

Program Announcement
for the
Department of Defense
Defense Health Program
Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Multiple Sclerosis Research Program

Pilot Clinical Trial Award

Funding Opportunity Number: W81XWH-16-MSRP-PCTA
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 12.420 Military Medical
Research and Development

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW DATES AND TIMES

- **Pre-Application Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (ET), May 26, 2016
- **Invitation to Submit an Application:** July 2016
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, August 29, 2016
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, September 1, 2016
- **Peer Review:** October 2016
- **Submission of Documentation of Approval or Exemption of an IND/IDE:** 5:00 p.m. ET, November 30, 2016
- **Programmatic Review:** December 2016

This Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity is one of two documents with instructions to prepare and submit an application for this funding opportunity. The second document, the General Application Instructions, is available for downloading from Grants.gov.

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I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Program Description

Applications to the Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) Multiple Sclerosis Research Program (MSRP) are being solicited for the Defense Health Agency, Research, Development, and Acquisition (DHA RDA) Directorate, by the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA). As directed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (OASD[HA]), the DHA RDA Directorate manages the Defense Health Program (DHP) Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) appropriation. The managing agent for this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity is the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). The MSRP, established in FY09, is dedicated to supporting pioneering concepts and high-impact research that are relevant to the prevention, etiology, pathogenesis, assessment, and treatment of multiple sclerosis (MS) to ultimately lessen its personal and societal impact. Appropriations for the MSRP from FY09 through FY15 totaled \$33.1 million (M). The FY16 appropriation is \$6M.

B. FY16 MSRP Pilot Clinical Trial Award Focus Area

All applications submitted for the FY16 MSRP Pilot Clinical Trial Award (PCTA) funding opportunity *must* address the Focus Area, **Treatment of MS Symptoms**. Symptoms may include: Pain, Fatigue, Cognitive Dysfunction, Visual Impairment, Motor Impairment, Impaired Mobility, Loss of Bladder Control, Sexual Dysfunction, Depression, and Anxiety.

Note that studies of disease-modifying or regenerative therapies that secondarily impact symptoms **will not** be considered for funding.

C. Award Information

The MSRP PCTA mechanism was first offered in FY15. In FY15, 25 PCTA applications were received, and 3 were recommended for funding.

The PCTA supports early-phase, proof-of-principle clinical trials to investigate hypothesis-based, innovative interventions that have the potential to result in a profound impact on the management of MS symptoms.

While therapeutic approaches proposed for testing through the PCTA must represent novel, hypothesis-based approaches for treating MS symptoms, they may include therapies already in clinical use, or undergoing clinical testing for other diseases, provided that their proposed use for MS would lead to a major advancement for treating one of the disease symptoms. It is anticipated that outcomes from studies funded by this award will provide scientific rationale for subsequent development of larger, efficacy-based clinical trials of interventions that will transform MS patient care.

Funding from the PCTA must support a clinical trial and cannot be used for preclinical research or correlative studies. This mechanism supports pilot clinical trials encompassing Phase 0, Phase I, or Phase II for drugs or drug combinations, Class II or III for devices, or other types of trials that conduct early clinical testing of innovative approaches for MS symptoms. A

clinical trial is defined as a prospective accrual of patients where an intervention (e.g., device, drug, biologic, surgical procedure, rehabilitative modality, behavioral intervention, or other) is tested on a human subject for a measurable outcome with respect to exploratory information, safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy. This outcome represents a direct effect on the subject of that intervention or interaction. Principal Investigators (PIs) seeking funding for a preclinical research project addressing MS Symptoms should consider the Exploration - Hypothesis Development Award (Funding Opportunity Number: W81XWH-16-MSRP-EHDA). The term “human subjects” is used in this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity to refer to individuals who will be recruited for or who will participate in the proposed pilot clinical trial. For more information, a Human Subject Resource Document is provided at <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program>

Examples of acceptable studies *include, but are not limited to, the following*:

- Studies designed to identify an appropriate population or subpopulation for future clinical trials.
- Identification of the dosage, duration, and/or delivery strategy of an intervention.
- Evaluation of the feasibility of the intervention in MS.
- Evaluation of efficacy and safety.

If the clinical trial involves the use of a drug that has not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the proposed investigational use, then an Investigational New Drug (IND) application to the FDA that meets all requirements under the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 21, Part 312 (21 CFR 312) must be submitted to the FDA *prior to the application submission deadline*.

If the investigational product is a device, evidence that an Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) application that meets all requirements under 21 CFR 812 has been submitted to the FDA *prior to the application submission deadline*, or that the device is exempt from an IDE, is required.

Documentation of *approval or exemption of an IND or IDE* must be obtained and submitted to the CDMRP Help Desk (help@eBRAP.org) by 5:00 p.m. ET, November 30, 2016; otherwise, the Government reserves the right to withdraw the application.

