



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Award ID:
DP140034

Project Title:
Preclinical Drug Discovery and Development of Novel, First-In-Class, Small Molecule Compounds That Directly Target Glioblastoma and Other Brain Cancers

Award Mechanism:
New Company Product Development Award

Principal Investigator:
Stein, Gregory

Entity:
Curtana Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Lay Summary:

Curtana Pharmaceuticals is developing the first truly targeted small molecule drug for the treatment of glioblastoma (GBM), diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), and other brain cancers. GBM is the most common and deadliest of the malignant primary brain tumors in adults. DIPG, which occurs in the brainstem, is one of the most deadly pediatric brain tumors. Curtana is applying for a New Company Product Development Award to bring a novel, first-in-class therapy from the laboratory to clinical trials in patients within 3 years. Support for Curtana's drug development program fits with CPRIT's mission to expedite innovation in the area of new product development and to attract companies to Texas that will create new jobs. Specifically, Curtana will relocate to Texas, where the company will operate its research facility, create 12 high-quality life science jobs, and support numerous Texas-based businesses. In line with CPRIT's strategic focus, the Award will allow Curtana to 1) bridge the translational research gap, 2) address the unmet medical needs of patients with devastating orphan diseases, and 3) bring a breakthrough new drug to a highly under-served pediatric patient population. If successful, Curtana would deliver to patients the first drug that both kills the cancer cells responsible for tumor progression and makes other therapies, such as chemotherapy and radiation, much more effective, thereby significantly reducing patients' suffering and prolonging patients' lives.