

# CDMRP: From Advocacy to Impact

How this community turned stories into science

**Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy** JOIN THE FIGHT. END DUCHENNE.



# Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP)

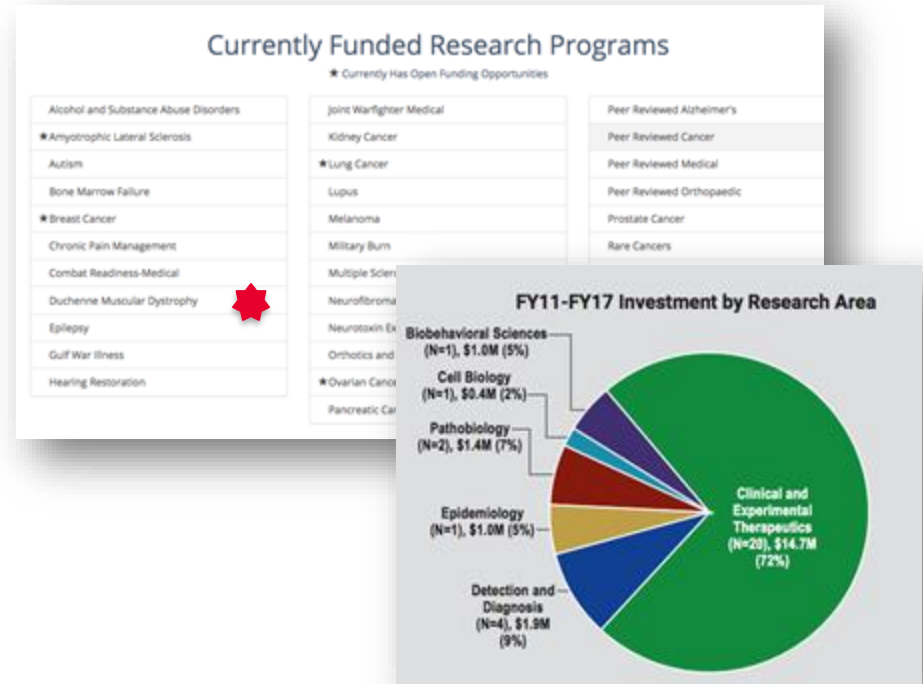


- **PPMD** partners with **The Foundation to Eradicate Duchenne** (FED) around advocacy related to this program.
- Peer reviewed and consumer reviewed grant process.

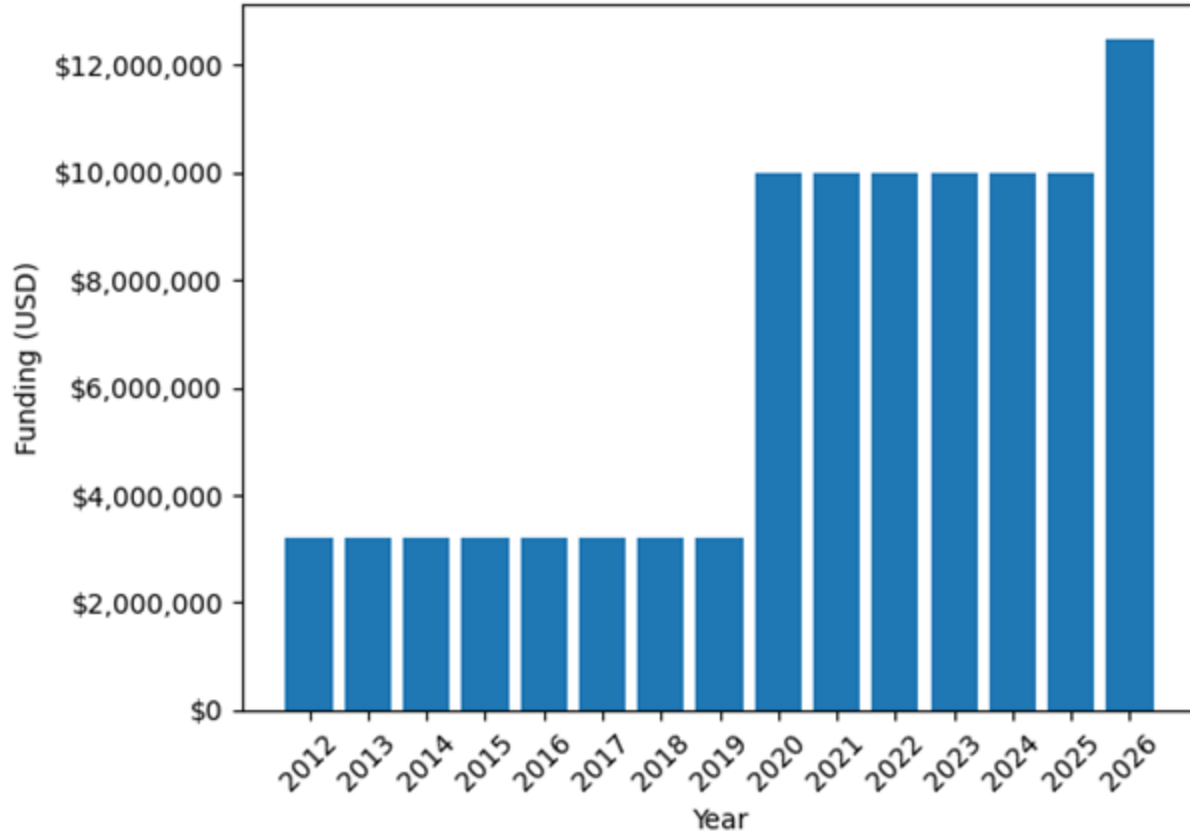


Grants through the CDMRP have funded projects aimed at:

