

March 1, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
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The Honorable Peter Visclosky
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Ranking Member
Defense Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Visclosky and Ranking Member Calvert:

We are grateful for the Committee's past support for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) conducted by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). As you know, the CDMRP's highly innovative research drives scientific discovery in high-impact research areas not sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other federal agencies.

As you work to develop your respective versions of the fiscal year 2020 Appropriations Act, we encourage you to consider including additional funding for the Kidney Cancer Research Program (KCRP) at the CDMRP.

We respectfully request that the Committee appropriate \$30 million within the CDMRP for the Kidney Cancer Research Program for fiscal year 2020.

During the ten years prior to KCRP approval (2006-16), kidney cancer was a topic area under the Peer Reviewed Cancer/Medical Research Programs and had a limited number of successful grant applications. With the advent of the KCRP in 2017, the total number of kidney cancer grant applications skyrocketed six-fold in one year over previous submissions, confirming the major need and outpouring of interest in kidney cancer research and underscoring the research community's commitment to finding a cure for this disease.

The inaugural KCRP grant process awarded research funding for 22 recipients based on more than 220 applications. (see attached)

Unfortunately, there have been far more meritorious applications for the KCRP than there is funding available. We very much appreciate the Committee's past support and believe an increased investment through CDMRP would make a tremendous difference to many Americans, including our military, military families and dependents, retirees and veterans.

The National Cancer Institute estimates that \$4.2 billion¹ is spent in the United States each year on treatment of kidney cancer. Unlike the majority of cancers, the rate of people developing kidney cancer has been climbing for the last 65 years, and it is the deadliest urologic malignancy with 30 to 40 percent of patients dying of their cancer. Kidney cancer is the ninth leading cancer overall but ranks fourth in incidence among both African American and Hispanic males. In 2019, it is estimated that 73,820 new cases of kidney cancer (44,120 in men and 29,700 in women) will be diagnosed, and 14,970 (9,820 men and 4,950 women) people will die from this disease².

When found early, kidney cancer may be treated successfully with surgery, however nearly 35 percent of patients are diagnosed with advanced disease, where survival rates are very low. Additionally, as many as 40 percent of patients diagnosed with local disease will face recurrence later in life. No standard screening or other early detection protocol to diagnose kidney cancer at an early stage exists. Therefore, much work still needs to be done.

We encourage you to support an increase in the dedicated funding for the KCRP.

Respectfully,

Kidney Cancer Coalition
American Urological Association
Society of Urologic Oncology
VHL Alliance (Von Hippel Lindau)
Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation
R.M.C. Support (Renal Medullary Carcinoma)
American Association of Clinical Urologists, Inc.

Action to Cure Kidney Cancer
KCCure
Joey's Wings
Society of Basic Urologic Research

¹ [J Natl Cancer Inst.](#) 2011 Jan 19; 103(2): 117–128.

² Amer. Cancer Soc. 2019. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/kidney-cancer/about/key-statistics.html>

FY17 Award Applications Recommended for Funding (\$8.5 million)

AWARD NAME	INSTITUTION	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Concept Award	Baylor College of Medicine	Durga Tripathi
	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	Chun-Hau Chen
	Duquesne University	Wilson Meng
	Glycomantra, Inc.	Hafiz Ahmed
	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Eduard Reznik
	National Cancer Institute	Catherine Callahan
	The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center	Nizar Tannir
	University of Louisville	Paula Bates
	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Hongwei Du
Consortium Development Award	The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center	Eric Jonasch
Idea Development Award - Early-Career Investigator	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	Kathleen Mahoney
	University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas	Laura Banaszynski
	Vanderbilt University	John Wilson
	Wayne State University	Arun Iyer
Idea Development Award - Established Investigator	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	Wayne Marasco
	Indiana University at Indianapolis	Roberto Pili
	Institute for Cancer Research	Vladimir Kolenko
	Maine Medical Center	Leif Oxburgh
FY17 Translational Research Partnership Award	Brigham and Women's Hospital	Sabina Signoretti
	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	Catherine Wu
	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	Toni Choueiri
	Georgetown University	Michael Atkins