

Consumer Involvement for Peer Review: Step by Step



“I enjoyed the peer review panels. I was able to network with other advocates fighting for lung cancer research. In addition, I really enjoyed sitting next to scientists and oncologists who are fighting the disease.”

**Montessa Lee, consumer reviewer,
Lung Cancer Research Program**



“I [was] very impressed by the quality of the proposals as well as the efficient and fair review process. The scientific community has many innovative and exciting ideas on the underlying causes of bone marrow failure, better ways to diagnose bone marrow failure, and better treatment options.”

**Cheryl Heisey, consumer reviewer,
Bone Marrow Failure Research Program**



Step 1 Preparation

- Identify relevant programs
- Explore programs by visiting <http://cdmrp.army.mil>
- Review eligibility requirements
- Obtain the Consumer Nomination Form

Step 2 Nomination

- Complete nomination form
- Obtain recommendation (nomination) letter
- Submit completed packet, nomination letter, resume, and personal statement

Step 3 Screening and Selection

- Nomination Package is evaluated for advocacy (for non-military personnel on active duty), interest in science, communication skills, and participatory skills
- Informal telephone interview is scheduled
- Selection and notification occur

Step 4 Panel Placement

- Receive peer review panel assignment
- Participate in training and review educational materials
- Get acquainted with other consumer reviewers



“I understood firsthand that there was an enormous community of noble-minded individuals trying to save lives and take care of patients and families of which I needed to be a part. How could I be the beneficiary of such kind and good will without contributing to that same community myself?”

**John F. Kennedy, consumer reviewer,
Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program**



“I would like to share the following with prospective consumer reviewers: come in with a very open mind. Be prepared to read, read, and read some more. Your opinion is more important than you think. When I returned home, I was so empowered about decisions that I made because I knew they were the right decisions.”

**Debra Vines, consumer reviewer,
Autism Research Program**



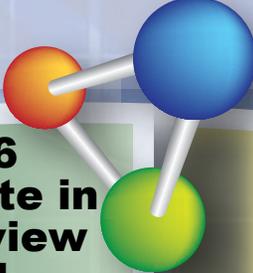
“During my chemotherapy regimen 9 years ago, I remember telling my husband, 'Some day I will go to Washington to advocate for the eradication of breast cancer.' It has been thrilling to serve as a reviewer and to imagine the impact that the medical research could have on all of the breast cancer patients I have met as a peer counselor and advocate.”

**Amalia Rigoni, consumer reviewer,
Breast Cancer Research Program**



Step 5 Review Applications

- Read application components
- Write preliminary critiques
- Provide preliminary scores



Step 6 Participate in Peer Review Panel Discussions

- (online, video/
teleconference, or in
person)
- Attend orientations
 - Contribute to panel discussions
 - Revise critiques
 - Listen and learn

Step 7 Finishing Up

- Provide feedback and suggestions for improvement
- Fill out online surveys



Step 8 Spread the Word

- Place a press release
- Report back to organization via meetings, web sites, blogs
- Inform others about opportunities to serve as a consumer reviewer



“From this experience I have learned to ask much smarter questions on behalf of the TS Community and on behalf of [my son] Bao. I have also learned that this is the single most important thing I can do for my son and for all those suffering from TSC.”

**Ron Heffron, consumer reviewer,
Tuberous Sclerosis Complex
Research Program**



“I work locally to bring ovarian cancer awareness to others. We raise money for research, but getting involved in the CDMRP gave me a chance to work nationally and globally to do something for other women.”

**Lisa Sienkiewicz, consumer reviewer,
Ovarian Cancer Research Program**