development (see above). However, proposals/applications dealing with novel drug delivery systems (i.e., sustained-release and methods of targeting technologies to reduce toxicity or targeted drug delivery to sites of clinical importance, such as wounds) would be considered. In addition, MIDRP supports investigations into the development of novel medical countermeasures and innovative treatment approaches (e.g., chelators, antibody, phage, antimicrobial peptides, quorum-sensing inhibitors, and host immunoaugmentation, etc.) against

multidrug-resistant organisms in combat wound infections and pathogenic biofilm formation, maintenance, or propagation. Given modest pharmaceutical industry interest in developing and marketing vaccines for diseases of poor countries, the MIDRP is also interested in proposals/applications for the development of products leading to FDA-licensed treatment options and broadly active therapeutics against multiple endemic disease threats.

II. COMBAT CASUALTY CARE RESEARCH PROGRAM

- A. *Research and development of technologies to stop blood loss, resuscitate the casualty, and limit the immediate, short-, and long-term deleterious consequences of severe hemorrhage:*** Research focused on the pre-hospital setting including point of injury, the initial “Golden Hour” after injury, and scenarios in which a casualty cannot be transported through traditional levels of care (i.e., PFC) are of high interest. Included in this area of interest are diagnostics and therapeutics to predict, diagnose, prevent, and treat coagulopathy of trauma and noninvasive or minimally invasive sensors to detect and warn of impending vascular collapse and/or significant tissue damage due to perfusion deficits. Examples of specific products include local and systemic hemostatic agents or devices (exovascular or endovascular) for control of vascular disruption and subsequent compressible and non-compressible hemorrhage, treatments to sustain or enhance oxygen delivery and perfusion of vital tissues and organs, and equipment and procedures for effective fluid resuscitation and enhanced resuscitation fluids. Also of interest are the improved preservation, storage, transportability, and processing of red blood cells, platelets and plasma, and other blood or blood-like substitutes.
- B. *Research and development of technologies to diagnose and to limit the immediate, short-, and long-term impairments that follow TBI and spinal cord injury:*** Research specializing in “polytrauma” accounting for the impact of hemorrhagic shock and failure to oxygenate and/or ventilate as brain injury progresses is of interest to provide insight leading to improvements in clinical practice guidelines. Included in this area of interest are noninvasive or minimally invasive sensors or assays to rapidly diagnose the severity of brain and neurological injury within the battle area (or as close to it as possible), and drugs, biologics, or other agents to mitigate the progression of neurotrauma/secondary brain injury such as post-injury neural and immune cell overstimulation, inflammation, cell loss, and/or neurologic dysfunction.
- C. *Research and development of technologies to diagnose and reduce acute secondary organ damage:*** Secondary damage to organs frequently occurs after severe trauma and resuscitation. The CCCRP is interested in materiel and/or devices that can reduce acute secondary organ damage such as ischemia/reperfusion injury, cell death, general organ failure, and secondary brain/spinal cord damage. Technologies to sustain or support single- and multiple-organ injury and failure are also of interest to the CCCRP. These objectives include methods to reduce cellular demand for oxygen and metabolic substrates and therapeutics to modulate the immune response to traumatic injury as well as single- and multiple-organ support or replacement technologies (extracorporeal). In addition, the utilities of these modalities during (and the effects of longer distance) en-route care on the critically injured casualty are also of interest.

D. *Research and development into the impacts of transport:* An important element of combat casualty care is the transport of patients from the initial point of injury and throughout the continuum of care. Accordingly, the CCCRP is interested in improving and maintaining optimal clinical outcomes for en-route care including PFC. Identifying feasible ways to mitigate the stresses of flight and/or transport (such as hypoxia, hypoxia, vibration, and g-forces) in an austere/constrained environment, and the impact on clinical outcomes (such as healing rates, pain, infection rates, etc.) are particularly important. Additionally, establishing either timeframes or ways to measure the appropriate time to transport patients with critical injuries (including neurotrauma, burns, lung injuries, and musculoskeletal injuries) are a critical element to improving outcomes.