The following are important aspects of submission for the PCTA:

- A pre-application is required; application submission is by invitation only.
- The application must include scientific rationale and/or preliminary data relevant to MS and the proposed study.
- The proposed intervention to be tested should offer significant potential impact on the management of MS symptoms.
- The application should demonstrate documented availability of and access to the drug/compound, device, and/or other materials needed, as appropriate. The quality of the product should be commensurate with FDA manufacturing standards applicable to the

type and phase of product being developed (i.e., Quality System Regulation, Good Manufacturing Practices).

- The application should demonstrate documented availability of, and access to, a suitable patient population that will support a meaningful outcome for the study. The PI should discuss how accrual goals will be achieved and how standards of care may impact the study population.
- The application should clearly describe the steps that will be taken to advance the intervention to the next stage of development following the conclusion of this award.
- Preclinical or correlative studies will not be supported by this mechanism.
- Clinical trials are expected to be initiated within 6 months of the award date.

Research Involving Human Anatomical Substances, Human Subjects, or Human

Cadavers: All Department of Defense (DoD)-funded research involving new and ongoing research with human anatomical substances, human subjects, or human cadavers must be reviewed and approved by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) Office of Research Protections (ORP), Human Research Protection Office (HRPO) prior to research implementation. This administrative review requirement is in addition to the local Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Ethics Committee (EC) review. Local IRB/EC approval at the time of submission is *not* required. The HRPO is mandated to comply with specific laws and requirements governing all research involving human anatomical substances, human subjects, or human cadavers that is supported by the DoD. These laws and requirements will necessitate information in addition to that supplied to the IRB/EC. *Allow a minimum of 2 to 3 months for HRPO regulatory review and approval processes.* Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 6, and the Human Subject Resource Document available on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>) for additional information.

The CDMRP intends that information, data, and research resources generated under awards funded by this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity be made available to the research community (which includes both scientific and consumer advocacy communities) and to the public at large. For additional guidance, refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, Section K.

D. Eligibility Information

- PIs must be independent investigators at or above the level of Assistant Professor (or equivalent).
- Cost sharing/matching is not an eligibility requirement.
- Eligible investigators must apply through an organization. Organizations eligible to apply include Federal agencies, national, international, for-profit, nonprofit, public, and private organizations.
- Applications with intramural (DoD) investigators named as the PI may be submitted as an “Extramural Submission” through an extramural (non-DoD) organization (e.g., nonprofit foundation). An intramural investigator is defined as a DoD military or civilian

employee working within a DoD laboratory or medical treatment facility, or working in a DoD activity embedded within a civilian medical center. Submissions from intramural (DoD) organizations are allowed and encouraged for this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. Applicants submitting through their intramural organizations are reminded to coordinate receipt and commitment of funds through their respective resource managers. *If an investigator at an intramural organization is named as a collaborator on an application submitted through an extramural organization, the application must include a letter from the collaborator's Commander or Commanding Officer at the intramural organization that authorizes the collaborator's involvement.*

- Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for general eligibility information.

E. Funding

- The maximum period of performance is **3** years.
- The anticipated direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance will not exceed **\$600,000**. Indirect costs are to be budgeted in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate. No budget will be approved by the Government exceeding **\$600,000** direct costs or using an indirect rate exceeding the organization's negotiated rate.
- All direct and indirect costs of any subaward (subgrant or subcontract) must be included in the total direct costs of the primary award.
- The applicant may request the entire maximum funding amount for a project that may have a period of performance less than the maximum **3** years.

For this award mechanism, direct costs may be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Salary
- Research supplies
- Research-related subject costs
- Clinical research costs
- Travel between collaborating organizations
- Travel costs for up to 2 investigators to travel to 1 scientific/technical meeting per year.

Shall not be requested for:

- Preclinical research studies

Awards to extramural organizations will consist solely of assistance agreements (Cooperative Agreements and Grants). Awards to intramural (DoD) agencies and other Federal agencies may be managed through a direct fund transfer (e.g., the Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request [MIPR]; Funding Authorization Document [FAD] process; or DD Form 1144 Interservice Support Agreement). Direct transfer of funds from the recipient to a DoD agency is not allowed

except under very limited circumstances. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.4., for budget regulations and instructions for the Research & Related Budget. ***For Federal agencies or organizations collaborating with Federal agencies, budget restrictions apply as are noted in Section II.C.4. of the General Application Instructions.***

The CDMRP expects to allot approximately \$1.9M of the \$6M FY16 MSRP appropriation to fund approximately 2 Pilot Clinical Trial Award applications, depending on the quality and number of applications received. Funding of applications received in response to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity is contingent upon the availability of Federal funds for this program.

II. SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Submission of applications that are essentially identical or propose essentially the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year is prohibited and will result in administrative withdrawal of the duplicative application(s).

