CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Oversight Committee Meeting

May 15, 2024

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Summary Overview of the May 15, 2024, Oversight Committee Meeting

This summary provides an overview of major agenda items and background on key issues for Committee consideration at the May 15, 2024, Oversight Committee meeting.

CEO Report
Wayne Roberts will present the CEO's report and address issues including FY 2024 grant funds available, personnel, and other topics.

Chief Compliance Officer Report
Vince Burgess will report on the status of required grantee reports, financial status report reviews, desk reviews, site visits, annual compliance attestation, audit tracking, and training. He will also certify that the proposed awards for the academic research and product development programs complied with statutory and administrative rule requirements.

Chief Scientific Officer Report and Grant Award Recommendations
Dr. Michelle Le Beau will provide an update on the Academic Research Program and present the Program Integration Committee's (PIC) academic research and recruitment award recommendations. She will also present FY 2025 requests for applications (RFAs) for approval. Mr. Roberts and Dr. Le Beau will seek approval for the recommendation to increase the grant award budgets for the following grants: RP210027, RP210028, RP210046, RP210041, RP210042, RP210045.

CPRIT does not publicly disclose information related to the academic research grant applications recommended for funding until the Oversight Committee meeting. The information is available to board members through a secure electronic portal.

Chief Prevention Officer Report
Ramona Magid will update the Oversight Committee on the Prevention Program.

Chief Product Development Officer Report
Dr. Ken Smith will provide an update on the Product Development Research Program and present the PIC's product development award recommendations.

CPRIT does not publicly disclose information related to the product development grant applications recommended for funding until the Oversight Committee meeting. The information is available to board members through a secure electronic portal.

Internal Auditor Report
Weaver and Tidwell, CPRIT's internal auditor, will present an internal audit update and the following internal audit reports:

- Internal Audit Follow-up Procedures Report over Purchasing Compliance
- Internal Audit Report over Internal Compliance

Appointments - Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee
Mr. Roberts has provisionally appointed 39 new members to CPRIT's Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committees. CPRIT's statute requires the Oversight Committee to finalize the appointments with votes of approval. CPRIT has provided the appointees' biographical sketches for the Oversight Committee's consideration.

Advisory Committee Appointments and Annual Presentation
Mr. Roberts will present Presiding Officer David Cummings' proposed appointment of Dr. Amir Mian to the Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancer and Ashley Dedman's appointment to the Prevention Advisory Committee. The University Advisory Committee will present their annual report and answer questions from the Oversight Committee.

Proposed Amendments to 25 TAC Chapters 701 and 703
Cameron Eckel will present the proposed amendment to T.A.C. rule § 701.11 for approval to publish in the *Texas Register*. She will also present the final orders approving changes to Chapters 701 and 703 administrative rules for the Oversight Committee's consideration. The Oversight Committee provisionally approved these changes at its February meeting.

Chief Operating Officer Report
Heidi McConnell will discuss the operating budget, performance measures, and debt issuance history for the second quarter of FY 2024.

FY 2025 Bond Issuance Resolution
Ms. McConnell will lay out the FY 2025 Bond Issuance Resolution for approval by the Oversight Committee.

Legislative Appropriations Request for the 2026 – 2027 Biennium
Ms. McConnell will present CPRIT's Legislative Request for the 2026 – 2027 biennium. She will also provide an update regarding preparations for CPRIT's State Agency Strategic Plan for 2025 – 2029.

Contract Approval
Ms. McConnell will seek approval for the FY 2025 contract renewal for grant management support services.

Communications Update
Mark Loeffler will update the Oversight Committee on CPRIT's communication efforts, including coverage of the agency and grantees in earned media, digital media, and social media.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Oversight Committee Meeting Agenda

May 15, 2024
8:30 a.m.

The Barbara Jordan Building
1601 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701
Room 2.035A

The Oversight Committee may discuss or act on any item on this agenda, and as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551.001 et seq., may meet in closed session concerning any purpose permitted by the Act. If the Oversight Committee meets in closed session, it will do so in the Barbara Jordan Building, Room 2.027.

Also as authorized by Texas Government Code § 551.127, one or more Oversight Committee members may participate remotely in the meeting by videoconference. The Oversight Committee member presiding over the meeting will be physically present at the above-listed location, which will be open to the public.

Anyone wishing to offer public comments must notify the Chief Executive Officer in writing prior to the start of the meeting. The Committee may limit the time a member of the public may speak.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call/Excused Absences
3. Adoption of Minutes for the February 21, 2024, and March 8, 2024, meetings — Tab 1
4. Public Comment
5. Chief Executive Officer Report — Tab 2
6. Chief Compliance Officer Report and Compliance Certification of Grant Award Process — Tab 3
7. Chief Scientific Officer Report — Tab 4
   - Grant Award Recommendations
   - Recommendation to Increase Award Budgets for RP210027, RP210028, RP210046, RP210041, RP210042, RP210045
   - FY 2025 Requests for Applications
8. Chief Prevention Officer Report — Tab 5
9. Chief Product Development Officer Report — Tab 6
   - Grant Award Recommendations
10. Internal Auditor Report — Tab 7
    - Internal Audit Follow-Up Procedures Report over Purchasing Compliance
    - Internal Audit Report over Internal Compliance
11. Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee Appointments — Tab 8
12. Advisory Committees — Tab 9
    - Appointments
    - University Advisory Committee Presentation

13. Amendments to 25 T.A.C. Chapters 701 and 703 Tab 10
    - Proposed Amendment to Chapter 701
    - Final Orders Approving Amendments to Chapters 701 and 703
14. Chief Operating Officer Report Tab 11
15. Fiscal Year 2025 Bond Issuance Resolution Tab 12
16. Legislative Appropriations Request for the 2026 – 2027 Biennium Tab 13
17. Contract Approvals Tab 14
    - Grant Management Support Services
18. Communications Program Update Tab 15
19. Personnel – Chief Executive Officer
20. Subcommittee Business
21. Compliance Investigation Pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 102.2631
22. Consultation with General Counsel
23. Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items
24. Adjourn

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2024

NOTE: Unless the information is confidential, the reports, presentations, and grant award information referenced in the minutes are available at http://ocmeetings.cprit.texas.gov in the "Oversight Committee Board Packet" section for the corresponding meeting date.

Call to Order – Agenda Item 1

Presiding Officer Dr. David Cummings announced a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Roll Call/Excused Absences – Agenda Item 2

Committee Members Present
David Cummings, M.D.
Donald (Dee) Margo
Ambrosio Hernandez, M.D.
Will Montgomery
Mahendra Patel, M.D., P.A.
Cindy Barberio Payne
Bill Rice, M.D.
Craig Rosenfeld, M.D.

Adoption of Minutes from the November 15, 2023, Meeting – Agenda Item 3, Tab 1

MOTION:
On a motion by Mr. Margo and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2023, Oversight Committee meeting as presented.

Public Comment – Agenda Item 4

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings noted for the record that no member of the public asked to provide comments.

Chief Executive Officer Report – Agenda Item 5, Tab 2

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized Chief Executive Officer Wayne Roberts to present his report. Wayne Roberts presented his report addressing issues including FY 2024 grant funds available, the TAMEST award, CPRIT's 2023 Annual Report, personnel, and other topics. Mr. Roberts will also present his annual report required by Tex. Health & Safety Code § 102.260(c).

At the conclusion of his report, Mr. Roberts announced his resignation as CEO, effective June 30, 2024.

On behalf of the Oversight Committee, Dr. Cummings expressed his thanks for the enormous impact that Mr. Roberts has had on CPRIT and the state.

Dr. Rice also expressed his thanks and appreciation.

Chief Compliance Officer Report and Compliance Certification for the Proposed Grant Awards – Agenda Item 6, Tab 3

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized Chief Compliance Officer Vince Burgess to present the Compliance Report and Compliance Certification of Grant Award Process.

Mr. Burgess presented an update on the delinquent reporting and Compliance Report. Compliance Program Manager Stephen Nance presented highlights from the past quarter's activities.

There were no questions for Mr. Burgess and Mr. Nance.

Following his report, Mr. Burgess presented the Compliance Certification for the proposed academic research and prevention grant awards, confirming that the proposed awards and review process complied with all applicable state and agency requirements.

Chief Scientific Officer Report and Grant Recommendations – Agenda Item 7, Tab 4

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized Dr. Le Beau to provide the academic research program update and introduce the Program Integration Committee's (PIC) grant award recommendations.

Dr. Le Beau presented her report, including seven proposed RFAs for the FY 2025 review cycle:

- Individual Investigator Research Awards
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Computational Systems Biology of Cancer
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Cancer in Children and Adolescents
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Prevention and Early Detection
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Clinical Trials
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Early-Onset Cancers
- Collaborative Action Program (CAP) to Reduce Liver Cancer Mortality in Texas: Collaborative Action Center

An Oversight Committee member asked Dr. Le Beau whether she was anticipating anyone applying for the Individual Investigator Research Awards for Early-Onset Cancers to look at COVID-19 as an exposure/risk factor that could potentially modulate cancer. She responded that she has not seen that much in the literature but would investigate this question.

An Oversight Committee member commented that it is nice to see the investigator awards as well as the notable scores for the recruitment class.

An Oversight Committee member requested more information about why the submitting institution had withdrawn the recruitment award application. Dr. Le Beau explained that the individual elected to take another position elsewhere.

An Oversight Committee member inquired about how CPRIT determined the total allowable budgets for each RFA. Dr. Le Beau responded that CPRIT bases the amounts on historical experience as well as estimated expenses for personnel and lab experiments, among other things. She provided an example of a typical individual investigator research award budget, which could include support for the PI, Co-PI, staff, lab charges, etc. She added that the clinical trials individual investigator research award budget is higher because of the nature of the work.

Following her update, Dr. Le Beau directed Oversight Committee members to Table 1 on page 4 of the "Proposed Grant Awards" Book for the PIC's proposed award recommendations for academic research grant cycle 24.1 and for recruitment grant cycles 24.3, 24.4 and 24.5. Dr. Le Beau provided an overview of the 46 recommended awards (displayed below) comprised of eight grant mechanism slates.

Academic Research Award Recommendations Considered February 21, 2024

Rank	ID	Award	Score	Application Title	PI	Grantee	Budget
1	RP240068	IIRA	1.0	Understanding the Mechanism of Linker Histone Mutations in Malignancy	Soshnev, Alexey	The University of Texas at San Antonio	$997,770
2	RP240293	IIRACSBC	1.0	Therapeutic Vulnerabilities and Predictors of Response to Chemo(immuno)therapy in Patients with High- Risk, Early-Stage Triple- Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC)	Korkut, Anil	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$1,199,999
3	RR240019	RRS	1.0	Development of Chemotherapeutics Inspired by Natural Products	Sarlah, David	Rice University	$4,000,000
4	RP240137	IIRACSBC	1.1	Charting TCR-Tumor Antigen Interactions to Foster Novel Immunotherapeutic Approaches for Triple- Negative Breast Cancer	Zhang, Bing	Baylor College of Medicine	$1,200,000
5	RR240013	RFTFM	1.2	Regulation of gene expression and tumorigenesis by ubiquitin-mediated protein quality control	Mark, Kevin	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000

Rank	ID	Award	Score	Application Title	PI	Grantee	Budget
6	RR240016	RFTFM	1.3	Impact of Germline Variants on Pediatric Leukemia Progression: Insights from 3D Chromatin Remodeling and Clinical Outcomes	Luan, Yu	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	$2,000,000
7	RR240030	REI	1.3	Break-induced DNA Replication as a Driver of Genomic Instability in Cancer	Malkova, Anna	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	$6,000,000
8	RR240027	RFTFM	1.4	Genomic and Epigenomic Mechanisms of Chemobrain	Dileep, Vishnu	Baylor College of Medicine	$2,000,000
9	RP240075	IIRACT	1.5	Combination Therapy Using ATRA and Carfilzomib to Treat Proteasome Inhibitor Refractory Multiple Myeloma	Yi, Qing	The Methodist Hospital Research Institute	$1,921,388
10	RP240291	IIRA	1.6	Targeting MYCN disruption of the molecular clock and tumor metabolism in neuroblastoma oncogenesis	Barbieri, Eveline	Baylor College of Medicine	$1,050,000
11	RP240289	IIRA	1.6	Real-time, label-free, micro HSI device and transformer-based attention networks for oral cancer imaging	Fei, Baowei	The University of Texas at Dallas	$1,049,806
12	RP240125	IIRA	1.8	Immune-Related Determinants of HPV- Associated Oropharyngeal Cancer Outcomes	Li, Guojun	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$1,049,726
13	RP240061	IIRA	1.8	Deciphering Iron Redox Cycles in Ferroptosis- based Cancer Therapy	Lu, Yi	The University of Texas at Austin	$1,044,608
14	RP240091	IIRA	1.9	High resolution high sensitivity photoacoustic imaging molecular guided brain tumor surgery with pilot clinical deployment	Valdes Quevedo, Pablo	The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	$1,044,967
15	RP240401	IIRACCA	1.9	Lead Optimization, Target Engagement, and Efficacy Studies of Locally Bioavailable COX-2 inhibitors for Preventing Colon Cancer Progression in FAP Children	Hu, Ming	University of Houston	$1,400,000
16	RP240272	IIRACCA	1.9	The Epigenetic Impact and Therapeutic Opportunity of AR-Directed Therapy for DSRCT	Ludwig, Joseph	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$1,398,788
17	RP240184	IIRACT	1.9	Maximizing Antitumor Immunity Through Simultaneous Activation of the Innate and Adaptive Immune System	Hannan, Raquibul	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$1,999,993

Rank	ID	Award	Score	Application Title	PI	Grantee	Budget
18	RP240095	IIRA	2.0	Targeting chitinase-3- like-1 as a novel therapy for hepatocellular carcinoma	Ju, Cynthia	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	$1,049,388
19	RP240035	IIRA	2.0	Harnessing the metabolic dependencies of mitochondrial NADK2 as a therapeutic strategy for lung cancer	Hoxhaj, Gerta	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$1,050,000
20	RP240225	IIRA	2.0	PARP16-mediated Ribosome MARylation and Translation Control in Ovarian Cancer	Kraus, W. Lee	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$1,049,743
21	RP240259	IIRA	2.0	Targeting Cancer- associated Lactobacillus iners to improve response to cancer therapy	Colbert, Lauren	The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center	$1,049,427
22	RP240119	IIRA	2.0	Integrating proteolysis-targeting capability into antibodies to augment therapeutic efficacy	Liu, Qingyun	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	$1,050,000
23	RP240326	IIRA	2.0	Translation of gut commensal bacteria peptidoglycan remodeling pathway for chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy	Saini, Neeraj	The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center	$1,050,000
24	RP240311	IIRA	2.0	Treatment planning of ADC therapy for ovarian cancer with molecular photoacoustic-ultrasonic imaging	Bouchard, Richard	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$1,049,859
25	RP240117	IIRA	2.0	Identify radiopathomics markers to guide immunotherapy for non- small cell lung cancer	Wu, Jia	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$1,049,906
26	RP240054	IIRACCA	2.0	Myeloid Support of Refractory and Aggressive T-ALL at Distinct Tumor Sites	Ehrlich, Lauren	The University of Texas at Austin	$1,400,000
27	RP240237	IIRACCA	2.0	The Role of EWSR1- FLI1-CENP-A Signaling in Chemoresistance in Ewing Sarcoma	Kitagawa, Katsumi	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	$1,400,000
28	RR240015	RRS	2.0	HyperGlio - New tools to fight brain cancer with signal-enhanced magnetic resonance	Gloeggler, Stephan	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$4,000,000
30*	RP240183	IIRA	2.1	Restoring TREM2- Dependent Efferocytosis to Inhibit Obesity-Induced Liver Inflammation and Cancer Development	Liang, Shuang	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$1,049,997
31	RP240263	IIRA	2.1	Identifying the Biological Determinants of Aggressive Meningioma	Patel, Akash	Baylor College of Medicine	$1,049,370

Rank	ID	Award	Score	Application Title	PI	Grantee	Budget
32	RP240392	IIRA	2.1	Identifying Tumor Specific Vulnerabilities in Appendiceal Adenocarcinoma: A Systems Approach	Shen, John Paul	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$1,050,000
33	RP240133	IIRA	2.1	Modulation of blood- spinal cord barrier for tumor treatment	Qin, Zhenpeng	The University of Texas at Dallas	$1,050,000
34	RP240233	IIRACT	2.1	Toward Nonoperative Management of Early- Stage ER-Positive Breast Cancer	Rahimi, Asal	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$1,999,963
35	RP240127	IIRA	2.2	Transposon Restriction, Tumor Suppression and p53	Abrams, John	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$1,039,356
36	RP240072	IIRA	2.2	Dissection of CAMKK2's Tumor Cell- intrinsic and -extrinsic Roles in Prostate Cancer	Frigo, Daniel	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$1,050,000
37	RP240288	IIRA	2.3	Epigenetic mechanism and targeting during response to BRAFi/anti- EGFR therapy in BRAF- mutant colorectal cancers	Kopetz, Scott	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$1,043,909
38	RP240380	IIRA	2.3	Clonal hematopoiesis for improving lung cancer risk assessment	Cheng, Chao	Baylor College of Medicine	$1,040,316
39	RP240131	IIRACSBC	2.3	Computational Methods for CRISPR-Based Lineage Tracing Systems	Liu, Zhandong	Baylor College of Medicine	$1,200,000
40	RR240007	REI	2.3	Building a multi-modal platform to enable next-generation functional precision oncology	Shen, Xiling	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$6,000,000
41	RP240214	IIRA	2.5	Immunoprevention of Breast Cancer Brain Metastasis by Special Dendritic Cell-derived Extracellular Vesicles	Yu, Dihua	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$1,050,000
42	RP240120	IIRA	2.5	JMJD6-DGAT1 Signaling Axis Regulates Lipid Droplets and Tumorigenesis in ccRCC	Zhang, Qing	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$1,049,997
43	RP240287	IIRA	2.5	Investigating the Impact of Interferon Gamma Signaling on Therapeutic Resistance in Acute Myeloid Leukemia	Abbas, Hussein	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$1,042,256
44	RP240104	IIRA	2.6	Characterization and optimization of novel allosteric KRAS inhibitors	Gorfe, Alemayehu	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	$1,050,000
45	RP240320	IIRA	2.6	Benzothiazepines as first- in-class inhibitors for the ribogenesis factor NVL and	De Brabander, Jef	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$1,049,754

Rank	ID	Award	Score	Application Title	PI	Grantee	Budget
				evaluation in preclinical colorectal cancer models			
46	RP240143	IIRACCA	2.6	Leveraging Passport for Care in a Telehealth Framework to Improve Equitable Access to Survivorship Services	Gramatges, Maria	Baylor College of Medicine	$1,399,382
51	RP240208	IIRAP	2.8	Unidos Contra el VPH: Screening Accuracy, Preference, and Uptake of HPV Self-Sampling Among Latinxs Along the US-Mexico Border	Calderon-Mora, Jessica	The University of Texas at Austin	$1,920,007

* The recommended grant award ranked 29th by the Scientific Review Council withdrew from consideration prior to consideration by the Program Integration Committee.

IIRA - Individual Investigator Research Awards
IIRACCA - Individual Investigator Research Awards for Cancer in Children and Adolescents
IIRACSBC - Individual Investigator Research Awards for Computational Systems Biology of Cancer
IIRACT - Individual Investigator Research Awards for Clinical Translation
IIRAP - Individual Investigator Research Awards for Prevention and Early Detection
REI - Recruitment of Established Investigators
RRS - Recruitment of Rising Stars
FTTFM - Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members

Compliance Certification

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings reminded members that Mr. Burgess previously certified compliance of the academic research awards process.

Conflict of Interest Notification

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings noted for the record that Dr. Rosenfeld reported a conflict of interest with RP240291. No other members reported conflicts with any award academic research recommendation presented.

Academic Research Awards Approval

MOTION:
On a motion made by Mr. Margo and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, all Oversight Committee members eligible to vote voted unanimously to approve the PIC's award recommendation for RP240291.

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings noted for the record that Dr. Rosenfeld did not participate in the vote.

MOTION:
On a motion made by Mr. Margo and seconded by Dr. Rice, the Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve the PIC's remaining 45 recommendations for the following award slates:

- Individual Investigator Research Awards
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Childhood and Adolescent Cancers
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Computational Systems Biology of Cancer
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Clinical Translation
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Prevention and Early Detection
- Recruitment of Established Investigators
- Recruitment of Rising Stars
- Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members

MOTION:
On a motion made by Mr. Margo and seconded by Dr. Rice, the Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve the delegation of contract negotiation authority to CPRIT's CEO and staff and authorized the CEO to sign the contracts on behalf of CPRIT.

Academic Research Proposed FY2025 RFAs Approval

MOTION:
On a motion made by Mr. Margo and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve the seven Academic Research proposed FY 2025 RFAs:

- Individual Investigator Research Awards
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Computational Systems Biology of Cancer
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Cancer in Children and Adolescents
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Prevention and Early Detection
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Clinical Trials
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Early-Onset Cancers
- Collaborative Action Program (CAP) to Reduce Liver Cancer Mortality in Texas: Collaborative Action Center (Competitive Renewal)

Chief Prevention Officer Report and Grant Recommendations – Agenda Item 8, Tab 5

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid to provide the prevention program update and introduce the PIC's grant award recommendations.

Ms. Magid directed Oversight Committee members to the proposed award recommendations for prevention grant cycle 24.1 in the "Proposed Grant Awards" book at page 45. She provided an overview of the recommended awards, which comprised two slates of twelve recommended awards totaling $25.9 million as displayed below.

