

Press Release for Personal Use

Re: Consumer Participation on Scientific Peer Review Panels

For Immediate Press Release:

SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW OF RESEARCH APPLICATIONS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE F PEER REVIEWED MEDICAL RESEARCH  
PROGRAM.

Peer review advocate Andrea Baer and Donnette Smith from Mended Hearts, INC recently participated in the evaluation of research applications submitted to the Peer Reviewed Medical

Research Program (PRMRP) sponsored by the Department of Defense. Andrea and Donnette were nominated for participation in the program by Mended Hearts, INC, Dallas, Texas. As a consumer reviewer(s), they were full voting members, along with prominent scientists, at meetings to help determine how the \$200M for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) will be spent for the Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program and its 25 topic areas of research. Consumer reviewers are asked to represent the collective view of PRMRP survivors and patients, family members, and persons at risk for the disease when they prepare comments on the impact of the research on issues such as disease prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life after treatment.

Commenting on serving as a consumer reviewer, Andrea Baer said that “To have the opportunity to have a direct impact on the research that is being conducted to save lives was a truly amazing experience and I was honored to be a part of it.”

Consumer advocates and scientists have worked together in this unique partnership to evaluate the scientific merit of PRMRP research applications since 1999. To date, over 110 consumer reviewers have served on Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program panels alongside scientists in the review process.

Colonel Wanda L. Salzer, M.D., Director of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs expressed her appreciation for the perspectives of the consumer advocates in the scientific review sessions. “The Consumer Reviewers on each panel are instrumental in helping the scientists understand the patient’s perspective and provide valuable insight into the potential impact of the proposed project. They bring with them a sense of urgency and remind all of the human element involved in medical research.”

There were approximately 810 research applications reviewed for PRMRP 2014 fiscal year funds. Scientists applying propose to conduct innovative research aimed at addressing pressing

needs of research in one of PRMRP 25 program areas. The DOD CDMRP PRMRP fills important gaps not addressed by other funding agencies by supporting groundbreaking, high-risk, high-gain research while encouraging out-of-the-box thinking.

More information about the Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program is available at the Website: <http://cdmrp.army.mil>.

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