Program Announcement

Defense Health Program
Department of Defense
Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Spinal Cord Injury Research Program
Clinical Trial Award

Funding Opportunity Number:  W81XWH-12-SCIRP-CTA
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:  12.420

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW DATES AND TIMES

- Pre-Application Submission Deadline:  5:00 p.m. Eastern time (ET), July 5, 2012
- Invitation to Submit an Application:  August 2012
- Application Submission Deadline:  11:59 p.m. ET, October 1, 2012
- Peer Review:  November 2012
- Programmatic Review:  January 2013
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I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Program Description

Applications for the Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP) are being solicited by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Defense Health Program. The SCIRP was established in 2009 to fund innovative projects that have the potential to make a significant impact on the health and well-being of military Service members, Veterans, and other individuals living with SCI. Appropriations for the SCIRP from FY09 through FY11 totaled $58.25 million (M). The FY12 appropriation is $9.6M.

The FY12 SCIRP challenges the scientific community to design innovative research that will foster new directions for and address neglected issues in the field of SCI-focused research. Applications from investigators within the military Services, and applications involving multidisciplinary collaborations among academia, industry, the military Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and other Federal Government agencies are highly encouraged. Though the SCIRP supports groundbreaking research, all projects must demonstrate solid scientific rationale.

B. FY12 SCIRP Areas of Encouragement

The FY12 SCIRP encourages applications that specifically address the following areas related to acute SCI:

- Pre-hospital, en route care, and early hospital management of SCI
- Prevention of pressure ulcers

FY12 SCIRP also encourages applications that specifically address the following areas related to chronic SCI:

- Autonomic dysfunction
- Bowel dysfunction
- Neuropathic pain and sensory dysfunction
- Respiratory dysfunction, sleep disordered breathing, and ventilation management

Alignment with current Department of Defense (DoD) research and collaboration with military researchers and clinicians is encouraged. The following websites may be useful in identifying ongoing areas of DoD research interest within the FY12 SCIRP Areas of Encouragement.
C. Award Information

The SCIRP Clinical Trial Award (CTA) mechanism was first offered as the Clinical Trial Award – Rehabilitation (CTA-R) in FY09. Forty-four CTA-R applications were received, and 10 were recommended for funding. **NEW for FY12:** The award mechanism has been modified to support the rapid implementation of all Phase 0, I, or II clinical trials with the potential to have a major impact on treatment or management of spinal cord injury and its consequences, and is no longer limited to studies focused on rehabilitation. The FY12 SCIRP is particularly interested in comparative effectiveness studies.

**Funding from this award mechanism must support a clinical trial and may not be used for preclinical research studies.** A clinical trial is defined as a prospective accrual of human subjects where an intervention (e.g., device, drug, biologic, surgical procedure, rehabilitative
modality, behavioral intervention, or other) is tested with 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 human subject of that intervention or interaction. Principal Investigators (PIs) seeking funding for a preclinical research project should consider one of the other award mechanisms/funding opportunities being offered. 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 clinical trial. For more information on clinical research, a Human Subject Resource Document is provided at https://cdmrp.org/Program_Announcements_and_Forms/.

If the study proposed involves the use of a drug that has not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for its investigational use, then an Investigational New Drug (IND) application to the FDA may be required and, if applicable, must be submitted to the FDA prior to the application submission. If the proposed study involves an investigational device that has not been approved or cleared by FDA for its investigational clinical use, the study may be required to comply with the FDA Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) regulations. If applicable, the IDE application must be submitted prior to the application submission. **The Government reserves the right to withdraw funding if the documented status of the IND or IDE has not been obtained within 6 months of the award date.**

The following are important aspects of submission for the Clinical Trial Award:

- The proposed clinical trial is expected to begin no later than 12 months after the award date.
- The proposed intervention to be tested should offer significant potential impact for individuals living with spinal cord injury and its consequences.
- The proposed clinical trial should be directly applicable to the health care needs of military Service members, Veterans, and other individuals living with SCI.
- The proposed research project must be based on sound scientific rationale that is established through logical reasoning and critical review and analysis of the literature.
- Inclusion of preliminary data relevant to the proposed research project is required; Phase I or pilot clinical trial data are required for Phase II clinical trial applications.
- The application must demonstrate availability of, and access to, a suitable study 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 must demonstrate documented availability of and access to the drug/compound, device, and/or other materials needed, as appropriate.
- The proposed clinical trial must include clearly defined and appropriate endpoints, and use standard outcome measures, if applicable.
- The application should include a clearly articulated statistical analysis plan, appropriate statistical expertise, and a power analysis reflecting sample size projections that will clearly answer the objectives of the study.
• The application should include a study coordinator(s) who will guide the clinical protocol through the local Institutional Review Board (IRB) of record and other regulatory approval processes, coordinate activities from all sites participating in the trial, and coordinate participant accrual.