Prevention Program Awards FY 2024 Cycle 1

App. ID	Mech	Application Title	PD	Organization	Score	Rank	Budget
PP240017	CSD	Expanding Access to Cervical Cancer Screening through Primary HR-HPV Testing and Self-Sampling: A Multicomponent Intervention for Safety Net Health Systems	Montealegre, Jane R	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	2.1	1	$2,499,646
PP240040	CSD	Expanding Intensive Smoking Cessation and Lung Cancer Screening in Vulnerable Adult Patients in Central Texas FQHCs	Altillo, Brandon	The University of Texas at Austin	2.2	2	$2,000,000
PP240022	PPC	Expansion of a multi-pronged intervention to increase HPV vaccination rates among adolescents from rural and medically underserved areas in Texas	Berenson, Abbey B	The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	2.3	3	$2,494,865
PP240042	CSD	Cancer Prevention and Outreach for Individuals Disproportionately Affected by Cancer in Medically Underserved Regions (C-CUR)	Esnaola, Nestor	The Methodist Hospital Research Institute	3.0	4	$1,437,244
PP240021	CSD	Reducing Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Breast Cancer Screening: Expanding a Comprehensive EHR-Based Patient Navigation Program	Rustveld, Luis	Baylor College of Medicine	3.1	5	$2,499,998
PP240012	CSD	Integrated Mammography and Genetic Evaluation Services (IMAGES)	Whitman, Gary J	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	3.1	6	$1,499,400
PP240019	CSD	Increasing Access to Successful Colorectal Cancer Screening, Pairing Patient Education and Outreach with Navigation	Argenbright, Keith E	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	3.3	7	$2,487,342
PP240011	CSD	The Advancing Breast Health among uninsured Women in Central Texas (ABH-CTX) 2	Shokar, Navkiran K	The University of Texas at Austin	3.4	8	$2,000,000
PP240041	PPC	Expansion of the evidence-based Adolescent Vaccination Program (AVP) in a safety net clinic system to increase HPV vaccination rates in underserved populations	Shegog, Ross	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	3.5	9	$1,496,194
PP240005	PPC	Preventing Tobacco Related Cancers by Expanding Capacity for Tobacco Use Interventions Within Agencies Serving Women with Behavioral Health Needs	Reitzel, Lorraine R	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	4.0	10	$2,487,822
PP240014	PPC	Tiempo De Vacunarte 3	Molokwu, Jennifer C	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	4.1	11	$2,500,000
PP240030	PPC	All for Them: A multilevel strategy for HPV-related cancer prevention	Cuccaro, Paula	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	4.3	12	$2,499,969

CSD: Cancer Screening and Early Detection
PPC: Primary Prevention of Cancer

An Oversight Committee member asked how many counties benefitted from the proposed projects and if CPRIT could provide that information in the future? Ms. Magid agreed that she will include that information in the future.

An Oversight Committee member requested the approximate percentage of the adult population in Texas that still smoke. Ms. Magid responded that 12% of adult Texans smoke.

An Oversight Committee member asked about overcoming barriers to the HPV vaccine (in reference to grant PP240030). Ms. Magid explained that the "All for Them" program has a successful history. One approach is to administer the HPV vaccination with the other vaccines recommended for that age. She added that the NCI and CDC have developed material about vaccine hesitancy, including suggested parent questions and answers. A successful strategy used by this project is encouraging the nurses to become champions because they have parental relationships.

In reference to proposed grant PP240021, an Oversight Committee member asked about the navigator system, data mining, and preventative care cost. Ms. Magid responded the navigation provided by the project is more comprehensive and personal than the standard navigator built into the health care system. It is a successful component of previous projects.

In response to an Oversight Committee member's question regarding the estimated number of cancers CPRIT prevention projects have prevented, Ms. Magid indicated that she will provide that information to members.

Compliance Certification

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings reminded members that Mr. Burgess previously certified compliance of the prevention awards process.

Conflict of Interest Notification

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings noted for the record that no Oversight Committee member reported a conflict of interest with any of the proposed prevention awards.

Approval Process – Prevention Awards

MOTION:
On a motion made by Mr. Margo and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld, the Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve the PIC's 12 recommendations for the Cancer Screening and Early Detection and Primary Prevention of Cancer mechanisms.

MOTION:
On a motion made by Mr. Margo and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld, the Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve the delegation of contract negotiation

authority to CPRIT's CEO and staff and authorized the CEO to sign the contracts on behalf of CPRIT.

Chief Product Development Officer Report – Agenda Item 9, Tab 6

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings invited Chief Product Development Officer Dr. Ken Smith to provide the product development program update. Dr. Smith shared an overview of the updated process for reviewing applications during the 24.2 cycle in the Product Development Research program.

Dr. Smith updated the Oversight Committee on the product development program activities and introduced four proposed FY 2025 product development RFAs.

An Oversight Committee member asked about the reasons for the increase in product development program activity. Dr. Smith responded that several factors, including increased outreach, ongoing challenges in companies finding venture funding, and the streamlined application process, had increased the interest in the product development research program.

An Oversight Committee member requested more information regarding the timeline for one of the five holdover companies in terms of the application process. Dr. Smith responded that the timeline should be about six months, and that if a company does not receive an award, they can receive feedback and submit again. CPRIT may ask companies to revise budgets commiserate with goals and objectives as part of the contract negotiation process.

An Oversight Committee member complimented Dr. Smith and the product development research program for their work on both the *Texas Resource Guide* and the IP database.

An Oversight Committee member noted that four applicants in the 24.2 cycle are from out of state and asked how many CPRIT-funded companies have relocated to Texas in total. While Dr. Smith did not know the exact number offhand, he spoke about the growing number of biotech industry partners and other companies interested in relocating to Texas.

Product Development Research Proposed FY2025 RFAs Approval

MOTION:
On a motion made by Mr. Margo and seconded by Dr. Cummings, the Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve the four Product Development Research proposed FY 2025 RFAs:

- Texas Therapeutic Company Award
- Texas Device and Diagnostics Company Award
- Texas New Technologies Company Award
- Texas Seed Company Award

Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee Appointments – Agenda Item 10, Tab 7

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized Mr. Roberts to present his five appointments to CPRIT's Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committees. Mr. Roberts presented the following appointments:

- Jijun Dong, Ph.D.
- Armin Ghobadi, M.D.
- Min Li, Ph.D.
- Tiao Xie, Ph.D.
- Yuqing Zhang, Ph.D.

MOTION:
On a motion by Mr. Margo and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve the CEO's five appointments to CPRIT's Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committees.

Advisory Committees – Item 11, Tab 8

Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancer Presentation

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized Dr. Le Beau to introduce Dr. Richard Gorlick, professor, division head at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Childrens Cancer Hospital in Houston, and Dr. Will Parsons, professor, Department of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Gorlick and Dr. Parsons presented the Advisory Committee for Childhood Cancer's annual report.

Following the presentation, an Oversight Committee member and Dr. Gorlick discussed core facilities. Dr. Gorlick explained that a core facility is more about infrastructure, serving as the framework that allows other people to use the tools that the core facility provides.

An Oversight Committee member asked about whether there are core facilities located along the border. Dr. Le Beau briefly discussed the core facility at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

An Oversight Committee member asked about the advisory committee's organizational chart and where members are located. He wanted to know whether the committee was working to initiate protocols for children located in rural areas of Texas. Dr. Gorlick explained that the advisory committee has the "Frontiers" subcommittee, which represents smaller programs and opportunities in geographically remote areas, working on that issue.

An Oversight Committee member asked Dr. Parsons about what the committee may recommend related to identification of risk for cancer and prevention of cancer in the future. Dr. Parsons acknowledged that historically it has been a challenge due to lack of in-depth knowledge about many of the risk factors. He referred to genetic understanding of certain cancers and that there

are now opportunities for early diagnoses, which can trigger surveillance protocols and potentially change outcomes. Prevention of other health outcomes, survivorship, and how clinicians can help childhood and adolescent cancer survivors avoid some of the common co-morbidities contribute to the prevention umbrella.

An Oversight Committee member asked if others are aware of the CPRIT-funded research opportunities. Dr. Gorlick responded that cancer researchers in other states are aware, and jealous of Texas.

In response to an Oversight Committee member's question about a major therapeutic breakthrough facilitated by CPRIT funding, Dr. Gorlick pointed to multiple areas where the pediatric oncology field has advanced due to personalized medicine. Dr. Parsons cited liver cancer as one example where CPRIT has invested substantially and defined the field's understanding of the disease.

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings and the Oversight Committee members thanked Dr. Gorlick for and Dr. Parsons for their presentation.

Geographic Diversity Advisory Committee Presentation

Dr. Cummings recognized Dr. Le Beau to introduce Dr. Sarah Williams-Blangero, chair of the Department of Human Genetics at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine, and Dr. Robert Kirken, Dean of the College of Science at The University of Texas at El Paso, who presented the Geographic Diversity Advisory Committee Annual Report.

An Oversight Committee member reiterated the significance of the El Paso Region, with its commerce, cultural, and multi-generational area, stating that it is ripe for the testing that needs to be done with the Hispanic population, especially because of Texas's emerging demographics.

An Oversight Committee member opined that the presentation reveals needs all over Texas. He reiterated that CPRIT should focus on the sustainability of TREC programs, including raising the funding ceiling on these awards, to demonstrate what these regions can do, especially in collaboration with others, such as MD Anderson.

Dr. Cummings thanked the presenters on behalf of the Oversight Committee and commented that cancer disparities and geographic diversity are a focus for Oversight Committee members.

Health & Safety Code Section § 102.1062 Waivers – Agenda Item 12, Tab 9

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized Mr. Roberts to present the Health and Safety Code Section 102.1062 waiver for Prevention Program Manager Carlton Allen. Mr. Roberts presented the FY 2024 waiver.

There were no questions for Mr. Roberts.

MOTION:
On a motion made by Dr. Rosenfeld and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve the FY 2024 Health and Safety Code Section 102.1062 waiver for Mr. Allen.

Amendments to 25 T.A.C. Chapters 701 and 703 – Agenda Item 13, Tab 10

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized assistant general counsel Cameron Eckel to present the proposed administrative rule changes. Ms. Eckel reviewed the proposed rule changes.

There were no questions for Ms. Eckel.

MOTION:
On a motion by Dr. Rosenfeld and seconded by Dr. Hernandez, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve the publication of the proposed changes to Chapters 701 and 703 in the *Texas Register*.

Texas Public Information Act and Open Meeting Act Legislative Update – Agenda Item 14, Tab 11

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings asked Ms. Eckel to provide the Texas Public Information Act and Texas Open Meeting Act legislative update. She explained that the members' review of the information provided in the meeting book on this issue fulfilled the administrative code requirement for training.

There were no questions for Ms. Eckel.

Chief Operating Officer Report – Agenda Item 15, Tab 12

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized Chief Operating Officer Heidi McConnell to present her report.

There were no questions for Ms. McConnell.

Contract Approvals – Agenda Item 16, Tab 13

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings asked Ms. McConnell to present the recommended contract amendments to the FY 2024 outside counsel contracts with Norton Rose Fulbright and McDermott Will & Emery to increase the budgets by $60,000 each.

There were no questions for Ms. McConnell.

MOTION:
On a motion by Dr. Rosenfeld and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve the increase for the FY 2024 outside counsel contracts to $155,000 each.

Communication Report – Agenda Item 17, Tab 14

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized Communications Director Mark Loeffler to present his report. Mr. Loeffler updated the committee members on communications activities.

There were no questions for Mr. Loeffler.

Personnel – Chief Executive Officer – Agenda Item 18

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings announced the committee would go into closed session at 11:16 a.m. pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.074 to discuss personnel action related to the Chief Executive Officer. He asked for Mr. Roberts and Ms. Lisa Nelson to join the members in closed session.

The Board reconvened in open session at 11:42 a.m.

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings noted that there was some question in the record about whether the committee voted on academic research grant RP240291. Out of an abundance of caution, the board would vote again.

MOTION:
On a motion by Dr. Rice and seconded by Dr. Hernandez, the Oversight Committee voted at least two-thirds to approve RP240291.

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings noted for the record that Dr. Rosenfeld did not vote.

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings turned the members' attention to Agenda Item 18.

MOTION:
On a motion by Dr. Rice and seconded by Dr. Hernandez, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to issue a job posting internally for the CEO position and to create an *ad hoc* committee to review the applications and interview candidates for the CEO position and to make a recommendation to the Oversight Committee.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items – Agenda Item 22

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings noted for the record that the Oversight Committee would not take up standing items 19, 20, or 21. The next regular Oversight Committee meeting will occur May 15, 2024.

Adjournment – Agenda Item 22

MOTION:
There being no further business, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve Presiding Chair Dr. Cummings's motion to adjourn, which Dr. Hernandez seconded.

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

_____ _____

Signature Date

Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2024

Call to Order – Agenda Item 1

Dr. David Cummings called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Dr. Cummings explained that all Oversight Committee members except Dr. Bill Rice are joining the meeting via video conference; the Texas Open Meetings Act allows this if the public guests attending the meeting in the posted location can see and hear those attending remotely. He thanked CPRIT's IT team for assisting the remote members' participation in the meeting.

Dr. Cummings announced Dr. Rice will serve as the Presiding Officer for this meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and with the Oversight Committee Bylaws

Dr. Cummings asked Dr. Ambrosio Hernandez to proceed with the roll call.

Roll Call/Excused Absences – Agenda Item 2

Committee Members Present
David Cummings, M.D.
Donald (Dee) Margo
Ambrosio Hernandez, M.D.
Will Montgomery
Cindy Barberio Payne
Bill Rice, M.D.
Craig Rosenfeld, M.D.

Dr. Hernandez announced a quorum.

Personnel – Chief Executive Officer – Agenda Item 3

Presiding Officer Dr. Rice recognized Dr. Cummings to discuss agenda item 3. Dr. Cummings explained that following the February 21 meeting, he discussed the CEO job posting issue with Mr. Roberts and both agreed that publicly posting the CEO position increases transparency in the hiring process. Dr. Cummings noted that Lisa Nelson in human resources advised that CPRIT may post the CEO job position on WorkinTexas.com for 30 days to facilitate the process.

Presiding Officer Dr. Rice asked if any member wished to discuss the proposal in closed session. When no member requested to move the discussion to a closed session, Presiding Officer Dr. Rice asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he recognized Dr. Cummings for a motion.

MOTION:
On a motion by Dr. Cummings and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to direct CPRIT staff to post the CEO job position on WorkInTexas.com for 30 days.

MOTION:
On a motion by Dr. Cummings and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to create a special *ad hoc* subcommittee consisting of Cindy Payne, Mahendra Patel, and Craig Rosenfeld, with the Presiding Officer serving as an *ex officio* member, to review the applications, interview candidates, and make a recommendation to the Oversight Committee.

Adjournment – Agenda Item 4

MOTION:
There being no further business, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve Presiding Officer Dr. Rice's motion to adjourn, which Dr. Cummings seconded.

Presiding Officer Dr. Rice adjourned the meeting at 8:33 a.m.

_____ _____

Signature Date

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	WAYNE ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT:	AGENDA ITEM 5: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT
DATE:	MAY 6, 2024

The Chief Executive Officer Report presented at the May 15 Oversight Committee meeting will include a brief update on grant funds available and personnel. I may add other items as warranted. For your reference, I have included copies of the February/March 2024 and April 2024 CPRIT Activity Updates behind this memo.

FY 2024 Grant Awards Funds Available and CPRIT Dashboard (Attachments 1 and 2)

As shown in Attachment 1, if the Oversight Committee approves the Academic Research and Product Development awards at the Program Integration Committee's recommended level of $54.9 million, we will have $57.0 million to award in the remainder of FY 2024.

Attachment 2 is CPRIT's dashboard of metrics that we track on a regular basis.

Personnel

CPRIT has filled 48 full-time equivalent positions. It is my understanding that the ad hoc interview committee will recommend a finalist for the CEO position to the full Oversight Committee for consideration at the May 15 meeting.

*****

CPRIT has awarded **1,967** grants totaling **$3.54 billion.**

- 303 prevention awards totaling $380.7 million
- 1,664 academic research and product development research awards totaling $3.16 billion

Of the $3.16 billion in academic research and product development research awards,

- 32.2% of the funding ($1.02 billion) supports clinical research projects
- 23.6% of the funding ($744.7 million) supports translational research projects
- 29.2% of funding ($923.4 million) supports recruitment awards
- 12.2% of the funding ($384.2 million) supports discovery stage research projects
- 2.9% of funding ($90.4 million) supports training programs.

CPRIT has 10 open Requests for Applications (RFAs)

- 7 Academic Research
- 3 Prevention

FY 2024 GRANT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE

General Obligation Bond Proceeds

	Prevention	Academic / Product Development Research	1% Grant Funding Buffer	Operating Budget	Total Appropriations
Available Appropriated Funds	$ 27,478,429	$ 251,369,432		$ 21,152,139	$ 300,000,000
Unapproved Adjustment to Operating Budget		$ -		$ 305,000	
Appropriations Transfer to DSHS		$ (3,118,032)		$ 3,118,032	
Adjusted Appropriations	$ 27,478,429	$ 247,946,400		$ 24,575,171	$ 300,000,000
Total Available for All Grants			$ 275,729,829		
1% of Total Available Grant Funding			$ 2,757,298		
Adjusted Grant Award Funding	27,478,429	$ 245,494,102			$ 272,972,531

	Prevention Grants	Academic Research Grants	PD Research Grants			
Total Available for Grant Awards (Total GO Bond Proceeds Less Operating Budget)	$ 27,478,429	$ 173,775,980	$ 74,475,420			$ 275,729,829
Total Available for Grant Awards Incorporating 1% Grant Funding Buffer	$ 27,478,429	$ 171,845,871	$ 73,648,231			$ 272,972,531
Announced Grant Awards						
11/15/23 ACR Recruitment Awards (2)	$ -	$ 7,990,000	$ -			
11/15/23 PDR Company Grant Awards (6)	$ -	$ -	$ 55,206,634			
2/21/24 ACR Recruitment Awards (7)	$ -	$ 26,000,000	$ -			
2/21/24 ACR IIR Awards (Multi-Category, 39)	$ -	$ 46,689,675	$ -			
2/21/24 Prevention Grant Awards (12)	$ 25,902,480	$ -	$ -			
Announced Grant Award Subtotal	$ 25,902,480	$ 80,679,675	$ 55,206,634	$ -		$ 161,788,789
Grant Award Adjustments						
3/6/24 Declined IIRA (UTMDA-Kopetz)	$ -	$ (1,043,909)	$ -			$ (1,043,909)
						$ -
Revised Grant Award Subtotal	$ 25,902,480	$ 79,635,766	$ 55,206,634			$ 160,744,880
Available Funds as of March 6, 2024	$ 1,575,949	$ 92,210,105	$ 18,441,597			$ 112,227,651
Pending Grant Awards-PIC Recommendations						
ACR Recruitment Awards (12)	$ -	$ 33,998,639	$ -			
CR Supplements to FY2021 Research Training Awards (6)	$ -	$ 1,164,382	$ -			
PDR Company Grant Awards (6)	$ -	$ -	$ 19,765,655			
Pending Award Subtotal	$ -	$ 35,163,021	$ 19,765,655			$ 54,928,676
Rebudget of PRV Funds to PDR and Operations	$ (1,575,949)	$ -	$ 1,270,949			
Rebudget of ACR Funds to Operations		$ (53,109)	$ 53,109			
Revised Available Grant Funds	$ -	$ 92,210,105	$ 19,765,655			
Total Recommended Grant Funding Committed	$ 25,902,480	$ 114,798,787	$ 74,972,289			$ 215,673,556
Pending Available Funds as of May 16, 2024	$ -	$ 56,993,975	$ (0)			$ 56,993,975
1% Grant Funding Buffer	$ -	$ 1,930,109	$ 827,189			$ 2,757,298
Total Remaining Funds	$ -	$ 58,924,084	$ 827,189			$ 59,751,273

Operating Budget Detail		
Indirect Administration	$ 5,095,893	
Grant Review & Award Operations	$ 16,178,895	
Salary Adjustment	$ 182,351	
Subtotal, CPRIT Operating Costs	$ 21,457,139	7%
Cancer Registry Operating Cost Transfer	$ 3,118,032	
Total, Operating Costs	24,575,171	8%

CPRIT MANAGEMENT DASHBOARD
FISCAL YEAR 2024

	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	CUMULATIVE (ANNUAL)	CUMULATIVE (TO DATE)
ACCOUNTABILITY														
Announced Grant Awards	0		8			46							54	
New Grant Contracts Signed	7	11	3	3	3	1	7	33					68	
New Grant Contracts In Negotiation			12			26							38	
Grant Reimbursements Processed (#)	158	169	150	180	151	155	175	163					1301	
Grant Reimbursements Processed ($)	$ 21,014,507	$ 20,145,254	$ 12,238,992	$ 21,326,886	$ 24,511,438	$ 17,776,613	$ 20,891,726	$ 29,758,929					$ 167,664,345	
Revenue Sharing Payments Received	$ 3,250	$ 33,193	$ 104,746	$ 4,991	$ 9,041	$ 139,291	$ 107,094	$ 17,331					$ 418,936	$ 10,067,532
Grants Awarded (#)/ Applications Rec'd	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%						
Grantee Compliance Trainings	2	3	1	5	0	3	3	3					20	
Grantee Compliance Monitoring Visits	0	0	3	3	4	3	4	4					21	
Awards with Delinquent Reimbursement Submission (FSR)			0			5								
Awards with Delinquent Matching Funds Verification			1			9								
Awards with Delinquent Progress Report Submission			4			1								
MISSION														
Open RFAs	3	7	7	11	11	7	13	14						
Prevention Applications Received	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	1,017
Product Development Preliminary Applications Received	0	0	0	63	0	0	0	0					63	199
Product Development Full Applications Received	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0					15	690
Academic Research Applications Received	4	5	4	5	3	4	17	0					42	9,098
Help Desk Calls/Emails	122	67	105	201	124	135	127	172					1,053	
Number of Research Grants Announced (Annual)	0		2			46							48	
Recruited Scientists Contracted														303
Number of Product Development Grants Announced (Annual)	0		6			0							6	
Life Science Companies Recruited (in TX)														17
Number of Product Development Jobs Created & Maintained														1,482
Number of Prevention Grants Announced (Annual)			0			12							12	
Total Number of Education, Navigation and Training Services			147,203			156,011							303,214	
Total Number of Clinical Services			48,417			47,192							95,609	
Published Articles on CPRIT-Funded Projects (#)														
Clinical Studies (#)														273
Number of Patent Applications														

CPRIT MANAGEMENT DASHBOARD
FISCAL YEAR 2024

	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	CUMULATIVE (ANNUAL)	CUMULATIVE (TO DATE)
Number of Patents Resulting from Research														
TRANSPARENCY														
Total Website Hits (Sessions)	14,201	11,483	12,185	8,573	10,662	17,242	11,718	14,675						
Total Unique Visitors to Website (Users)	10,307	7,533	7,892	5,470	6,913	11,373	7,562	9,061						

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	WAYNE R. ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT:	CPRIT ACTIVITIES UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY-MARCH 2024
DATE:	APRIL 1, 2024

Topics in this memo address CPRIT activities in February and March, including recent milestones in our fight against cancer, a staffing summary, outreach efforts, and updates from Compliance, Programs, and Operations.