III. MILITARY OPERATIONAL MEDICINE RESEARCH PROGRAM

A. *Injury Prevention and Reduction:* This area of research addresses the requirement to provide the biomedical basis for countermeasures that prevent and mitigate Service member injuries and performance decrements occurring in training and operational environments, decrease attrition and medical cost, minimize personal impact to the Service member, and promote readiness. This includes the need to (1) develop validated injury criteria against blast, blunt, and ballistic threats to inform the development of helmets and body armor; (2) develop and validate military-relevant fitness for duty standards and RTD clinical and physical performance standards following neurosensory and musculoskeletal injury; (3) develop thresholds of injury against directed energy threats (i.e., laser); and (4) identify critical factors that influence bone health and biomechanics as they relate to musculoskeletal health and performance and strategies to reduce risk.

B. *Psychological Health and Resilience:* The psychological health research program area is interested in research aimed at increasing resilience and psychological health and decreasing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), suicide, and risk behaviors (e.g., substance abuse, anger/aggression, sexual harassment and assault, and violence within the military). Additional psychological health areas of interest include military-related grief, guilt, or loss issues; moral injury; interdisciplinary and comprehensive prevention and life-skills training strategies to reduce negative psychological health trajectories; and reduction of stigma and other barriers to psychological healthcare-seeking. MOMRP has interest in understanding and addressing psychosocial/psychological health challenges unique to military families, women Service members, Reserve and Guard, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Service members. This research area focuses on the development and validation of effective training and prevention interventions, screening and assessment strategies, and treatment and rehabilitation interventions that address the psychological health topic areas. In addition, research area focus may include development and validation of effective evidence-based training and prevention interventions for concussion/mild TBI. Research areas of particular interest include foundational studies to generate and validate theories and elucidate underlying mechanisms of psychological disorders and treatment response; studies addressing co-morbidities (including, but not limited to, PTSD, concussion, alcohol and

other drug abuse, sleep disturbance, mood disorders, suicidality, and psychosocial factors); studies focused on enhancing translation, implementation, and uptake of evidence-based strategies and treatments; research focused on establishing validated objective RTD standards following psychological injury; and research focused on systems approaches to psychological health. Applications are encouraged that incorporate and evaluate leveraging of technology (e.g., telemedicine, remote monitoring, biosensors, advance immunologic testing, and health information technologies), and leverage existing resources and infrastructure to support lifecycle logistics and sustainability. Also of interest are rigorous studies on integrative medicine and complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) approaches spanning mind/body, movement, natural products, non-Western medicine approaches and spiritual practices, along with validation studies of CAM therapies. Research topics of particular interest include those directed at evaluating efficacy of cognitive training approaches to promote resilience and prevent/mitigate acute negative responses to psychological trauma and promote readiness; and the development of a systematically applied set of therapeutic services designed to reduce cognitive dysfunction and restore functions that can be restored and/or improve quality of life.

C. *Physiological Health and Performance:* This area of research develops biomedical countermeasures to sustain Service member health and operational effectiveness. It informs military policy, training, clinical practice guidelines, and the development of materiel solutions to establish, sustain, optimize, and monitor Service member health, physiological factors of resilience, and cognitive and physical performance throughout the military lifecycle, including training, deployment, reset, and injury recovery cycles. This research area aims to prevent or mitigate the negative effects of operational and training stressors on the readiness, performance, and fitness of Service members, as well as safely enhance performance with evidence-based pharmacological and non-pharmacological personalized strategies based on a systems medicine approach. Studies may include, but are not limited to, those that investigate the use of dietary supplements and nutritional and behavioral interventions to mitigate threats to readiness, operational health, and performance. Research also aims to develop healthy sleep and fatigue management strategies, strategies that exploit individual differences in sleep loss resilience, and strategies that promote individualized resilience to various operational stressors and injuries. Physiological health and performance research also encompasses work focusing on overall brain and cognitive fitness. Basic, applied, and advanced research studies utilizing technologies and strategies to monitor and promote Service member and family readiness and health to support the Army Surgeon General's Performance Triad and US Army Training and Doctrine Command Human Dimension Initiative are of interest.

