AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY

Support the Inclusion of Blood-Related Topics in the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP)

FACT SHEET

REQUEST:

- Support the inclusion of *Sickle Cell Disease* in the Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program.
- Support the inclusion of *Blood Cancers, Lymphoma, Metastatic Cancers, Myeloma, Pediatric, Adolescent, and Young Adult Cancers* in the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program.
- Support the Bone Marrow Failure Research Program; and Rare Cancer Research Program (RCRP)
- Support increasing the appropriation for defense health research programs by five percent plus inflation above the FY 2024 level (which was $1.51 billion) in the FY 2027 Defense Appropriations Act.

BACKGROUND

The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) was established in 1993 and administers critical and highly successful defense health research programs, including biomedical research that supports basic, translational, and clinical research projects; research training; and research infrastructure.

Over the years, numerous disease programs have been added. CDMRP is currently a collection of programs that target research funding to specific diseases including both classical (benign) and malignant hematologic conditions.

CRITICAL HEMATOLOGIC RESEARCH TO MAINTAIN AS CDMRP-ELIGIBLE

To ensure continued advancements in this field, we request your support to retain these critical hematologic research areas and programs in the Fiscal Year 2027 CDMRP.

The Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) → Supports medical research projects of clear scientific merit that have helped advance our understanding of and ability to combat sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait. For FY27 we ask that Senators include sickle cell disease as an eligible disease in the PRMRP list.

The Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) → Promotes high-impact research in cancer prevention, detection, treatment, quality of life, and survivorship for military service members, their families, veterans, and the general public. The PRCRP has funded projects **in myeloma, lymphoma, and pediatric, adolescent, and young adult blood cancers.**

The Bone Marrow Failure Research Program (BMFRP) → Encourages and supports innovative research that is committed to advancing the understanding and treatment of inherited and acquired bone marrow failure diseases. This funding line includes research in **aplastic anemia, myelodysplasia, paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria, and pure red cell aplasia.**

The Rare Cancer Research Program (RCRP) → Elevates rare cancer research to catalyze knowledge-building and enable clinically impactful discoveries for the benefit of service members, their families, veterans, and/or the American public. Meritorious research in **hematopoietic cancers** has been supported by the RCRP.

EXAMPLES WHY BLOOD CANCER AND BLOOD DISORDER RESEARCH IS CRITICAL TO THE MILITARY

- A recent national study found that veterans exposed to Agent Orange are more likely to develop myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) at a younger age and face higher risks of disease progression. The study also found that Black veterans are disproportionately affected, supporting the recognition of Agent Orange exposure as a formal risk factor for MDS.
- A PRMRP- funded study is evaluating a commonly used beta blocker to determine whether it can be safely and quickly repurposed for patients with sickle cell disease. Sickle cell disease was added to the PRMRP portfolio in FY 2023, and this research will help assess heart injury and heart rhythm complications in preclinical models—an important step for a disease that remains underrecognized and underfunded.

Because the U.S. military screens all service members for sickle cell trait, continued research is critical to better understand the disease and reduce its impact on service members' children and families.