Recent Milestones in the Fight Against Cancer

CPRIT Grantees in the News

- *Salud America!* published an article, "The State of Cigarette Smoking and E-Cigarette Use in Latinos" in its January 30 edition that featured the CPRIT-funded *Quitxt* program, led by Amelie Ramirez, Dr.PH., MPH, director of the Institute for Health Promotion Research, and chair of the Department of Population Health Sciences at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. *Quitxt* sends text messages to South Texas young adults about reasons to quit smoking, setting a quit date, managing stress, and using nicotine replacement, if needed. CPRIT awarded UT Health San Antonio three CPRIT prevention grants (PP180092, PP170099, PP140176) totaling $4 million to fund the project.

- The Society for Developmental Biology awarded CPRIT Scholar Daniel Dickinson, Ph.D., assistant professor, The University of Texas at Austin, the 2024 Elizabeth D. Hay New Investigator Award on February 1. The award recognizes new investigators who have performed outstanding research in developmental biology during their early career (assistant professor rank). Dr. Dickinson's research focuses on cell polarity, a basic property of eukaryotic cells, in which two opposite sides of the cell acquire different properties. His laboratory operates at the interface between biochemistry and cell biology, using novel single-cell and single-molecule biochemistry methods, along with live-cell and super-resolution imaging techniques, genome editing, and computational modeling, to study how cells polarize in response to signals from their environment. Dr. Dickinson will deliver an award lecture at the Society for Developmental Biology's 83rd Annual Meeting in July.

  UT Austin recruited Dr. Dickinson to Texas from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2017 with a $2 million CPRIT First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty recruitment award (RR170054).

- *Moving Through Cancer*, the first independently produced patient education film from the 501c3 nonprofit Fund for Sustainable Tomorrows, debuted on February 4 as part of the American College of Sports Medicine's celebration of World Cancer Day. The film highlighted programs across the country, including "Active Living After Cancer" (ALAC), a CPRIT-funded project at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center led by Karen Basen-Engquist, Ph.D., M.P.H., director of the Center for Energy Balance in Cancer Prevention and Survivorship. Rather than promote a structured exercise regimen, the ALAC program recommends increased physical activity by incorporating moderately intense activities into daily life.

- On February 5, the Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science, and Technology (TAMEST) and Lyda Hill Philanthropies awarded the 2024 Hill Prize in Medicine to CPRIT grantee Martin M. Matzuk, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Matzuk is director of the Center for Drug Discovery and Stuart A. Wallace Chair, Robert L. Moody, Sr. Chair, and professor in the Department of Pathology and Immunology at Baylor College of Medicine and the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center. TAMEST and the Lyda Hill Philanthropies selected Dr. Matzuk and his team for their novel approach to treating endometriosis, a debilitating chronic disease that occurs when tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows outside the uterus. This affects nearly 190 million women across the globe and has no effective treatment. CPRIT awarded Baylor College of Medicine and Dr. Matzuk a $6 million Core Facility Support Award (RP160805) in 2016 for an innovative pre-clinical drug development facility to identify candidate drugs that inhibit target cancer proteins.

- The Vilcek Foundation announced February 6 that CPRIT Scholar Gerta Hoxhaj, Ph.D., received the Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise in Biomedical Science for her contributions in mapping the molecular links between signaling pathways and metabolic networks of cancer cells with a focus on identifying vulnerabilities for developing cancer targeted therapies. Born in Albania, Dr. Hoxhaj is an assistant professor in the Children's Research Institute and the Department of Biochemistry at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. The Vilcek Foundation Prizes celebrate immigrant professionals in biomedical science and the arts and humanities and their contributions to intellectual and cultural life in the U.S. UT Southwestern recruited Dr. Hoxhaj to Texas from the Harvard School of Public Health in 2019 with the support of a $2 million CPRIT First-time, Tenure-track Scholar Award (RR190087). CPRIT awarded UT Southwestern and Dr. Hoxhaj a $1 million Individual Investigator award in 2024 (RP240035) to research therapeutic strategies for lung cancer by harnessing the metabolic dependencies of mitochondrial NADK2.

- KLTV 7 (Tyler) aired a segment on the CPRIT-funded "Active Living After Cancer" (ALAC) program on February 8. The 12-week ALEC program is a free workshop series that encourages cancer survivors not currently receiving treatment to make healthy choices and incorporate exercise into everyday life. The University of Texas at Tyler administers the ALAC program in East Texas in partnership with The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. CPRIT awarded MD Anderson Cancer Center and Karen Basen-Engquist, Ph.D., M.P.H., five prevention grants (PP130079, PP170023, PP200028, PP230074, PP230069) totaling $6.6 million, to create and expand the ALAC program.

- The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center announced February 12 a partnership with Pfizer Inc. to develop RNA-enhanced delivery technologies for genetic medicine therapies through UT Southwestern's Program in Genetic Drug Engineering. The partnership will further UT Southwestern's research and development of cell-targeted nucleic acid and gene editing therapies that Pfizer may apply to its portfolio of investigational programs.

  CPRIT Scholar Daniel Siegwart, Ph.D., biomedical engineering and biochemistry professor and a member of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, directs the Program in Genetic Drug Engineering. The Siegwart Laboratory is developing lipid nanoparticles for the delivery of microRNA (mRNA), siRNA, genome editors, and other genetic drugs. Dr. Siegwart is a pioneer in developing delivery systems for genome editing, reporting the first-ever *in vivo* CRISPR/Cas genomic edit using synthetic nanoparticles in 2016. UT Southwestern recruited Dr. Siegwart to Texas from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2012 with a $2 million CPRIT First-Time, Tenure-Track Scholar Award (R1212). CPRIT has also awarded UT Southwestern and Dr. Siegwart a $900,000 Individual Investigator Award in 2019 (RP190251) to define and enable the delivery of mRNA and CRISPR therapeutics for hepatocellular carcinoma.

- The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston President Dr. Giuseppe Colasurdo honored CPRIT grantee Zhongming Zhao, Ph.D., with the Presidential Scholar Award for Excellence in Research at a ceremony held February 13. Dr. Zhao's leadership in bioinformatics and cancer research at UTHealth includes the development and deployment of the Center for Precision Health at McWilliams School of Biomedical Informatics, where he serves as professor, chair, and director. CPRIT has granted UT Health and Dr. Zhao a $4 million Research Training Award in 2021 (RP210045) for UTHealth's Biomedical Informatics, Genomics, and Translational Cancer Research Training Program and a $4.4 million CPRIT Core Facility Support Award in 2018 (RP180734) for the UTHealth Cancer Genomics Core. Dr. Zhao currently serves as a principal investigator on seven NIH grants totaling more than $14 million, researching Alzheimer's disease, cancer immunotherapeutics, and deep learning models for genetic research.

- Iterion Therapeutics, a Houston-based biopharmaceutical company developing small molecule inhibitors for the treatment of tumors, announced plans on February 20 to enroll a Phase 1b/2a clinical trial of its lead molecule, tegavivint, in patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) that have failed at least one line of systemic therapy. HCC is the sixth most diagnosed cancer and the third leading cause of cancer death globally. The ongoing clinical trial will enroll 35 patients in dose escalation and optimization cohorts of patients with unresectable locally advanced or metastatic HCC. CPRIT awarded Iterion (formerly Beta Cat Pharmaceuticals) two Product Development grants (CP130058, DP220019) totaling $19 million in 2014 and 2022 to develop tegavivint.

- On February 29, Perimeter Medical Imaging, a commercial-stage medical technology company developing advanced imaging tools for cancer surgery, announced results from a peer-reviewed retrospective study for its "ImgAssist" artificial intelligence technology. From

a clinical perspective, the deep learning model showed elevated levels of sensitivity and specificity, accurately identifying 96.8% of pathology-positive margins. The results highlight the clinical viability of AI-enhanced margin visualization and its potential to decrease reoperation rates due to residual tumors. An ongoing, multi-center, randomized, two-arm, pivotal clinical trial, led by Alastair Thompson, M.D., at Baylor College of Medicine, is evaluating the use of ImgAssist AI software during breast conservation surgery. The company will conduct a planned interim analysis in the second quarter of 2024 and complete the study by the end of 2024. CPRIT awarded Dallas and Toronto based Perimeter a $7.4 million Product Development grant (DP190087) in 2019.

- KUT News interviewed Dr. Navkiran Shokar, M.D., MPH, chair of the Department of Population Health at Dell Medical School, on March 1 about the "Coordinating Center for Colorectal Cancer Screening across Texas" (CONNECT) program. KXAN, Austin's NBC affiliate, also ran a story about this program. The CONNECT program is a statewide stakeholder network for developing, implementing, and disseminating a Texas colorectal cancer screening strategic plan. According to Dr. Shokar, "No other state ... that I'm aware of has this kind of organized system of delivery of care for colorectal cancer screening across the continuum." CPRIT awarded The University of Texas at Austin a $3 million prevention grant (PP230060) in August 2023 to support the CONNECT program.

- On March 4, Molecular Templates announced completion of the Part A dose escalation of their phase 1 study for MT-6402 on patients with head and neck cancer with no Grade 4 or Grade 5 drug-related adverse events observed. The company also reported dosing three patients in the first cohort of the phase 1 study for MT-8421, a drug compound aimed at elimination of immunosuppressive cells, with no grade 3 or grade 4 drug-related adverse events observed. Both drug candidates are based on Molecular Template's proprietary drug platform technology, known as engineered toxin bodies (ETBs). CPRIT awarded the Austin-based clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company two CPRIT Product Development awards totaling $28.8 million (CC121020, DP160071) in 2012 and 2016 to develop ETB drug candidates.

- The Wiess School of Natural Sciences at Rice University launched the Center for Nanoscale Imaging Sciences on March 4. Nanoscale imaging science is a multidisciplinary field that integrates techniques from engineering, physics, chemistry, mathematics, and computer science, including super-resolution optical imaging, electron microscopy, scanning probe microscopy and computer vision, to capture, analyze and interpret images at the nanometer scale, or one-billionth of a meter.

  CPRIT Scholar Anna-Karin Gustavsson, Ph.D., will lead the new center, which will push the frontiers of nanoscale imaging by connecting researchers with common goals and complementary expertise across department and school boundaries and contributing to breakthroughs in fields such as nanotechnology, materials science, biology, and biomedicine. Rice recruited Dr. Gustavsson to Texas from Stanford University in 2020 with the support of a $2 million CPRIT First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty recruitment grant (RR200025).

- The American Cancer Society National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (ACS NCCRT) honored The Southwest Coalition for Colorectal Cancer Screening (SuCCCeS) program at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso on March 7 with the Grand Prize for the 2024 "80% In Every Community National Achievement Award." The award recognizes individuals and organizations dedicating their time, talent, and expertise to advancing initiatives to reach colorectal screening rates of 80% and higher in U.S. communities. ACS NCCRT also highlighted the programs during its 2024 Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month webcast on March 13. The SuCCCeS program works with health care systems and community organizations to reduce colorectal cancer disparities and to fund screening. CPRIT awarded Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso two prevention grants (PP170068, PP210005) totaling $6.18 million to fund the SuCCCeS program.

- PLUS Therapeutics announced March 11 that it completed dosing in Cohort 5 of the ReSPECT-LM Phase 1 dose escalation clinical trial of rhenium (186Re) obisbemeda for the treatment of metastases from solid tumors. Clinicians have not observed any dose limiting toxicities to date in the 18 patients enrolled in the ReSPECT-LM trial. Pending Data Safety Monitoring Board approval, the company plans to initiate dosing in the next cohort in the second quarter of 2024. PLUS Therapeutics also announced March 21 that it successfully completed key validation testing and implementation of its tumor cell enumeration assay, known as CSF-01. The company will use the assay initially as an exploratory endpoint in its ReSPECT-LM clinical trials. CPRIT awarded Austin-based PLUS Therapeutics, a clinical-stage pharmaceutical company developing targeted radiotherapeutics for central nervous system cancers, a $16 million Product Development award in 2022 (DP220039).

- Hummingbird Bioscience co-hosted the third annual VISTA Symposium with Dartmouth's Geisel School of Medicine on March 27. The virtual symposium included renowned scientific experts, clinicians, and industry leaders sharing the latest insights on VISTA biology, and the growing potential of VISTA as a therapeutic target in multiple cancer indications. VISTA, or V-domain immunoglobulin suppressor of T-cell activation, is a potent negative regulator of T cell function expressed on hematopoietic cells and leukocytes. CPRIT approved a $13 million Product Development award to Houston and Singapore-based Hummingbird Bioscience in 2019 (DP190027) to develop a first-in-class anti-VISTA monoclonal antibody to treat MDSC-mediated suppression of anti-tumor immunity in solid tumors and lymphomas.

- The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio announced March 14 the acceptance of CPRIT Scholar David Gius, M.D., Ph.D., into the prestigious Association of American Physicians (AAP). Dr. Gius is associate director of translational research at the Mays Cancer Center, and assistant dean of research and professor of radiation oncology in the Long School of Medicine. AAP is an honorary medical society founded in 1885 to support the advancement of scientific and practical medicine. Election to the AAP is an honor extended to no more than 70 physicians per year with outstanding credentials in basic or translational biomedical research.

UT Health San Antonio recruited Dr. Gius to Texas from the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center at Northwestern University in 2020 with a $6 million CPRIT Established Investigator recruitment award (RR200112). He studies the cellular processes that govern aging, cellular and mitochondrial metabolism, and cancer, with a primary focus on breast cancer.

- In recognition of Colorectal Cancer Awareness month, KBTX3 (Bryan) interviewed Jason McKnight, M.D., associate professor at the Texas A&M School of Medicine on March 19 about the Texas Cancer Screening, Training, Education and Prevention Program (C-STEP) project. Funded by CPRIT since 2018, the C-STEP project provides life-saving cancer screenings and advanced diagnostics through the Texas A&M family medicine residency training program. C-STEP has dramatically expanded the availability of various cancer screenings for safety-net patients and increased the number of family medicine physicians trained to conduct colonoscopy screenings. CPRIT awarded the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center two CPRIT prevention grants (PP180037, PP220013) totaling $4 million to provide colorectal cancer screening, education, and patient navigation, to residents of 23 mostly rural Texas counties.

- InformAI announced March 21 the addition of Mark Kaye as a strategic advisor. Mr. Kaye joins the company to support product and market strategy for RadOnc-AI, the company's radiation dose plan optimization software-as-a-medical device platform. Prior to joining InformAI, he served as Area Vice President for Software and Strategic Initiatives at ViewRay Technologies, where he led the market execution for ViewRay's new radiation therapy software portfolio. CPRIT awarded Houston-based InformAI a $1.55 million Product Development See Company award in 2022 (DP220063).

- The American Society for Laser Medicine & Surgery (ASLMS) announced that CPRIT grantee Zhenpeng Qin, Ph.D., the Eugene McDermott Distinguished Professor in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science at The University of Texas at Dallas, will receive the Dr. Horace Furumoto Innovations Professional Development Young Investigator Award at the ASLMS Annual Conference on April 13. The ASLMS supports the development and application of lasers and related technology for health care applications.

  Dr. Qin's laboratory develops nanotechnology-based approaches to deliver and release medicine in the brain. CPRIT awarded UT Dallas and Dr. Qin five CPRIT grants (RP180846, RP190278, RP210236, RP240133, RP160770), totaling $2.7 million, supporting his work to deliver cancer treatments through the blood-brain barrier. Recently, Dr. Qin and collaborators from The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center developed a technique to deliver medication through the blood-brain barrier that has shown promise in preclinical studies for treating glioblastoma, the most common human brain cancer.

- **Improving Outcomes for Children with Liver Cancer.** Hepatoblastoma (HB) is the most common liver cancer in children. The incidence of HB increased rapidly worldwide over the last decade - the steepest rise among all pediatric solid tumors. Patients with metastatic, treatment-refractory, and relapsed HB have survival rates of less than 50% and urgently need more effective therapies. A team led by Sanjeev Vasudevan, M.D., an associate professor in the Department of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine and the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center, is working to improve therapies for this devastating disease. They recently reported a novel treatment strategy with encouraging results in animal models in the January 17 edition of the *Journal of Hepatology*.

  To develop new therapeutic strategies for HB patients, the research team first developed a preclinical testing pipeline with clinically relevant HB models. Given that patients with HB have elevated levels of the histone deacetylase (HDAC) enzyme, the investigators explored an effective combination treatment strategy utilizing HDAC inhibition. To this end, the researchers first assessed several HDAC inhibitors for their ability to kill patient-derived HB cell lines grown in the lab. They found that the HDAC inhibitor panobinostat was the most effective at eliminating cancer cells. They then tested whether adding panobinostat to current chemotherapy regimens would improve tumor response. The researchers screened these treatments in patient-derived spheroids - spherical cellular aggregates derived from human tumor samples – and demonstrated that adding panobinostat to combination treatment including vincristine and irinotecan eliminated more tumor cells than any of the other combinations.

  Using the new combination therapy of vincristine, irinotecan and panobinostat (VIP), the investigators evaluated VIP in four aggressive animal models utilizing patient-derived xenografts of HB derived from high-risk, relapsed and treatment-refractory HBs. The molecular characterization of the tumors in these animal models showed that they contained all mutations found in the human tumors of origin, as well as other molecular markers present in patient tumor samples. This indicated that the tumors in the animal models closely matched those in the patients. The investigators demonstrated that VIP chemotherapy can induce an effective tumor response in models developed from patients with high-risk, relapsed, and treatment-refractory HB - providing preclinical evidence to support the VIP combination therapy as an arm in future clinical trials.

  CPRIT awarded Baylor College of Medicine and HB study co-author Dr. Dolores Lopez-Terrada a $6 million Multi-Investigator Research Award in 2018 (RP180674) to develop predictive biomarkers and novel therapies for high-risk pediatric liver cancers. A CPRIT-funded $4 million Patient-derived Xenograft and Advanced In Vivo Models Core Facility at Baylor College of Medicine (RP220646, HB study co-author and Principal Investigator Dr. Michael Lewis) generated the patient-derived models used to assess therapies for HB.

- **Do Ductal or Acinar Cells Give Rise to Pancreatic Cancer?** Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) is the most common type of pancreatic cancer and one of the

deadliest cancers. Scientists predict that it will be the second leading cause of cancer-associated death by 2040. Although prevention and early diagnosis are the most promising strategies for improving PDAC survival rates, several gaps exist in our current understanding of where PDAC starts in the body or whether pancreatic acinar cells or ductal cells leads to PDAC in humans. As reported January 27 in *Nature Communications*, a research team led by CPRIT Scholar Pei Wang, Ph.D., and investigators at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio used an elegant approach to provide new insights into the lineage-specific aspects of PDAC pathogenesis, which may inform future advancements in PDAC diagnosis, prevention, and treatment.

Dr. Want's team established long-term culture systems for primary (non-malignant) human pancreatic acinar and ductal cells to create 3D organoids, followed by genetic engineering to reconstruct mutations present in early human PDAC development. By studying the changes in gene expression during the transition from normal cells to cancerous cells, the researchers provided direct evidence that both human acinar and ductal cells may lead to pancreatic cancer formation. They discovered that when acinar cells mutated, they changed their gene expression patterns to resemble those of pancreatic cancer cells, but they needed mutations in multiple genes to fully transform into cancer cells. Similarly, ductal cells with these mutations could also form pancreatic cancer. The investigators also reported a list of highly expressed genes during early transformation and in clinical PDAC samples. These genes could be potential targets for PDAC diagnostic tests.

UT Health San Antonio recruited Dr. Wang, an associate professor in the Department of Cell Systems and Anatomy and the Mays Cancer Center, to Texas from Stanford University with a $1.9 million First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member recruitment grant in 2012 (R1219). The $4 million CPRIT Cancer Genome Sequencing and Computation Core Facility Award granted to UT Health San Antonio in 2022 (RP220662, Principal Investigator Dr. Yidong Chen) and the $3.6 million CPRIT High Parameter Analysis, Sorting, and Imaging Flow Cytometry Core Facility Award granted to UT Health San Antonio in 2021 (RP210126, Principal Investigator Dr. Michael Berton) also supported this work. Two CPRIT Research Training Awards (RP140105, RP170345) totaling $5.6 million to UT Health San Antonio and led by Dr. Babatunde Oyajobi also supported several authors through pre-doctoral or post-doctoral fellowships.

- **Targeting Epigenetic Modifiers to Prevent Breast Cancer Metastasis.** Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women and the second most common cancer overall. Most breast cancer-related deaths are due to metastatic spread to distant organs. Cancer cells migrate and invade surrounding tissues via a multi-step metastatic cascade. Controlling breast cancer progression requires determining the molecular mechanisms promoting this invasive phenotype and identifying critical molecular drivers. As reported in the January 31 issue of *Cell Discovery*, researchers from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center have discovered a compelling opportunity to prevent breast cancer metastasis by targeting a required cellular signaling network.

The research team, led by lead investigators CPRIT Scholar Pawel Mazur, Ph.D., and Nicolas Reynoird, Ph.D., focused on protein modifications, which are crucial for controlling how cells function. They concentrated on a specific type called lysine methylation, which has strong ties to cancer and offers potential for targeted therapy. To understand how this process affects breast cancer's ability to spread, they studied data from breast cancer patients and pinpointed a key enzyme, SMYD2.

Using genetically engineered mice models with breast cancer, the researchers discovered that SMYD2 plays a crucial role in promoting the spread of cancer cells to other parts of the body, without affecting the growth of the initial tumor. By blocking SMYD2's function, they were able to significantly improve the mice's overall survival by preventing metastasis.

Dr. Mazur's team found that SMYD2 works through a protein called BCAR3, which, when modified by SMYD2, helps cancer cells move and invade other tissues. When the investigators stopped SMYD2 from methylating BCAR3, the breast cancer cells lost their ability to spread both in lab dishes and in the mice. This study opens new possibilities for developing innovative treatments to prevent breast cancer from metastasizing by targeting the SMYD2-BCAR3 pathway.

MD Anderson recruited Dr. Mazur to Texas from Stanford University with a $2 million CPRIT First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member recruitment grant in 2016 (RR160078). Dr. Mazur, assistant professor, Department of Experimental Radiation Oncology, is also the principal investigator for a $1 million Individual Investigator Research Award (RP220391) granted to MD Anderson in 2022. A $4 million CPRIT Research Training Award (RP210028, principal investigator Dr. Khandan Keyomarsi) granted to MD Anderson in 2021 provided support to co-author and trainee, Xiaoyin Lu.