D. *Environmental Health and Protection:* This area of research includes assessment and sustainment of health, force readiness, and the operational effectiveness of Service members exposed to harsh operational environments including altitude, cold, heat, and exposure to environmental health hazards or combination of environmental hazards. Studies may include, but are not limited to, methods for effective monitoring of environmental exposures in individuals and populations and assessment of health risks. In addition, this research includes development of policy, training, planning/

management tools, knowledge and materiel solutions, physiological status monitoring systems, interventions, and reset solutions to sustain Service member health and operational effectiveness to environmental stressors. Additional research identifies biomarkers of exposure to environmental health hazards, neurological and physical assessment tools for optimizing performance of the Service member exposed to environmental hazards, and development of hand-held and/or fieldable devices for rapid identification of biomarkers of complex exposures and effect in support of military operational requirements.

IV. CLINICAL AND REHABILITATIVE MEDICINE RESEARCH PROGRAM

- A. *Neuromusculoskeletal (NMS) Injury Rehabilitation:*** The NMS Injury Rehabilitation program area seeks research efforts directed towards treatment, rehabilitation, and reintegration in the general areas of amputation/prosthetics, limb trauma/orthotics, spinal cord injury, and other Service-related neuromusculoskeletal injury. Areas of encouragement include: assistive technologies to optimize health, function, and quality of life; early diagnosis, prevention, and mitigation of secondary health deficits following NMS injury; evidence base for rehabilitation strategies and prescription practices; standardized metrics to assess health, function, and quality of life throughout and beyond the continuum of rehabilitative care.
- B. *Vision Restoration and Rehabilitation:*** The Sensory Systems program area is seeking research efforts aimed at understanding and treating traumatic and Service-related injuries (e.g., blast, burn, penetrating, chemical, etc.) to ocular structures and the visual system (e.g., optic neuropathy, corneal scarring, retinal injury, lids and adnexal injuries, and ocular polytrauma, etc.). Additional areas of interest include studies to improve or advance visual system diagnostic/assessment capabilities, and restoration/rehabilitation strategies (including, but not limited to, rehabilitation for multi-sensory dysfunctions, low vision and blindness, and oculomotor vision disorders) following traumatic injury.
- C. *Hearing Loss/Dysfunction, Balance Disorders, and Tinnitus:*** The Sensory Systems program area is seeking research efforts to support the development of strategies and technologies (including, but not limited to, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, rehabilitation strategies, and regenerative medicine-based approaches) to restore and/or rehabilitate patients with hearing loss/dysfunction, balance disorders, and/or tinnitus due to trauma (including TBI). This includes research focused on the etiology of injury including studies to support an understanding of the molecular, cellular, and physiological mechanisms underlying hearing loss/dysfunction, balance disorders, and tinnitus. Additional areas of interest include research supporting the development, advancement and/or validation of objective diagnostics, and treatment/rehabilitative strategies for hearing loss/dysfunction, balance disorders, multi-sensory dysfunction and tinnitus after traumatic or Service-related injuries.
- D. *Pain Management:*** The primary interest of the Pain Management program area is management of acute and chronic pain associated with traumatic or combat-related injuries. The CRMRP's specific needs include development of alternative interventions to current opioid analgesics for pain management by the medic/corpsman on the

battlefield/remote locations; development of intervention strategies for acute pain management in deployed locations, including battlefield and resource-limited environments; development of strategies for management of acute pain under the care of a clinician in non-deployed settings; development of intervention strategies for chronic pain management in deployed locations, including battlefield and resource-limited environments; development of intervention strategies for management of chronic pain under the care of a clinician in non-deployed settings; identification of pain generators and etiology of pain; development of strategies for identifying and addressing biopsychosocial aspects of pain; and development of substance misuse and abuse assessments and treatments in pain management.

E. *Regenerative Medicine and Composite Tissue Engineering:* Regenerative medicine involves the use of innovative technologies such as scaffolds and tissue engineering, growth factors, and cell-based treatments to restore Service members who have suffered combat-related injuries. Research topics of particular interest include those directed towards the use of regenerative medicine-based technologies to repair functional neural deficits (to include all peripheral nerves, visual system and auditory system but excluding other deficits associated with central nervous system or spinal cord), repair/replace neuromuscular tissue units of the extremities or face including composite facial features (eyelids, lips, and nares), regenerate bone defects (weight bearing and alveolar), regenerate skin, address vascular repair/revascularization, regenerate cartilage/musculoskeletal connective tissues for the prevention of post-traumatic arthritis, muscle protection/regeneration, vascularized tissue allotransplantation, immunomodulation, and tolerization related to vascularized tissue allotransplantation and wound management and tissue preservation such as promotion of scarless wound healing (not to include infection control).

