

Press Release for Personal Use
Re: Consumer Participation on Scientific Peer Review Panels

For Immediate Press Release:

SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS' EPILEPSY RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs' (CDMRP), Epilepsy Research Program (ERP) consumer advocate recently participated in the evaluation of research applications submitted to the ERP. Kurt Florian was nominated for participation in the program by the Danny Did Foundation. As a consumer reviewer, Kurt was a full voting member, (along with prominent scientists) at meetings to help determine how the \$12 million appropriated by Congress for Fiscal Year 2022 will be spent on Epilepsy research.

Consumer reviewers are asked to represent the collective view of patients by preparing comments on the impact of the research on issues such as diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life. When commenting on serving as a consumer reviewer, Florian, who serves as the President of the Danny Did Foundation Board of Directors, said that "Participating in the CDMRP Epilepsy Research Project as a consumer reviewer was a fabulous experience. The scientific reviewers are so knowledgeable and dedicated, and they truly value and listen to the input from the consumer reviewers. The ERP is leading the way in epilepsy research that will help veterans and the epilepsy community."

Consumer advocates and scientists have worked together in this unique partnership to evaluate the merit of research applications since FY15. COL Sarah B. Goldman, Director of the CDMRP, expressed her appreciation for the consumer advocates' hard work. "Integrating consumer perspectives into our decision-making process brings energy and focus to our research programs. Patients, caregivers, family members, and advocates help us keep our efforts centered around what is truly important to those impacted. We very much value this critical input from our consumers who help ensure that CDMRP's work remains critical and relevant," she said.

Researchers applying to the ERP propose to understand the mechanisms of post-traumatic epilepsy and associated comorbidities to improve quality of life, especially in Service members, Veterans, and caregivers.

More information about the CDMRP ERP is available at the website:
<https://cdmrp.army.mil/ERP/default>.

Optional: Attached is a recent digital photograph provided by Danny Did Foundation that may be used in conjunction with this press release.

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