

**SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED MEDICAL
RESEARCH PROGRAMS' MELANOMA RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs' (CDMRP), Melanoma Research Program (MRP) consumer advocate recently participated in the evaluation of research applications submitted to the MRP. Kristin McJunkins was nominated for participation in the program by the Melanoma Research Foundation. As a consumer reviewer, Kristin was a full voting member, (along with prominent scientists) at meetings to help determine how the \$40 million appropriated by Congress for Fiscal Year 2022 will be spent on melanoma research.

Consumer reviewers are asked to represent the collective view of patients by preparing comments on the impact of the research on issues such as diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life. When commenting on serving as a consumer reviewer, Kristin said that “the process was such an interesting and dynamic learning experience, and it’s very exciting to see researchers engaging in a variety of pathways to help cure melanoma.”

Consumer advocates and scientists have worked together in this unique partnership to evaluate the merit of research applications since FY19. COL Sarah B. Goldman, Director of the CDMRP, expressed her appreciation for the consumer advocates’ hard work. “Integrating consumer perspectives into our decision-making process brings energy and focus to our research programs. Patients, caregivers, family members, and advocates help us keep our efforts centered around what is truly important to those impacted. We very much value this critical input from our consumers who help ensure that CDMRP’s work remains critical and relevant,” she said.

Researchers applying to the MRP propose to prevent melanoma initiation and progression.

More information about the CDMRP MRP is available at the website:
<https://cdmrp.health.mil/MRP/default>.

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