- **Is Chronic Circadian Dysfunction - AKA Chronic Jet Lag –A Risk Factor for Cancer?** Thanks to public health and cancer prevention efforts, we are aware of the cancer risk factors, including smoking, diet, chemicals, and exposure to UV light radiation. However, few people would name poor sleep or chronic jet lag (also known as chronic circadian dysfunction) as a risk factor. Circadian rhythm is the 24-hour internal timekeeper in our brain that regulates cycles of alertness, sleepiness and many body functions by syncing with the planet's day-and-night cycle.

  Although human epidemiological studies have linked chronic circadian dysfunction to increased risk for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD)-related hepatocellular cancer, scientists lack direct evidence. A recent study, published February 6 in the *Journal of Hepatology,* led by Loning Fu, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Department of Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center, together with collaborators at Duke University and the University of California, Berkeley, is the first to experimentally demonstrate that chronic circadian dysfunction is indeed a human carcinogen. This study suggests that long-term disruptions to our internal clock, like working night shifts or constant long-distance travel, increase the risk of liver cancer. It also

provides insight into how NAFLD leads to liver cancer and emphasizes the importance of our internal body clock in preventing and treating liver cancer.

Dr. Fu and her colleagues worked with a humanized mouse model that has both human and mouse liver cells in the animal's liver, exposing some mice on a normal day-and-night cycle. The researchers exposed other mice to light and dark periods that mirrored the changes a person experiences when flying back and forth from San Francisco to London every week for many weeks. Compared to mice exposed to normal light/dark cycles, mice in the jet-lagged group had a shorter lifespan, increased cirrhosis and jaundice, and developed cancers in both the human and mouse liver cells. Blood analyses and histological analyses of the livers revealed many similarities between humanized mice and patients with liver cancer, including glucose intolerance, abnormal fat accumulation in the liver, inflammation, and fibrosis. The researchers noted that returning the mice to a normal circadian clock slows tumor development and prevents metastasis.

Dr. Fu used the technical resources offered through two CPRIT-funded core facilities at Baylor College of Medicine. CPRIT awarded Baylor College of Medicine and Dr. Dean Edwards $4 million in 2021 (RP210227) for the Proteomics and Metabolomics Core Facility. Baylor College of Medicine and Dr. Rui Chen received $4 million in 2020 (RP200504) for the Comprehensive Cancer Epigenomics Core Facility.

- Research published in the February 8 edition of *Annals of Surgical Oncology* provides a comprehensive understanding of population-level reoperation rates and incremental healthcare costs associated with patients who require reoperations after undergoing breast-conserving surgery. CPRIT grantee Perimeter Medical Imaging provided partial support for the retrospective study conducted by researchers from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. The research team reviewed records for 24,000 women with commercial insurance or were Medicare beneficiaries who had initial breast conserving surgery between 2017 and 2019. One-year follow-up information indicated that 21% of the commercially insured women and 15% of the Medicare beneficiaries required reoperation. These reoperations correlated with a 24% increase in costs for both the commercial and Medicare cohorts, translating into incremental expenses of $21,607 and $8,559, respectively. The researchers reported that the reoperations increased the risk of complication by 54% in the commercial cohort and 89% in the Medicare cohort.

- **Retrofitting Glucose Monitoring Technology for Accurate Dosing of Cancer Treatments.** Low-cost, user-friendly, point-of-care (POC) sensors that collect patient health information improve healthcare access and delivery and reduce healthcare costs. An example is the glucometer, which measures the concentration of glucose in the blood for various clinical analyses. Led by CPRIT Scholar Caroline Ajo-Franklin, Ph.D., a team of synthetic biologists at Rice University are creating a new generation of affordable bioelectronic biosensors for cancer. These devices merge conductive materials and biological electronics for dynamic sensing by building on mature biosensing technology commercially available at most drug stores for under $20.

As reported in the February 24 issue of *Nature Communications*, Dr. Ajo-Franklin's team hopes to speed the development of automated dosing systems for chemotherapies and other drugs as well as other technologies for real-time monitoring of biomarkers. The Rice researchers developed an estrogen glucometer to monitor levels 4-hydroxytamoxifen (4-HT) in the blood. 4-HT is a byproduct of tamoxifen, which oncologists use to treat certain types of breast cancer. To enhance the device's accuracy when glucose is also present in the blood, the researchers developed an algorithm that distinguishes between signals from glucose and 4-HT. The researchers also harnessed glucose to power the sensor, eliminating the need for bulky batteries. Healthcare providers can access the device in POC settings to monitor a patient's 4-HT levels, which is crucial for preventing drug resistance or cancer recurrence.

This Rice University technology, which demonstrates a broad interdisciplinary approach that capitalizes on recent innovations in protein engineering, electrochemical sensing, and electrical engineering, could dramatically lower the costs and development times for automated drug dosing systems for chemotherapies and other drugs commonly taken for chronic health conditions.

Rice University recruited Dr. Ajo-Franklin, an international leader in the fields of synthetic biology and electro microbiology, to Texas from the Ernest Orlando Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in 2019 with a $6 million CPRIT Established Investigator recruitment award (RR190063).

- Abbey Berenson, M.D., Ph.D., professor, Departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Pediatrics, and director, Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Women's Health at The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, and colleagues examined parental attitudes towards earlier vaccine initiation. The team interviewed parents of 9 and 10-year-old children who received vaccination counseling using qualitative analysis methods. The data, published in *Vaccines* on February 27, 2024, revealed that many participants preferred starting the HPV vaccine series when their child was a teenager. Recurrent themes included concerns about vaccine side effects, limited knowledge and exposure to vaccine information, and mistrust in the healthcare system. UTMB received three CPRIT Prevention grants (PP150004, PP190004, PP240022) totaling $6.4 million in support of this program.

- **Fine-Tuning Combination Immunotherapy to Treat Liver Cancer.** Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the fastest growing cause of cancer deaths among Americans, with Texas now leading the nation in the incidence and mortality of liver cancer. Risk factors include viral hepatitis, alcohol-related cirrhosis, and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease; however, there are no effective screening tests for HCC. Clinicians need more effective systemic treatments for HCC to combat the growing burden of this disease.

  Researchers are exploring combination therapies using immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) to improve the treatment of HCC. While single agent ICIs showed limited effectiveness, combining them has shown promise in providing better anti-tumor effects and improving HCC survival rates. However, these combinations often come with an increased risk of specific toxicities, reducing their viability as treatment options. New Phase 2 trial results

reported in *Nature Communications* on March 11 spark renewed interest in combination ICIs for the effective treatment of HCC.

In this trial, a team of investigators at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and the Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center led by CPRIT Scholar Yujin Hoshida, M.D., Ph.D., and Adam C. Yopp, M.D., evaluated a novel approach using a genetically engineered antibody called bavituximab, which targets a molecule called phosphatidylserine, alongside pembrolizumab, an anti-PD-1 drug. The idea was to enhance the immune system's response to cancer cells by targeting phosphatidylserine, potentially boosting the effectiveness of immunotherapy. The trial involved patients with advanced HCC who had not received prior systemic therapies. The results showed that 32.1% of patients responded positively to the treatment, meeting the study's main goal. The average time before the cancer progressed was 6.3 months.

Importantly, patients in the trial tolerated the combination therapy with manageable side effects. Analyses of the patients' tumor samples also revealed certain characteristics associated with a positive response to the treatment, which could guide future studies in refining and optimizing this treatment approach.

UT Southwestern recruited Dr. Hoshida, associate professor of internal medicine and director of the Liver Tumor Translational Research Program, to Texas from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai with a $4 million Rising Star recruitment award in 2018 (RR180016).

TAMEST Awards CPRIT the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Distinguished Service Award

The Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science and Technology (TAMEST) presented CPRIT with the Kay Bailey Hutchison Distinguished Service Award at their 2024 Annual Conference held in Austin February 5-7. Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Michelle Le Beau and I accepted the award on behalf of CPRIT at the opening reception of the conference on February 5. Oversight Committee members Dr. Bill Rice, Dr. Craig Rosenfeld, Dee Margo, and Will Montgomery attended the February 5 evening awards ceremony. Former Oversight Committee member Tom Luce, Deputy Executive Officer and General Counsel Kristen Doyle and Chief Operating Officer Heidi McConnell also attended.

TAMEST established the Kay Bailey Hutchison Distinguished Service Award in 2013 to recognize individuals and organizations who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in furthering TAMEST's mission to bring together the state's brightest minds in medicine, engineering, science, and technology to foster collaboration and to advance research, innovation, and business in Texas.

TAMEST named its highest honor after The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, former United States Senator, and former United States Permanent Representative to NATO, who received the

inaugural award for her vision and commitment to advancing scientific research, technology innovation and educational achievement.

CPRIT is the eighth recipient of this award. Past recipients include Dr. John L. Junkins and the Hagler Institute for Advanced Study, Texas A&M University (2021); The Office of the President, The University of Texas at Austin (2020); Exxon Mobil Corporation (2017); Larry Faulkner and Kenneth Jastrow (2016); Peter O'Donnell Jr. (2014); The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison (2013).

Texas Life Science Summit in Austin on April 2

CPRIT is co-hosting the inaugural Texas Life Science Summit with the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute (THBI) on April 2. The summit, held at the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown, will bring together state leaders, life sciences companies, economic development organizations, academic institutions, and service providers that support the Texas ecosystem. It will be an interactive opportunity to discuss workforce issues and commercialization efforts and make plans for future growth of the industry. The agenda covers important topics to promote Texas more effectively, increase awareness of the strong workforce in Texas, and help Texas-based life science companies find tools and resources to assist with their efforts to get to the marketplace.

Deputy Executive Officer and General Counsel Kristen Doyle will be a member of the "Surviving the Valley of Death" panel. In addition to panel presentations throughout the day, there will be a company expo, industry partnership meetings, and an industry networking reception. This unique gathering of the industry will bring together all of Texas's bio clusters to network and encourage collaboration.

Personnel

CPRIT has filled 48 full-time equivalent positions, and the Chief Executive Officer position is in progress.

CPRIT Outreach

Staff outreach activities during February and March include:

- Director of Academic Research Dr. Patty Moore attended the 2024 NIH Grants Policy Updates via zoom on February 1.

- Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Michelle Le Beau presented at a workshop held February 5 during the Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science, and Technology (TAMEST) Annual Conference in Austin. The workshop was an opportunity for university and medical

center research leaders in Texas to learn about CPRIT and semiconductor innovation in Texas and large-scale collaborative research opportunities.

- Dr. Le Beau attended the International Conference on Cancer Health Disparities held February 9-10 and sponsored by The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. In addition to delivering a presentation, "CPRIT: Catalyzing the Fight Against Cancer in Texas," Dr. Le Beau was a panel member for the "Roundtable Discussion on Cancer Health Disparities Research: Current Trends and Best Practices in Grant Funding."

- Product Development Program Manager Dr. Michelle Leeuwon virtually attended the FDA-AACR Workshop held February 15-16 on optimizing dosages for oncology drug products, co-hosted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Office of Clinical Pharmacology and the American Association for Cancer Research. Discussions emphasized the importance of leveraging existing data and new trial methodologies to improve patient outcomes.

- Prevention Program Manager Carlton Allen attended the fourth biennial Advancing the Science of Cancer in Latinos conference hosted by The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio on February 21 – 23. The conference brought together national leaders to discuss gaps in Latino healthcare, share research advancements, and devise actionable goals to translate basic research into clinical best practices, effective community interventions, and professional training programs to eliminate cancer disparities in Latinos. The Latino population is the largest, youngest, and fastest-growing minority group in the nation. Researchers predict that Latinos will face a 142% rise in cancer cases.

- Dr. Le Beau and Senior Product Development Program Manager Dr. Abria Magee addressed the recent innovations in cancer research, diagnosis, and treatment at the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Research and Health Equity Breakfast on February 22 at the Junior League of Houston. They joined several key stakeholders throughout the oncology community discussing how changing methods and recent technologies impact diagnosis, treatment, and delivery of cancer care and how Texas geography affects access to innovation.

- Dr. Le Beau participated in the American Cancer Society Board of Directors meeting on February 22.

- Deputy Executive Officer and General Counsel Kristen Doyle and Dr. Leeuwon met with several representatives from the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) on February 22 to discuss CIRM's industry alliance program.

- Chief Operating Officer Heidi McConnell, Ms. Doyle, and I discussed the upcoming 2025 legislative session with staff of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on March 4.

- Dr. Moore, in her role as vice chair of the State Agency Council (SAC), planned and facilitated the Council's first all-member meeting of the year held March 4.

- On March 8, Ms. Doyle and Ms. McConnell attended the Houston Days lunch event for legislators, legislative staff, and state leadership staff at the Texas Medical Center (TMC) Helix Park. Hosted by the Greater Houston Partnership, TMC, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Baylor College of Medicine, Rice University, and the University of Houston, the event highlighted the work and facilities driving global health forwards. A panel of experts, moderated by CPRIT Scholar Dr. Jim Allison, discussed the impact of CPRIT and other health innovators on the Houston and Texas economies.

- Ms. Doyle met with BrightEdge Managing Director Alice Pomponio and Director for New Ventures Steve Curtis on March 11 to discuss collaboration opportunities. BrightEdge is the venture capital arm of the American Cancer Society.

- Dr. Le Beau participated in the March 20 meeting of the National Cancer Institute's Board of Scientific Advisors to evaluate the impact of current grant programs and advise on concepts for requests for applications.

- Ms. Doyle, Ms. McConnell, and I discussed future CPRIT funding issues with staff of the Texas Public Finance Authority on March 20.

- Product Development Program Manager Dr. Michelle Leeuwon was an invited member of the panel "Seed Funds - Investing in Innovation in the Earliest Stages" at the Redefining Early Stage Investments (RESI) South conference held March 25 in Atlanta. She also served as a judge for an investment pitch competition for therapeutics and oncology start-up presentations. She met with several companies to discuss CPRIT funding opportunities and to identify collaboration prospects.

- On March 25, Dr. Magee participated in the Accelerator for Cancer Therapeutics (ACT) program cohort event at the Texas Medical Center. She gave a presentation on the product development program award process in a session titled "Non-Dilutive Funding."

- On March 26, Program Manager for Academic Research Dr. Myriam Casillas and Dr. Moore attended the NIH webinar, "Machine Learning in Cancer Care Delivery: Moving from Model Validation to Clinical Workflow."

- Dr. Magee and Dr. Leeuwon met with several companies in February and March to discuss CPRIT funding opportunities and to identify collaboration prospects. Companies included Resilience, Texas A&M Innovations, LabCorp, Alveolus Bio, Aleutian Therapeutics, BioHub Nash, LeukoGene Therapeutics, Moexa, Allai Health, SiNon Nano Science, ACON Pharmaceuticals, WiNK Therapeutics, Molecular You, Radius Research, Jeeva Clinical Trials, Angus McQuilken, WuXi Biologics, CAIVanquish Bio, and TAE Life Sciences.

- Ms. Doyle, Ms. McConnell, and I met with Representative Senfronia Thompson and her legislative director on March 28 to discuss the 2025 legislative session.

Compliance Program Update

Submission Status of Required Grant Recipient Reports

As of March 21, 18 entities had not filed 37 academic research reports, eight product development reports, and five prevention reports. CPRIT's grant accountants and compliance specialists review and process incoming reports and reach out to grantees to resolve filing issues. In most cases, CPRIT does not disburse grant funds until the grantee files the required reports. In some instances, grantee institutions may be ineligible to receive a future award if the grantee does not submit required reports.

Financial Status Report Reviews

CPRIT's compliance specialists performed 295 second-level reviews of grantee Financial Status Reports (FSRs) in February and March. Fifty-six FSRs (19%) needed resubmission due to insufficient or inaccurate documentation sent by the grantee. CPRIT's grant accounting staff completes the first review of the FSRs and supporting documentation before routing them to the compliance specialists for final review and disposition.

Desk Reviews

Compliance specialists performed five enhanced desk-based financial monitoring reviews in February and March. Desk reviews confirm financial, administrative, and programmatic compliance using data from CGMS/CARS with additional focus on an organization's internal controls, current and previous fiscal audits, and grantee report submission timeliness. Desk reviews also aid in the identification of potential problems and technical assistance issues for follow-up during an onsite visit, as well as areas of non-compliance and grantee performance issues. Compliance specialists have cleared all desk review findings.

Onsite Reviews

CPRIT completed seven onsite reviews in February and March. Onsite reviews are the most extensive monitoring activity conducted by CPRIT and include virtual or field visits led by compliance grant monitoring staff. CPRIT monitors the grantee's financial and administrative operations, subcontract monitoring, procurement and contracting procedures, inventory procedures, personnel policies and procedures, payroll and timesheet policies, travel policies and records, and compliance with single audits during onsite reviews. Onsite monitoring enables CPRIT compliance staff to assess a grantees' capability, performance, and compliance with applicable laws, rules, and policies. Compliance specialists are collaborating with five grantees to address onsite review findings.

Single Audit Tracking

Compliance specialists track the submission of grantees' independent audit reports and the resolution of issues named in these reports. Grantees spending $750,000 or more in state awards in the grantee's fiscal year must undertake a single independent audit, a program specific audit, or an agreed upon procedures engagement. The grantee sends the independent audit report with findings to CPRIT within 30 days of receipt, but no later than nine months after the grantee's fiscal year end.

Currently, one grantee has not submitted the required audit. Grantees are unable to receive reimbursements or advances if they are delinquent in filing the required audit and corrective action plan unless the grantee requested more time by the due date of the required audit and CPRIT's CEO approves the request. Compliance staff is working with the grantee.

Match Expenditures Review

CPRIT requires academic research and product development research grantees to show that they have available unused funds equal to at least one-half of the CPRIT grant award that the grantee will spend on the CPRIT-funded project. This obligation, often referred to as "CPRIT's matching funds requirement," requires the grantee to first certify that it has available matching funds, and then at the end of the grant year, to verify that the grantee spent the matching funds on the project. CPRIT's statute allows an institution of higher education to use its federal indirect cost rate as a credit toward the required 50% match.

Product development grantees, as well as those academic research grantees whose indirect cost rate credit does not fully offset the required match must supply a detailed match expenditure report that includes the amount and date paid, vendor, description, and budget category. Compliance staff review grantees' match expenditures for appropriateness and allowability and work with CPRIT's grant accountants and the grantee to address any deficiencies. Compliance staff performed nine annual match expenditure reviews in February and March. The total amount of match expenses reviewed by compliance staff for FY 2024 is $24,639,078.54. The unallowable match expenses for FY 2024 total $225,369.40.

Training and Support

CPRIT staff conducted a series of Annual Compliance Training webinars on March 6-7 for 78 grantee staff. Training is specific to each program area (Academic Research, Product Development Research, and Prevention) and allows for an interactive experience and opportunity to focus on topics relevant to each program. The trainings cover grant reporting requirements, administrative rule changes, grant closeout, and an overview of the compliance program including fraud, waste, and abuse reporting. This was the third training series offered this year for the annual compliance training requirement which requires the Authorized Signing Official (ASO) and at least one other employee from each grantee organization to attend an annual compliance training by December 31 of each year.
CPRIT staff conducted three new Authorized Signing Official (ASO) training webinars in February and March for The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, and Texas Tech University. The ASO training covers grant reporting

requirements, administrative rule changes, grant closeout, and an overview of the compliance program including fraud, waste, and abuse reporting. Pursuant to Texas Administrative Code §703.22, CPRIT requires new ASOs to complete compliance training within 60 days.

Academic Research Program Update

Recruitment FY 2024 Review Cycle 6 - 7

CPRIT accepted recruitment applications November 21, 2023 – January 22, 2024, for the sixth and seventh review cycles of FY 2024. CPRIT's Scientific Review Council (SRC) reviewed the applications on February 8. Dr. Le Beau will present the SRC's recommendations to the Program Integration Committee (PIC) and the Oversight Committee in May.

FY 24 Mechanism	Received	Requested	Recommended	Recommended
Recruitment of Established Investigators	1	$6,000,000	1	$6,000,000
Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members	3	$ 6,000,000	2	$4 ,000,000
Recruitment of Rising Stars	4	$16,000,000	2	$8,000,000
TOTAL	**8**	**$28,000,000**	**5**	**$18,000,000**

Academic Research FY 2024 Review Cycle 2 (24.2)

On September 14, 2023, CPRIT released several RFAs for the second cycle of FY 2024 and accepted applications October 17, 2023 – January 16, 2024. Peer review panels will meet in late April to consider the applications. Dr. Le Beau will present the SRC's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in August.

FY 24 Cycle 2 Mechanism	Received	Funds Requested
Clinical Investigator Award	6	$6,624,889
Core Facility Support Awards	22	$58,593,485
High-Impact/High-Risk Research Awards	101	$25,065,092
Multi-Investigator Research Awards	18	$77,774,808
TOTAL	**147**	**$168,058,274**

Academic Research FY 2025 Review Cycle 1 (25.1)

CPRIT posted a *Collaborative Action Program to Reduce Liver Cancer Mortality in Texas: Collaborative Action Center (Competitive Renewal)* RFA and six *Individual Investigator* RFAs for the first review cycle of FY 2025 on February 22. We will accept applications March 19 - June 11. Peer reviewers will meet in October to evaluate the applications. Dr. Le Beau will present the SRC's recommendations for the cycle 25.1 grants to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in February 2025.

Product Development Research Program Update

Product Development FY 2024 Cycle 2 Review (24.2)

CPRIT released four FY 2024 Product Development Research RFAs for the 24.2 review cycle on November 29, 2023, and opened the portal to receive preliminary applications December 1, 2023. CPRIT received 63 preliminary applications by the December 11, 2023, deadline. After administratively withdrawing three applications for non-compliance, CPRIT assigned the 60 preliminary applications to eight review panels on December 15, 2023. Because of the smaller overall award budget ($20 million) remaining for the 24.2 cycle, CPRIT capped the maximum amount a non-Seed company may request at $5 million. The regular $3 million budget cap for Seed awards remains the same in this cycle.

The reviewers individually evaluated and scored the assigned preliminary applications and then met as a panel January 18 – 22 to rank the preliminary applications. The Product Development Review Council (PDRC) met January 23 to finalize a comprehensive ranked list of preliminary applications.