V. MILITARY BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE RESEARCH PROGRAM

A. *Viral, Toxin, and Bacterial Studies*

- Identification and characterization of organisms and toxins. Molecular antigenic analysis; development of diagnostic assays; studies on structure and function that are related to mechanisms of action, binding, internalization, and interaction with the immune system and neutralizing antibodies; investigation of pathogenesis and immunology that will inform and enable decisions regarding the optimal approach to disease prevention and control. Specific long-term goals include development of physiological support methodologies, diagnostic tests, rational prevention and control strategies, and improvement of existing products.
- Vaccine development, with emphasis on protection from aerosolized agents, molecular approaches for development of vaccines, measurement of relevant cellular and humoral protective immune responses, and expression or production of protective antigens using recombinant technology. Development of vaccines for specific toxins and disease agents involving the generation, selection, and characterization of attenuated strains or inactivated purified antigen preparations, to include polyvalent vaccines that are more broadly effective. Safer means of passive immunization such as production of human monoclonal or modified antibodies that

are despreciated are also of interest. Identification of surrogate markers of protection for the agents identified above and development of assays to assess such protection are needed.

- Development of improved methods for delivery of vaccines, including adjuvants, nucleic acid vaccines, methods for oral or nasal immunization with inactivated, live, and subunit antigens; sustained release formulations; and development of methods for delivery of antigens for specific induction of mucosal immunity and development of methods to enhance appropriate immune responses to include co-delivery of cytokines.
- Preparation of research quantities of highly purified and characterized toxins as well as studies on basic chemistry, mechanisms of action, metabolism, and excretion.

B. Drug Development: Development, synthesis, and testing of compounds that possess antiviral, antibacterial, immunomodulatory, or antitoxin activities, with emphasis on compounds that provide broad, nonspecific protection against viruses, bacteria, and toxins as described above. Studies of their pharmacokinetics and other measurements relevant to more effective drug use are also of interest, as is the development of lead compound(s) that are potent, active-site inhibitors that may include combinatorial derived organic molecules and/or rationally designed transition-state substrate analogs. Testing for potency is required. Approaches that will be considered include, but are not limited to, computational chemistry, combinatorial organic synthesis, high-throughput in-vitro screening, and X-ray analysis of ligand-toxin co-crystals.

Research areas of interest include:

- Discovery of novel or unique biochemical elements or compounds with antiviral, antibacterial, or antitoxin activity against biological organisms.
- Development of testing models for evaluation of compounds effective against toxins of several classes, including pre- and post-synaptic toxins, membrane-damaging toxins, and toxins that inhibit protein synthesis and others.
- Mechanism of action studies of immunomodulators, including characterization of effector cells (lymphocytes, macrophages), effector mechanisms, ancillary effects on other cells of the immune system, and production and characterization of cytokines released as a consequence of immunomodulation.
- Development of novel treatments to reverse paralysis in nerve terminals exposed to botulinum neurotoxin (BoNT) serotypes A, B, E, or F, with emphasis on the following objectives: (a) development of clinically feasible treatments to block the catalytic activity of the botulinum neurotoxin light chain; (b) treatments to accelerate recovery from paralysis-induced atrophy by targeting skeletal muscle regenerative pathways; and (c) identification and development of novel chemical scaffolds for small molecule inhibitors of the catalytic activity of the light chain of BoNT serotype A. While there may be limited funds available for development of promising approaches, this effort is predominantly focused on the accelerated development of clinically viable treatments with existing efficacy data.

C. Identification and Diagnosis: The investigation and evaluation of sensitive and specific methods of identifying and diagnosing both antigens and antibodies of viruses, bacteria, and rickettsia in biological materials. Development of sensitive and specific immunologic, chemical, or biological assays for the rapid (within minutes) and reliable (1) diagnoses of acute diseases due to agents of potential biological threat and (2) identification of toxins or their metabolites in biological samples. Assay may include antigen, antibody, or metabolite detection or the use of nucleic acid probes or synthetic antigens. In addition, there is interest in the development of rapid identification and diagnostic methods for the assay of toxins, metabolites, and analogs in clinical specimens.

