

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT 04-19-2021: Defense Health Program Department of Defense Hearing Restoration Research Program (HRRP) - Anticipated Funding Opportunities for FY21

Description: The FY21 Defense Appropriations Act provides funding to the DoD Hearing Restoration Research Program (HRRP) to support promising, necessary research for the treatment of auditory system injury (<https://cdmrp.army.mil/hrrp/default>). The managing agent for the anticipated program announcements/funding opportunities is the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC). This is a pre-announcement for the anticipated FY21 funding opportunity. The FY21 HRRP program announcement and General Application Instructions will be posted on the Grants.gov website.

Applications submitted to the FY21 HRRP must address one or more of the following Focus Areas:

- Accelerate translation of biological regeneration/repair mechanisms into therapies that treat auditory system injury and restore auditory function. For example, but not limited to:
 - Hair cell regeneration/repair/recovery
 - Neural regeneration/repair/recovery
 - Treatment for synaptopathy and hidden hearing loss
- Diagnostic tests that help differentiate sensory, neural, synaptic, and central processing disorders, that may inform applicability and outcomes for current or future hearing restoration therapeutics.
- Develop reliable in-vitro human models to facilitate the understanding, derivation and characterization of human auditory cells, and/or to facilitate the evaluation of hearing restoration therapies.
- Develop and/or validate techniques/methods beyond the audiogram to diagnose acute auditory system injury in austere or remote environments. For example, but not limited to, simple and rapid assessments that are compatible with portable platforms.

Pre-application will be required through the electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP) at <https://eBRAP.org>. Pre-application and application deadlines will be available when the program announcement is released.

- **Funding Level 1** (exploratory, high-risk/high-reward): maximum period of performance 2 years, maximum funding \$250,000
- **Funding Level 2** (supported by preliminary data): maximum period of performance 3 years, maximum funding \$1M
- **Funding Level 2 w/pilot clinical trial:** maximum period of performance 3 years, maximum funding \$1.25M

Full press release available at: <https://cdmrp.army.mil/pubs/press/2021/21hrrppreann>

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