## About Our Programs

The unique voices and experiences of survivors and their families have been a pivotal part of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) since 1993.

Our programs were created from an exceptional partnership among the public, the Department of Defense, and Congress to administer disease-specific scientific research.

As a result of the steadfast public efforts of advocacy groups, survivors, and other concerned individuals, our programs receive public funding from Congress on a yearly basis. These dollars are used to fund innovative scientific research worldwide.

Through 2009, consumers have participated in more than 1,700 peer review opportunities. As a result of our efforts to include consumers in the scientific review of research proposals, doors are opening across the nation. Other funding agencies are following our lead, creating more opportunities for consumer involvement.

## How to Apply...

- Visit our website
  - Military personnel interested in military-relevant research programs should contact CDMRP directly for instructions on how to participate as consumer reviewers
- Download and complete an application form
- Write an essay describing your advocacy experiences
- Obtain a letter of support from the leader of your support/advocacy group
- Send us your nomination letter and application materials

### Points of Contact:

To request nomination packets:

Congressionally Directed
Medical Research Programs
ATTN: Consumer Recruitment
1077 Patchel Street
Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5024

Questions concerning consumer involvement:

Phone: (301) 619-7071
Fax: (301) 619-7796

E-mail: usarmy.detrick.medcom-cdmrp.mbx.cdmrp-consumers@mail.mil

**http://cdmrp.army.mil/CWG**

U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command

# Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs and Consumers

## Making a Difference

*Did you know **YOU** can...*

*...**help shape** the vision of research*

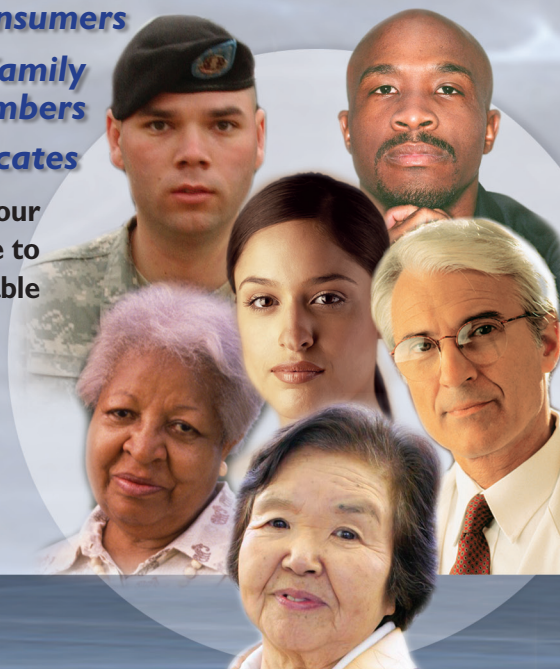
*...**participate** in our review process*

*...provide your **perspective** and a sense of **urgency***

*...**help identify** the research to find a cure*

***Survivors***
***Consumers***
***Family Members***
***Advocates***

**Bring Your Voice to the Table**



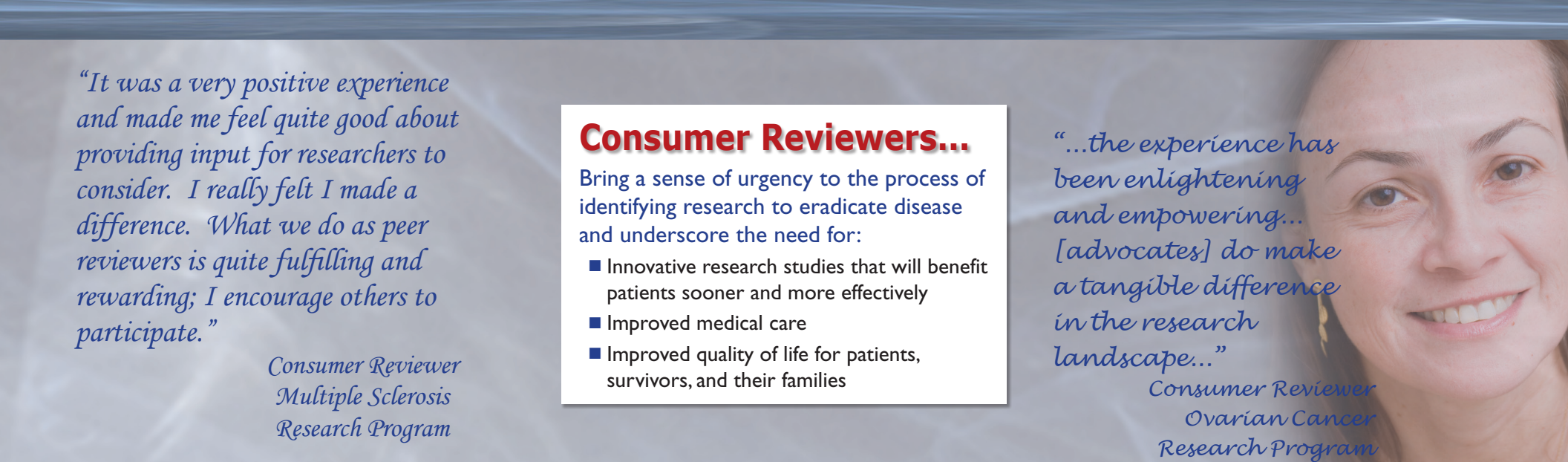
*"It was a very positive experience and made me feel quite good about providing input for researchers to consider. I really felt I made a difference. What we do as peer reviewers is quite fulfilling and rewarding; I encourage others to participate."*

*Consumer Reviewer*
*Multiple Sclerosis*
*Research Program*

## Consumer Reviewers...

Bring a sense of urgency to the process of identifying research to eradicate disease and underscore the need for:

- Innovative research studies that will benefit patients sooner and more effectively
- Improved medical care
- Improved quality of life for patients, survivors, and their families



*"...the experience has been enlightening and empowering... [advocates] do make a tangible difference in the research landscape..."*

*Consumer Reviewer*
*Ovarian Cancer*
*Research Program*

## What Is the Role of the Consumer Reviewer?

The role of a Consumer Reviewer in scientific peer review is to:

- Represent the collective views of survivors, patients, family members, and persons affected by and at risk for the target disease
- Read and evaluate research study proposals for relevance to the consumer community's needs and concerns
- Actively participate in the peer review panel discussions
- Participate equally with scientists

CDMRP Vision: Find and fund the best research to eradicate diseases and support the warfighter for the benefit of the American public.

CDMRP Mission: We provide hope by promoting innovative research, recognizing untapped opportunities, creating partnerships, and guarding the public trust.

*"I believe consumer participation with informed, impassioned advocates makes it [peer review] significantly better."*

*Consumer Reviewer*
*Breast Cancer*
*Research Program*

## When and Where Are the Review Meetings?

- Meetings are usually held in the Washington, DC, area for 2–3 days
- Meeting schedules vary for each program
- Travel, accommodations, meals, and honoraria are provided for all reviewers