D. Biosurveillance (BSV): The process of gathering, integrating, analyzing, and communicating a range of information that relates to health threats for people, animals, and plants to help inform decisions and provide for increased global health security. The Joint Biosurveillance Common Framework (JBCF) will be the first materiel solution and provides a single enterprise environment that supports collaboration, data sharing, and coordination between multiple BSV stakeholders. The JBCF and future BSV applications, tools, and devices will provide a conduit between the medical, physical, and operational communities. This topic includes:

- Algorithms for rapid identification of baseline deviation; novel/unknown pathogens, naturally occurring versus intentional release.
- Models to predict the likelihood of an outbreak, forecast the associated epidemic curves and impacts of interventions, and update forecast based on field (and simulated) data.
- Applications to engage citizens via social media, crowd sourcing, gaming, etc.

In addition, two specific topics currently of interest are:

- Next-generation analytic capabilities for BSV: The objective is to develop next-generation methodologies to enhance analytic capabilities in the detect-identify-respond timeline for a bioevent. Research should be exploratory, with a low-technology readiness level, and should address long-term challenges in threat surveillance. Efforts should significantly contribute to the current body of knowledge and lead to new concepts for technology application that may have impact on future BSV analytic capabilities.
- Biosurveillance Ecosystem (BSVE) Analytics 2.0: The objective is to ensure state-of-the-art technologies are made rapidly accessible through the BSVE. This topic seeks to develop analytic applications to synthesize and interrogate multiple sources of data to provide high confidence in the prediction, early warning, and forecasting (inclusive of mitigation strategies) of disease events. Metrics shall be devised such that successful utilization of these analytic tools will result in a measurable impact on the bioevent timeline. Efforts in this area should result in flexible, extensible, and sustainable analytics and models that are designed to plug into the BSVE as a-la-carte services rather than as standalone capabilities.

VI. MEDICAL CHEMICAL DEFENSE RESEARCH PROGRAM

- Characterizing the mechanisms of vesicant agent pathophysiology to identify medical countermeasures against vesicant agents.
- Developing innovative models of the pathophysiology of vesicant agent injury.
- Identifying and/or evaluating innovative candidate medical countermeasures against vesicant agents.
- Identifying, exploring, and developing innovative clinical diagnostic, prognostic, and management approaches to vesicant agent casualties.
- Characterizing the ocular lesions associated with vesicant agent exposures; developing treatments to ameliorate these injuries.
- Characterizing the mechanisms of nerve agent-induced seizures and resulting pathophysiology to identify medical countermeasures against nerve agent-induced seizures.
- Identifying, synthesizing, and/or evaluating innovative candidate medical countermeasures against nerve agent-induced seizures.
- Developing innovative models of the pathophysiology of nerve agent-induced seizures.
- Developing catalytic and/or stoichiometric chemical warfare agent scavengers from biological molecules (e.g., antibodies and enzymes) that provide protection against nerve agent incapacitation and lethality for extended periods following their administration.
- Developing innovative models for evaluation of chemical warfare agent scavengers.
- Identifying, expressing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating biotechnologically derived or pharmaceutically based scavengers as candidate medical countermeasures against chemical warfare agents.
- Developing and evaluating custom-synthesized pharmaceuticals based on a detailed understanding of the pathophysiology and mechanisms of action of the chemical warfare agent structure and the function of the intended target molecule.
- Developing catalytic and/or stoichiometric additives for use in skin protectants, or decontaminants, to protect against chemical warfare agents, especially vesicant and nerve agents.
- Developing innovative models for evaluation of catalytic and/or stoichiometric additives in skin protectants or decontaminants.
- Developing candidate formulations for skin protectants or decontaminants containing catalytic and/or stoichiometric additives and evaluating these formulations against chemical warfare agents.
- Characterizing the pathophysiology and natural progression of chemical warfare agent-induced damage to human tissues.
- Developing and validating innovative techniques for rapid and accurate analysis of human tissues and body fluids for detection of chemical warfare agent exposures.

- Characterizing the effects of long-term or chronic exposures to chemical warfare agents and/or medical countermeasures to these agents.
- Identifying, exploring, and developing innovative clinical diagnostic, prognostic, and management approaches to nerve agent casualties.
- Developing and validating field-usable procedures for diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of chemical warfare agent casualties under both field and laboratory conditions.