On January 24, CPRIT issued invitations to submit full applications to the eleven companies receiving the best preliminary application scores in the 24.2 cycle. In addition to the companies submitting preliminary applications in the 24.2 cycle, seven companies were eligible to submit full applications based on their performance in the 24.1 preliminary application review cycle. Five of the seven companies indicated they intended to submit full applications in the 24.2 cycle.

Fifteen companies submitted full applications by the February 13 deadline, although one withdrew its Seed Company application from consideration before the scheduled panel presentation. Live presentations to the full review panels occurred March 18 – March 27. Based upon the application scores and presentations to the panels, six companies moved forward to due diligence review, which is on-going through mid-April. The PDRC will submit its final recommendations to the PIC by April 23. Dr. Smith will present the PDRC's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in May.

24.2 Mechanism	Prelim Apps	Total Request	Full Apps	Total Request	Due Diligence	Total Request
Texas Therapeutic Company	17	$84.1 M	5	$25.0 M	2	$10 M
Texas Device/Diag. Company	2	$10.0 M	0	--	0	--
Texas New Tech Company	10	$47.8 M	2	$ 9.9M	0	--
Seed Company	31	$88.1 M	8	$24.0 M	4	$12 M
TOTAL	**60**	**$230.0 M**	**15**	**$58.9 M**	**6**	**$22.0 M**

Prevention Program Update

Prevention FY 2025 Review Cycle 1 (25.1)

The Prevention Program released three RFAs, *Primary Prevention of Cancer, Cancer Screening and Early Detection,* and *Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions*, on February 9 for the first review cycle of FY 2025. CPRIT will accept applications through June 6, with peer review taking place in August and September. Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid will present the Prevention Review Council's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in November.

Advisory Committees

- The Clinical Trials Advisory Committee working group met February 21 and March 29.
- The Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancer met February 12 and 26, and March 25.

Operations and Finance Update

The evaluation team for CPRIT's financial audit services solicitation, Chief Operating Officer Heidi McConnell, Operations Manager Lisa Nelson and CPRIT Accountant Michelle Huddleston, have completed their review of submitted proposals and will meet to select a vendor.

Ms. McConnell, Ms. Nelson, Communications Director Mark Loeffler, and Digital Communications Specialist Justin Rand are working on the Agency Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2025 to 2029, which CPRIT will submit to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and Office of the Governor by June 1.

Ms. McConnell and Operations Specialist Dan Limas are working on the agency's Base Reconciliation for the 2024-25 Biennium. CPRIT will submit the base reconciliation to the LBB and Office of the Governor by May 3. CPRIT's base reconciliation report and the Agency Strategic Plan serve as precursors for the agency's Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) for the 2026-27 Biennium. The LBB and the Office of the Governor have not yet released the LAR instructions.

Upcoming Subcommittee Meetings

Listed below are the subcommittee meetings in advance of the May 15 Oversight Committee meeting. We will send instructions for signing onto the Microsoft Teams platform along with the subcommittee agenda and meeting materials one week prior to each meeting.

Board Governance	May 2 at 10:00 a.m.

Audit	May 6 at 10:00 a.m.
Prevention	May 7 at 12:00 p.m.
Academic Research	May 8 at 12:00 p.m.
Product Development	May 9 at 10:00 a.m.

******

CPRIT has awarded **1,967** grants totaling **$3.54 billion:**

- 303 prevention awards totaling $380.7 million
- 1,664 academic research and product development research awards totaling $3.16 billion

Of the $3.16 billion in academic research and product development research awards,

- 32.2% of the funding ($1.02 billion) supports clinical research projects.
- 23.6% of the funding ($744.7 million) supports translational research projects.
- 29.2% of funding ($923.4 million) supports recruitment awards.
- 12.2% of the funding ($384.2 million) supports discovery stage research projects.
- 2.9% of funding ($90.4 million) supports training programs.

CPRIT has 10 open Requests for Applications (RFAs)

- 7 Academic Research
- 3 Prevention

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	WAYNE R. ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT:	CPRIT ACTIVITIES UPDATE FOR APRIL 2024
DATE:	MAY 1, 2024

Topics in this memo address CPRIT activities in April, including preparations for the upcoming May 15 Oversight Committee meeting, recent milestones in our fight against cancer, a staffing summary, outreach efforts, and updates from Compliance, Programs, and Operations.

Planning for the May 15 Oversight Committee Meeting

The Oversight Committee will meet in person on Wednesday, May 15, in the Barbara Jordan Building. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. We will have a full agenda with 18 grant award recommendations, an annual report from the University Advisory Committee, and an executive session. Please notify me as soon as possible if you are unable to attend the May 15 meeting or have schedule constraints that require you to arrive at the meeting after 8:30 a.m. or leave prior to 12:30 p.m.

You will receive an email from CPRIT by May 3 with a link and password to access the Program Integration Committee's award recommendations via the grant award portal. The portal has a summary of the award slates, as well as supporting documentation for each proposed award, including the application, CEO affidavit, summary statement, and grant pedigree. Please allow time to complete the individual conflict of interest checks and review the supporting material.

Attached is a draft meeting agenda. CPRIT will post the final agenda for the Oversight Committee meeting by May 7. Oversight Committee members will receive an electronic copy of the agenda packet by May 8. Hard copies of the agenda and proposed award packet will be available at the meeting.

Recent Milestones in the Fight Against Cancer

<u>CPRIT Grantees in the News</u>

- The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) announced March 20 that CPRIT Grantee Richard Gorlick, M.D., will receive the 2024 ASCO Pediatric Oncology Award at the annual ASCO meeting in June. First awarded in 2002, the ASCO Pediatric Oncology Award recognizes the career and achievements of an individual who has contributed

outstanding scientific work - laboratory, clinical, or epidemiologic - of major importance to the field of pediatric oncology.

This accolade acknowledges Dr. Gorlick's dedication and contributions to the field of global oncology. Dr. Gorlick is division head and department chair of pediatrics at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and serves as director of the Pediatric Sarcoma Research Laboratory. For more than two decades, his research and clinical efforts have focused on sarcomas, which are tumors that grow in connective tissues including the bones, muscles, tendons, and cartilage. His laboratory established a bone tumor bank, which is now the world's largest osteosarcoma tissue bank. Dr. Gorlick also works on advancing targeted therapies and new drugs for childhood cancers, as well as understanding the mechanisms behind the development and progression of osteosarcoma, the most common form of childhood bone cancer.

CPRIT awarded MD Anderson and Dr. Gorlick a $5 million Core Facilities award (RP180819) in 2018 to develop the Pediatric Solid Tumors Comprehensive Data Resource Core. He is current chair of the CPRIT Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancers.

- The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center posted an interview March 28 via MedBlog with CPRIT grantee Keith Argenbright, M.D., director of Moncrief Cancer Institute and professor in the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UT Southwestern, and patient Vantrille Patterson, a colon cancer survivor. Ms. Patterson had no health insurance, so her doctor referred her to the Moncrief Cancer Institute for a free, at-home colorectal cancer screening kit, which led to a cancer diagnosis; she is now cancer-free. Since 2010, Moncrief has screened more than 100,000 people, much of it funded by CPRIT. "We started small with a breast outreach program and a very small colorectal screening program. And then we just added on geography and different screening sites, bit by bit," Dr. Argenbright said.

  Through CPRIT-funded prevention projects, the Moncrief Cancer Institute offers free screenings for breast, cervical, colorectal, and lung cancers to rural and medically underserved populations across 67 Texas counties. CPRIT awarded UT Southwestern 12 prevention grants since 2011 totaling over $23 million (PP100039, PP100022, PP120229, PP150061, PP170010, PP180025, PP180065, PP200009, PP200064, PP210042, PP230013, PP240019) to fund these projects.

- The American Cancer Society's Clinical Champions Corps identifies subject matter experts in cancer prevention and screening from diverse geographic regions to form a corps dedicated to providing training to health care professionals nationwide and to share evidence-based methodologies that will enhance cancer screening practices within communities, clinics, and organizations. On April 5, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso announced that Jennifer Molokwu, M.D., MPH, director of Cancer Prevention and Control in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, is one of five primary care clinicians who are part of this national program. The program will also have an impact on the

Borderplex, which will complement existing cancer prevention initiatives. CPRIT has awarded Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso 13 CPRIT Prevention grants (PP110156, PP130068, PP130083, PP140164, PP170004, PP170068, PP180003, PP190058, PP200006, PP210004, PP210005, PP230059, PP240014) since 2011 totaling $27 million to assist cancer prevention programs for rural and medically underserved populations.

- The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the largest international cancer research organization, honored two CPRIT grantees at the AACR Annual Meeting 2024 held April 5-10, in San Diego: Padmanee Sharma, M.D., Ph.D., associate vice president of Immunobiology, professor of Genitourinary Medical Oncology and Immunology, and director of scientific programs for the James P. Allison Institute at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center; and Scott Kopetz, M.D., Ph.D., professor of Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology and associate vice president for Translational Integration also at MD Anderson.

  The AACR Academy elected Dr. Sharma to the 2024 class of Fellows in recognition of her work to establish and advance immune checkpoint therapies as effective treatments for patients with a variety of cancers. The mission of the AACR Academy is to honor distinguished scientists whose contributions have propelled noteworthy progress and breakthroughs against cancer. Dr. Sharma is an internationally renowned physician-scientist investigating mechanisms and pathways within the immune system that facilitate tumor rejection or elicit resistance to immune checkpoint therapy. In 2006, she conducted the first neoadjuvant trial with immune checkpoint therapy, which allowed her to establish the safety of the neoadjuvant approach for immune checkpoint therapy and provide tumor tissues for translational research studies. Her ongoing research focuses on identifying novel mechanisms of resistance to immunotherapy, and she leads multiple clinical trials to evaluate new treatment strategies to overcome these resistance pathways. CPRIT awarded MD Anderson and Dr. Sharma a $1.4 million Individual Investigator research award (RP120108) in 2011.

  Dr. Kopetz received the AACR-Waun Ki Hong Award for Outstanding Achievement in Translational and Clinical Cancer Research for his ground-breaking work on *BRAF*-mutated metastatic colon cancer. Dr. Kopetz is internationally renowned as a leader in colorectal cancer. He was honored for exceptional translational and clinical research and for leading efforts to establish new standards of care for *BRAF*-mutated metastatic colorectal cancer, which previously had a poor prognosis. Using molecular profiling and patient-derived xenografts, Dr. Kopetz discovered resistance mechanisms and approaches to overcome these pathways. He led clinical trials evaluating vemurafenib, cetuximab, and irinotecan, including the Phase III BEACON study that resulted in additions to the National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines and FDA approval of encorafenib plus cetuximab. CPRIT awarded MD Anderson and Dr. Kopetz two Individual Investigator research awards (RP110584, RP240288) totaling $1.9 million in 2011 and 2024.

- Molecular Templates, an Austin-based clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing proprietary targeted biologic therapeutics, presented a poster at the 2024 American

Association for Cancer Research annual meeting taking place in San Diego April 5 - 10. The company highlighted findings from the phase I dose-escalation study of MT-6402, a novel engineered toxin body (ETB) targeting PD-L1 expressing relapsed/refractory advanced solid tumors, including an early monotherapy response activity in head and neck cancer. CPRIT awarded Molecular Templates two CPRIT product development awards totaling $28.8 million (CC121020, DP160071) in 2012 and 2016 to develop ETB drug candidates.

- Plus Therapeutics, Inc., announced April 9 that neuro-oncologist Andrew Brenner, M.D., Ph.D., has formally joined the company in a part-time capacity. Dr. Brenner will provide substantial input on the company's central nervous system cancer development programs while continuing to maintain his academic practice and laboratory at the Mays Cancer Center at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Barbara Blouw, Ph.D., also joins the company as Vice President, Clinical Affairs. Dr. Blouw has a broad background in oncology research, clinical trial design, regulatory submissions, biostatistics, and clinical operations. She also has expertise in CNS biomarker development using in vitro and in vivo preclinical models and assay development and validations for clinical trial testing per the College of American Pathologists Laboratory Accreditation Program and Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments. On April 22, Plus announced that the Department of Defense Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs selected the company for funding to support the planned expansion of the company's clinical trial for pediatric brain cancer. CPRIT awarded Austin-based Plus, a clinical-stage pharmaceutical company developing targeted radiotherapeutics for central nervous system cancers, a $17.6 million Product Development award in 2022 (DP220039).

- Perimeter Medical Imaging, Inc., a commercial-stage medical technology company, featured interactive demos of its S-Series OCT device at the company's booth at the American Society of Breast Surgeons Conference held April 10-14 in Orlando. On April 16, Perimeter released a newly published webinar, "Trends in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Innovators in Healthcare," featuring a fireside chat with Anantha Kancherla, former head of Meta's AI platform and current member of Perimeter's Board, alongside Perimeter CEO Adrian Mendes. CPRIT awarded Dallas and Toronto-based Perimeter Imaging a $7.4 million Product Development grant (DP190087) in 2019 to develop a high-resolution imaging device that works with AI algorithms to allow surgeons to determine clean margins quickly and accurately during breast conserving surgery.

- On April 18, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) announced the election of its AAAS 2023 fellows, which included a number of CPRIT Scholars and grantees. The AAAS is the world's largest multidisciplinary scientific society and publisher of the *Science* journals. One of the most distinguished honors within the scientific community, fellows of the AAAS are a cadre of global scientists, engineers, and innovators recognized for their academic and administrative achievements geared toward communicating science to the public. The new elected fellows include:

  Francois Gabbai, Ph.D., professor, Arthur E. Martell Chair of Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry at Texas A&M University. Internationally recognized in the field of

bioinorganic chemistry, Dr. Gabbai's contributions include the discovery of novel methods for the preparation of radiopharmaceuticals for use in cancer imaging using Positron Emission Tomography (PET imaging). Texas A&M University and Dr. Gabbai received a $200,000 CPRIT High Impact/High Risk research award (RP130604) in 2012.

Boyi Gan, Ph.D., professor of experimental radiation oncology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, has contributed to the understanding and targeting of ferroptosis (a form of regulated cell death that requires iron) in cancer and discovered disulfidptosis as a new form of regulated cell death. He develops novel cancer therapies targeting these pathways. CPRIT awarded MD Anderson and Dr. Gan three Individual Investigator research awards (RP130020, RP220258, RP230072) totaling $2.9 million.

CPRIT Scholar Daniel Leahy, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Molecular Biosciences, Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Regents Chair in Molecular Biology at The University of Texas at Austin, studies the molecular mechanisms of signaling in the epidermal growth factor receptor and Hedgehog signaling pathways, areas relevant to cancer research and drug development. His research has influenced medical professionals' strategies to treat cancers of the lung, breast, colon, and gastric system. UT Austin brought Dr. Leahy to Texas from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 2016 with a $6 million CPRIT Established Investigator recruitment award (RR160023).

CPRIT Scholar Li Ma, Ph.D., professor of experimental radiation oncology at MD Anderson, has made fundamental discoveries of cancer spread and resistance to treatment that have transformed the field, including pioneering work on the role of long non-coding RNAs in metastasis. MD Anderson brought Dr. Ma to Texas from Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in 2010 with a $2 million CPRIT First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member recruitment award (R1004). CPRIT has also awarded MD Anderson and Dr. Ma two Individual Investigator research awards totaling $1.8 million (RP150319, RP190029) in 2015 and 2019.

Sattva Neelapu, M.D., professor of lymphoma and myeloma at MD Anderson, has earned recognition nationally and internationally in the field of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapy. As a physician-scientist, he develops novel immunotherapeutic strategies for patients with lymphoma. His contributions to clinical and translational research have resulted in several FDA approvals and multiple patent filings of novel immune and cell therapy approaches. CPRIT awarded MD Anderson and Dr. Neelapu an $852,595 Individual Investigator award (RP150316) in 2015 to study T-cell activating immunotherapy for indolent B-cell malignancies.

Tanya Paull, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Molecular Biosciences and the Department of Oncology, and the Burl and Lorene Rogers Chair in Human Health at UT Austin, studies how mammalian cells repair DNA damage and how cells respond to oxidative stress. This work is relevant to human cancer and neurodegeneration. CPRIT awarded UT Austin and Dr. Paull three research grants (RP100670, RP110465-P4, RP200254) totaling $2.3 million since 2010.

- On April 26 Emtora Biosciences entered into an exclusive worldwide license with Biodexa Pharmaceuticals, an acquisition-focused clinical stage biopharmaceutical company developing a pipeline of innovative products to treat diseases with unmet medical needs. Under the agreement, Biodexa will develop and commercialize eRapa, a proprietary oral tablet formulation of rapamycin, also known as sirolimus. Rapamycin is an mTOR (mammalian Target Of Rapamycin) inhibitor that activates during tumorigenesis. Scientists have shown it to have a significant role in the signaling pathway that regulates cellular metabolism, growth, and proliferation.

  Emtora is developing eRapa to treat Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP), a substantially genetic orphan disease for which there are no approved therapeutic options; the current standard of care is surveillance and surgery. More than 100,000 people in the U.S. and Europe have FAP, precancerous polyps that typically lead to surgical removal of the colon and/or rectum. Emtora is developing other indications for eRapa, including bladder and prostate cancers. CPRIT awarded San Antonio-based Rapamycin Holdings, Inc. (doing business as Emtora Biosciences) two product development research awards totaling $20 million (DP190069, DP220053) in 2019 and 2022 for clinical trials of eRapa in FAP.

- The May 2024 issue of the *Journal and Public Health Management and Practice* published an article, "Implementation and Evaluation of a Large Community-based Colorectal Cancer Screening Program," written by Jessica Calderón-Mora, Dr.PH., M.P.H., assistant professor in the Department of Population Health and operational director for the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at The University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School. Working with Dr. Navkiran Shokar, M.D., M.P.H., professor and chair of the Department of Population Health and lead for the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at Dell Medical School, Dr. Calderón-Mora and her team implemented and evaluated a community-based colorectal cancer (CRC) screening program, Against Colorectal Cancer In Our Neighborhoods (ACCION), in El Paso County from 2012-2015. Funded by CPRIT, the team designed the program to increase screening within a predominantly Hispanic population. The program successfully increased screening rates among this border population who were uninsured, underinsured, and not current with screenings. CPRIT awarded Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso four prevention grants (PP110156, PP140164, PP170068, PP210005) since 2011 totaling $10.4 million in ongoing support of ACCION, the multi-component, evidence-based program designed to reduce the burden of CRC.

Notable CPRIT-Supported Research and Prevention Accomplishments

- **Improving the Early Identification of Prostate Cancer Progression Through Active Surveillance.** New research led by CPRIT Scholar Thomas Yankeelov, Ph.D., professor, Director of the Center for Computational Oncology, and the W. A. "Tex" Moncrief, Jr. Chair in Computational Engineering and Sciences IV - Computational Oncology, and his team at the Oden Institute of Computational Engineering and Sciences at The University of Texas at Austin, is catalyzing a revolution in personalized prostate cancer tumor forecasting.

Prostate cancer is the second most common type of cancer - affecting 1 in 8 men - and the fifth leading cause of cancer death among men worldwide. When diagnosed early, many individuals can live for years without symptoms. To avoid subjecting early-disease stage patients to the debilitating side-effects of radiation and surgery, clinicians typically monitor these patients through active surveillance (AS), which uses magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) data to track tumor progression and guide decisions regarding when to begin treatment. Current medical practice uses population level statistics to predict and understand how prostate tumors tend to grow. However, the traditional population-based, observational approach may not capture the dynamic nature of the disease, hindering timely intervention.

Published in the March 2 issue of *Cancer Research Communications*, the research team shows that by combining MRI data with computational modeling, scientists can forecast tumor progression for individual patients. The model considers factors like cancer cell mobility and division rate to predict future tumor growth within the patient's prostate. The team identified a biomarker for higher-risk prostate cancer and developed a risk classifier based on this marker. By integrating tumor forecasts with this classifier, they can identify prostate cancer progression to higher-risk stages more than a year earlier than traditional methods.

Results from the pilot study show promise in forecasting individual patients' tumor burden, coupled with the ability to classify prostate cancer risk based on biomarker availability. Although many advancements in medical technology are difficult to scale and provide to patients and physicians, this work is intrinsically accessible, because it relies on data that clinicians regularly collected from prostate cancer patients undergoing active surveillance, and virtually any medical center has the computational technology necessary for this monitoring approach.

UT Austin recruited Dr. Yankeelov to Texas from Vanderbilt University in 2015 with the support of a $6 million CPRIT Established Investigators recruitment grant (RR160005).

- **CPRIT Grantee Finds that Cancer Cells use a Novel Method to Escape the Immune System – Protecting Themselves by Building an "Acid-Wall."** Scientists at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center have made a breakthrough discovery in our understanding of how cancer cells evade our immune systems. The findings, published March 4 in the journal *Nature Biomedical Engineering*, reveal that cancer cells release a significantly more concentrated level of acid than was previously recognized, forming an effective "acid wall" that deters immune cells from attacking tumors. Their discovery paves the way for new cancer treatments that alter the acidic environment around tumors.

  Our immune systems play a pivotal role in recognizing and fighting diseases, including cancer. However, cancer cells have developed several ways of interacting with our immune systems: they can avoid recognition by altering the expression of proteins on their cell surface, fight back, or avoid interacting with immune cells by erecting a physical barrier. A research team led by CPRIT grantee Jinming Gao, Ph.D., professor, and Elaine Dewey Sammons Distinguished Chair in Cancer Research in the Department of Biomedical

Engineering, and the Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UT Southwestern, is investigating the third tactic.

The human body tightly controls pH levels because extracellular pH impacts many molecular, cellular, and physiological processes. Nevertheless, tumor cells can deregulate cell metabolism, causing the tumor cells' microenvironment to be slightly more acidic than healthy tissues. This is largely due to the cancer cells producing lactic acid as a waste product. Dr. Gao and his colleagues used an innovative approach – leveraging fluorescent pH nanoprobes with a transistor-like activation profile at a pH of 5.3 – to measure how pH varies across tumor cells. They found that the tumor cells were significantly more acidic on one side of the cell compared to the opposite side, since the cells excreted hydronium ions (H3O+ ions or protonated water molecules) into a small extracellular region. By pumping away the protons and lactate, the cells create these "hot spots" of acidity.

