

**Fiscal Year 2026 Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
Melanoma Research Program (MRP)
Reference Table of Award Mechanisms and Submission Requirements**

Award Mechanism	Eligibility	Key Mechanism Elements	Funding	Submission Deadline
<p>Focused Program Award – Rare Melanomas</p> <p>Go to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Announcement • General Application Instructions <p>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</p> <p>HT942526MRPFARM</p>	<p>The Initiating Principal Investigator, PI, must be an independent investigator at or above the level of Associate Professor, or equivalent.</p> <p>The Partnering PI(s), i.e., Project Leader(s) for the distinct, complementary research project(s), must be at or above the level of Assistant Professor, or equivalent.</p> <p>Investigators do not have to be located at an academic organization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports a multidisciplinary rare melanoma research program of at least two, but not more than three, distinct but complementary projects. The completion of one project must not depend on the completion of another project. • Applications must propose a unifying, overarching question that addresses a critical unmet need relevant to rare melanoma research and/or patient care. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The MRP particularly encourages applications addressing uncommon presentations of melanoma other than uveal melanoma. • Projects may range from exploratory or hypothesis-developing through small-scale clinical trials that together will address the overarching question. • The Research Team should be composed of highly qualified, multidisciplinary Project Leaders led by an Initiating PI with demonstrated success in directing large, focused projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Updated for FY26: Investigators must integrate at least one rare melanoma survivor or patient advocate within the research team who will provide advice and consultation throughout planning, implementation and results dissemination to optimize research impact. • Preproposal submission is required; full application submission is by invitation only. • Clinical trials are allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum allowable funding for the entire period of performance is \$2.8 million (M) for total costs. * • The maximum period of performance is 4 years. 	<p>Pre-Application (Preproposal): July 13, 2026 5:00 p.m. Eastern time</p> <p>Application: October 14, 2026 11:59 p.m. Eastern time</p>

Award Mechanism	Eligibility	Key Mechanism Elements	Funding	Submission Deadline
<p>Idea Award</p> <p>Go to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Announcement • General Application Instructions <p>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</p> <p>HT942526MRPIA</p>	<p>Investigators at or above the level of Postdoctoral Fellow, or equivalent.</p> <p>Investigators do not have to be located at an academic organization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports untested, exploratory, high-risk/potentially high-reward concepts, theories, paradigms or methods. • The intent is to generate new research avenues for investigation. Novelty and innovation should be key aspects of the proposed project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The Idea Award is NOT intended to expand or extend previously published findings nor to continue a line of research already established and/or funded in the PI's laboratory. • Research must address at least one of the FY26 MRP focus areas. • Preliminary data is discouraged. • Preproposal submission is required; full application submission is by invitation only. • Clinical trials are not allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum allowable funding for the entire period of performance is \$560,000 for total costs.* • The maximum period of performance is 2 years. 	<p>Pre-Application (Preproposal): July 13, 2026 5:00 p.m. Eastern time</p> <p>Application: October 14, 2026 11:59 p.m. Eastern time</p>

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<p>Melanoma Academy Scholar Award</p> <p>Go to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Announcement • General Application Instructions <p>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</p> <p>HT942526MRPMASA</p>	<p>Scholar:</p> <p>Independent investigator within seven years of their first faculty appointment by the time of the full application submission deadline.</p> <p>Investigators must provide a letter attesting to their eligibility.</p> <p>Career Guide:</p> <p>Independent, established melanoma researcher at or above the level of Associate Professor or equivalent.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the addition of Scholars to a virtual academy providing intensive mentoring, national networking, collaborations and a peer group for early-career melanoma investigators. • Enables scholars to pursue a melanoma project that may be basic, translational or clinical research with the guidance of a Career Guide. • The Career guide must be an experienced melanoma researcher and/or clinician with melanoma funding. The Career Guide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May only mentor one Scholar. ○ Is not required to be at the same institution as the Scholar. ○ Must be committed to participating in the Melanoma Academy, to include serving in advisory roles as requested by Academy Leadership. • Research must address at least one of the FY26 MRP focus areas. • Preliminary data are not required. • Submission of a Letter of Intent is required prior to full application submission • Clinical trials are not allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum allowable funding for the entire period of performance is \$770,000 for total costs.* • The maximum period of performance is 3 years. 	<p>Pre-Application (Letter of Intent): September 22, 2026 5:00 p.m. Eastern time</p> <p>Application: October 14, 2026 11:59 p.m. Eastern time</p>

Award Mechanism	Eligibility	Key Mechanism Elements	Funding	Submission Deadline
<p>Survivorship Research Award</p> <p>Go to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Announcement • General Application Instructions <p>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</p> <p>HT942526MRPSRA</p>	<p>Independent investigators at or above the level of Assistant Professor, or equivalent.</p> <p>Investigators do not have to be located at an academic organization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports studies addressing melanoma-specific survivorship by supporting a broad range of innovative and impactful research that has the intended outcome of improving the health and well-being of melanoma survivors, their families and/or their care partners. • Examples of allowable survivorship research of interest to the MRP include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preservation of function and symptom management ○ Psychological and social impacts of diagnosis and treatment ○ Treatment outcomes ○ Health care delivery • Proposed studies focusing exclusively on animal models or considering survival only without consideration of quality of life, overall health and/or function are not responsive to this funding opportunity. • Applicants must integrate at least one melanoma survivor or patient advocate within the project team who will provide advice and consultation throughout planning, implementation and results dissemination to optimize research impact. • Submission of a Letter of Intent is required prior to full application submission. • Clinical trials are allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum allowable funding for the entire period of performance is \$1.02M for total costs. * • The maximum period of performance is 3 years. 	<p>Pre-Application (Letter of Intent): September 22, 2026 5:00 p.m. Eastern time</p> <p>Application: October 14, 2026 11:59 p.m. Eastern time</p>

Award Mechanism	Eligibility	Key Mechanism Elements	Funding	Submission Deadline
<p>Team Science Award</p> <p>Go to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program Announcement General Application Instructions <p>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</p> <p>HT942526MRPTSA</p>	<p>Independent investigators at or above the level of Assistant Professor, or equivalent.</p> <p>Investigators do not have to be located at an academic organization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports new or existing partnerships between two or three PIs to address a single research problem or question in a manner that would be unachievable through separate efforts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of at least one military, VA and/or early-career investigator is encouraged Each PI should provide equal intellectual input into the design and execution of the project. The TSA supports a broad range of hypothesis-driven, multidisciplinary studies that have a short-term goal of advancing melanoma research and/or patient outcomes. Types of research that meet the intent of the award mechanism include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translational research Data science research Bioengineering research Other hypothesis-driven research Consumer Collaboration Option: Investigators are encouraged, but not required to integrate at least one melanoma survivor or patient advocate within the project team who will provide advice and consultation throughout planning, implementation and results dissemination to optimize research impact. Research must address at least one of the FY26 MRP focus areas. Preliminary data are required. Preproposal submission is required; full application submission is by invitation only. Clinical trials are not allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum allowable funding for the entire period of performance is \$2.1M for total costs. * The maximum period of performance is 3 years. 	<p>Pre-Application (Preproposal): July 13, 2026 5:00 p.m. Eastern time</p> <p>Application: October 14, 2026 11:59 p.m. Eastern time</p>

*Total costs include direct and indirect costs.