Submission is a two-step process requiring both (1) pre-application submission through the electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP) (<https://eBRAP.org/>) and (2) application submission through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov/>). Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.A., for registration and submission requirements for eBRAP and Grants.gov.

The pre-application and application submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. There are no grace periods. Federal applicants must be familiar with Grants.gov requirements, including the need for an active System for Award Management (SAM) registration and a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. Refer to Appendix 3 of the General Application Instructions for further information regarding Grants.gov requirements.

eBRAP is a multifunctional web-based system that allows PIs to submit their pre-applications electronically through a secure connection, to view and edit the content of their pre-applications and full applications, to receive communications from the CDMRP, and to submit documentation during award negotiations and period of performance. A key feature of eBRAP is the ability of an organization's representatives and PIs to view and modify the Grants.gov application submissions associated with them. eBRAP will validate Grants.gov application files against the specific Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity requirements and discrepancies will be noted in an email to the PI and in the Full Application Files tab in eBRAP. It is the applicant's responsibility to review all application components for accuracy as well as ensure proper ordering as specified in this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

The application title, eBRAP log number, and all information for the PI, Business Official(s), performing organization, and contracting organization must be consistent for the entire pre-application and application submission process. Inconsistencies may delay application processing and limit the ability to view, modify, and verify the application in eBRAP. If any changes need to be made, the applicant should contact the CDMRP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507 prior to the application deadline.

Application viewing, modification, and verification in eBRAP is strongly recommended, but not required. ***The Project Narrative and Budget cannot be changed after the application submission deadline.*** Prior to the full application deadline, a corrected or modified full application package may be submitted. Other application components may be changed until the end of the [application verification period](#). After the end of the application verification period, the full application cannot be modified.

A. Where to Obtain the Grants.gov Application Package

To obtain the Grants.gov application package, including all required forms, perform a basic search using the Funding Opportunity Number W81XWH-16-MSRP-PCTA in Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov/>).

B. Pre-Application Submission Content

The pre-application process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. There are no grace periods. During the pre-application process, each submission is assigned a unique log number by eBRAP. This unique eBRAP log number will be needed during the application process on Grants.gov.

All pre-application components must be submitted by the PI through eBRAP (<https://eBRAP.org/>). Because the invitation to submit an application is based on the contents of the pre-application, investigators should not change the title or research objectives after the pre-application is submitted.

PIs and organizations identified in the pre-application should be the same as those intended for the subsequent application submission. If any changes are necessary after submission of the pre-application, the PI must contact the CDMRP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507.

The pre-application consists of the following components, which are organized in eBRAP by separate tabs (refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.B., for additional information on pre-application submission):

- **Tab 1 – Application Information**
- **Tab 2 – Application Contacts**
 - 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 (R&R) Form). The Business Official must either be selected from the eBRAP list or invited in order for the pre-application to be submitted.
 - Select the performing organization (site at which the PI will perform the proposed work) and the contracting organization (organization submitting on behalf of the PI, which corresponds to Block 5 on the Grants.gov SF424 (R&R) Form), and click on “Add Organizations to this Pre-application.” The organization(s) must either be selected from the eBRAP drop-down list or invited in order for the pre-application to be submitted.

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

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

- Enter the name, organization, and role of all collaborators and key personnel associated with the application.
- [FY16 MSRP Programmatic Panel members](#) should not be involved in any pre-application or application. For questions related to Panel members and pre-applications or applications, refer to [Section IV.C., Withdrawal](#), or contact the CDMRP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507.
- To preserve the integrity of its peer and programmatic review processes, the CDMRP discourages inclusion of any employee of its review contractors having any role in application preparation, research, or other duties for submitted applications. For FY16, the identities of the peer review contractor and the programmatic review contractor may be found at the CDMRP website (<http://cdmrp.army.mil/about/2tierRevProcess>). Applications that include names of personnel from either of these companies will be administratively withdrawn unless plans to manage conflicts of interest (COIs) are provided and deemed appropriate by the Government. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for detailed information.

- **Tab 4 – Conflicts of Interest (COIs)**

- List all individuals other than collaborators and key personnel who may have a COI in the review of the application (including those with whom the PI has a personal or professional relationship). Refer to Appendix 1, Section C of the General Application Instructions for further information regarding COIs.

- **Tab 5 – Pre-Application Files**

Note: Upload documents as individual PDF files unless otherwise noted. eBRAP will not allow a file to be uploaded if the number of pages exceeds the limit specified below.

Preproposal Narrative (three-page limit): The Preproposal Narrative page limit applies to text and non-text elements (e.g., figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, drawings) used to describe the project. Inclusion of URLs that provide additional information to expand the Preproposal Narrative and could confer an unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in administrative withdrawal of the pre-application.

The Preproposal Narrative should include the following:

- **Background/Readiness:** Clearly present the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed pilot clinical trial; include relevant literature citations and preliminary studies that led to the development of the proposed pilot clinical trial. Clearly describe the intervention, its target and mechanism of action in MS, and the type of

symptom(s) it is intended to treat. Demonstrate that there is sufficient scientific evidence to support moving into the stage of proposed research.

