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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation Investment into Advocacy Realizes Big Dividends

Cardiomyopathy Included in Department of Defense's Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program for FY 2021 Funding

TENAFLY, N.J.—April 5, 2021— For more than a decade, the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation (CCF) has been focused on securing additional federal funding opportunities for pediatric cardiomyopathy research. Recently, CCF was successful in getting cardiomyopathy included in the Department of Defense's Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) as an approved medical topic for federal funding. Congress appropriated \$370 Million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 for PRMRP research. This marks the third year that cardiomyopathy has been included on the funding list because of CCF's advocacy efforts. The PRMRP program announcement was released on March 15 by the Department of Defense calling for scientific proposals to be submitted.

The goal of the PRMRP is to fund studies that will improve the health and well-being of military personnel and their families with the potential to benefit all Americans. In FY 2018, CCF successfully lobbied for cardiomyopathy to be added for the first time to the PRMRP. As a result, research funding for cardiomyopathy has increased 57% for FY18 and FY19 combined. Cardiomyopathy represents on average 6.1% of PRMRP applications covering 50 research topics. In recent years, the number of cardiomyopathy applications is three times the average number of applications received in other research areas. Cardiomyopathy applications also have a higher funding rate compared to other well-known disease topics.

The program has five award mechanisms. Scientists are invited to submit proposals for innovative research focused on the development and implementation of medical devices, drugs, and clinical guidance that will enhance the precision and efficacy of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. The PRMRP fills important gaps not addressed by other funding agencies by supporting groundbreaking research while encouraging innovative thinking.

To assist in the grants review process, CCF nominated seven parents, who are active in the CCF Connect Community, to serve as consumer advocates for the PRMRP. Consumer advocates represent the collective view of patients and work together with selected scientists to evaluate the scientific merit of submitted research applications.

More information about PRMRP's funding opportunities is available at cdmrp.army.mil/funding/PRMRP. To learn more about the work of the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation, visit www.childrenscardiomyopathy.org or follow CCF on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @CCFheartkids.

About the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation

The Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation (CCF) is a national organization focused on finding causes and cures for all pediatric forms of cardiomyopathy. The Foundation was established in 2002 to accelerate research and education, increase public awareness and advocacy, and offer support services to affected families. Since then, CCF has grown into a global community of families, physicians and scientists, raising more than \$15.8 million in support of its mission.