• The application must include a Transition Plan (including potential funding and resources) showing how the product will progress to the next clinical trial phase and/or delivery to the market after successful completion of the SCIRP Clinical Trial Award.

• The application should demonstrate the clinical expertise of the PI.

• The application must demonstrate evidence of institutional support.

• Partnerships between clinicians and bio-engineers are encouraged.

• The application should demonstrate utilization of the spinal cord injury Common Data Element (CDE) standards 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. Additionally, the Government reserves the right to identify repositories for submission of data for archive. Any costs associated with submission of data to such repositories will be addressed during award negotiations.

Use of Human Subjects and Human Anatomical Substances: All DoD-funded research involving new and ongoing research with human subjects and human anatomical substances 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), in addition to the local IRB of record. Local IRB approval at the time of submission is NOT required. The HRPO is mandated to comply with specific laws and directives governing all research involving human subjects that is supported by the DoD. Allow a minimum of 4 months for regulatory review and approval processes. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, for more information.

Use of Military and VA Populations: If applicable, access to target military or VA patient population(s) should be confirmed at the time of application submission. A letter of support, signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority, should be included for studies involving active duty military, Veterans, military and/or VA-controlled study materials, and military and/or VA databases.

The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) intends that data and research resources generated by CDMRP-funded research activities 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

- Independent investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent) are eligible to submit applications.
- Cost sharing/matching is desirable, but is not an eligibility requirement.
- Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for general eligibility information.

E. Funding

- The maximum period of performance is 4 years.

The maximum allowable direct costs for the entire period of performance are $750,000 plus indirect costs. More cost-effective studies that do not request the full available amount are encouraged.

- 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 4 years.

- Regardless of the period of performance proposed, the applicant may not exceed the maximum allowable direct costs. Indirect costs shall be proposed in accordance with the organization’s negotiated rate agreement.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for budget regulations and instructions for the Research & Related Budget. In addition, for this award mechanism, direct costs:

Must be requested for:

- PI’s travel to one DoD-sponsored scientific meeting in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area ($1,800). Costs associated with travel to this meeting should be included in Year 1 of the budget.

May be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Salary
- Research supplies
- Equipment
- Research-related subject costs
- Clinical research costs
- Travel between collaborating organizations
- Travel costs of up to $1,800 per year to attend scientific/technical meetings

Shall not be requested for:

- Preclinical research studies
The CDMRP expects to allot approximately $3.6M of the $9.6M FY12 SCIRP appropriation to fund approximately 3 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 is a multi-step process requiring both (1) pre-application submission through the CDMRP eReceipt System (https://cdmrp.org/) and (2) application submission through Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov/).

Submission of the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year is prohibited. The Government will reject duplicative applications.

A. Where to Obtain the Application Package

To obtain the complete application package, including all required forms, perform a Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov/) basic search using the Funding Opportunity Number: W81XWH-12-SCIRP-CTA.

B. Pre-Application Submission Content and Form

All pre-application components must be submitted by the PI through the CDMRP eReceipt System (https://cdmrp.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 application should be the same as those identified in the pre-application. If any changes are necessary after submission of the pre-application, the PI must contact the CDMRP Help Desk at help@cdmrp.org or 301-682-5507.

A change in PI or organization after submission of the pre-application will be allowed only at the discretion of the US Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA) Contracting/Grants Officer.

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

- Application Information – Tab 1
- Application Contacts – Tab 2
- Collaborators and Conflicts of Interest (COI) – Tab 3

FY12 SCIRP Integration Panel (IP) members must not be involved in any pre-application or application. For questions related to IP members and pre-applications or applications, refer to Section IV.C., Withdrawal, or contact the CDMRP Help Desk (1-301-682-5507).
• **Required Files – Tab 4**

**Preproposal Narrative (two-page limit):** The Preproposal Narrative page limit applies to text and any figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, pictures, pictorials, and cartoons.

The Preproposal Narrative must adhere to the following outline:

○ **Background/ Readiness:** State the ideas and reasoning on which the proposed clinical trial is based. Clearly specify the intervention (e.g., drug, device, behavioral, epidemiological, physiological) to be investigated, and indicate the phase of trial and/or class of device, as appropriate. Clearly demonstrate that there is sufficient scientific evidence to support moving this research into the proposed clinical trial phase. Describe any relevant controversies or treatment issues that will be addressed by the proposed clinical trial.

○ **Hypothesis and Approach:** Concisely state the project’s hypothesis and describe the trial’s design and scientific approach. Include sample sizes, controls, and inclusion/exclusion criteria, and demonstrate that the trial is adequately powered.

○ **Impact:** State explicitly how the proposed clinical trial will have an impact on advancing the treatment of SCI and its consequences, and if applicable, how it addresses one or more SCIRP FY12 Areas of Encouragement.

○ **Military relevance:** Describe how the proposed clinical trial is applicable to the health care needs of military Service members, Veterans, and other individuals living with SCI.

