

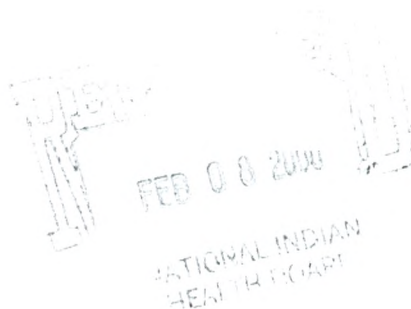


DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH AND MATERIEL COMMAND  
1077 PATCHEL STREET  
FORT DETRICK, MD 21702-5024

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

February 4, 2000

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs



Dear Advocacy Organization Leader:

We are sending this letter to request nominations for consumer representatives for the U.S. Army Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) scientific peer review committees. Please review the enclosed materials or forward them to the appropriate consumer organization/support group leader as soon as possible. In addition, please provide the nominated individuals with the information included in this mailing. Since nominations are being requested from a large number of breast cancer-related organizations, please nominate no more than two people who have not previously served on a BCRP review committee. The BCRP will provide reimbursement for the expenses of selected individuals.

**NOTE:** If potential candidates have previously served on Department of Defense BCRP scientific peer review committees, they do not need to be re-nominated; the BCRP staff will be selecting experienced consumer reviewers to serve as mentor reviewers.

Nominees must be endorsed by your organization and satisfy the following primary selection criteria:

- A breast cancer survivor
- An active participant in a cancer advocacy organization or support group
- At least a high school education
- Ability to read and write English
- Demonstrated interest in extending their personal scientific knowledge

Please complete one application form (Enclosure 1) for each consumer you are nominating. Complete nomination packets must be received by **April 24, 2000**. Submit your application forms and accompanying materials to:

Breast Cancer Research Program  
ATTN: Dr. Isabelle T. Bisceglia  
1077 Patchel Street  
Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5024

In order to facilitate the solicitation of nominations from within your organization, the following documents have been included: a one-page description of the nomination process and checklist (Enclosure 2) and several one-page flyers to distribute to members of your organization or post in the location of your support group meetings (Enclosure 3).

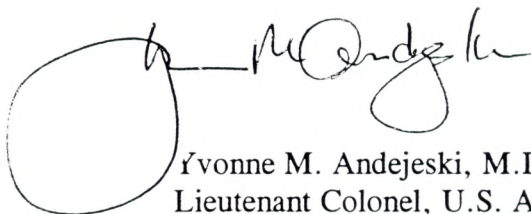
Key highlights of BCRP history and processes, as well as the significant commitment and responsibilities required for successful participation of consumers are bulleted below:

- The BCRP has responded to issues voiced by breast cancer advocates, both by emphasizing outcomes in the research vision and by involving consumers (breast cancer survivors and advocates) in programmatic decision making.
- The BCRP has provided more than \$850M for basic and clinical breast cancer research from fiscal year (FY) 1992 through FY99.
- A two-tiered process is utilized in the BCRP to identify the best research proposals. In the first tier, research proposals are reviewed for scientific merit through a process known as peer review. In the second tier, proposals identified as having the greatest scientific merit during peer review are further evaluated for programmatic merit during a process called programmatic review. Consumers have been involved at both review levels, bringing the voice of the breast cancer community to the decision-making process.
- For FY00, Congress has appropriated \$175M to continue the BCRP. Scientifically sound, programmatically relevant proposals will be recommended for funding by November 2000.
- Currently, nominations are being sought for consumers to serve in scientific peer review. There will be about 45 panels, each consisting of approximately 20 scientists and 2 consumer members.
- Approximately 4 weeks prior to the peer review meeting, every scientist and consumer member will be given scientific proposals to review. Consumers will serve on both basic and clinical science committees and review scientifically detailed research proposals.
- Both prior to and during the review sessions, each new consumer reviewer will be paired with an experienced consumer reviewer.
- Significant efforts are made to orient both consumers and scientists to consumer participation in the peer review meetings.
- Scientist reviewers are required to develop detailed written comments on each assigned proposal's feasibility, innovation, impact, etc. Consumer reviewers are directed to focus their written reviews on the relevance and significance of the proposed work as it relates to improved medical care, enhanced quality of life, and increased survival. Preparation time is estimated to be at least 5 days.

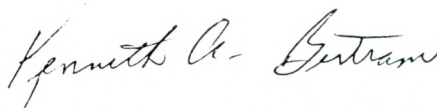
- Panels are subsequently assembled for formal discussions of the proposals under consideration, at which time scientists and consumers will be expected to present their comments orally. The panels deliberate on the proposals and ultimately score each proposal's scientific merit. Written and verbal consumer comments are incorporated into the final summary critiques sent to each proposal submitter.
- For the FY00 BCRP, it is anticipated that each peer review committee will meet for 2 days during July or August 2000 in the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Travel, accommodations, meals, and honoraria will be provided by the BCRP.