VII. MEDICAL SIMULATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCES RESEARCH PROGRAM

A. The Medical Modeling Simulation and Training Technologies Portfolio

- **Combat Casualty Training Initiative (CCTI):** This initiative focuses on advancing combat casualty care training. Research in this area will examine the efficacy of modern simulation system technology versus current training models with emphasis on multi-trauma and mass casualty scenarios. The CCTI supports research to inform simulation development and acquisition in ways to develop appropriate fidelity material properties and characteristics that best mimic tissue and respond appropriately to users' actions; develop training assets for *high state* of combat medical readiness; provide resiliency training prior to deployment to better elicit higher performance under pressure; and to create and evaluate efficient and effective ways to deliver team (collective) training. Goals include:
 - Optimizing critical lifesaving skills and procedures through training and educational simulation systems;
 - Developing adaptable, flexible, and interoperable training assets to reflect the continuous changes and modifications in combat-related injuries for *high state* of combat casualty medical readiness;
 - Increasing psychological resilience into pre-deployment training and increasing emphasis of mastery of skills and procedures through simulation system training tools;
 - Creating and integrating more physiologically based algorithms and models into simulation systems (mannequins and/or virtual/augmented/immersive reality) to appropriately and accurately represent tissue behaviors and characteristics;
 - Increasing emphasis on PFC training and researching and integrating simulation systems to substantially improve communicating and connecting with each other to transfer and accept information/data from one system to another to support a system of system training and education interactive environment;
 - Developing system of systems interoperable architecture to allow all Services at all roles within the continuum of care to train collectively, either with a modular training system or a collection of training systems to better understand clinical outcomes from a holistic patient perspective instead of as individual skills or procedures.

- **Medical Readiness Initiative (MRI):** This initiative focuses on medical provider training systems and assessment of competence for sustained military and public medical readiness. Research efforts are aligned with maximizing healthcare professionals' training and investigating how existing medical cognitive and psychomotor skills might degrade. The initiative seeks to research improved intelligent automated assessment systems that will assist in directing and catering the type of training courses an individual needs as well as systems that connect medical training to real-world patient outcomes. This initiative invites research and development towards near-time, pre-intervention rehearsal. Goals include:
 - Identifying, researching, and developing predictive models that may accelerate cognitive, psychomotor, and healthcare behavioral skills (tasks) to a level of proficiency and develop reliable and predictable tools to accelerate development of clinical skills or to minimize skill decay (or degradation).
 - Identifying, researching, and developing simulation system tools that will improve (or allow) ethical, patient-focused, and more predictable pre-surgical/intervention models and pre-surgical/intervention training systems to optimize clinical outcomes.
 - Identifying and researching potential predictors (data, markers, classifiers, etc.) for how training or use of any type of simulation system transitions to the real world and patient outcomes.
 - Improving assessment systems of users' cognition, psychomotor skills, and affective behavior before, during, and after (retention) training.
 - Leading the effort to develop a sustainable medical education lifecycle.
- **Tools for Medical Education (TME):** Research and develop next-generation inter-professional, open source platforms, toolkits, and models to deliver future training systems in combat casualty care and medical readiness to improve the overall health of the force. Focus is on promoting deliberate practice, enhancing mastery learning, enabling instructors, and preventing skill decay. Outcomes will result in resource sharing, collaborative research, and wide dissemination of knowledge and products to the medical modeling, simulation, training, and education community at large. Goals include:
 - Ensuring that advanced medical simulation tools and system capabilities are ubiquitous and support a diverse set of skills as well as allowing an individual or team to learn more advanced skills on a single device.
 - Creating medical models and repositories that can be openly shared for medical simulation system developers and for the medical simulation community at large.
 - Researching effective, efficient, elegant, accurate, appropriate, and robust medical models (anatomical, physiological, and/or behavioral) for developing next-generation mannequin prototypes and virtual/augmented/immersive reality simulation systems.