- **Hypothesis and Approach:** Concisely state the project's hypothesis and describe the scientific approach. Include appropriate controls and demonstrate that the work is appropriately powered.
- **Study Design:** Describe the type of proposed pilot clinical trial to be performed. The description should include:
 - The type of study to be performed (e.g., phase/class, prospective, randomized, controlled) and proposed methodology
 - The study variables and proposed measurement(s)
 - The feasibility of initiating the pilot clinical trial within 6 months of the award date
- **Clinical Impact:** Describe how the proposed pilot clinical trial, if successful, will have a major impact (both short-term and long-term) toward improving treatment of MS symptoms, patient care, and/or quality of life.
- **Personnel:** Briefly state the qualifications of the PI and key personnel to perform the described research project.

Pre-Application Supporting Documentation: The items to be included as supporting documentation for the pre-application *must be uploaded as individual files* and are limited to:

- References Cited (one-page limit): List the references cited (including URLs if available) in the Preproposal Narrative using a standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., author[s], year published, title of reference, source of reference, volume, chapter, page numbers, and publisher, as appropriate).
 - List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols: Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols used in the Preproposal Narrative.
 - Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (five-page limit per individual). *All biographical sketches should be uploaded as a single combined file.* Biographical sketches should be used to demonstrate background and expertise through education, positions, publications, and previous work accomplished.
- **Tab 6 – Submit Pre-Application**
 - This tab must be completed for the pre-application to be accepted and processed.

Pre-Application Screening

- **Pre-Application Screening Criteria**

To determine the technical merits of the pre-application and the relevance to the mission of the DHP and the MSRP, pre-applications will be screened based on the following criteria:

- **Study Design and Readiness:** To what extent the scientific rationale and/or preliminary data support the proposed pilot clinical trial. How well the study design support the objective of the proposed pilot trial.
- **Clinical Impact:** To what extent the potential short- and long-range outcome(s) of the proposed pilot clinical trial, if successful, will produce results that are likely to translate into improved treatment of MS symptoms, patient care, and/or quality of life.
- **Personnel:** To what extent the study team’s experience, expertise, and records of accomplishment are appropriate to successfully complete the proposed pilot clinical trial (e.g., statistical expertise; expertise in the disease; clinical studies).
- **Notification of Pre-Application Screening Results**

Following the pre-application screening, PIs will be notified as to whether or not they are invited to submit applications; however, they will not receive feedback (e.g., a critique of strengths and weaknesses) on their pre-application. The estimated timeframe for notification of invitation to submit an application is indicated on the [title page](#) of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. Invitations to submit a full application are based on the Pre-Application Screening Criteria as published above.

C. Full Application Submission Content

The application process should be started early on Grants.gov to avoid missing deadlines. There are no grace periods. Verify the status of the applicant’s organization’s Entity registration in the SAM well in advance of the application submission deadline. Allow 3 to 4 weeks to complete the entire SAM registration process. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II, for additional information.

Applications will not be accepted unless the PI has received notification of invitation.

All contributors and administrators to the application must use matching compatible versions of Adobe software when editing and preparing application components. The use of different software versions will result in corruption of the submitted file. See Section II.C. of the General Application Instructions for details on compatible Adobe software.

The CDMRP cannot make allowances/exceptions to its policies for submission problems encountered by the applicant organization using system-to-system interfaces with Grants.gov.

Each application submission must include the completed Grants.gov application package for this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. The Grants.gov application package is submitted by the Authorized Organizational Representative through the Grants.gov portal (<http://www.grants.gov/>).

Note: The Project Narrative and Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline.

If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or if the Project Narrative or Budget Form needs to be modified, an updated Grants.gov application package must be

submitted via Grants.gov as a “Changed/Corrected Application” with the previous Grants.gov Tracking ID *prior to the application submission deadline*.

The Grants.gov application package must be submitted using the unique eBRAP log number to avoid delays in application processing.

Grants.gov application package components: For the Pilot Clinical Trial Award, the Grants.gov application package includes the following components (refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for additional information on application submission):

1. SF424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance Form: Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for detailed information.

2. Attachments Form

Each attachment to the Grants.gov application forms must be uploaded as an individual PDF file in accordance with the formatting guidelines listed in Appendix 2 of the General Application Instructions. For all attachments, ensure that the file names are consistent with the guidance. Grants.gov will reject attachments with file names longer than 50 characters or incorrect file names that contain characters other than the following: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, underscore, hyphen, space, and period. In addition, Grants.gov has file size limits that may apply in some circumstances. Individual attachments may not exceed 20 MB and the file size for the entire Grants.gov application package may not exceed 200 MB.

