PRE-APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED for Gulf War Illness Research Funding

The Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) Defense Appropriations Act provides $20 million to the Gulf War Illness Research Program (GWIRP) administered by the US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) through the Office of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). This e-mail is to notify the research community of the recently extended deadline for funding opportunities from the GWIRP.

The GWIRP is currently focusing funding on innovative projects that have the potential to make a significant impact on the treatment of the complex of symptoms known as Gulf War Illness (GWI). GWI is characterized by diverse symptoms that typically include chronic headache, widespread pain, cognitive difficulties, debilitating fatigue, gastrointestinal problems, respiratory symptoms, sleep problems, and other abnormalities that are not explained by established medical diagnoses or standard laboratory tests. Of interest to the GWIRP are both clinical therapeutic development and preclinical research to identify objective indicators of biological processes in GWI. Particular topic areas include abnormalities in GWI associated with:

- Central nervous system structure and function, in particular, the role of glial cells, astrocytes, and microglia in GWI symptomatology
- Central neuroinflammatory processes
- Autonomic nervous system function
- Neuroendocrine measures
- Immune parameters/Indicators of chronic inflammation
- Gastrointestinal complaints/symptoms
- Genetic, genomic, proteomic, or metabolic characteristics
- Respiratory symptoms

The DoD GWIRP has released several mechanisms spanning basic research to large treatment trials. In addition, the GWIRP is offering an Epidemiology Research Award to support population-based research into mortality, morbidity and symptomatology over time and a New Investigator Award to support investigators new to the field of GWI research at different stages of career development.

Full FY15 GWIRP Program Announcements and General Application Instructions can be found on the CDMRP website (http://cdmrp.army.mil).

**Pre-application deadlines have been extended through August 13 and the full application deadline is October 29, 2015.**