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

○ **References Cited:** (one-page limit) List relevant references 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). The inclusion of Internet URLs to references is encouraged.

○ **PI Biographical Sketch (two-page limit):** Include a biographical sketch for the PI only.

• **Submit Pre-Application – Tab 5**

This tab must be completed for the pre-application to be accepted and processed by CDMRP.

• **Other Documents Tab**

No additional documents are required.

**Pre-Application Screening**

• **Pre-Application Screening Criteria**

To determine the technical merits of the pre-application and the relevance to the mission of the DoD and the SCIRP, pre-applications will be screened based on the following criteria:
○ **Background/ Readiness:** How well the described clinical trial demonstrates solid scientific rationale for SCI research and provides sufficient evidence that the research is ready to move into the proposed clinical trial phase.

○ **Hypothesis and Approach:** How well a clear hypothesis is stated and supported through scientific rationale and referenced literature, and how well the trial’s design and scientific approach will yield appropriate outcomes that are adequately powered to address the hypothesis.

○ **Impact:** How well the study addresses an important problem related to SCI, and if applicable, how it addresses one or more FY12 Areas of Encouragement. If successful, how the study will impact clinical practice, and improve the treatment of SCI and its consequences.

○ **Military Relevance:** How well the proposed study directly or indirectly benefits military Service members, Veterans, and other individuals living with SCI.

- **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 invitation to submit an application date is indicated on the title page of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

C. **Application Submission Content and Form**

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

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

**Grants.gov application package components:** For the 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. **SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance Form:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for detailed information.

2. **Attachments Form**

   *The Project Narrative is NOT the formal clinical trial protocol. 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.*
Attachment 1: Project Narrative (20-page limit): Upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf.”

Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

- **Background/Readiness:** Describe in detail the rationale for the study and include a literature review, preliminary studies, and/or preclinical data that led to the development of the proposed clinical trial. Clearly demonstrate that there is sufficient scientific evidence to support moving the proposed research into the proposed clinical trial phase. Provide a summary of relevant clinical trials and distinguish how the proposed study differs from other ongoing relevant or recently completed clinical trials. Include a discussion of any current clinical use of the intervention under investigation, and/or details of its study in clinical trials for other indications (as applicable). 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.

If the proposed clinical trial was initiated using other funding prior to this application, explain the history and background of the clinical trial and declare the source of prior funding. Specifically identify the portions of the study that will be supported with funds from this award. For ongoing protocols, HRPO approval is required prior to initiation of any human subjects research activities supported by the USAMRMC.

- **Objectives/Specific Aims/Hypotheses:** Provide a description of the purpose and objective(s) of the study with detailed specific aims and/or study questions/hypotheses.

- **Research Strategy and Study Design:** Describe the type of study to be performed (e.g., prospective, randomized, controlled) and outline the proposed methodology/design in sufficient detail to show a clear course of action.
  - Identify the intervention to be tested and describe the projected outcomes.
  - Define the study variables and describe how they will be measured. Include a description of appropriate controls and the endpoints to be tested.
  - Describe the methods that will be used to recruit a sample of human subjects from the accessible population (e.g., convenience, simple random, stratified random).
  - Describe the human subject-to-group assignment process (e.g., randomization, block randomization, stratified randomization, age-matched controls, alternating group, or other procedures), if applicable. Explain the specific actions to accomplish the group assignment (e.g., computer assignment, use of table of random numbers).
  - Describe the reliability and validity of psychometric measures, if applicable.

- **Statistical Plan and Data Analysis:** Describe the statistical model and data analysis plan with respect to the study objectives. 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.

- **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 component unless otherwise noted. Include only those components described below; inclusion of items not requested may result in administrative rejection 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-owned facilities or equipment are proposed for use. Reference should be made to the original or present award under which the facilities or equipment items are now accountable. There is no form for this information.
  
  ○ 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 of each published manuscript must 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(s) or appropriate organization official(s), reflecting the institution’s commitment to the completion of the trial, including laboratory space, equipment, and other resources available for the project.
  
  ○ 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.
  
  ○ Letter of Commitment (if applicable): If the study uses a proprietary intervention, such as a drug or device, then include a signed letter from the source documenting a commitment to provide the intervention under investigation for the duration of the study.
  
  ○ 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, for more information about the CDMRP expectations for making data and research resources publically available. Include plans for utilizing the spinal cord injury CDE standards 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. Additionally, the government reserves the right to identify repositories for submission of data for archive. Any costs associated with submission will be addressed during award negotiations.