- **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (10-page limit): Upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf.”** The page limit of the Project Narrative applies to text and non-text elements (e.g., figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, drawings, etc.) used to describe the project. 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.

The Project Narrative is NOT the formal clinical trial protocol. Instead, all essential elements of the proposed clinical trial necessary for scientific review must be included as directed in Attachment 1 (the Project Narrative) and Attachments 6-8 described below. Failure to submit these attachments as part of the application package will result in rejection of the entire application.

Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

- **Background:** Describe in detail the rationale for the study. Provide a literature review and describe the preliminary studies and/or preclinical data that led to the development of the proposed pilot clinical trial. The background section should clearly support the choice of study variables and should explain the basis for the study questions and/or study hypotheses. This section should establish the relevance of the study and explain the applicability of the proposed findings. *The Project Narrative must include scientific rationale and/or preliminary data relevant to MS and the proposed pilot clinical trial.*

- **Objectives/Specific Aims/Hypotheses:** Provide a description of the purpose and objectives of the proposed pilot clinical trial with detailed specific aims and/or study questions/hypotheses.
- **Study Design and Feasibility:** Describe the type of proposed pilot clinical trial to be performed and outline the proposed methodology in sufficient detail to show a clear course of action.
 - Describe the intervention to be tested and the projected outcomes.
 - Define the study variables, outline why they were chosen, and describe how they will be measured. Include a description of appropriate controls and the endpoints to be tested.
 - Describe the method that will be used to recruit human subjects from the accessible population, including the inclusion and exclusion criteria.
 - Describe the data to be collected and the statistical analyses that will be performed.
 - Describe methods used for sample and data collection, as appropriate.
 - Describe the availability of, and access to, the drug, compound, device, and/or other materials needed, as appropriate.
- **Transition Plan:** Describe the steps that will be taken to advance the intervention to the next stage of development following the conclusion of this award.
- **Ethical Considerations:** Describe the process for seeking informed consent, clearly identify all study risks, and describe safety measures to minimize risks to human subjects and study personnel.
- **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. Include only those components described below; inclusion of items not requested will result in the removal of those items or may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.***
 - **References Cited:** List the references cited (including URLs, if available) in the Project Narrative using a standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., author[s], year published, title of reference, source of reference, volume, chapter, page numbers, and publisher, as appropriate).
 - **List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols:** Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols.
 - **Facilities, Existing Equipment, and Other Resources:** Describe the facilities and equipment available for performance of the proposed project and any additional facilities or equipment proposed for acquisition at no cost to the award. Indicate whether or not Government-furnished facilities or equipment are proposed for

use. If so, reference should be made to the original or present Government award under which the facilities or equipment items are now accountable. There is no form for this information.

- Publications and/or Patents: Include a list of relevant publication URLs and/or patent abstracts. If publications are not publicly available, then copies of up to five published manuscripts may be included in Attachment 2. Extra items will not be reviewed.
- 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. Letters of support not requested in the Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity, such as those from members of Congress, do not impact application review or funding decisions.
- Letters of Collaboration (if applicable): Provide a signed letter from each collaborating individual or organization that will demonstrate that the PI has the support or resources necessary for the proposed work.
- Intellectual Property
 - Intangible property acquired, created or developed under this award will be subject to all rights and responsibilities established at 2 CFR 200.315. Should the applicant intend to use, in the performance of this program, pre-existing, legally protected and perfected intangible property and for which no Federal funds had been used in the development of said property, the applicant must:
 - Clearly identify all such property;
 - Identify the cost to the Federal government for use or license of such property, if applicable; or
 - Provide a statement that no property meeting this definition will be used on this project.
 - Intellectual and Material Property Plan (if applicable): Provide a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations.
- Data and Research Resources Sharing Plan: Describe how data and resources generated during the performance of the project will be shared with the research community. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, Section K, for more information about the CDMRP expectations for making data and research resources publicly available.
- **Attachment 3: Technical Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as “TechAbs.pdf.”** 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.

The technical abstract is used by all reviewers. Of particular importance, programmatic reviewers may not have access to the full application and therefore rely on the technical abstract for appropriate description of the project's key aspects. Therefore, clarity and completeness within the space limits of the technical abstract are highly important.

Technical abstracts should be structured using the outline below.

- **Background:** Present the ideas and rationale behind the proposed pilot clinical trial.
- **Objective/Hypothesis:** State the objective/hypothesis to be tested or the objective to be reached.
- **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims.
- **Study Design:** Briefly describe the study design including appropriate controls and endpoints, as appropriate.
- **Clinical Impact:** Briefly describe how the proposed pilot clinical trial will lead to improved treatment of MS symptoms, patient care, and/or quality of life.
- **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.

The lay abstract is an important component of the application review process because it addresses issues of particular interest to the advocate community. Do not duplicate the technical abstract.