When the researchers performed similar tests on entire tumors from multiple tumor models in mice, the team found that the cancer cells pumped the acid away from their neighboring cancer cells and into the surrounding environment, creating a wall of increased acidity around the tumor's edge. By studying samples from human squamous cell carcinomas, the team found that this wall of increased acidity correlated with the exclusion of immune cells – cytotoxic T cells - that our bodies rely on to fight off infections and other harmful cell types. In other words, the cancers were able to create an acid wall providing protection from the immune system.

Understanding the acidity of the cancer cell environment will help develop targeted cancer treatments directed to the site of a tumor to deposit their active ingredients. In this case, scientists can use the increased acidity as a signal for malignant tissue – ensuring that the drug goes only to the site of the tumor. Looking ahead, scientists could design drugs to prevent cancer cells from producing acid walls, thereby making them more vulnerable to immune system attack.

UT Southwestern and Dr. Gao received four CPRIT Individual Investigator Research Awards totaling $3.8 million (RP120094, RP140140, RP180343, RP220150) to develop approaches to activate anti-tumor immunity and increase the efficacy of cancer immunotherapy. OncoNano Medicine has licensed technology developed in Dr. Gao's laboratory. CPRIT has awarded Dallas-based OncoNano three CPRIT Product Development awards, including an award to develop cancer vaccines as immunotherapies for solid tumors (DP190066, $15.5 million).

- **CPRIT-Supported Research at Texas Children's Cancer Center may Improve Risk Stratification and Treatment for Children with Rhabdomyosarcoma.** CPRIT-supported research at Texas Children's Cancer Center is improving the risk assessment and treatment for children diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS), the most common soft tissue sarcoma in children. RMS has two main subtypes, with one driven by specific genetic fusions and the other by various genetic mutations. Despite current treatments, survival rates for children with intermediate or high-risk RMS remain low.

Traditionally, risk assessment in RMS relies on genetic fusions, but this research investigated whether inherited genetic variations may also predict outcomes. A team of investigators led by CPRIT grantee Philip Lupo, Ph.D., professor of pediatrics - hematology and oncology, and director of the Epidemiology and Population Sciences Program at Texas Children's Cancer Center, Baylor College of Medicine, and the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center, conducted a cohort study of 580 individuals with RMS to determine the impact of cancer-predisposition variants on outcomes.

As reported in the March 28th issue of *JAMA Network Open*, the study results showed that patients with certain inherited genetic variations had worse outcomes compared to those without these variations, particularly among those with the embryonal subtype of RMS. Importantly, even patients without the typical genetic fusions but with these inherited variations had poor outcomes similar to those with the fusions.

These findings suggest that testing for inherited genetic variations could improve prognosis and help tailor treatments for RMS patients, potentially leading to better outcomes and early intervention strategies. Additionally, identifying these variations could guide future clinical trials and inform genetic counseling for patients and their families.

CPRIT has awarded Baylor College of Medicine and Dr. Lupo $2.5 million in Individual Investigator and High Impact/High Risk research awards (RP140258, RP170071, RP190755) since 2014 to study pediatric cancers and cancer dispositions.

- **Degraders Upgraded: Improving PROTAC Therapy for Cancer.** A team of CPRIT Scholars and grantees from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio developed an improved method to target proteins involved in cancer using a technique called targeted protein degrader. This approach, known as Proteolysis-targeting chimeras (PROTAC) therapy, offers a new way to treat cancer by breaking down specific proteins that contribute to tumor growth and drug resistance.

  Unlike small molecule inhibitor therapies, PROTACs can eliminate critical but conventionally "undruggable" targets, overcome resistance to existing therapies, improve tissue specificity, and reduce side effects. As reported in the March 29 issue of *Nature Communications*, a team of scientists led by CPRIT Scholar Shaun Olsen, Ph.D., in collaboration with CPRIT Scholar Patrick Sung, Ph.D., and CPRIT grantee Robert Hromas, M.D., streamlined the development of these PROTACs using structural data to design more effective models.

  By harnessing the cell's own recycling system, PROTACs degrade these target proteins effectively. One of the proteins targeted by this approach is BCLXL, which helps cancer cells evade cell death and become resistant to treatment. The team developed a new PROTAC molecule called WH244, which showed enhanced potency in degrading both BCLXL and another protein called BCL2. This molecule has the potential to be more effective in treating certain types of cancer compared to existing therapies like DT2216, which is the only

PROTAC molecule undergoing clinical trials for degrading BCLXL. However, DT2216 is less effective in treating solid tumors and some specific forms of leukemia that are codependent on both BCLXL and BCL2 for survival, when administered alone, making WH244 an attractive alternative.

The researchers used a combination of structural analysis and cell-based studies to design and evaluate these PROTAC molecules, providing valuable insights into how they work and their potential effectiveness against cancer. This approach could lead to more targeted and efficient cancer treatments in the future.

UT Health San Antonio brought Dr. Sung to Texas from Yale University with a $6 million Established Investigator Recruitment Award (RR180029) in 2018 and recruited Dr. Olsen to Texas from the Medical University of South Carolina with a $4 million Rising Star Recruitment Award (RR200030) in 2020. CPRIT awarded UT Health San Antonio and Dr. Hromas a $900,000 Individual Investigator award (RP220269) in 2022. The researchers conducted this work using the research services provided by the CPRIT-supported Center for Innovative Drug Discovery, which is comprised of two integrated core facilities for Medicinal Chemistry at The University of Texas at San Antonio and High Throughput Screening at UT Health San Antonio. CPRIT has awarded UT San Antonio $7.6 million (PI: Stanton McHardy, RP160844, RP210208) to support these core facilities since 2016.

- **Improving Predictive Cancer Risk Assessment for Li Fraumeni Syndrome.** Researchers at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, led by CPRIT grantees Wenyi Wang, Ph.D., professor of bioinformatics and computational biology and biostatistics, and Banu Arun, M.D., professor, Department of Breast Medical Oncology, have developed predictive models to assess cancer risk in families with Li-Fraumeni syndrome (LFS). LFS is a hereditary cancer syndrome caused by mutations in the TP53 tumor suppressor gene. Patients with LFS are much more likely to develop a number of cancer types, with a lifetime risk of 93% in women and 73% in men, and a 50% risk of developing a second malignant disease. Unlike other hereditary cancer syndromes, scientists have not developed risk prediction models for LFS, making it challenging for genetic counselors to provide accurate risk assessments.

  As reported April 3 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, the study closes a critical gap in our knowledge regarding the utility of risk prediction models for LFS, making them more accessible for clinical use. The researcher team developed two models for families with LFS: one that predicts the risk of developing a first primary tumor and another that extends prediction to multiple primary cancers. The researchers trained these models on a dataset of LFS families' medical histories and validated the results on a cohort of families who underwent genetic counseling.

  The models, implemented as the LFSPRO software suite, demonstrated good performance in predicting cancer risks, achieving high accuracy in discriminating between individuals with and without TP53 mutations and in predicting the onset of second cancers. The team also developed a user-friendly app to facilitate the clinical use of these models. Overall, these

predictive models offer a significant advancement in assessing cancer risk in LFS patients, potentially improving patient care and management of familial cancer syndromes.

CPRIT awarded a $900,000 Individual Investigator research award (RP200383) to MD Anderson and Dr. Arun in 2020 and a $484,412 Individual Investigator research award (RP130090) to MD Anderson and Dr. Wang in 2012.

Texas Life Science Summit

CPRIT co-hosted the inaugural Texas Life Science Summit with the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute (THBI) on April 2. The summit, held at the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown, brought together state leaders, life sciences companies, economic development organizations, academic institutions, and service providers that support the Texas ecosystem. It provided an opportunity to discuss workforce issues and commercialization efforts and make plans for future growth of the industry. The agenda covered important topics to promote Texas more effectively, increase awareness of the strong workforce in Texas, and help Texas-based life science companies find tools and resources to assist with their efforts to get to the marketplace.

Deputy Executive Officer and General Counsel Kristen Doyle participated as a panelist discussing "Surviving the Valley of Death." In addition to panel presentations throughout the day, there was a company expo, industry partnership meetings, and an industry networking reception. Several CPRIT staff attended the summit as well as Oversight Committee member Dr. Craig Rosenfeld. Chief Product Development Officer Dr. Ken Smith, Sr. Product Development Program Manager Dr. Abria Magee, and Product Development Program Manager Dr. Michelle Leeuwon staffed the CPRIT booth at the expo and met with a number of companies and entities interested in partnering with CPRIT.

Texas Cancer Plan Update

The *Texas Cancer Plan* (the Plan) aims to reduce the cancer burden across the state and improve the lives of Texans. CPRIT is statutorily responsible for developing the Plan. We issued the first plan under CPRIT's leadership in 2012, with the second - and most recent - version issued in 2018. Consistent with CPRIT administrative rule § 701.11, which directs CPRIT to periodically update the Plan every seven years, we plan to officially release the new edition in December as a fully integrated online resource (similar to the recent versions of the CPRIT Annual Report). In preparation for official release, CPRIT will preview the Texas Cancer Plan 2024 for the Oversight Committee at the November 20 meeting.

CPRIT Program Manager for Prevention Carlton Allen is leading the revision of the Plan, including meeting with multiple stakeholders. As the statewide call to action for cancer research, prevention, and control, the Plan identifies the challenges and issues that affect our state and presents a set of goals, objectives, and strategies to help inform and guide communities in the

fight against cancer. The Plan provides a coordinated, prioritized, and actionable framework that guides Texas' efforts to mitigate the cancer burden.

CPRIT has engaged an array of stakeholders, using their input to enhance the Plan's effectiveness. Mr. Allen is also working with the Texas Cancer Registry and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System to gather updated data relevant to the Plan. He is collaborating closely with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) on data integration. Mr. Allen also hosted town halls and forums to elicit input on goals, objectives, and strategic actions to inform and guide communities and stakeholders in the fight against cancer.

Multiple entities are involved with the plan's revision, execution, and evaluation, including:

- The Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (TCCCP) and Chronic Disease Epidemiology Branch (CDE) at the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) evaluate the plan and inform CPRIT, the Cancer Alliance of Texas (CAT), public health professionals, and other cancer prevention and control stakeholders in Texas of the current measures and progress Texas is making towards the plan's goals and objectives. TCCCP also updates these groups on trends in cancer burden and assists in coordinating the implementation and periodic revision of the Texas Cancer Plan.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (NCCCP) provides funding, guidance, and technical assistance to TCCCP to coordinate cancer prevention and control interventions, and to support the CAT.

- CAT is the state's comprehensive cancer control coalition, which TCCCP administers. DSHS has received funding from the NCCCP since 1998 to implement the state's cancer control plan and convene a statewide cancer control coalition. CAT's mission is to engage organizations, agencies, institutions, and individuals to work collaboratively to reduce the impact of cancer in Texas and promote the Texas Cancer Plan.

CPRIT's strategic direction and funding opportunities align with the Plan but are, by necessity, a subset of the goals and objectives. The overall outcome and success of efforts to reduce the state's cancer burden will continue to depend on the cooperation, collaboration, and resources of stakeholders across Texas.

Senate Committee Interim Charge

On April 11 Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick released interim study issues for Texas Senate committees. Frequently these interim charges signal upcoming legislative priorities for the Lieutenant Governor and Senate members for the 89th Texas Legislature that convenes in January 2025.

One charge to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services directly affects CPRIT:

Cancer Prevention: Identify and recommend ways to address the growing impact of cancer on Texans by evaluating state investments in cancer prevention and screenings including, but not limited to, "CT," "MRI," and "PET" scans. Study and make recommendations on funding adequacy for prevention efforts at the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT).

Ms. Doyle and I discussed this charge with staff for the Lieutenant Governor and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. They requested that CPRIT testify on May 14 as part of a panel on cancer prevention. Our testimony will include a brief overview (10 minutes) of CPRIT prevention activities in both our Academic Research and Prevention programs. Ms. Doyle will testify, with Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Michelle Le Beau, Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid, and me available as additional resource witnesses. We will provide the senate committee with our hearing testimony in a PowerPoint format by May 7. We will also provide copies of the PowerPoint material to the Oversight Committee when finalized.

We believe this will be an excellent opportunity to provide valuable information about our prevention activities to key senators.

Personnel

CPRIT has filled 48 full-time equivalent positions, and the Chief Executive Officer position is in progress as planned. The ad hoc interview committee will recommend a finalist for the CEO position to the full Oversight Committee at the May 15 meeting.

CPRIT Outreach

Staff outreach activities during April include:

- Dr. Smith, Ms. Doyle, and I provided an overview of CPRIT's Product Development Program to a group of El Paso business and institutional leaders in El Paso on April 11. The meeting, convened by Oversight Committee member Dee Margo, will hopefully stimulate cancer commercialization applications from the West Texas region.

- On April 13, Dr. Le Beau participated in the 2nd Annual Christopher G. Wood Advances In Urologic Oncology Conference held in Austin and sponsored by The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, and The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. She delivered a talk entitled "CPRIT: Catalyzing the Fight Against Cancer in Texas," and participated in a panel discussion focused on innovative approaches to enhancing multi-institutional collaborations to address cancer care and research in Texas.

- On April 15, Dr. Smith, Ms. Doyle, Dr. Magee, Dr. Leeuwon, and I met with representatives for the Texas Center for Particle Therapy and Research in Waco. The Center provided a high-level overview of their work on FLASH therapy clinical research and development of multidisciplinary, multi-institutional cancer treatment centers. The group discussed options related to funding and explained the CPRIT grant application/review process. Congressman Michael Burgess's office arranged the meeting, which concluded with the Center staff planning to evaluate which of our funding mechanisms meets their needs.

- Ms. Doyle attended the American Cancer Society's Central and South Texas Board of Directors meeting in San Antonio on April 16 to provide an overview of CPRIT's programs.

- Dr. Le Beau, Ms. Doyle and I attended the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network 2024 Rio Grande Valley Breakfast on health equity held in Harlingen on April 19. The event – *Shaping Tomorrow: Inspiring Hope and Health Equity in Nuestras Comunidades* - focused on innovation in cancer research and care to address cancer disparities in the Rio Grande Valley. Dr. Le Beau presented as a member of the "Vision for RGV Cancer Care" panel, focusing on CPRIT's commitment to expanding the cancer research infrastructure and expediting discoveries that will translate to improved care and address cancer disparities in the Rio Grande Valley. Oversight Committee member Dr. Ambrosio Hernandez also attended the event.

- Prevention Program Manager Carlton Allen presented an update on the Texas Cancer Plan development to the Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council during their April quarterly meeting on April 23. The council shared feedback on the proposed supportive palliative care goals and associated objectives.

- On April 30, Oversight Committee Presiding Officer Dr. David Cummings, Chief Operating Officer Heidi McConnell, Ms. Doyle, and I went to Houston to meet with Dr. Peter Pisters, president of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and members of his staff on shared cancer interests.

- Dr. Leeuwon attended several professional events in April, including the American Association of Cancer Research Conference 2024 in San Diego from April 5-10, the Texas A&M University Patent Award Event on April 12, the VIC Tech Workshop April 24, and "From concept to cure: Empowering startups in oncology innovation" JLabs online conference on April 25. These events acknowledged notable patent holders for their contributions to various fields, highlighted innovative technologies and potential impacts of these inventions, and facilitated networking with other professionals, which could lead to future collaborative opportunities.

- Academic Research Program Manager Dr. Myriam Casillas attended numerous professional events in April, including the NCI Office of Cancer Survivorship webinar, "Forward-thinking: Progress, Gaps, and Impact in Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Survivorship"

on April 9, the NIH webinar, "Updates to NIH Training Grant Applications" on April 17, the Cancer Moonshot Seminar Series held April 25, and the NCI Obesity & Cancer Series, "Intersecting Multilevel Determinants of Cancer Outcomes and Disparities among Hispanics," on April 29.

- In April, Dr. Magee and Dr. Leeuwon met with multiple companies and researchers to discuss the current product development award mechanisms and collaboration opportunities. Companies included Novi Healthcare, a Texas-based cancer company launching a population-based genetic testing and counseling, AcuaMarkDx, a molecular diagnostics company using qPCR and dPCR technology for screening of blood to detect early cancer markers, Adele Health, a manufacturer of disposable surgical products and medical devices, Curve Biosciences, a company creating products that target the biological changes in tissues, CAPS Medical, a company using a Non-thermal Atmospheric Plasma (NTAP™) to treat solid tumors, iSono Health, providing an AI-driven automatic 3D breast ultrasound scanner, and the Houston Belgian Trade Office (of the Belgian Trade Commission).

Compliance Program Update

Submission Status of Required Grant Recipient Reports

As of April 24, 11 entities had not filed 16 academic research reports, one product development report, and one prevention report. CPRIT's grant accountants and compliance specialists review and process incoming reports and reach out to grantees to resolve filing issues. In most cases, CPRIT does not disburse grant funds until the grantee files the required reports. In some instances, grantee institutions may be ineligible to receive a future award if the grantee does not submit required reports.

Financial Status Report Reviews

CPRIT's compliance specialists performed 145 second-level reviews of grantee Financial Status Reports (FSRs) in April. Eighteen FSRs (12%) needed resubmission due to insufficient or inaccurate documentation sent by the grantee. CPRIT's grant accounting staff completes the first review of the FSRs and supporting documentation before routing them to the compliance specialists for final review and disposition.

Desk Reviews

Compliance specialists performed four enhanced desk-based financial monitoring reviews in April. Desk reviews confirm financial, administrative, and programmatic compliance using data from CGMS/CARS with additional focus on an organization's internal controls, current and previous fiscal audits, and grantee report submission timeliness. Desk reviews also aid in the identification of potential problems and technical assistance issues for follow-up during an onsite visit, as well as areas of non-compliance and grantee performance issues. Compliance specialists have cleared all desk review findings.

Onsite Reviews

CPRIT completed four onsite reviews in April. Onsite reviews are the most extensive monitoring activity conducted by CPRIT and include virtual or field visits led by compliance grant monitoring staff. CPRIT monitors the grantee's financial and administrative operations, subcontract monitoring, procurement and contracting procedures, inventory procedures, personnel policies and procedures, payroll and timesheet policies, travel policies and records, and compliance with single audits during onsite reviews. Onsite monitoring enables CPRIT compliance staff to assess a grantees' capability, performance, and compliance with applicable laws, rules, and policies. Compliance specialists are collaborating with four grantees to address onsite review findings.

Single Audit Tracking

Compliance specialists track the submission of grantees' independent audit reports and the resolution of issues named in these reports. Grantees spending $750,000 or more in state awards in the grantee's fiscal year must undertake a single independent audit, a program specific audit, or an agreed upon procedures engagement. The grantee sends the independent audit report with findings to CPRIT within 30 days of receipt, but no later than nine months after the grantee's fiscal year end.

Currently, one grantee has not submitted the required audit. Grantees are unable to receive reimbursements or advances if they are delinquent in filing the required audit and corrective action plan unless the grantee requested more time by the due date of the required audit and CPRIT's CEO approves the request. Compliance staff is working with the grantee.

Match Expenditures Review

CPRIT requires academic research and product development research grantees to show that they have available unused funds equal to at least one-half of the CPRIT grant award that the grantee will spend on the CPRIT-funded project. This obligation, often referred to as "CPRIT's matching funds requirement," requires the grantee to first certify that it has available matching funds, and then at the end of the grant year, to verify that the grantee spent the matching funds on the project. CPRIT's statute allows an institution of higher education to use its federal indirect cost rate as a credit toward the required 50% match.

Product development grantees, as well as those academic research grantees whose indirect cost rate credit does not fully offset the required match must supply a detailed match expenditure report that includes the amount and date paid, vendor, description, and budget category. Compliance staff review grantees' match expenditures for appropriateness and allowability and work with CPRIT's grant accountants and the grantee to address any deficiencies. Compliance staff performed nine annual match expenditure reviews in April. The total amount of match expenses reviewed by compliance staff for FY 2024 is $26,530,812.88. The unallowable match expenses for FY 2024 total $225,369.40.

Training and Support

CPRIT staff conducted three new Authorized Signing Official (ASO) training webinars in April for University of Houston, University of Houston – Downtown, and The University of Texas at San Antonio. The ASO training covers grant reporting requirements, administrative rule changes, grant closeout, and an overview of the compliance program including fraud, waste, and abuse reporting. Pursuant to Texas Administrative Code §703.22, CPRIT requires new ASOs to complete compliance training within 60 days.

Academic Research Program Update

Recruitment FY 2024 Review Cycle 8 - 9

CPRIT accepted recruitment applications January 21 – March 20 for the eighth and ninth review cycles of FY 2024. CPRIT's Scientific Review Council (SRC) reviewed the applications on April 11. Dr. Le Beau will present the SRC's recommendations to the Program Integration Committee (PIC) and the Oversight Committee in May.

FY 24 Mechanism	Received	Requested	Recommended	Recommended
Recruitment of Established Investigators	2	$11,997,619	1	$6,000,000
Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members	16	$31,998,639	6	$11,998,639
Recruitment of Rising Stars	3	$12,000,000	0	--
TOTAL	**21**	**$55,996,258**	**7**	**$17,998,639**

Academic Research FY 2024 Review Cycle 2 (24.2)

On September 14, 2023, CPRIT released several RFAs for the second cycle of FY 2024 and accepted applications October 17, 2023 – January 16, 2024. Peer review panels met in late April to consider the applications. Dr. Le Beau will present the SRC's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in August.

FY 24 Cycle 2 Mechanism	Received	Funds Requested
Clinical Investigator Award	6	$6,624,889
Core Facility Support Awards	22	$58,593,485
High-Impact/High-Risk Research Awards	101	$25,065,092
Multi-Investigator Research Awards	18	$77,774,808
TOTAL	**147**	**$168,058,274**

Academic Research FY 2025 Review Cycle 1 (25.1)

CPRIT posted a *Collaborative Action Program to Reduce Liver Cancer Mortality in Texas: Collaborative Action Center (Competitive Renewal)* RFA and six *Individual Investigator* RFAs for the first review cycle of FY 2025 on February 22. CPRIT will accept applications through June 11. Peer reviewers will meet in October to evaluate the applications. Dr. Le Beau will present the SRC's recommendations for the cycle 25.1 grants to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in February 2025.

Product Development Research Program Update

Product Development Research FY 2024 Review Cycle 2 (24.2)

CPRIT released four FY 2024 Product Development Research RFAs for the 24.2 review cycle on November 29, 2023, and opened the portal to receive preliminary applications December 1, 2023. Because of the smaller overall award budget (~$20 million) remaining for the 24.2 cycle, CPRIT capped the maximum amount a non-Seed company may request at $5 million. The regular $3 million budget cap for Seed awards remains the same in this cycle.