- **Attachment 3: Technical Abstract (one-page limit):** Upload as “TechAbs.pdf.”
  Technical abstracts should be written using the outline below. The technical abstract is used by all reviewers; however, programmatic reviewers do not typically have access to the full application and rely on the technical abstract for appropriate description of the project’s key aspects.
  ○ Background/Readiness: Identify the type of trial and phase as appropriate. Present the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed trial, including sufficient scientific evidence to support moving this research into the proposed clinical trial phase.
  ○ Objective/Hypothesis: State the objective(s)/hypothesis to be tested. Provide evidence or rationale that supports the objective/hypothesis.
  ○ Specific Aims: State the specific aims of the study.
  ○ Research Strategy and Study Design: Briefly describe the study design, including the intervention to be applied, the study population, patient recruitment strategies and accrual goals, timelines, outcome measures, and appropriately powered statistical plan.
  ○ Clinical Impact: Briefly describe how the proposed project will have an impact on advancing the treatment of SCI and its consequences and, if applicable, how it addresses one or more FY12 SCIRP Areas of Encouragement.
  ○ Military Relevance: Briefly describe the relevance of the proposed trial to the health care needs of military Service members, Veterans, and other individuals living with SCI.

- **Attachment 4: Lay Abstract (one-page limit):** Upload as “LayAbs.pdf.”
  Lay abstracts should be written using the outline below. Do not duplicate the technical abstract. The lay abstract is used by consumer peer reviewers along with other components of the application package.
  ○ Clearly describe, in a manner readily understood by lay persons, the rationale and objective for the proposed work.
o Describe the ultimate applicability and impact of the research.
  – What types of patients will it help, and how will it help them?
  – What are the potential clinical applications, benefits, and risks?
  – What is the projected time it may take to achieve a patient-related outcome?

o What are the likely contributions of this study to advancing the field of SCI research?

- Attachment 5: Statement of Work (SOW) (three-page limit): Upload as “SOW.pdf.” Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for detailed information.


  a. Study Population: Describe the target population (to whom the study findings will be generalized) and the nature, approximate number, and pertinent demographic characteristics of the accessible population at the study site (population from which the sample will be recruited/drawn). Demonstrate that the research team has access to the proposed study population. Furthermore, discuss past efforts in recruiting human subjects from the target population for previous clinical trials (if applicable). Address any potential barriers to accrual including those specific to recruitment from military and/or Veteran populations (if applicable). Provide plans for addressing unanticipated delays. Include justification of any age, race, ethnicity, or sex limitations provided.

  b. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria: List the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the proposed clinical trial. Inclusion/exclusion criteria should take into consideration the specific risk profile of the studies to be conducted and the standard of care for that patient population. Provide detailed justification for exclusions.

  Inclusion of Women and Minorities in Study. Consistent with the Belmont Report, “Ethical Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects,” and Congressional legislation, special attention is given to inclusion of women and/or minorities in studies funded or supported by the USAMRMC. This policy is intended to promote equity both in assuming the burdens and in receiving the benefits of human subjects research. Include an appropriate justification if women and/or minorities will be excluded from the clinical trial.

  c. Description of the Recruitment Process: Explain methods for identification of potential human subjects (e.g., medical record review, obtaining sampling lists, health care provider identification).

    • Describe the recruitment process in detail. Address who will identify potential human subjects, who will recruit them, and what methods will be used to recruit them.
• Include a detailed description of and justification for the compensation plan if the human subjects will be compensated for participation in the study. Ensure that the compensation plan is fair and does not provide undue inducement. If the study requires multiple visits, a plan for pro-rating payments in the event of human subjects’ withdrawal should be considered.

• Describe the recruitment and advertisement materials. The recruitment materials should not be coercive or offer undue inducements and should accurately reflect the study.

• Include a description of any considerations unique to recruitment from military or Veterans medical treatment facilities, if applicable.

d. Description of the Informed Consent Process: Specifically describe the plan for obtaining informed consent from human subjects.

• For the proposed study, provide a draft, in English, of the Informed Consent Form.

• Identify who is responsible for explaining the study, answering questions, and obtaining informed consent. Include a plan for ensuring that human subjects’ questions will be addressed during the consent process and throughout the trial.

• Include information regarding the timing and location of the consent process.

• Address issues relevant to the mental capacity of the potential human subject (e.g., altered capacity due to administration of any mind-altering substances such as tranquilizers, conscious sedation or anesthesia, brain injury, stress/life situations, or human subject age), if applicable.

• Address how privacy and time for decision-making will be provided and whether or not the potential human subject will be allowed to discuss the study with anyone before making a decision.

• Consider the need for obtaining ongoing consent or for re-assessing capacity over the course of a long-term study and describe any relevant procedures to assure continued consent.