Lay abstracts should be written using the outline below:

- Describe the objectives and rationale for the proposed research project in a manner that will be readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine.
- Describe the ultimate applicability of the research to MS patient care:
 - What types of patients will it help, and how will it help them?
 - What are the potential clinical applications, benefits, and risks?
 - What are the likely contributions of the proposed study to advancing treatment of MS symptoms, patient care, and/or quality of life?
- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (SOW) (three-page limit): Upload as “SOW.pdf.”** The suggested SOW format 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>). For the Pilot Clinical Trial Award mechanism, use the SOW format example titled “SOW for Clinical Research (Including Trials, Special Populations).” The SOW must be in PDF

format prior to attaching. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.2., for detailed guidance on creating the SOW.

- **Attachment 6: Surveys, Questionnaires, and Other Data Collection Instruments, if applicable (no page limit): Upload as “Surveys.pdf.”** The Surveys, Questionnaires, and Other Data Collection Instruments attachment should include a copy of the most recent version of surveys, questionnaires, data collection forms, rating scales, interview guides, or other instruments. For each instrument, describe how the information collected is related to the objectives of the study.
- **Attachment 7: Impact Statement (one-page limit). Upload as “Impact.pdf.”**
 - Explain how the proposed pilot clinical trial addresses the FY16 MSRP PCTA Focus Area, **Treatment of MS Symptoms**.
 - Identify the volunteer population(s) that will participate in the proposed intervention, describe how they represent the target population that would benefit from the intervention, and describe the potential impact of the proposed clinical trial on the outcomes of individuals with MS.
 - Describe the *short-term impact*: Detail the anticipated outcomes that will be directly attributed to the results of the proposed pilot clinical trial.
 - Describe the *long-term impact*: Explain the long-range vision for implementation of the intervention in the clinic or field, and describe the anticipated long-term benefits for the targeted population.
 - Describe any relevant controversies or treatment issues that will be addressed by the proposed pilot clinical trial.
 - Describe any potential issues that might limit the impact of the proposed pilot clinical trial.
 - Describe how the intervention represents an improvement over currently available interventions and/or standard of care.
- **Attachment 8: IND/IDE Documentation:** If submitting multiple documents, start each document on a new page. **Combine and upload as a single file named “IND-IDE.pdf.”** (Applicants are reminded that documentation of *approval or exemption of the IND or IDE must be obtained and submitted to the CDMRP Help Desk [help@eBRAP.org] by 5:00 p.m. ET, November 30, 2016*).
- Complete the IND/IDE Documentation Form, which is available for download on the Full Announcement page for this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov.
- For studies requiring an IND or IDE, provide an explanation of the status of the application (e.g., past the critical 30-day period, pending response to questions raised by the Agency, on clinical hold). Provide a summary of previous meetings with the FDA on development of this product, if appropriate. A copy of the Agency meeting minutes should be included if available. Provide copies

of communications from the FDA relevant to the most recent status of the IND or IDE application.

- If an IND or IDE is not required for the proposed study, provide evidence in the form of formal communication (e.g., letterhead correspondence) from the FDA or the IRB of record to that effect.

- **Attachment 9: Collaborating DoD Military Facility Budget Form(s), if applicable: Upload as “MFBudget.pdf.”** If a Military Facility (military health system facility, research laboratory, treatment facility, dental treatment facility, or a DoD activity embedded with a civilian medical center) will be a collaborator in performance of the project, complete the Collaborating DoD Military Facility Budget Form, available for download on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>), including a budget justification, for each Military Facility as instructed. The costs per year should be included on the Grants.gov Research and Related Budget form under subaward costs. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.7., for detailed information.

3. Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded): Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.4., for detailed information.

- **PI Biographical Sketch (five-page limit):** Upload as “Biosketch_LastName.pdf.” The suggested biographical sketch format is available on the “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>) in eBRAP. The five-page National Institutes of Health Biographical Sketch may also be used. All biographical sketches should be submitted in the portable document format (pdf) that is not editable.

Biographical Sketches should be used to demonstrate background and expertise through education, positions, publications, and previous work accomplished.

- **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 Application Instructions, Section II.C.4., for detailed information.

- **Budget Justification (no page limit):** Upload as “BudgetJustification.pdf.” The budget justification for the entire period of performance must be uploaded to the Research & Related Budget after completion of the budget for Period 1.

5. Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form: Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.5., for detailed information.

- 6. R & R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (if applicable):** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.6., for detailed information.

Collaborating DoD Military Facilities Form: A Military Facility collaborating in the performance of the project should be treated as a subaward for budget purposes. However, do not complete the Grants.gov R & R Subaward Budget Attachment Form; instead, complete the Collaborating DoD Military Facility Budget Form (use Attachment 9, Collaborating DoD Military Facility Budget Form) to show all direct and indirect costs. The costs per year should be included on the Grants.gov Research and Related Budget form under subaward costs. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.7., for detailed information.

