

PEER REVIEWED ORTHOPAEDIC RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Peer Reviewed Orthopaedic Research Program (PRORP) is one of several Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRPs) housed under the Department of Defense (DOD). It is a competitive grant program that funds focused basic and clinical research pertaining to extremity war injuries through direct grants to research institutions.

Need for Extremity Injury Research:

Eighty-two percent of injuries from the Global War on Terror involve the extremities – often severe and multiple injuries to the arms and legs. Most of these wounds are caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs), rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), and high-velocity gunshot wounds. Amputation following these kinds of battlefield injuries occurs at twice the rate of past wars.

A U.S. Army analysis of soldiers injured in Iraq and Afghanistan shows that extremity injuries account for the greatest proportion of medical resource utilization and causes the greatest number of disabled soldiers. In fact, soldiers with extremity injuries had the longest average inpatient stays and accounted for 65 percent of total inpatient resource utilization. In addition, it is projected that they will account for 69 percent of warriors who are deemed medically unfit to return to duty. Exclusive of any short or long-term medical costs, the projected disability cost for extremity injuries sustained in these conflicts to date is approximately \$1.2 billion.

Goal of PRORP:

The goal of PRORP is to help military surgeons address the leading burden of injury and loss of fitness for military duty by finding new limb-sparing techniques to save injured extremities, avoid amputations, and preserve and restore the function of injured extremities. PRORP aims to provide all warriors affected by military orthopaedic injuries the opportunity for optimal recovery and restoration of function.

What Congress Should Do:

Congress should support the appropriation of \$35 million worth of funding for the Peer Reviewed Orthopaedic Research Program in FY 2020.