• Describe the plan for the consent of the individual’s Legally Authorized Representative (LAR) to be obtained prior to the human subject’s participation in the study. State law defines who may act as the LAR. The local IRB of record should be consulted for guidance regarding who can serve as LAR for research at the study site. Note: The PI must describe a clear intent to benefit for human subjects who cannot give their own consent to participate in the proposed clinical trial to be in compliance with Title 10 United States Code Section 980 (10 USC 980) (http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2011-title10/pdf/USCODE-2011-title10-subtitleA-partII-chap49-sec980.pdf). If applicable, please refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, for more information.
- **Assent.** If minors or other populations that cannot provide informed consent are included in the proposed clinical trial, a plan to obtain assent (agreement) from those with capacity to provide it, or a justification for a waiver of assent, should be provided. PIs should consult with their local IRB to identify the conditions necessary for obtaining assent.

e. **Screening Procedures:** List and describe any evaluations (e.g., laboratory procedures, history, or physical examination) that are required to determine eligibility/suitability for study participation and the diagnostic criteria for entry. Please note that some screening procedures may require a separate consent or a two-stage consent process. Informed consent must be obtained prior to initiation of any procedures for the purpose of determining eligibility.

f. **Risks/Benefits Assessment:**

- **Foreseeable risks:** Clearly identify all study risks. Study risks include any risks that the human subject is subjected to as a result of participation in the clinical trial. Consider psychological, legal, social, and economic risks as well as physical risks. If the risks are unknown, this should be stated. If applicable, any potential risk to the study personnel should be identified.

- **Risk management and emergency response:**
  - Describe all safety measures to minimize and/or eliminate risks to human subjects and study personnel or to manage unpreventable risks. Include safeguards and planned responses such as dose reduction or stopping criteria based on toxicity grading scales or other predetermined alert values.
  - Discuss the overall plan for provision of emergency care or treatment for an adverse event for study-related injuries, to include who will be responsible for the cost of such care.
  - Address any special precautions to be taken by the human subjects before, during, and after the study (e.g., medication washout periods, dietary restrictions, hydration, fasting, pregnancy prevention).
  - Describe any special care (e.g., wound dressing assistance, transportation due to side effects of study intervention impairing ability to drive) or equipment (e.g., thermometers, telemedicine equipment) needed for human subjects enrolled in the study.

- **Potential benefits:** Describe known and potential benefits of the study to the human subject, a specific community, or society. Ensure that the benefits are not overstated. **NOTE:** Payment and/or other compensation for participation are not considered to be benefits and must be addressed in a separate section.

- **Attachment 7: Intervention (no page limit):** Upload as “Intervention.pdf.” The Intervention attachment should include the components listed below.

  a. **Description of the Intervention:** The description of the intervention should include the following components as appropriate to the type of intervention:
Complete name and composition of medication or device, storage and handling information, source, dose, schedule, administration route, washout period, duration of the intervention, and concomitant medications allowed.

Summarize key preclinical findings that examine the safety of the intervention. Information on treatment safety, including anticipated side-effects, and any antidotes or available treatments should also be provided. Description of devices should include detailed operational instructions, any potential risks to users, and intended benefits. Other types of interventions should be fully described. If applicable, provide documentation of submission for IND/IDE or approved IND/IDE number.

b. **Study Procedures:** Describe the interaction with the human subject to include the study intervention that he/she will experience. Provide sufficient detail in chronological order for a person uninvolved in the study to understand what the human subject will experience. Provide a schedule (e.g., flowchart or diagram) of study evaluations and follow-up procedures. Discuss how compliance with Good Clinical Practices, Good Manufacturing Practices, and other regulatory considerations will be established, monitored, and maintained, as applicable.

- **Attachment 8: Data Management (no page limit):** Upload as “Data_Manage.pdf.” The Data Management attachment should include the components listed below.

a. **Data Management:** Describe all methods used for data collection to include the following:

- **Identifiers:** Describe the unique identifiers or specific code system to be used to identify human subjects, if applicable.

- **Confidentiality:**
  - Explain measures taken to protect the privacy of study human subjects and maintain confidentiality of study data. Strategies to protect the privacy and confidentiality of study records, particularly those containing identifying information, should be addressed.
  - Address who will have access to study records, data, and specimens, including an acknowledgment that representatives of USAMRMC are eligible to review study records.
  - Address requirements for reporting sensitive information to state or local authorities.

- **Disposition of data:** Describe where data (both electronic and hard copy) will be stored, who will keep the data, how the data will be stored, and the length of time data will be stored.

- **Sharing study results:** In cases where the human subject could possibly benefit medically or otherwise from the information, explain whether or not the results of screening and/or study participation will be shared with human subjects or their primary care providers, to include results from any screening or diagnostic tests performed as part of the study.
b. Laboratory Evaluations:
- **Specimens to be collected, schedule, and amount.** All specimens that will be collected for study purposes must be clearly stated. The collection schedule and amount of material collected must also be clearly described.

- **Evaluations to be made.** Describe all evaluations that will be made for study purposes. Explain how the results of laboratory evaluations will be used to meet the objectives of the study (or to monitor safety of human subjects).

- **Storage.** Describe specimen storage, to include location of storage, how long specimens will be stored, any special conditions required, labeling, and disposition. Outline the plan to store specimens for future use to include considerations for informed consent and providing human subjects with an opportunity to decline participation in the study.