D. Applicant Verification of Grants.gov Submission in eBRAP

Prior to the end of the application verification period, PIs and organizational representatives can review and modify in eBRAP certain components of an application submitted to Grants.gov. Following retrieval and processing of the Grants.gov application, eBRAP will notify the organizational representatives and PI by email to log into eBRAP to review, modify, and verify the Grants.gov application submission. eBRAP will validate retrieved files against the specific Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity requirements and discrepancies will be noted in both the email and in the Full Application Files tab in eBRAP. eBRAP does not confirm the accuracy of file content. It is the applicant's responsibility to review all application components and ensure proper ordering as specified in the Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. ***If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or needs to be modified, an updated Grants.gov application package must be submitted via Grants.gov as a "Changed/Corrected Application" with the previous Grants.gov Tracking ID prior to the application submission deadline.*** The Project Narrative and Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline.

E. Submission Dates and Times

All submission dates and times are indicated on the [title page](#) of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. Pre-application and application submissions are required. Failure to meet either of these deadlines will result in submission rejection.

F. Other Submission Requirements

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, for detailed formatting guidelines.

All extramural applications must be submitted through Grants.gov. Applicant organizations and all subrecipient organizations must have a DUNS number to submit applications to Grants.gov. The applicant organization must also be registered in the Entity Management functional area of the SAM with an "Active" status to submit applications through the Grants.gov portal. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.A., for information on Grants.gov registration requirements.

III. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. Application Review and Selection Process

All applications are evaluated by scientists, clinicians, and consumers in a two-tier review process. The first tier is peer review of applications against established criteria for determining technical merit. Each application is evaluated for its own merit, independent of other applications. The second tier is a programmatic review that makes recommendations for funding to the DHA RDA Directorate and the OASD(HA), based on technical merit, the relevance to the mission of the DHP and MSRP, the specific intent of the award mechanism, and to other specified evaluation criteria in the Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. Programmatic review is a comparison-based process in which applications with scientific and technical merit compete in a common pool. *The highest-scoring applications from the first tier of review are not automatically recommended for funding. Funding recommendations depend on various factors as described in [Section III.B.2., Programmatic Review](#).* Additional information about the two-tier process used by the CDMRP can be found at <http://cdmrp.army.mil/about/fundingprocess>.

All CDMRP review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the merit-based selection process. Panel members sign a statement that application and evaluation information will not be disclosed 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 is a crime in accordance with Title 18 United States Code 1905.

B. Application Review Process

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

- **Clinical Impact**
 - How well the application addresses the FY16 MSRP PCTA Focus Area, **Treatment of MS Symptoms**.
 - To what extent the anticipated outcomes of the proposed pilot clinical trial are relevant to individuals with MS.
 - How the potential outcomes of the proposed pilot clinical trial will provide/improve short-term and long-term benefits for individuals with MS.
 - How well described are the steps that will be taken to advance the advance the intervention to the next stage of development at the conclusion of the award.

- **Study Design and Feasibility**
 - How well the scientific rationale and/or the preliminary data support the proposed pilot clinical trial.
 - How well the study design, including the proposed study variables, measurements, controls, and endpoints to be tested, supports the objective of the proposed pilot clinical trial.
 - To what extent the methods for recruiting human subjects, including the inclusion and exclusion criteria, are appropriate.
 - To what extent the methods for sample and data collection are appropriate.
 - To what extent the proposed pilot clinical trial is feasible as described.
 - To what extent the proposed statistical analysis is appropriate to the proposed research.
 - Whether the availability of, and access to, the drug, compound, device, and/or other materials needed for the proposed study are sufficiently documented.
- **Personnel**
 - To what degree the study team's background and expertise are appropriate to accomplish the proposed work (e.g., statistical expertise; expertise in the disease; clinical studies).
 - To what extent the levels of effort of the study team members are appropriate for successful conduct of the proposed pilot clinical trial.

In addition, the following unscored criteria will also contribute to the overall evaluation of the application:

- **Ethical Considerations**
 - How well the applicant identifies potential study risks and outlines safety steps to protect study subjects and staff.
- **Environment**
 - To what degree the scientific environment is appropriate for the proposed study.
 - How well the research requirements are supported by the availability of and accessibility to facilities and resources (including collaborative arrangements).
 - To what degree the quality and extent of institutional support/commitment are appropriate for the proposed study.
 - If applicable, to what degree the intellectual and material property plan is appropriate.
- **Budget**
 - Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research and within the limitations of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

- **Application Presentation**
 - To what extent the writing, clarity, and presentation of the application components influence the review.
- 2. **Programmatic Review:** To make funding recommendations and select the application(s) that, individually or collectively, will best achieve the program objectives, the following criteria are used by programmatic reviewers:
 - a. **Ratings and evaluations of the peer reviewers**
 - b. Relevance to the mission of the DHP and FY16 MSRP, as evidenced by the following:
 - Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism
 - Program portfolio composition
 - Relative impact

C. Recipient Qualification

For general information on required qualifications for award recipients, refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1.