CPRIT received 63 preliminary applications by the December 11, 2023, deadline. After administratively withdrawing three applications for non-compliance, CPRIT assigned the 60 preliminary applications to eight review panels on December 15, 2023. The reviewers individually evaluated and scored the assigned preliminary applications and then met as a panel January 18 – 22 to rank the preliminary applications. The Product Development Review Council (PDRC) met January 23 to finalize a comprehensive ranked list of preliminary applications.

On January 24, CPRIT issued invitations to submit full applications to the eleven companies receiving the best preliminary application scores in the 24.2 cycle. In addition to the companies submitting preliminary applications in the 24.2 cycle, seven companies were eligible to submit full applications based on their performance in the 24.1 preliminary application review cycle. Five of the seven companies indicated that they intended to submit applications in the 24.2 cycle.

Fifteen companies submitted full applications by the February 13 deadline, although one withdrew its Seed Company application from consideration before the scheduled panel presentation. Live presentations to the full review panels occurred March 18 – March 27. Based upon the application scores and presentations to the panels, six companies moved forward to due diligence review, which took place in mid-April. Following due diligence review, the individual review panels recommended all six companies for awards. The PDRC met April 22 to vote on its final recommendations. Dr. Smith will present the PIC's recommendations to the Oversight Committee at the May 15 meeting.

24.2 Mechanism	Prelim Apps	Total Request	Full Apps	Total Request	Due Diligence	Total Request
Texas Therapeutic Company	17	$84.1 M	5	$25.0 M	2	$10 M
Texas Device/Diag. Company	2	$10.0 M	0	--	0	--
Texas New Tech Company	10	$47.8 M	2	$ 9.9M	0	--
Seed Company	31	$88.1 M	8	$24.0 M	4	$12 M
TOTAL	**60**	**$230.0 M**	**15**	**$58.9 M**	**6**	**$22.0 M**

Product Development Research FY 2025 Review Cycle 1 (25.1)

CPRIT released four FY 2025 Product Development Research RFAs for the 25.1 review cycle on April 15, and opened the portal to receive preliminary applications April 22 – May 1. CPRIT received 91 preliminary applications by the 4:00 p.m. deadline on May 1. This is a record number of preliminary applications.

CPRIT will assign the preliminary applications to several review panels for individual evaluation and scoring. The review panels will meet to rank and score their assigned preliminary applications in late June. The PDRC will finalize a comprehensive list of all ranked preliminary applications. In early July, CPRIT will issue up to 20 invitations to submit full applications to companies receiving the best preliminary application scores. The invited companies will submit their full applications by July 25 and present their proposals to the individual review panels in September. Based upon the application scores and presentations to the panels, some companies will move forward to due diligence in October and consideration for CPRIT product development awards. Dr. Smith will present the PIC's recommendations to the Oversight Committee in November.

Prevention Program Update

Prevention FY 2025 Review Cycle 1 (25.1)

The Prevention Program released three RFAs, *Primary Prevention of Cancer, Cancer Screening and Early Detection,* and *Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions*, on February 9 for the first review cycle of FY 2025. CPRIT will accept applications through June 6, with peer review taking place in August and September. Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid will present the Prevention Review Council's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in November.

Advisory Committees

- The University Advisory Committee met April 4.
- The Product Development Advisory Committee met April 11.
- The Geographic Diversity Advisory Committee met April 12.

- The Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancer met April 29.

Operations and Finance Update

The evaluation team for CPRIT's financial audit services solicitation, Chief Operating Officer Heidi McConnell, Operations Manager Lisa Nelson and CPRIT Accountant Michelle Huddleston, have selected a vendor to provide those services beginning in FY 2025.

Ms. McConnell, Ms. Nelson, Communications Director Mark Loeffler, and Digital Communications Specialist Justin Rand are working on the Agency Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2025 to 2029, which CPRIT will submit to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and Office of the Governor by June 1.

Ms. McConnell and Operations Specialist Dan Limas have completed the agency's Base Reconciliation for the 2024-25 Biennium. CPRIT will submit the base reconciliation to the LBB and Office of the Governor before the May 3 deadline. CPRIT's base reconciliation report and the Agency Strategic Plan serve as precursors for the agency's Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) for the 2026-27 Biennium. The LBB and the Office of the Governor have not yet released the LAR instructions.

Upcoming Subcommittee Meetings

Listed below are the subcommittee meetings in advance of the May 15 Oversight Committee meeting. We will send instructions for signing onto the Microsoft Teams platform along with the subcommittee agenda and meeting materials one week prior to each meeting.

Board Governance	May 2 at 10:00 a.m.
Audit	May 6 at 10:00 a.m.
Prevention	May 7 at 12:00 p.m.
Academic Research	May 8 at 12:00 p.m.
Product Development	May 9 at 10:00 a.m.

******

CPRIT has awarded **1,967** grants totaling **$3.54 billion:**

- 303 prevention awards totaling $380.7 million
- 1,664 academic research and product development research awards totaling $3.16 billion

Of the $3.16 billion in academic research and product development research awards,

- 32.2% of the funding ($1.02 billion) supports clinical research projects.
- 23.6% of the funding ($744.7 million) supports translational research projects.
- 29.2% of funding ($923.4 million) supports recruitment awards.
- 12.2% of the funding ($384.2 million) supports discovery stage research projects.
- 2.9% of funding ($90.4 million) supports training programs.

CPRIT has 10 open Requests for Applications (RFAs)

- 7 Academic Research
- 3 Prevention

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	VINCE BURGESS, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER
SUBJECT:	COMPLIANCE PROGRAM UPDATE
DATE:	MAY 6, 2024

The Chief Compliance Officer is responsible for apprising the Oversight Committee and the Chief Executive Officer of institutional compliance functions and activities and assuring the Oversight Committee that controls are in place to prevent, detect, and mitigate compliance risk. The required reporting includes quarterly updates to the Oversight Committee on CPRIT's compliance with applicable laws, rules, and agency policies. In addition, the Compliance Officer is responsible for monitoring the timely submission status of required grant recipient reports and notifying the Oversight Committee and General Counsel of a grant recipient's failure to meaningfully comply with reporting deadlines.

Submission Status of Required Grant Recipient Reports

As of April 26, 11 entities had not filed 16 academic research reports, one product development report, and one prevention report. CPRIT's grant accountants and compliance specialists review and process incoming reports and reach out to grantees to resolve filing issues. In most cases, CPRIT does not disburse grant funds until the grantee files the required reports. In some instances, grantee institutions may be ineligible to receive a future award if the grantee does not submit required reports.

Financial Status Report Reviews

CPRIT's compliance specialists performed 534 second-level reviews of grantee Financial Status Reports (FSRs) in February, March, and April. Eighty-six FSRs (16%) needed resubmission due to insufficient or inaccurate documentation sent by the grantee. CPRIT's grant accounting staff completes the first review of the FSRs and supporting documentation before routing them to the compliance specialists for final review and disposition.

Single Audit Tracking

Compliance specialists track the submission of grantees' independent audit reports and the resolution of issues named in these reports. Grantees who spend $750,000 or more in state awards in the grantee's fiscal year must undertake a single independent audit, a program specific audit, or an agreed upon procedures engagement. The grantee sends the independent audit report

with findings to CPRIT within 30 days of receipt, but no later than nine months after the grantee's fiscal year end.

Currently, one grantee has not submitted the required audit. Grantees are unable to receive reimbursements or advances if they are delinquent in filing the required audit and corrective action plan unless the grantee requested more time by the due date of the required audit and CPRIT's CEO approves the request. Compliance staff is working with the grantee.

Desk Reviews

Compliance specialists performed 10 enhanced desk-based financial monitoring reviews in February, March, and April. Desk reviews confirm financial, administrative, and programmatic compliance using data from CGMS/CARS with additional focus on an organization's internal controls, current and previous fiscal audits, and grantee report submission timeliness. Desk reviews also aid in the identification of potential problems and technical assistance issues for follow-up during an onsite visit, as well as areas of non-compliance and grantee performance issues. Compliance specialists have cleared all desk review findings.

Onsite Reviews

Compliance specialists completed 11 onsite reviews in February, March, and April. Onsite reviews are the most extensive monitoring activity conducted by CPRIT and include virtual or field visits led by compliance grant monitoring staff. CPRIT monitors the grantee's financial and administrative operations, subcontract monitoring, procurement and contracting procedures, inventory procedures, personnel policies and procedures, payroll and timesheet policies, travel policies and records, and compliance with single audits during onsite reviews. Onsite monitoring enables CPRIT compliance staff to assess a grantees' capability, performance, and compliance with applicable laws, rules, and policies. Compliance specialists are collaborating with five grantees to address onsite review findings.

Match Expenditures Review

CPRIT requires academic research and product development research grantees to show that they have available unused funds equal to at least one-half of the CPRIT grant award that the grantee will spend on the CPRIT-funded project. This obligation, often referred to as "CPRIT's matching funds requirement," requires the grantee to first certify that it has available matching funds, and then at the end of the grant year, to verify that the grantee spent the matching funds on the project. CPRIT's statute allows an institution of higher education to use its federal indirect cost rate as a credit toward the required 50% match.

Product development grantees, as well as those academic research grantees whose indirect cost rate credit does not fully offset the required match must supply a detailed match expenditure report that includes the amount and date paid, vendor, description, and budget category. Compliance staff review grantees' match expenditures for appropriateness and allowability and work with CPRIT's grant accountants and the grantee to address any deficiencies. Compliance

staff performed 10 annual match expenditure reviews in February, March, and April. The total amount of match expenses reviewed by compliance staff for FY 2024 is $26,530,812.88. The unallowable match expenses for FY 2024 total $225,369.40.

Training and Support

CPRIT staff conducted six new Authorized Signing Official (ASO) training webinars in February, March, and April for University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Texas Tech University, The University of Texas at Austin, University of Houston, University of Houston - Downtown, and The University of Texas at San Antonio. The ASO training covers grant reporting requirements, administrative rule changes, grant closeout, and an overview of the compliance program including fraud, waste, and abuse reporting. Pursuant to Texas Administrative Code §703.22, CPRIT requires new ASOs to complete compliance training within 60 days.

CPRIT staff conducted a series of annual compliance training webinars on March 6-7 for 78 grantee staff. Training is specific to each program area (Academic Research, Product Development Research, and Prevention) and allows for an interactive experience and opportunity to focus on topics relevant to each program. The trainings cover grant reporting requirements, administrative rule changes, grant closeout, and an overview of the compliance program including fraud, waste, and abuse reporting. This was the first training series offered this year for the annual compliance training requirement which requires the Authorized Signing Official (ASO) and at least one other employee from each grantee organization to attend an annual compliance training by December 31 of each year.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM: MICHELLE LE BEAU, PH.D., CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

SUBJECT: ACADEMIC RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE

DATE: MAY 15, 2024

ACTION ITEM #1: Proposed 25.1 Recruitment RFAs

Recruitment of Established Investigators (RFA R-25-1 REI):
Recruits outstanding senior research faculty with distinguished professional careers and established cancer research programs to academic institutions in Texas.
Award: Up to $6 million over a period of up to five years.

Recruitment of Rising Stars (RFA R-25-1 RRS):
Recruits outstanding early-stage investigators to Texas, who have demonstrated the promise for continued and enhanced contributions to the field of cancer research.
Award: Up to $4 million over a period of up to five years.

Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty Members (RFA R-25-1 RFTTF):
Supports very promising emerging investigators, pursuing their first faculty appointment in Texas, who have the ability to make outstanding contributions to the field of cancer research.
Award: Up to $2 million over a period of up to five years.

Note the Academic Research is proposing the revision of the 25.1 Recruitment RFAs to reflect a 9-month cycle vs. 12-month cycle.

Table 1. Proposed REC review cycles and important dates

Review Cycle	Cycle Opens	Close Date	Oversight Committee Review	Potential Award Date
25.1	6/21/24	8/20/24	11/20/24	12/1/24
25.2	8/21/24	10/20/24	2/19/25	3/1/25
25.3	10/22/24	11/20/24	2/19/25	3/1/25
25.4	11/21/24	1/20/25	5/21/25	6/1/25
25.5	1/21/25	2/20/25	5/21/25	6/1/25
25.6	2/21/25	3/20/25	5/21/25	6/1/25
25.7	3/21/25	4/20/25	8/20/25	8/31/25
25.8	4/22/25	5/20/25	8/20/25	8/31/25
25.9	5/1/25	6/20/25	8/20/25	8/31/25

Action Item #2: Institutional supplemental funds requested (Research Training Awards)

CPRIT has gathered information regarding the impact of postdoctoral salary increases on current Research Training Awards (RTA) to determine if supplemental funds will be needed to meet RTA commitments. Below is the information submitted by current grantees.

Table 2. Institutional supplemental funds requested

Institution	Grant ID	Original Total Budget	Remaining Funds	TOTAL Supplemental Funds Requested (Direct + Indirect)
Baylor College of Medicine	RP210027	$3,710,926	$2,323,643	$132,442
The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center	RP210028	$3,901,557	$2,748,882	$279,935
University of North Texas at Ft. Worth	RP210046	$3,870,641	$2,521,026	$63,256
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	RP210041	$3,748,675	$1,898,997	$373,584
The University of Texas HSC Houston	RP210042	$3,998,230	$2,485,043	$244,723
The University of Texas HSC Houston	RP210045	$3,998,553	$2,827,865	$70,442
			TOTAL	**$1,164,382**

Fiscal Year 2025 Cycle 1 (FY25.1) RFAs

The following FY25.1 RFAs were posted on February 22, 2024. CPRIT's Application Receipt System (CARS) opened for applications on March 19, 2024, and will close on June 11, 2024. Virtual Peer Review will be conducted in September 2024. Dr. Le Beau will present the Scientific Review Council's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in February 2025.

Individual Investigator Research Awards (IIRA)
Supports applications for innovative research projects addressing critically important questions that will significantly advance knowledge of the causes, prevention, and/or treatment of cancer. Areas of interest include laboratory research, translational studies, and/or clinical investigations. Award: Up to $300,000 per year. Exceptions permitted if extremely well justified; maximum duration: 3 years.

Individual Investigator Research Awards for Computational Systems Biology of Cancer (IIRACSBC)
Supports applications for innovative mathematical and/or computational research projects addressing questions that will advance current knowledge in the (a) mechanisms that tie altered gene expression and downstream molecular mechanisms to functional cancer phenotypes and/or (b) mechanisms that tie tumor morphology to functional cancer phenotypes and/or mechanisms that tie treatment sequence and combination to evolving functional cancer phenotypes (that emerge as a result of treatment selection).
Award: Up to $350,000 in total costs per year for up to 3 years. Exceptions permitted if extremely well justified.

Individual Investigator Research Awards for Cancer in Children and Adolescents (IIRACCA)
Supports applications for innovative research projects addressing questions that will advance knowledge of the causes, prevention, progression, detection, or treatment of cancer in children and adolescents. Laboratory, clinical, or population-based studies are all acceptable. CPRIT expects the outcome of the research to reduce the incidence, morbidity, or mortality from cancer in children and/or adolescents in the near- or long-term.
Award: Up to $300,000 per year. Exceptions permitted if extremely well justified; maximum duration: 4 years.

Individual Investigator Research Awards for Prevention and Early Detection (IIRAP)
Supports applications which propose clinical and population-based projects designed to develop effective prevention and early detection interventions to reduce cancer risk, mortality, and morbidity among Texans. Projects that propose such research collaborations with existing CPRIT Prevention Program awardees including the CPRIT funded *Texas Collaborative Center for Hepatocellular Cancer* (https://www.bcm.edu/research/labs-and-centers/research-centers/texas-collaborative-center-for-hepatocellular-cancer) are strongly encouraged.
Award: Up to $300,000 per year. Exceptions permitted if extremely well justified; maximum duration: 4 years.

Individual Investigator Research Awards for Clinical Trials (IIRACT)
Supports applications that propose innovative cancer clinical studies in adults or children and adolescents that are hypothesis driven and involve patients enrolled prospectively on a clinical trial. Areas of interest include clinical studies of new or repurposed drugs, hormonal therapies, immune therapies, surgery, radiation therapy, stem cell transplantation, combinations of interventions, or therapeutic devices. Clinical trial must be planned to begin when the contract is awarded.
Award: Up to $400,000 per year. Maximum duration: 4 years. Exceptions permitted if extremely well justified.

Individual Investigator Research Awards for Early-Onset Cancers (IIRAEOC)
Supports innovative research projects that will significantly advance the knowledge of etiology, prevention, cancer biology, and treatment of early-onset cancers.
Award: Up to $300,000 per year for a 3-year period

Collaborative Action Program (CAP) to Reduce Liver Cancer Mortality in Texas: Collaborative Action Center (Competitive Renewal)
Supports a competitive renewal of one single Collaborative Action Center whose function will be to innovatively expand the administrative services, resources, and support to CPRIT funded hepatocellular cancer research projects.
Award: Up to $3,000,000 in total costs for a period of 5 years

FY2024 Cycle 2 RFAs

The following FY24.2 RFAs were posted on September 14, 2023. CPRIT's Application Receipt System (CARS) opened for applications on October 17, 2023, and closed on January 18, 2024. Virtual Peer Review was conducted in late April 2024. Dr. Le Beau will present the Scientific Review Council's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in August 2024.

Core Facility Support Awards (R-24.2 CFSA)
Supports applications that facilitate the development or improvement of core facilities that will provide valuable services to support and enhance scientifically meritorious cancer research projects. Funds may be requested to develop a new facility or to enhance the capabilities of an existing facility that will directly support and impact cancer research programs at the institution and in the region. CPRIT will look with special favor on applications that propose a facility that will serve cancer researchers at multiple Texas research institutions, in particular TREC-eligible institutions.
Award: The maximum duration for this award mechanism is 5 years. Applicants may request up to a maximum of $3,000,000 in total costs.

High-Impact/High-Risk Research Awards (R-24.2 HIHR)
Supports applications that explore the feasibility of high-risk projects that, if successful, would contribute major new insights into the etiology, diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of cancers. Using this mechanism, CPRIT intends to support innovative, developmental projects that focus on exceptionally promising topics that are not yet sufficiently mature to compete successfully for more conventional funding. The HIHR Research Awards are expected to provide the foundation for individual or multiple investigator peer-reviewed awards upon completion. The goal of this award mechanism is to fund uncommonly great ideas that merit the opportunity to acquire preliminary data.
Award: Applicants may request a total of $250,000 for a period of up to 24 months.

Multi-Investigator Research Awards (R-24.2 MIRA)
Supports highly integrated programs of collaborative and cross-disciplinary research among multiple Texas investigators and Institutions. Applications responding to this RFA that address one of the program priorities for academic research adopted by CPRIT's Oversight Committee are particularly encouraged.
Award: $4,500,000 in total costs for a maximum period of 4 years.

Clinical Investigator Award (R-24.2 CIA)
Supports mid-career clinician scientists with specialty training relevant to delivery of cancer care to devote more time to augment their capabilities in clinical cancer research, and to provide mentoring to early-stage investigators in the conduct of clinical research. The CIA will provide protected time from clinical responsibilities to provide physicians with the opportunity to expand clinical research skills, to develop investigator-initiated clinical trials, to develop external relations with industry and pharmaceutical company partners, and to expand partnerships with laboratory-based collaborators to design and conduct correlative studies needed to interpret the outcome of an interventional trial. The CIA initiative will increase the pool of clinical investigators at Texas academic institutions who are conducting patient-oriented studies, who will be able to compete successfully for peer-reviewed grants, and who will mentor the next generation of clinical investigators.
Award: $1,500,000 in total costs for a maximum period of 5 years.

Table 3: Application Submission data for FY2024 Cycle 2

Mechanism	Submitted	Total Funding Requested
Clinical Investigator Award	6	$6,624,889
Core Facility Support Awards	22	$58,593,485
High-Impact/High-Risk Research Awards	101	$25,065,092
Multi-Investigator Research Awards	18	$77,774,808
Total	**147**	**$168,058,274**

FY2024 Recruitment

Table 4 displays an overview of the status of CPRIT recruitment applications received for the eight and ninth cycles of FY2024. The Scientific Review Council reviewed applications for Cycle 24.8 and 24.9 on April 11, 2024. Dr. Le Beau will present the Scientific Review Council's award recommendations to the Program Integration Committee and the Oversight Committee in May 2024.

Table 4: Recruitment Application Submission data for Cycle 24.8 and 24.9

Mechanism	Number Received	Funds Requested	# SRC Recommended	SRC Recommended Funds
Recruitment of Established Investigators	2	$11,997,619	1	$6,000,000
Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members	16	$31,998,639	6	$11,998,639
Recruitment of Rising Stars	3	$12,000,000	0	$0,000,000
TOTAL	**21**	**$55,996,258**	**7**	**$17,998,639**

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	WAYNE R. ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT:	RESEARCH TRAINING AWARD GRANTS - RECOMMENDATION FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS
DATE:	MAY 2, 2024

Summary and Recommendation

I recommend that the Oversight Committee vote to approve supplemental grant funds for six Research Training Award grantees in a cumulative amount not to exceed $1,164,382, and to delegate contract negotiation authority to CPRIT's Chief Executive Officer. The six Research Training Award grantees requesting supplemental funds are: Baylor College of Medicine (RP210027), The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (RP210028), University of North Texas Health Science Center at Ft. Worth (RP210046), The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (RP210041), and The University of Texas Health Science Center Houston (RP210042, RP210045). The grantees request supplemental funds to bridge the gap between recently increased National Institute of Health (NIH) stipends and the amounts applicable to the Research Training Award grants approved by the Oversight Committee in May 2021. Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Michelle Le Beau supports the request.

Background

The Oversight Committee approved Research Training Award grants on May 19, 2021, for the six grantees requesting supplemental funds. According to the Research Training Awards RFA, the grant is to, "Support applications for integrated institutional research training programs to support promising individuals who seek specialized training in the area of cancer research. Successful applicant institutions are expected to provide trainees with broad access to research opportunities across disciplinary lines and to maintain high standards for intellectual rigor and creativity." CPRIT allows applicants to include in their grant budgets stipends for Ph.D. trainees, undergraduate summer internship programs, master's degree-level programs to support research careers as laboratory support, and master's degree-level programs to train clinical investigators. The RFA also specifies maximum stipend amounts that a CPRIT grant applicant may include in their grant project budget.