- **Laboratories performing evaluations and special precautions.** Identify the laboratory performing each evaluation, as well as any special precautions that should be taken in handling the samples. Special precautions that should be taken by the human subject before, during, or after the laboratory procedure should be clearly defined. If transport of samples is required, describe provisions for ensuring proper storage during transport.

- **Attachment 9: Study Personnel and Organization (no page limit):** Upload as “Personnel.pdf.” The Study Personnel and Organization attachment should include the components listed below.

  a. **Principal Investigator/Study Staff:** Provide an organizational chart identifying key members of the study team including institution/center/department. Briefly describe their roles on the project. A medical monitor (external to the study and not reimbursed by the study) and study coordinator(s) should be included.

  b. **Study Management Plan:** Provide a plan for ensuring the standardization of procedures among staff and across sites (if applicable). If the proposed clinical trial is multi-institutional, plans for communication and data transfer between the collaborating institutions, as well as how data, specimens, and/or imaging products obtained during the study will be handled, should be included. Provide a plan for real-time communication among collaborating institutions (if applicable).

- **Attachment 10: 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.
Procedures for use of study instruments should be clear in the protocol. Study instruments should be coded to protect confidentiality whenever possible.

For study instruments provided to and/or completed by volunteers, the study instrument should be legible and presented at a reading level appropriate for the population. Copies of instruments submitted for review must also be legible.

- **Attachment 11: Impact Statement (one-page limit).** Upload as “Impact.pdf.”
  - Identify the volunteer population(s) that will participate in the proposed intervention, and describe the potential impact of the proposed clinical trial on the outcomes of individuals with SCI.
  - Describe the short-term impact: Detail the anticipated outcomes that will be directly attributed to the results of the proposed 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 clinical trial.
  - Describe any potential issues that might limit the impact of the proposed clinical trial.
  - Compare the proposed intervention to pharmacologic agents, devices, and/or clinical guidance currently available, if applicable.
  - If applicable, address impact on one or more of the FY12 SCIRP Areas of Encouragement.

- **Attachment 12: Transition Plan (one-page limit).** Upload as “Transition.pdf.”
  Provide information on the methods and strategies proposed to move the product to the next phase of clinical trials and/or delivery to the military or civilian market after successful completion of the award. The transition plan should include the components listed below.
  - Details of the funding strategy that will be used to bring the outcomes to the next level of clinical trials and/or delivery to the military or civilian market (e.g., specific potential industry partners, specific funding opportunities to be pursued).
  - A description of collaborations and other resources that will be used to provide continuity of development.
  - A brief schedule and milestones for bringing the outcome(s) to the next phase of clinical trials and/or delivery to the military or civilian market.
  - The involvement of appropriate intellectual property, licensing, and/or business professionals.
  - A risk analysis for cost, schedule, manufacturability, and sustainability.
• **Attachment 13: 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.”
  - 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.
  - If an IND or IDE is required for this study, an application must be submitted to the FDA prior to grant submission. If an IND or IDE has been submitted, an explanation of the status of the IND or IDE should be provided (e.g., past the critical 30-day period, pending response to questions raised by the Agency, on clinical hold). Inclusion of a copy of the Agency meeting minutes is encouraged but not required. If an IND or IDE is not required for the proposed study, provide evidence in the form of communication from the FDA or the IRB of record to that effect.

• **Attachment 14: Military Relevance Statement (one-page limit):** Upload as “Military.pdf.” Demonstrate how the proposed study is applicable to the health care needs and quality of life of military Service members, Veterans, and other individuals living with SCI. If the active duty military, Veteran, or military family member population(s) will be used in the proposed research project, describe the population(s), the appropriateness of the population(s) for the proposed study, and the feasibility of using the population. If a non-military population will be used for the proposed research project, explain how the population simulates the targeted population.

• **Attachment 15: Approval for Access to Military and VA Populations (if applicable, one page limit per site):** Upload as “ApprovalAccess.pdf.” A letter of support, signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority, should be included for studies involving active duty military, Veterans, or military family members; military-controlled study materials; databases; and/or restricted facilities (e.g., biological or chemical containment facilities).

3. **Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded):** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for detailed information.
   - PI Biographical Sketch (four-page limit): Upload as “Biosketch_LastName.pdf.”
   - PI Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support_LastName.pdf.”
   - Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (four-page limit each): Upload as “Biosketch_LastName.pdf.”
   - Key Personnel Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support_LastName.pdf.”

4. **Research & Related Budget:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for detailed information.
   - Budget Justification (no page limit): Upload as “BudgetJustification.pdf.”
5. **Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for detailed information.

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

D. **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 any one of the deadlines will result in application rejection.

E. **Other Submission Requirements**

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

All applications must be submitted through Grants.gov. Organizations are required to provide a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and register with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) to submit applications through the Grants.gov portal. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3, for information on Grants.gov requirements.

