



CDMRP



Department of Defense

Melanoma Research Program



U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command



Melanoma Research Program

Vision: Prevent melanoma initiation and progression

Mission: Earlier intervention to enhance mission readiness for U.S. military personnel and to diminish the disease burden on Service members, Veterans, and the American public



“The dedicated melanoma research program is a long-awaited goal for our field, and the broad participation in our stakeholder’s meeting signals the need and the opportunity to accelerate progress in melanoma, which has gone from being a cancer without survival-improving medical options to one for which we consider the opportunity for cure for all of our patients, even with inoperable disease.”

*Dr. John Kirkwood
Chair, Melanoma Research Program Panel*

Program History

According to the National Cancer Institute, there were 91,270 new cases of melanoma diagnosed in the United States during 2018. Melanoma cases have been increasing steadily over the last 40 years. It is the fifth most common type of cancer in the United States, representing 5.3% of all new cancer diagnoses every year. Melanoma is of particular interest to the U.S. military because active duty Service members spend prolonged periods outside, especially during deployment. Recent studies suggests that exposure to high levels of solar radiation in young adulthood is associated with a higher risk of melanoma mortality. Melanoma diagnoses are increasing among active duty Service with the greatest incidence rates in the Air Force, Navy, and the Marines. Given the extreme and harsh conditions Service members face in theater and the rise of this aggressive and frequently deadly form of cancer, the U.S. Congress established the Melanoma Research Program (MRP) in the Department of Defense appropriation with an appropriation of \$10 million. With this new program, the MRP will invest in research focusing on the prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of melanoma for the benefit of Service members, Veterans, their families, and the American public. In the inaugural year, the MRP sets forth a challenge (see next page) for the research and clinical community to change the approach to melanoma prevention, treatment, and long term care.

References:

Lea, C.S., et al. (2014) Melanoma Incidence Rates in Active Duty Military Personnel Compared With a Population-Based Registry in the United States, 2000-2007. *Military Medicine* 179, 3:247-253.

Riemenshneider, M.D., et al. (2018) Skin Cancer In The Military: A Systematic Review Of Melanoma And Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer Incidence, Prevention, And Screening Among Active Duty And Veteran personnel. *JAAD* 78, 6:1185-1192.

Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) MRP Funding Opportunities

Award Mechanism	Key Elements	Funding
Concept Award	Supports the exploration of highly innovative, untested, potentially groundbreaking concepts in melanoma.	Maximum funding of \$75,000 for direct costs (plus indirect costs) for up to 1 year.
Idea Award	Supports new ideas that represent innovative, high-risk/high-gain approaches to melanoma research.	Maximum funding of \$300,000 for direct costs (plus indirect costs) for up to 3 years.
Team Science Award	Supports new or existing partnerships between two or three independent investigators focusing on synergistic research that will significantly advance the field.	Maximum funding of \$700,000 for direct costs (plus indirect costs) for up to 3 years.
Translational Research Award	Supports studies aiming to leverage existing biobanks, biorepositories, and ongoing or completed clinical trials to address a translational question or problem in melanoma.	Maximum funding of \$600,000 for direct costs (plus indirect costs) for up to 3 years.