The staff of the BCRP is dedicated to continuing to involve consumers in the FY00 Program. Your willingness to support the BCRP ensures that consumers will continue to be an integral part of important funding decision making. The rapid return of your nomination materials is appreciated. For questions about the BCRP or the recruitment of consumer reviewers, please contact Dr. Isabelle Bisceglia at 301-619-7794.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Yvonne M. Andejaski". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Yvonne M. Andejaski, M.D.  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Medical Corps  
Project Officer, Consumer Inclusion in Peer Review

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Bertram". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Kenneth A. Bertram, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.P.  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Medical Corps  
Director, Congressionally Directed Medical Research  
Programs

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BREAST CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM

## Nomination Process and Checklist

- STEP 1:** ⇒⇒⇒ Review the nomination application form, associated materials, and peer review requirements.
- STEP 2:** ⇒⇒⇒ Select up to two new consumers whom you would like to nominate and provide them with the above information.
- STEP 3:** ⇒⇒⇒ Prepare a letter of recommendation for each nominated consumer.
- STEP 4:** ⇒⇒⇒ Review the final nomination package to ensure it is complete. The package for each nominee must contain:
- ✓ a completed application form
  - ✓ a letter of endorsement from the nominating organization
  - ✓ the consumer's resumé or curriculum vitae
  - ✓ the consumer's essay (description of their activities in breast cancer advocacy)
- STEP 5:** ⇒⇒⇒ Submit the final nomination package by April 24, 2000 to:

Breast Cancer Research Program  
ATTN: Dr. Isabelle T. Bisceglia  
1077 Patchel Street  
Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5024

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH AND MATERIEL COMMAND  
CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS**

**Breast Cancer Research Program Consumer Nomination  
Application Form for Scientific Merit Review**

- \* A complete application package will consist of the following three documents:
- Completed Application Form
  - Sponsoring Organization Letter of Nomination
  - Current Resumé or Curriculum Vitae

**SECTION 1. SPONSOR INFORMATION**  
(To be completed by sponsoring organization.)

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code (+4): \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone:(    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax:(    ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Sponsor **must** include a letter of nomination for each nominee application.*

**SECTION 2. NOMINEE INFORMATION**  
(To be completed by nominee.)

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address (No PO Boxes): \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code (+4): \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone:(    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Fax:(    ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone:(    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Fax:(    ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*A current resumé (volunteer, community, or employment experience) or curriculum vitae **must** be included for each nominee application.*

### SECTION 3. DEMOGRAPHICS

(Responses are optional–To be completed by nominee.)

1. Sex:     Male     Female                    2. Are you a breast cancer survivor?     Yes     No
3. Ethnicity:
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian                             | <input type="checkbox"/> White                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino                |  |
4. Date of Birth: Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Highest Degree Attained:
- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> High School/equivalent | <input type="checkbox"/> B.A./B.S.                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Ph.D./equivalent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A.A.                   | <input type="checkbox"/> M.A./M.S.                        | <input type="checkbox"/> J.D.             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> R.N.                   | <input type="checkbox"/> M.D./D.D.S/D.V.M./<br>equivalent | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____      |

### SECTION 4. BREAST CANCER EDUCATION

(To be completed by nominee.)

1. Have you served on a peer review panel before?     Yes     No  
If yes, indicate dates of service and organization: \_\_\_\_\_
2. How have you educated yourself about breast cancer? (Mark all that apply.)
- |                                   |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seminars | <input type="checkbox"/> Classes        | <input type="checkbox"/> On-Line (Internet) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Journals | <input type="checkbox"/> Support Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Library References |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other    |   |   |

### SECTION 5. BREAST CANCER ADVOCACY

(To be completed by nominee.)

Please describe your activities in breast cancer and other community groups in no more than 2 pages.

For example: How have you educated yourself? What community groups are you actively involved in and what are your roles in these groups? How do you keep informed about breast cancer issues or developments? What can you contribute to the BCRP scientific merit review? If you have served in peer review before, please describe your experiences and how you feel they have benefited others.

**Attach this information to the back of this form.**

# EXCITING OPPORTUNITY

## For Consumer Involvement in Finding the Cure for Breast Cancer

Participate in scientific review of breast cancer research proposals submitted to the Department of Defense (DOD) Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

### JOIN OUR PARTNERSHIP

As a breast cancer survivor you:

- ✧ bring your community's perspective and firsthand treatment experiences
- ✧ bring a sense of urgency to the process of identifying research to eradicate breast cancer
- ✧ underscore the need for:
  - good basic and clinical science
  - improved medical care
  - enhanced quality of life and increased survival
- ✧ will experience the dedication, urgency, and commitment of scientists and health care providers to finding a cure for your disease

### WHEN AND WHERE

- ✧ July or August 2000
- ✧ Metropolitan Washington, DC area
- ✧ Travel, accommodations, meals, and honoraria provided by the DOD BCRP

### WHO MAY APPLY?

Any breast cancer survivor who is active in advocacy and who is nominated by their advocacy organization or support group

### HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

Contact the leader of your advocacy or support group for nomination details and other exciting information

**NOMINATION APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY APRIL 24, 2000**

Your interest is appreciated