III. **APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION**

A. **Application Review and Selection Process**

All applications are evaluated by scientists, clinicians, and consumer advocates using a two-tier review process. The first tier is a peer review of applications against established criteria for determining technical merit. The second tier is a programmatic review that compares applications to each other and makes recommendations for funding to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC), based on technical merit, the relevance to the mission of the DoD and SCIRP, and the specific intent of the award mechanism. The highest-scoring applications from the first tier of review are not automatically recommended for funding. Additional information about the two-tier review process used by the CDMRP can be found at [http://cdmrp.army.mil/about/fundingprocess](http://cdmrp.army.mil/about/fundingprocess).

All CDMRP review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the merit-based selection process. Each level of review requires panelists to sign a non-disclosure statement attesting that application and evaluation information will not be disclosed outside the panel. Violations of the non-disclosure statement can result in the dissolving of a panel(s) and other corrective actions. Organizational personnel and PIs 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 panelists or PIs that compromise the confidentiality of the review process may also result in suspension or debarment of their employing organizations 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 Criteria

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

   - **Clinical Impact**
     - How relevant the anticipated outcomes of the proposed clinical trial are to military Service members, Veterans, and other individuals living with SCI.
     - How well the sample population represents the targeted patient population that might benefit from the proposed intervention.
     - How well the potential outcomes of the proposed clinical trial will provide/improve the short-term benefits for individuals.
     - How significantly the long-term benefits for implementation of the intervention may impact patient care and/or quality of life.
     - If applicable, how well the study addresses impact on one or more of the FY12 SCIRP Areas of Encouragement.

   - **Ethical Considerations**
     - How well the level of risk to human subjects is minimized and whether there is sufficient evidence of a monitoring plan that is appropriate for the level of risk.
     - How well the evidence shows that the procedures are consistent with sound research design and, when appropriate, that these procedures are already in use for diagnostic or treatment purposes.
     - To what degree privacy issues are appropriately considered.
     - To what degree the process for seeking informed consent is appropriate and whether safeguards are in place for vulnerable populations.

   - **Intervention**
     - Whether there is evidence to support availability of the intervention from its source for the duration of the proposed clinical trial (if applicable).
     - To what degree the intervention addresses the clinical need(s) described.
     - To what degree the PI has provided preclinical and/or clinical evidence to support the safety of the intervention.
     - How well the intervention advances or improves patient care beyond currently available interventions and/or standards of care.
     - Whether a member of the study team holds the IND/IDE and whether the timeline proposed for IND/IDE application is appropriate (if applicable).
     - For investigator-sponsored INDs, whether there is institutional support to serve as a sponsor and whether they are equipped to assume the monitoring required by the FDA.
○ To what degree the data collection instruments (e.g., surveys, questionnaires), if applicable, are appropriate to the proposed study.

○ Whether measures are described to ensure the consistency of dosing of active ingredients for nutritional supplements (if applicable).

- **Personnel and Communication**
  ○ Whether the composition of the study team (e.g., study coordinator, statistician) is appropriate.
  ○ 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, and clinical studies).
  ○ How well the levels of effort of the study team members are appropriate for successful conduct of the proposed trial.
  ○ How well the logistical aspects of the proposed clinical trial (e.g., communication plan, data transfer and management, standardization of procedures) meet the needs of the proposed clinical trial.

- **Recruitment, Accrual, and Feasibility**
  ○ How well the PI addresses the availability of human subjects for the clinical trial and the prospect of their participation.
  ○ Whether the PI has demonstrated access to the proposed human subjects population.
  ○ The degree to which the recruitment, informed consent, screening, and retention processes for human subjects will meet the needs of the proposed clinical trial.
  ○ How well the application identifies possible delays (e.g., slow accrual, attrition) and presents adequate contingency plans to resolve them.
  ○ To what extent the proposed clinical trial might affect the daily lives of the individual human subjects participating in the study (e.g., Will human subjects still be able to take their regular medications while participating in the clinical trial? Are human subjects required to stay overnight in a hospital? Will human subjects be reimbursed in any way?).

- **Research Strategy and Study Design**
  ○ How well the scientific rationale and preliminary data, including critical review and analysis of the literature, laboratory and/or preclinical evidence, support the readiness of the proposed intervention for testing.
  ○ How well the study aims, hypotheses or objectives, experimental design, methods, data collection procedures, and analyses are designed to clearly answer the clinical objective.
○ How well the inclusion, exclusion, and randomization criteria are justified and meet the needs of the proposed clinical trial.
○ How well the logistical aspects of the proposed clinical trial (e.g., communication plan, data transfer and management, and standardization procedures) meet the needs of the proposed clinical trial.

- **Statistical Plan and Data Analysis**
  ○ To what degree the statistical model and data analysis plan are suitable for the planned study.
  ○ How well the statistical plan, including sample size projections and power analysis, is adequate for the study and all proposed correlative studies.