FY19 Melanoma Research Program Challenge Statement

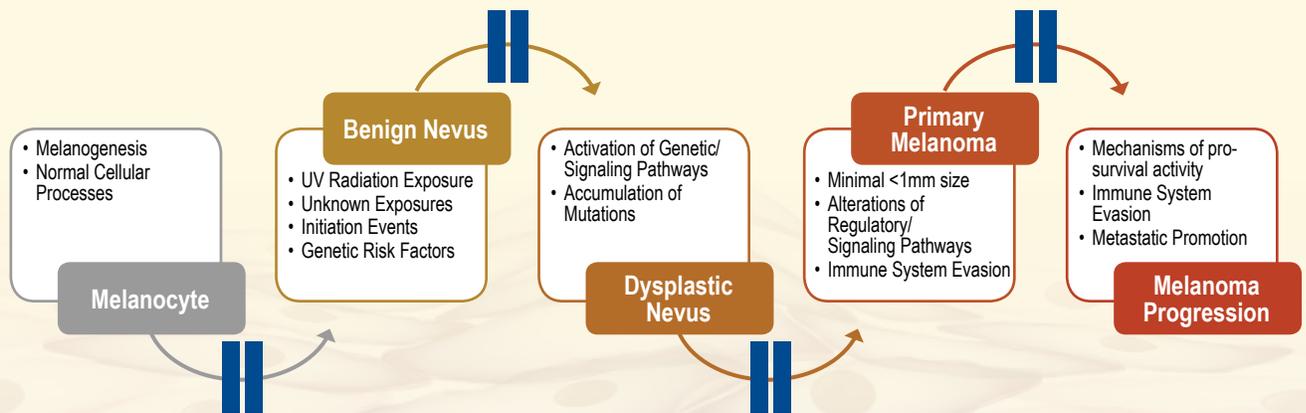
The MRP challenges the research community to **redefine** the concept of prevention. Melanomagenesis is a multi-step process initiating from normal melanocytes to dysplasia through the development of melanoma and metastasis. A new paradigm of prevention may include stopping the initiation of dysplasia, halting the progress to malignancy, or blocking micro-metastases. The MRP acknowledges that each step along the disease process from initiation to metastasis is an opportunity to impede any further cancer progress and effect a cure. The MRP challenges the research community to prevent melanoma earlier in the disease process, thus preventing metastasis. The melanoma clinical, research, and patient communities traditionally view prevention as the use of sunscreen/blockers to protect the melanocyte from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation. The MRP recognizes the usefulness of this strategy while tasking the research community to *redefine prevention to include the entire melanomagenesis process*. This is especially critical in rare subtypes of melanoma where traditional sunscreen blockers are not applicable. Rare melanoma subtypes (i.e., acral, uveal, and mucosal) may not be initiated by exposure to ultraviolet radiation like cutaneous melanoma. Taken together, the MRP looks to shift the paradigm of prevention of all types of melanoma by investing in research studies focused on eliminating the progress of this deadly disease, whether it is cutaneous melanoma or a rare subtype.



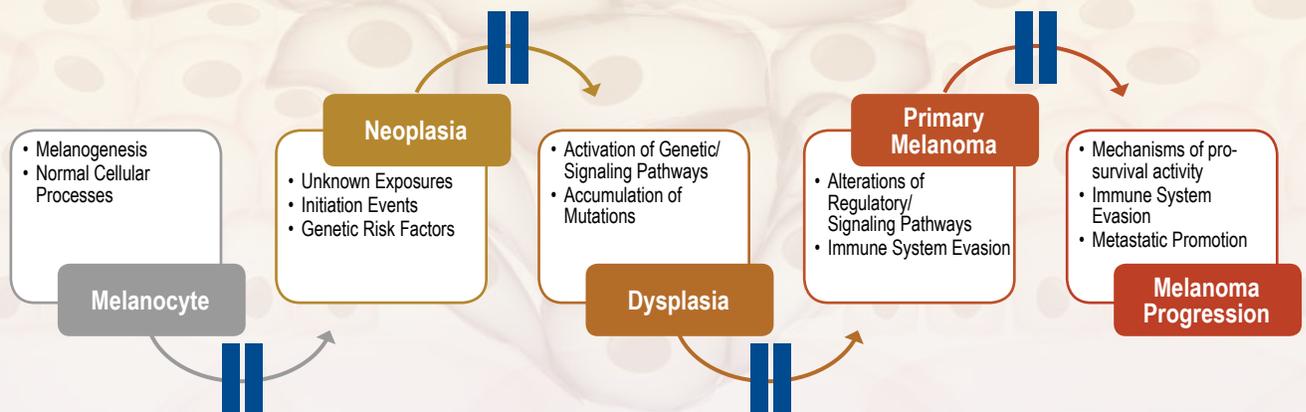
"AIM is proud to be a stakeholder for the Melanoma Research Program. It is high-impact research programs like this that are critical to finding new treatments for melanoma."

*Ms. Valerie Guild
Consumer, Programmatic Panel*

Prevention of Cutaneous Melanoma Evolution



Prevention of Melanoma (Rare Subtypes) Evolution





For more information, visit
<http://cdmrp.army.mil>

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