D. Application Review Dates

All application review dates and times are indicated on the [title page](#) of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

E. Notification of Application Review Results

Each PI and organization will receive email notification of posting of the funding recommendation in eBRAP. Each PI will receive a peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the application.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

After receipt of pre-applications from eBRAP or applications from Grants.gov, the following administrative actions may occur:

A. Rejection

The following will result in administrative rejection of the pre-application:

- Preproposal Narrative exceeds page limit.
- Preproposal Narrative is missing.

The following will result in administrative rejection of the application:

- Submission of an application for which a letter of invitation was not received.
- Project Narrative exceeds page limit.
- For studies requiring an IND or IDE (Attachment 8), documentation of IND/IDE application to the FDA is missing.
- Project Narrative is missing.
- Budget is missing.
- Submission of the same research project to different Funding Opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.

B. Modification

- Pages exceeding the specific limits will be removed prior to review for all documents other than the Preproposal Narrative and Project Narrative.
- Documents not requested will be removed.

C. Withdrawal

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

- An FY16 MSRP Programmatic Panel member is named as being involved in the research proposed or is found to have assisted in the pre-application or application processes including, but not limited to, concept design, application development, budget preparation, and the development of any supporting documentation. *A list of the FY16 MSRP Programmatic Panel members can be found at <http://cdmrp.army.mil/msrp/panels/panels16>.*
- The application fails to conform to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity description to the extent that appropriate review cannot be conducted.
- Inclusion of URLs, with the exception of links in References Cited and Publication and/or Patent Abstract sections.
- Page size is larger than 8.5 inches x 11.0 inches (approximately 21.59 cm x 27.94 cm).
- To preserve the integrity of its peer and programmatic review processes, the CDMRP discourages inclusion of any employee of its review contractors having any role in the preparation, research or other duties for submitted applications. For FY16, the identities of the peer review contractor and the programmatic review contractor may be found at the CDMRP website (<http://cdmrp.army.mil/about/2tierRevProcess>). Applications that include names of personnel from either of these companies will be administratively withdrawn unless plans to manage COIs are provided and deemed appropriate by the Government. Refer to the General Application 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 invited application does not propose the same research project described in the pre-application.
- An application submitted by a PI who does not meet the eligibility criteria will be withdrawn.
- For studies requiring an IND or IDE, documentation of IND/IDE approval or exemption is not submitted to the CDMRP Help Desk (help@eBRAP.org) prior to 5:00 p.m. ET, November 30, 2016.
- The proposed research is not a clinical trial.
- If the preapplication or application does not address the [FY16 MSRP PCTA Focus Area in Section I.B.](#) , the preapplication or application will be withdrawn.

D. Withhold

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 Grants Officer for a determination of the final disposition of the application.

V. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Award Notice

Awards will be made no later than September 30, 2017. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, for additional award administration information.

Any assistance instrument awarded under this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity will be governed by the award terms and conditions, which conform to DoD's implementation of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circulars applicable to financial assistance. Terms and conditions of new awards made after December 26, 2014 may include revisions to reflect DoD implementation of new OMB guidance in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 2, Part 200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards" (2 CFR part 200).

B. Administrative Requirements

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

C. National Policy Requirements

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

D. Reporting

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

E. Award Transfers

Changes in PI are not allowed, except under extenuating circumstances that will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the Grants Officer.

The organization transfer of an award supporting a clinical trial is strongly discouraged and in most cases will not be allowed. Approval of a transfer request will be on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Grants Officer. An organizational transfer of an award will not be allowed in the last year of the (original) period of performance or any extension thereof.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, Section L, for general information on organization or PI changes.

VI. VERSION CODES AND AGENCY CONTACTS

A. Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity and General Application Instructions Version

Questions related to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity should refer to the Program name, the Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity name, and the Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity version code [20160210g]. The Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity numeric version code will match the General Applications Instructions version code [20160210].

B. CDMRP Help Desk

Questions related to Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity content or submission requirements as well as questions related to the submission of the 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. ET. Response times may vary depending upon the volume of inquiries.

Phone: 301-682-5507

Email: help@eBRAP.org

C. Grants.gov Contact Center

Questions related to application submission through 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 Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity or by responding to the prompt provided by Grants.gov when first downloading the Grants.gov application package. If the Grants.gov application package is updated or changed, the original version of the application package may not be accepted by Grants.gov.

VII. 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	Surveys, Questionnaires, and Other Data Collection Instructions: Upload as Attachment 6 with file name "Surveys.pdf," if applicable.	
	7	Impact Statement: Upload as Attachment 7 with file name "Impact.pdf."	
	8	IND/IDE Documentation: Upload as Attachment 8 with file name "IND-IDE.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.	