- **Transition Plan**
  ○ Whether the funding strategy described to bring the outcome(s) to the next level of clinical trials and/or delivery to the military or civilian market is appropriate.
  ○ Whether appropriate collaborations and other resources for providing continuity of development are established and/or well described.
  ○ How well the schedule and milestones for bringing the outcome(s) to clinical trial and/or delivery to the military or civilian market are appropriate.
  ○ How well the potential risk analysis for cost, schedule, manufacturability, and sustainability is developed.
  ○ How well the application identifies intellectual property ownership, describes any appropriate intellectual and material property plan among participating organizations (if applicable), and addresses any impact of intellectual property issues on product development and subsequent Government access to products supported by this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

- **Environment**
  ○ To what degree the scientific environment, clinical setting, and the accessibility of institutional resources support the clinical trial at each participating center or institution (including collaborative arrangements).
  ○ Whether there is evidence for appropriate institutional commitment from each participating institution.
  ○ If applicable, how well the intellectual and material property plan that is agreed upon by each participating institution is appropriate for the proposed clinical trial.

The following unscored criteria will also contribute to the overall evaluation of the application:

- **Application Presentation**
  ○ To what extent the writing, clarity, and presentation of the application components influenced the review.
• **Budget**
  ○ Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research and within the limitations of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

2. **Programmatic Review**: To determine the application’s relevance to the mission of the DoD and SCIRP, as well as to make funding recommendations, the following equally considered criteria are used by programmatic reviewers:

• Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism
• Military relevance
• Program portfolio composition, with consideration of the FY12 Areas of Encouragement
• Programmatic relevance
• Ratings and evaluations of the peer reviewers
• Relative impact

C. **Recipient Qualification**

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional information on organization and Government agency requirements.

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 notification of the funding recommendation. Each PI will receive a scientific peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the application.

IV. **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS**

After receipt of pre-applications from CDMRP eReceipt 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.
- Project Narrative is missing.
- Budget is missing.
- Submission of the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.
- Human Subject Recruitment and Safety Procedures (Attachment 6) is missing.
- Intervention (Attachment 7) is missing.
- Data Management (Attachment 8) is missing.

B. Modification

- Pages exceeding the specified limits will be removed prior to review for all documents other than the Preproposal Narrative and the Project Narrative.
- Documents not requested will be removed.
- Following the application deadline, the PI may be contacted by CDMRP via email with a request to provide certain missing supporting documents (excluding those listed in Section IV.A., Rejection). The missing documents must be provided by 5:00 p.m. ET on the second full business day following the date the email was sent. Otherwise, the application will be reviewed as submitted.

C. Withdrawal

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

- A FY12 SCIRP IP 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 document. A list of the FY12 SCIRP IP members can be found at http://cdmrp.army.mil/scirp/panels/panel12.
- The application does not conform to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity description to an extent that precludes appropriate review.
- Direct costs as shown on the Research & Related Budget exceed the maximum allowed by this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.
- 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).
- Inclusion of any employee of CDMRP review contractors in applications for funding without adequate plans to mitigate conflicts of interest. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.B., for detailed information.
• The proposed research is not a clinical trial.
• IDE/IND has not been submitted and/or approved.
• The PI does not meet the eligibility criteria.

D. Withhold

Applications that appear to involve research misconduct will be administratively withheld from further consideration pending institutional investigation. The institution will be required to provide the findings of the investigation to the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA) Contracting/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, 2013. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, for additional award administration information.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, Section D, for general information regarding administrative and national policy requirements.

C. Reporting

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

Quarterly and annual technical progress reports will be required. Additional requirements including oral presentations may be included during negotiations.

D. Award Transfers

The transfer of an award to another institution is strongly discouraged. A transfer will not be allowed for any institution that includes a study site/clinical trial at its location. Approval of a transfer request from an institution that does not include a study site at its location will be at the discretion of the Grants Officer.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, Section F, for general information on organization or PI changes.
VI. AGENCY CONTACTS

A. 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 the CDMRP eReceipt System 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:       1-301-682-5507
   Email:       help@cdmrp.org

B. Grants.gov Contact Center

Questions related to 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:       1-800-518-4726
   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. If the application package is updated or changed, the original version of the application package may not be accepted by Grants.gov.*
# VII. APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

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<th>Grants.gov Application Components</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Completed</th>
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<tr>
<td>SF-424 (R&amp;R) Application for Federal Assistance Form</td>
<td>Complete form as instructed.</td>
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<td>Attachments Form</td>
<td>Upload Project Narrative (ProjectNarrative.pdf) as Attachment 1.</td>
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<td>Upload Supporting Documentation (Support.pdf) as Attachment 2.</td>
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<td>Upload Technical Abstract (TechAbs.pdf) as Attachment 3.</td>
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