- CRISPR
- Gene Therapy
- Steroids/Inflammation
- Outcome measures
- Biomarkers
- Cardiac



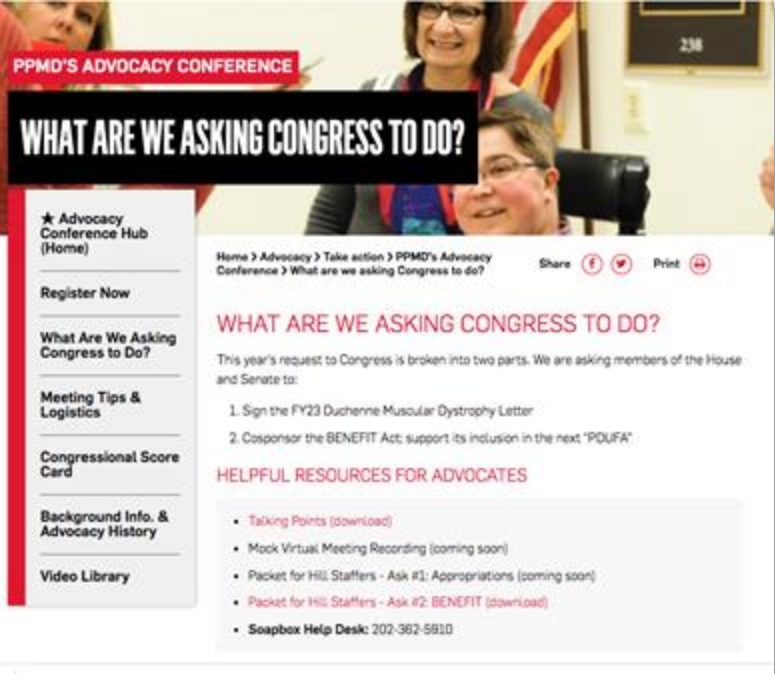
DOD Duchenne Funding



**Why the  
DOD?**

# This didn't happen by accident

- CDMRP is funded through congress
- It exists because advocates pushed for it
- Every dollar is a result of community action



The screenshot shows a webpage for the PPMD's Advocacy Conference. At the top, there is a red banner with the text "PPMD'S ADVOCACY CONFERENCE" and a large black banner with the title "WHAT ARE WE ASKING CONGRESS TO DO?". Below the title, there is a navigation menu with "Home", "Advocacy", "Take action", and "PPMD's Advocacy Conference". There are also social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Print. The main content area features a section titled "WHAT ARE WE ASKING CONGRESS TO DO?" with a sub-header "This year's request to Congress is broken into two parts. We are asking members of the House and Senate to:". Below this, there is a list of two items: "1. Sign the FY23 Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Letter" and "2. Cosponsor the BENEFIT Act; support its inclusion in the next 'PDUFA'". There is also a section titled "HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR ADVOCATES" with a list of links: "Talking Points (download)", "Mock Virtual Meeting Recording (coming soon)", "Packet for Hill Staffers - Ask #1: Appropriations (coming soon)", "Packet for Hill Staffers - Ask #2: BENEFIT (download)", and "Soapbox Help Desk: 202-362-5910". On the left side of the page, there is a sidebar with a red vertical bar and several menu items: "★ Advocacy Conference Hub (Home)", "Register Now", "What Are We Asking Congress to Do?", "Meeting Tips & Logistics", "Congressional Score Card", "Background Info. & Advocacy History", and "Video Library".

# How advocacy turns into research funding



**Advocacy Conference**



**Capitol Hill Meetings + Calls + Emails**



**Congressional Support**



**Appropriations**



**CDMRP Funding**



**Duchenne Research**

# What makes CDMRP Different



- High-risk, high-reward
- Patient voice in review
- Funds the full pipeline

# Success story - Vamorolone

## From idea → to FDA-approved therapy

- Novel **dissociative steroid** designed to separate efficacy from side effects
- Early research supported through CDMRP-funded work
- Advanced through clinical trials with strong community engagement
- **FDA approved in 2023** for Duchenne

# Other Success Stories

- Early work on **antisense oligonucleotides**
- AAV vector optimization
- immune response research
- delivery and dosing strategies
- Development of:
  - MRI-based muscle assessments
  - quantitative outcome measures
- Baby Duchenne
- ACTION/Cardiac
- Steroid replacement therapies
- GLP-1 Study

# None of this would be possible without our Advocates

If you are interested in getting involved in Advocacy – email  
Lauren Stanford at [Lauren@parentprojectmd.org](mailto:Lauren@parentprojectmd.org) or Brian  
Denger at [Brian@parentprojectmd.org](mailto:Brian@parentprojectmd.org)

**Thank you!**