



April 16, 2012

Dear Advocacy Organization Leader:

SRA International conducts scientific peer reviews of research applications submitted to the Ovarian Cancer Research Program of the Department of Defense (DOD) Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). We are recruiting consumer reviewers for peer review, and we would like to request nominations of individuals from your organization of advocate representatives to participate on those peer review panels.

To be considered as consumer reviewers, individuals nominated by your organization must:

- be survivors of ovarian cancer;
- be active participants in a ovarian cancer–related organizational effort (support, outreach, advocacy);
- be high school graduates or equivalent;
- be fluent in reading, speaking, and writing in English
- be able to demonstrate an interest in extending their personal scientific knowledge about ovarian cancer;
- be willing and able to represent the views of their community rather than their personal perspective; and
- have basic computer skills and access to a computer with an Internet connection.

Please complete one application form (see attachment) for each consumer reviewer you are nominating. Nominated individuals will be evaluated based on the extent of their participation in advocacy, commitment to learning about and sharing scientific and medical information, communication skills, participatory skills, and ability to represent their community's perspective. You may nominate more than one person from your organization; however, it is necessary that each letter sent in support of a candidate demonstrate the candidate's strengths in the above areas.

Complete nomination packets must be received by May 25, 2012. Submit your application forms and accompanying materials to:

Ovarian Cancer Research Program
Consumer Reviewer Recruitment
ATTN: Amy Klimas
8490 Progress Drive, Suite 200
Frederick, MD 21701

You may either use the attached nomination form or download the nomination form through the CDMRP Web site at <http://cdmrp.army.mil/cwg/apply.shtml>. Note that the address above differs from the address published online. You may submit to either address. Please review the

attached materials or forward them to the appropriate organization/support group leader as soon as possible. In addition, provide the nominated individuals with this letter and attachment.

The 2012 Ovarian Cancer Research Program

The Ovarian Cancer Research Program responded to advocates by involving ovarian cancer survivors in the peer review process. Selected consumer reviewers bring their community's perspective, their firsthand experiences, and a sense of urgency to the process of identifying research focused on ovarian cancer. Consumer reviewers underscore the need for good basic and clinical science, improved medical care, and enhanced quality of life.

Congress appropriated \$16 million in fiscal year 2012 for the Ovarian Cancer Research Program. Applications submitted for funding go through a two-tier review process to identify those most worthy of support. In the first tier, peer review, applications are reviewed for technical merit. In the second tier, programmatic review, applications are compared to each other, and funding recommendations are made based on technical merit, the relevance to the mission of the DOD Ovarian Cancer Research Program, and the specific intent of the award mechanism.

Approximately 4 weeks before the peer review meeting, scientist and consumer reviewers will be assigned applications to review. Scientist reviewers are required to develop detailed written comments on the proposed work's feasibility, research design, impact, and other aspects. Consumer reviewers focus their written reviews on the significance of the proposed work as it relates to improved diagnosis, medical care and/or enhanced quality of life and the potential of the work to make an impact toward ending ovarian cancer. The estimated time required for consumer reviewers to review applications and prepare written comments is at least 5 days.

The Peer Review Meeting

Peer review panels are assembled for formal discussions of the applications, at which time scientist and consumer reviewers present their comments orally. Following deliberation, the panel members score each application's merit. Tentative meeting dates are September 19-21, 2012. Peer review panels meet in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Travel, meals, hotel accommodations and a consultant's fee of \$1,250 will be provided to each consumer reviewer who participates in the full review process.

The DOD CDMRP Ovarian Cancer Research Program is dedicated to involving consumers. The rapid return of your nomination materials will ensure full consumer participation in this process. For questions about the Ovarian Cancer Research Program or the recruitment of consumer reviewers, contact Amy Klimas or cdmrpconsumers@amedd.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Amy Klimas

Amy Klimas

Consumer Reviewer Administrator

SRA International

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