- Democratizing of knowledge and products through training platforms and tools that deliver healthcare content and advocate open-source/open-architectures to allow limited resources to be shared.
- **Health-Focused Initiative (HFI):** This initiative seeks to develop and test simulation system self-care technologies for patients' use, whenever and wherever they choose to manage personal health and wellness. HFI is aimed at promoting patient engagement and fortitude. Research in this area will deliver technologies that improve the human-machine interface and bridge the gap between patients and clinicians. Particular focus is placed on advanced medical technologies research targeting the management of acute and chronic health challenges and technologies that encourage health-promoting behaviors at home and in theater. Goals include:
 - Researching innovative learning and behavioral concepts that incorporate technologies to maximize compliance regardless of physical, medical, and/or psychological (behavioral) rehabilitation/recovery status.
 - Research focusing on applying social media and large database information mining along with effective and efficient learning theories to educate both individuals and/or groups with processing and decision making during acute, emergent, and catastrophic events.
 - Emphasizing innovative learning and behavior concepts to educate individuals about healthy choices in order to prevent medical conditions and encourage health-promoting behaviors at home and in theater.

B. The Health Information Technology and Informatics (HITI) Portfolio

- **Theater/Operational Medicine:** This is the main priority research domain for technologies and data management that improve and document clinical care and support services to the Armed Forces combat and deployment Warfighters. Focusing on providing high-quality healthcare services by improving information accessibility, data management, data movement, remote healthcare delivery, and decision support for Joint Casualty Management (JCM), Joint Patient Movement (JPM), Joint Performance Enhancement (JPE), Joint Medical Logistics and Infrastructure Support (JMLIS), and Joint Medical Command and Control (JTMC2). Research for the Armed Forces to promote, improve, conserve, or restore the mental or physical well-being of personnel.

The HITI Theater/Operational Medicine focus area provides technology solutions, software, decision support tools, algorithms, data management, knowledge, and HITI services to enhance the efficiency of healthcare operations in combat and operational environments. The objective is to ensure delivery of high-quality healthcare services through improved information accessibility and information management and use of emerging technologies by clinicians caring for injured Service members. The Government plans to use research outcomes from this award to assess critical technology elements and technology maturity, system integration risk, future use feasibility, and, where necessary, technology maturation and demonstration to fulfill critical capability gaps in Theater/Operational Medicine Healthcare delivery and support. Particular focus is placed on advanced

information management and use of emerging technologies. The goal is to research technology and data tools/strategies to support Theater/Operation Medicine within the following categories:

- **Joint Casualty Management (JCM)** directly supports medical care in theater/operational environments and sustains a healthy and fit force. JCM delivers five of the seven joint Health Services Support capabilities outlined in the new Taxonomy Continuum of Health Care Capabilities developed in Joint Publication 4-02, Health Service Support. The capabilities delivered are expected to be technology and informatics solutions for First Responders, Forward Resuscitative Care, Theater Hospitalization, Definitive Care, and En Route Care.
- **Joint Medical Logistics Infrastructure Support (JMLIS)** must establish the principles and practices that will move medical logistics into focused logistics. To integrate into the focused logistics system and to provide the highest quality of care, the medical logistics system must be able to accomplish two primary tasks. The first, accomplished in conjunction with Service force management and force design organizations, is to ensure that the medical supplies, materiel, and equipment with which U.S. medical forces deploy include the latest technologies and advances in the medical field. The second task is to ensure that medical supplies, materiel, and equipment are delivered to the right person, at the right place, and at the right time. JMLIS must incorporate new technologies and informatics solutions to provide real-time medical and operational capability and situational awareness of medical logistics operations within the joint area of operations. JMLIS technology and informatics will rapidly integrate advances in research, technology, and doctrine from science, medicine, engineering, information technology, and other areas into fielded capabilities.
- **Joint Patient Movement (JPM)** supplies and develops solutions for: Interoperable device data to improve ground and air evacuation capabilities, standardization for device data to improve ability to evacuate the casualty to a treatment site and autonomous device interoperability to support reception/staging en route care operations, and prolonged care in place.
- **Joint Performance Enhancement (JPE)** supplies and develops innovative data capture, storage, analytics, management, and movement solutions for real-time noninvasive monitoring of vigilance, subject performance, and enhancement of cognitive abilities for optimal decision making in Warfighter readiness.
- **Theater Medical Command and Control (JTMC2)** will research and validate a Joint Medical Command and Control (MedC2) solution that will synchronize and integrate health and medical force-related information from disparate databases and systems into one efficient, effective C2 capability. The resulting medical decision-based application will utilize intelligence, algorithms, decision support, or other novel approaches to organize and synthesize planning information queried from existing databases. It is anticipated that the data will eventually be migrated to a cloud solution to enable real-time response to

anticipated, emerging, or contingency (crisis) situations. The research will enable direction, management, and/or coordination of assigned medical forces, assets, and resources in the accomplishment of assigned missions.

