

## URGENT REQUEST:

# CREATE A DEDICATED PANCREATIC CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM AT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PANCREATIC  
CANCER  
ACTION  
NETWORK



We urge the 116th Congress to improve the lives of the hundreds of thousands of people affected by the devastation of pancreatic cancer by **creating a dedicated Pancreatic Cancer Research Program** in the Department of Defense's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP).

## WHY IS THIS URGENT?

- Pancreatic cancer is one of the **deadliest cancers**.
- The **five-year survival rate** for pancreatic cancer is just **9 percent**.<sup>1</sup>
- Currently, pancreatic cancer is the **3rd leading cause of cancer-related deaths** and it is **projected to become the 2nd leading cause** around 2020.<sup>1,2</sup>
- In 2019, **an estimated 56,770 Americans** will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and **45,750 will die from the disease**.<sup>1</sup>

“Since 2011, pancreatic cancer has only received **1 percent** of the total cancer investment by CDMRP.”

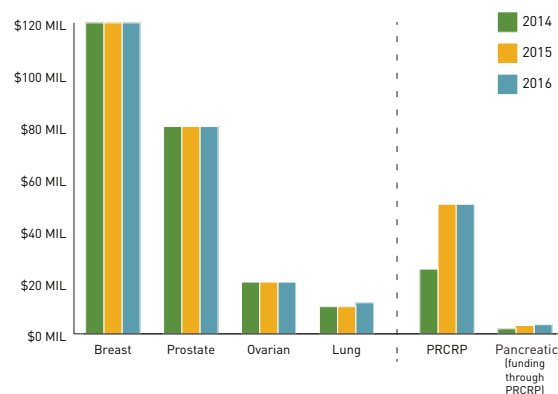
## PANCREATIC CANCER AND VETERANS:

Within a cohort of U.S. veterans, there is direct evidence for increased risk of death from pancreatic cancer, which could be related to environmental exposures, associations with prior medical conditions or lifestyle – all risk factors for pancreatic cancer.<sup>2</sup>

## WHY CREATE A DEDICATED PANCREATIC CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM?

- CDMRP wants to fund “high impact, high risk and high gain projects” and to “target critical gaps.” **Pancreatic cancer offers researchers a prime opportunity for their results to quickly and dramatically impact patient outcomes.**
- CDMRP has separate research programs for breast, prostate, ovarian and lung cancers. **Pancreatic cancer kills more Americans than breast, prostate or ovarian cancers.**
- Pancreatic cancer has been included as part of a group of other cancers in the CDMRP's Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) since 2011. But, since that time, **it has only received about 1 percent of the total CDMRP cancer investment** (see chart).

## Cancer Research Investment Through CDMRP: FY 2014-16<sup>4,5,6</sup>



1. American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2019. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2019.

2. Rahib L, Smith BD, Aizenberg R, Rosenzweig AB, Fleshman JM, Matrisian LM. Projecting Cancer Incidence and Deaths to 2030: The Unexpected Burden of Thyroid, Liver, and Pancreas Cancers in the United States. *Cancer Res*, 2014; 74(11):2913-2921.

3. Barone E et al, Environmental risk factors for pancreatic cancer: an update. *Arch Toxicol* 90: 2617-2642, 2016. Accessed April 2018.

4. <http://cdmrp.army.mil/pubs/annreports/2015annrep/2015annreport.pdf>

5. <http://cdmrp.army.mil/pubs/annreports/2016annrep/2016annreport.pdf>

6. <http://cdmrp.army.mil/pubs/annreports/2017annrep/2017annreport.pdf>