- **Military Healthcare Services:** Research into how healthcare providers and patients can better use health services and population health-related data, information, and technologies to improve health. Efforts to directly impact the way healthcare is provided to the patient, improve medical providers' ability to treat patients, promote health through readiness-centric patient engagement, patient safety-driven medical device information, interoperability, and connected healthcare services. Focus areas are as follows:
 - **Readiness-centric Patient Engagement Applied Solutions:** Improve readiness through patient-initiated healthcare activities. Provide a user view of information that is comprehensive of healthcare and patient-generated data that can apply analytic and trending algorithms to help providers and patients make better decisions. Provide large volumes of data from agnostic input and devices, from any environment, in real-time, to enable usable, actionable information. Develop and apply methods for analysis, interpretation, prediction, and modeling of health system and patient-generated data. The objective is to use mathematical and/or intelligent learning/machine learning tools to extract practical information, usable/actionable clinical knowledge, and/or predict disease or adverse events from health system and patient-generated data.
 - **Patient Safety-Driven Medical Device Information and Interoperability:** Improve systems or applications that will enable medical devices to interact with each other for the purpose of improving patient care, and to integrate health system or patient-generated medical device information seamlessly with an Electronic Health Record system for the purpose of providing effective clinical decision support to assist healthcare professionals and patients in making better clinical and/or lifestyle decisions.
 - **Connected Healthcare Services:** Promote "Healthcare Anywhere" through mobile and telehealth solutions that are usable, and facilitate point-of-injury care and documentation of care in theater/operational medicine environments for Roles 1, 2, and 3.
 - **Role 1**

This includes the provision of primary care, emergency treatment (resuscitation and stabilization), and preparation for transfer, usually under the guidance of a medical officer. This capability is normally integral to a major land-based unit and also reflects the provision of medical support inherent to an afloat platform.
 - **Role 2**

This includes the reception and sorting of patients as well as the ability to provide elements of damage control resuscitation and the treatment of casualties. This is bolstered by a wider range of medical and nursing interventions and enhanced laboratory and imaging facilities. In addition,

this level of care will prepare patients for further transfer with a limited holding capacity to prepare casualties for onward evacuation or for RTD.

– **Role 3**

This incorporates reception from Role 2 MTFs as well as direct receipt from local incidents. Major specialist facilities are available at this level of care with intensive care, holding, and nursing capabilities. Final sorting of casualties for transfer to Role 4 or RTD will occur here.

• **Health Information Technology Infrastructure and Data Management**

Research to enhance health enterprise infrastructure by implementing superior information technology and communications infrastructure.

○ **Health Data Management:** Improvements to data availability, management, storage, and operational use of **Enterprise Health Data**. Proposed objectives will ensure the unique identification of each patient, as well as aggregated data strategies for population health and big data.

○ **Health Informatics or Information Technology (HIT) Infrastructure:** Research into system interfaces that will ensure that products or systems work efficiently with other products or systems, present or future, without any unintended restrictions. Improve the ability of medical devices to securely and reliably exchange health system or patient-generated data/information with other devices and with medical documentation and management systems. Research to examine technology integration and clinical/business process integration to reduce implementation barriers with regard to remote health monitoring.

• **Medical Resourcing:** Research to improve financial and personnel management for better delivery of healthcare services. Distribution of healthcare resources around the globe through solutions for personnel management and personnel support functions, or interoperable Joint Force research outcomes with concentration on:

○ **Medical Personnel Resource Planning and Allocation:** Deliver technologies and solutions for personnel management functions. Research to harness potential novel HITI approaches to efficiently and effectively match incoming patients with a provider and efficiencies gained through HITI mobile technologies for budgetary planning and execution.

○ **Education and Training:** Explore technologies to streamline the access to, and management of, educational systems across the MHS. Conduct research to explore the use of HIT in the provision of training. Develop best approaches to leveraging HIT and discovering efficient training delivery across the enterprise. Research to harness potential efficiencies gained through e-textbook interoperability.

○ **Financial Planning and Budget Execution:** Research on efficiencies gained through HITI technologies and data management for budgetary planning and execution.