Need for Supplemental Funding

In April, NIH announced an increase to FY 2024 stipend levels for undergraduate, predoctoral, and postdoctoral trainees and fellows under Kirschstein-NRSA awards in accordance with

recommendations from the *NIH Advisory Committee to the Director Working Group on Re-Envisioning NIH-Supported Training* report. NIH's announced pay increase is the largest year-over-year increase in almost seven years.

Research institutions in Texas typically employ the same stipend levels established by the NIH for research trainees. Given this, the stipend limits applicable to the CPRIT Research Training Awards approved in 2021 will make recruiting and retaining the most qualified post-doctoral fellows more challenging for CPRIT's grantee institutions. To bridge the salary gap, the six institutions request supplemental funds to increase the stipend levels paid to trainees for the remaining two years of their CPRIT training awards.

The table below lists the current budget originally approved for each grantee, the requested amount of supplemental funds, and the total revised budget. The $1,164,382 necessary to fund this request is available in CPRIT's FY 2024 grant awards budget.

Proposed Supplemental Funds Request by Institution

Institution	Grant ID	Approved Budget	Supplemental Funds Requested	Total Revised Budget
Baylor College of Medicine	RP210027	$3,710,926	$132,442	$3,843,368
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center	RP210028	$3,901,557	$279,935	$4,181,492
The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Ft. Worth	RP210046	$3,870,641	$63,256	$3,933,897
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	RP210041	$3,748,675	$373,584	$4,122,259
The University of Texas Health Science Center Houston	RP210042	$3,998,230	$244,723	$4,242,953
The University of Texas Health Science Center Houston	RP210045	$3,998,553	$70,442	$4,068,995

Authority and Process to Supplement Grant Award Funds

The Oversight Committee approved the six Research Training Award projects in accordance with the appropriate process and the authority provided in Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.252. However, the request to increase each award contract exceeds the amounts originally authorized for each grant by the Oversight Committee. To amend the six grant contracts and increase the total grant funds available for each project, the Oversight Committee must first vote to increase the total amount for each of the six awards. Because this vote affects the funding authorized for a grant award, two-thirds of the members of the Oversight Committee must approve the action.

The Oversight Committee is authorized to negotiate grant contracts on behalf of the state pursuant to Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.255. The Oversight Committee delegated this

authority to the Chief Executive Officer, which I use to approve routine changes to the grant contracts, such as no-cost extensions and changes to the primary investigator. Increasing the approved contract amount constitutes a material change. Accordingly, the Oversight Committee must vote to delegate contract negotiation authority to me in relation to any approved supplemental funding.

The Oversight Committee's approval of supplemental funds at this time in no way binds the Oversight Committee's future decisions regarding these projects. Any amount of supplemental grant funds approved for the six Research Training Award grantees will count against the grant annual award cap for FY 2024 set forth by Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.253.

Recommendation

Dr. Le Beau and I recommend that the Oversight Committee vote to approve supplemental grant funds for six Research Training Award grantees in a cumulative amount not to exceed $1,164,382. Doing so will assist the grant institutions recruit and maintain these stellar trainees, the future cancer researchers in Texas.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	RAMONA MAGID, CHIEF PREVENTION OFFICER
SUBJECT:	PREVENTION PROGRAM UPDATE
DATE:	MAY 15, 2024

FY 2025 Review Cycle 1 (25.1)

The Prevention Program released three RFAs, *Primary Prevention of Cancer, Cancer Screening and Early Detection*, and *Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions* on February 9, 2024, for the first cycle of FY 2025. Peer review will take place on September 9-10, 2024, and the Prevention Review Council (PRC) will meet on October 18, 2024, to make recommendations to the Program Integration Committee (PIC). Ms. Magid will present the Prevention Review Council's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in November 2024.

Texas Cancer Plan Update

The timeline for the Texas Cancer Plan has been updated to allow for the development of the online resource (similar to the CPRIT Annual Report), to provide sufficient time for stakeholder feedback, and for both internal and external review. The 2024 Texas Cancer Plan will be shared with the Oversight Committee in November and released to the public in December 2024.

Other Activities

- The Prevention Advisory Committee met on March 28, 2024, to discuss recommendations to the Oversight Committee prior to their presentation in November 2024.
- Mr. Allen presented an update on the Texas Cancer Plan development to the Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (PCIAC) during their April quarterly meeting on April 23, 2024. The council shared feedback on the supportive palliative care focused goals and on the objectives associated with the draft version of the goal.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	KEN SMITH, PH.D., CHIEF PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
SUBJECT:	PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATE
DATE:	MAY 1, 2024

Product Development FY 2024 Cycle 2 Review (24.2)

CPRIT released four FY 2024 Product Development Research RFAs for the 24.2 review cycle on November 29, 2023, and opened the portal to receive preliminary applications December 1, 2023. Because of the smaller overall award budget (~$20 million) remaining for the 24.2 cycle, CPRIT capped the maximum amount a non-Seed company may request at $5 million. The regular $3 million budget cap for Seed awards remains the same in this cycle.

Preliminary Application Review (December and January):

CPRIT received 63 preliminary applications by the December 11, 2023, deadline. After administratively withdrawing three applications for non-compliance, CPRIT assigned the 60 preliminary applications to eight review panels on December 15, 2023. The reviewers individually evaluated and scored the assigned preliminary applications and then met as a panel January 18 – 22 to rank the preliminary applications. The Product Development Review Council (PDRC) met January 23 to finalize a comprehensive ranked list of preliminary applications.

Full Application Review

On January 24, CPRIT issued invitations to submit full applications to the eleven companies receiving the best preliminary application scores in the 24.2 cycle. In addition to the companies submitting preliminary applications in the 24.2 cycle, seven companies were eligible to submit full applications based on their performance in the 24.1 preliminary application review cycle. Five of the seven companies indicated that they intended to submit applications in the 24.2 cycle.

Fifteen companies submitted full applications by the February 13 deadline, although one withdrew its Seed Company application from consideration before the scheduled panel presentation. Live presentations to the full review panels occurred March 18 – March 27. Based upon the application scores and presentations to the panels, six companies moved forward to due diligence review, which took place in mid-April. Following due diligence review, the individual review panels recommended all six companies for awards. The PDRC met April 22 to vote on its final recommendations. I will present the PIC's recommendations to the Oversight Committee at the May 15 meeting.

Due Diligence Review, Final Recommendations and Budget Negotiation (April):

Based upon the review panels' recommendations, six companies proceeded to due diligence review. The review panels met in April to evaluate the due diligence reports and to finalize panel award recommendations. Following the meetings, the panels recommended six companies for product development awards.

The Product Development Review Council (PDRC) met April 22 to develop a final ranked list of the six companies recommended for product development awards totaling $22 million. I negotiated the proposed project budgets to identify ways to decrease CPRIT-funded project expenses while maintaining the goals and objectives of the recommended projects. This is a crucial step to ensuring that CPRIT can fund as many meritorious projects as possible with the estimated $20 million remaining for FY 2024 Product Development awards. The table below provides information about the full applications submitted for the second cycle of FY 2024.

24.2 RFA	Prelim Apps	Total Request	Full Apps*	Total Request	Due Diligence	Total Request	Proposed Awards	Negotiated Budget
TTC	17	$84.1 M	5	$25.0 M	2	$10 M	2	$9,200,000
TDDC	2	$10.0 M	0	--	0	--	--	--
TNTC	10	$47.8 M	2	$ 9.9M	0	--	--	--
Seed	31	$88.1 M	8	$24.0 M	4	$12 M	4	$10,565,655
TOTAL	**60**	**$230.0 M**	**15**	**$58.9 M**	**6**	**$22.0 M**	**6**	**$19,765,655**

*Totals include two TTC applications, one TNTC application, and two Seed applications submitted by applicants with invitations to submit full applications from FY 2024 review cycle 1.

I discussed the PDRC's proposed awards with the Program Integration Committee (PIC) on May 1. I will present the six companies proposed for awards at the May 15 Oversight Committee meeting.

Product Development FY 2025 Cycle 1 Review (25.1)

CPRIT released four FY 2025 Product Development Research RFAs for the 25.1 review cycle on April 15, and opened the portal to receive preliminary applications April 22 – May 1. CPRIT received 91 preliminary applications by the 4:00 p.m. deadline on May 1. This is a record number of preliminary applications.

CPRIT will assign the preliminary applications to 10 - 14 review panels for individual evaluation and scoring. The review panels will meet to rank and score their assigned preliminary applications in late June. The PDRC will finalize a comprehensive list of all ranked preliminary applications. In early July, CPRIT will issue up to 20 invitations to submit full applications to companies receiving the best preliminary application scores. The invited companies will submit their full applications by July 25 and present their proposals to the individual review panels in September. Based upon the application scores and presentations to the panels, some companies will move forward to due diligence in October and consideration for CPRIT product

development awards. I will present the PIC's recommendations to the Oversight Committee in November.

Texas Life Science Summit

CPRIT co-hosted the inaugural Texas Life Science Summit with the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute (THBI) on April 2. The summit, held at the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown, brought together state leaders, life sciences companies, economic development organizations, academic institutions, and service providers that support the Texas ecosystem. It provided an opportunity to discuss workforce issues and commercialization efforts and make plans for future growth of the industry. The agenda covered important topics to promote Texas more effectively, increase awareness of the strong workforce in Texas, and help Texas-based life science companies find tools and resources to assist with their efforts to get to the marketplace. Ms. Doyle participated as a panelist discussing "Surviving the Valley of Death."

In addition to panel presentations throughout the day, there was a company expo, industry partnership meetings, and an industry networking reception. Dr. Magee, Dr. Leeuwon, and I staffed the CPRIT booth at the expo and met with a number of companies and entities interested in partnering with CPRIT. Several other CPRIT staff attended the summit as well as Oversight Committee member Dr. Craig Rosenfeld.

Other Activities

- Dr. Leeuwon virtually attended the FDA-AACR Workshop held February 15-16 on optimizing dosages for oncology drug products, co-hosted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Office of Clinical Pharmacology and the American Association for Cancer Research. Discussions emphasized the importance of leveraging existing data and new trial methodologies to improve patient outcomes.

- Dr. Le Beau and Dr. Magee addressed the recent innovations in cancer research, diagnosis, and treatment at the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Research and Health Equity Breakfast on February 22 at the Junior League of Houston. They joined several key stakeholders throughout the oncology community discussing how changing methods and recent technologies impact diagnosis, treatment, and delivery of cancer care and how Texas geography affects access to innovation.

- Ms. Doyle and Dr. Leeuwon met with several representatives from the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) on February 22 to discuss CIRM's industry alliance program.

- Dr. Leeuwon was an invited member of the panel "Seed Funds - Investing in Innovation in the Earliest Stages" at the Redefining Early Stage Investments (RESI) South conference held March 25 in Atlanta. She also served as a judge for an investment pitch competition for therapeutics and oncology start-up presentations. She met with several companies to discuss CPRIT funding opportunities and to identify collaboration prospects.

- On March 25, Dr. Magee participated in the Accelerator for Cancer Therapeutics (ACT) program cohort event at the Texas Medical Center. She gave a presentation on the product development program award process in a session titled "Non-Dilutive Funding."

- Ms. Doyle, Mr. Roberts, and I provided an overview of CPRIT's Product Development Program to a group of El Paso business and institutional leaders in El Paso on April 11. The meeting, convened by Oversight Committee member Dee Margo, will hopefully stimulate cancer commercialization applications from the West Texas region.

- The Product Development Advisory Committee met April 11.

- On April 15, Mr. Roberts, Ms. Doyle, Dr. Magee, Dr. Leeuwon, and I met with representatives for the Texas Center for Particle Therapy and Research in Waco. The Center provided a high-level overview of their work on FLASH therapy clinical research and development of multidisciplinary, multi-institutional cancer treatment centers. The group discussed options related to funding and explained the CPRIT grant application/review process. Congressman Michael Burgess's office arranged the meeting, which concluded with the Center staff planning to evaluate which of our funding mechanisms meets their needs.

- Dr. Leeuwon attended several professional events in April, including the American Association of Cancer Research Conference 2024 in San Diego from April 5-10, the Texas A&M University Patent Award Event on April 12, the VIC Tech Workshop April 24, and "From concept to cure: Empowering startups in oncology innovation" JLabs online conference on April 25. These events acknowledged notable patent holders for their contributions to various fields, highlighted innovative technologies and potential impacts of these inventions, and facilitated networking with other professionals, which could lead to future collaborative opportunities.

- Dr. Magee and Dr. Leeuwon met with several companies in February, March, and April to discuss CPRIT funding opportunities and to identify collaboration prospects. Companies included Resilience, Texas A&M Innovations, LabCorp, Alveolus Bio, Aleutian Therapeutics, BioHub Nash, LeukoGene Therapeutics, Moexa, Allai Health, SiNon Nano Science, ACON Pharmaceuticals, WiNK Therapeutics, Molecular You, Radius Research, Jeeva Clinical Trials, Angus McQuilken, WuXi Biologics, CAIVanquish Bio, TAE Life Sciences. Novi Healthcare, AcuaMarkDx, Adele Health, Curve Biosciences, CAPS Medical, iSono Health, and the Houston Belgian Trade Office (of the Belgian Trade Commission).

May 2024 Oversight Committee
Internal Audit Status Report
As of April 26, 2024

Weaver and Tidwell, LLP (Weaver) is the outsourced internal auditor of the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). The Weaver engagement team is led by Daniel Graves, Partner.

2024 Internal Audit Plan and Schedule

Based on the approval of the 2024 Internal Audit Plan by the Oversight Committee in the November meeting, we have coordinated and planned the timing of the internal audits and follow-up procedures for the 2024 Internal Audit Plan.

2024 NEW INTERNAL AUDITS		
Internal Audit	**Description**	**Status**
Internal Agency Compliance	The internal Audit included an evaluation of risks and internal controls in place related to CPRIT's Internal Agency Compliance practices. Activities evaluated included: • Disclosures • Ethics Policy and Compliance • Code of Conduct • Complaints/Grievances. There were no findings identified.	Complete
Records Management Advisory	Internal Audit will include an evaluation of risks and internal controls in place related to CPRIT's Records Management processes. Activities to be evaluated will consist of Data Retention and Records Retention.	Fieldwork in Process
Oversight Committee Reporting	Internal Audit will include an evaluation of risks and internal controls in place related to CPRIT's Oversight Committee Reporting processes. Activities to be evaluated will include Legislative Reporting, Management Reporting, Meeting Materials, Monthly Reporting, Management Dashboard, and Ad HOC reporting.	May 2024

2024 NEW INTERNAL AUDIT FOLLOW-UPS		
Purchasing Compliance Follow-up • 1 Low Finding	Fieldwork for the follow-up procedures to validate remediation of the one low finding are complete. The one low finding has been remediated and closed.	Complete
Communications Follow-Up • 1 High Finding	Internal Audit performed follow-up procedures on the one open finding from the 2018 Internal Audit to ensure corrective action has been taken.	May 2024
IT General Controls Follow-Up	Internal Audit will perform follow-up procedures on 2023 Internal Audit findings to ensure corrective action has been taken.	May 2024

We have prepared a summary schedule of audits, their status and a summary of the findings by risk rating. The schedule maps out the internal audit and follow-up procedures performed, by year, the report date, report rating, and the findings by risk rating. The summary schedule is attached.

Daniel Graves, CPA, Internal Auditor
Partner
Weaver and Tidwell L.L.P.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Schedule of Audits, Status, and Findings Summary
As of April 26, 2023

					Open Findings				Closed Findings				Total Findings			
Audit	**Fiscal Year**	**Status/Timing**	**Report Date**	**Report Rating**	**High**	**Mod**	**Low**	**Total**	**High**	**Mod**	**Low**	**Total**	**High**	**Mod**	**Low**	**Total**
Fiscal Year 2017																
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2017	Complete	May 30, 2017													
Fiscal Year 2017 Subtotal					-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fiscal Year 2018																
Communications Internal Audit	2018	Complete	April 30, 2018	Satisfactory	1	4	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	5
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2018	Complete	July 17, 2018													
Fiscal Year 2018 Subtotal					**1**	**4**	**-**	**5**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1**	**4**	**-**	**5**
Fiscal Year 2019																
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2019	Cancelled	N/A													
2018 Communications Follow-Up	2019	Complete	August 30, 2019	Satisfactory	1	4	-	5	-	2	-	2	1	2	-	3
Fiscal Year 2019 Subtotal					**1**	**4**	**-**	**5**	**-**	**2**	**-**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**-**	**3**
Fiscal Year 2020																
Governance	2020	Complete	October 30, 2020	Strong	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2020	Complete	N/A													
2018 Communications Follow-Up	2020	Complete	N/A	N/A	1	4	-	5	-	2	-	2	1	2	-	3
Fiscal Year 2020 Subtotal					**1**	**5**	**-**	**6**	**-**	**2**	**-**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**-**	**4**
Fiscal Year 2021																
Sunset Self-Assessment Advisory	2021	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Information Technology General Computer Controls	2021	Complete	September 24, 2022													
Grantee Compliance Records Management	2021	Rescheduled	FY 2022	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2021	Rescheduled	FY 2022													
2018 Communications Follow-Up	2021	Rescheduled	FY 2022	N/A	1	4	-	5	-	2	-	2	1	2	-	3
2020 Governance Follow-up	2021	Rescheduled	FY 2022	Strong	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
2020 Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Follow-up	2021	Complete	September 28, 2021	N/A	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	5
Fiscal Year 2021 Subtotal					**1**	**5**	**-**	**36**	**-**	**2**	**-**	**27**	**1**	**2**	**-**	**9**
Fiscal Year 2022																
Vendor Contract Compliance	2022	Complete	October 25, 2022	Strong	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Information Technology General Computer Controls	2022	Cancelled	N/A													
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2022	Cancelled	N/A													
2018 Communications Follow-Up	2022	Complete	October 28, 2022	Satisfactory	1	4	-	5	-	4	-	4	1	-	-	1
2020 Governance Follow-up	2022	Complete	October 28, 2022	Strong	-	1	-	1		1	-	1	-	-	-	-
2020 Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Follow-up	2022	Complete	October 28, 2022														Note 1
Fiscal Year 2022 Subtotal					**1**	**5**	**2**	**8**	**-**	**5**	**-**	**5**	**1**	**-**	**2**	**3**

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Schedule of Audits, Status, and Findings Summary
As of April 26, 2023

Audit	Fiscal Year	Status/Timing	Report Date	Report Rating	Open Findings				Closed Findings				Total Findings				
					High	Mod	Low	Total	High	Mod	Low	Total	High	Mod	Low	Total	
Fiscal Year 2023																	
Contract Risk Assessment	2023	Complete	May 1, 2023	N/A	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	**Note 2**
Post-Award Grant Compliance Program	2023	Complete	September 12, 2023	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Purchasing Compliance	2023	Complete	September 22, 2023	Strong	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
IT General Controls	2023	Complete	September 18, 2023	Satisfactory	1	4	3	8	-	-	-	-	1	4	3	8	
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2023	Cancelled	N/A														
2018 Communications Follow-Up	2023	Complete	October 27, 2023	N/A	2	4	-	6	1	4	-	5	1	-	-	1	
2020 Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Follow-up	2023	Complete	July 31, 2023														
2022 Vendor Contract Compliance Follow-up	2023	Complete	October 27, 2023	Strong	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-		-	-	
Fiscal Year 2023 Subtotal					**3**	**8**	**5**	**17**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**6**	**2**	**4**	**4**	**11**	
Fiscal Year 2024																	
Internal Agency Compliance	2024	Complete	April 5, 2024	Strong	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Records Management Advisory	2024	Fieldwork	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Oversight Committee Reporting	2024	May 2024	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2023 Purchasing Compliance Follow-up	2024	Complete	April 12, 2024	Strong	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	
2018 Communications Follow-Up	2024	May 2024	N/A	N/A	2	4	-	6	1	4	-	5	1	-	-	1	
2023 IT General Controls Follow-up	2024	May 2024	N/A														
Fiscal Year 2024 Subtotal					**2**	**4**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**-**	**-**	**1**	

Open Items Summary																	
Audit	Fiscal Year	Status/Timing	Report Date	Report Rating	Findings				Closed Findings				Total Open Findings				IA Follow-Up Procedure Timing
					High	Mod	Low	Total	High	Mod	Low	Total	High	Mod	Low	Total	
2018 Communications Follow-Up	2024	May 2024	N/A	N/A	2	4	-	6	1	4	-	5	1	-	-	1	**FY 2024**
2023 IT General Controls Follow-up	2024	May 2024	N/A														**FY 2024**
Total Findings For Internal Audit Follow-Up					**2**	**4**	**-**	**6**	**1**	**4**	**-**	**5**	**1**	**-**	**-**	**1**	

NOTE 1: The 2020 Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity findings are recommendations for improvement of the DR/BCP documentation. Therefore, they do not have a risk rating associated with them.

NOTE 2: The 2023 Contract Risk Assessment finding is a recommendation for implementing a Contract Risk Assessment required by state contract monitoring requirements. Therefore, they do not have a risk rating associated with them.

Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas

IA #2024-01 Internal Audit Follow-Up Procedures Report over Purchasing Compliance
Report Date: February 28, 2024
Issued: April 12, 2024

weaver
Assurance • Tax • Advisory

CONTENTS

The Oversight Committee
Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas
1701 North Congress Avenue, Suite 6-127
Austin, TX 78701

This report presents the results of the internal audit follow-up procedures performed for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) during the period of February 6, 2024, through February 28, 2024, related to the findings identified in the Internal Audit Report over Purchasing Compliance dated August 14, 2023.

The objective of these follow-up procedures was to validate the adequate corrective action has been taken to remediate the issue identified in the prior fiscal year's internal audit report.

To accomplish the objective, we conducted discussions and followed up with written correspondence with key personnel involved in the purchasing compliance processes. We also reviewed documentation and performed tests to validate actions taken.

The following report summarizes the findings identified, risks to the organization, recommendations for improvement, and management's responses.

Weaver and Tidwell, L.L.P.

WEAVER AND TIDWELL, L.L.P

Austin, Texas
April 12, 2024

Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas

IA #2024-01 Internal Audit Follow-Up Procedures Report over Purchasing Compliance

February 28, 2024

Issued: April 12, 2024

Background

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) is the state agency established to create and expedite innovation in cancer research and enhance the potential for a medical or scientific breakthrough in the prevention of cancer and cures for cancer.

CPRIT advances its mission by awarding merit-based, peer reviewed grants to Texas-based entities and institutions for cancer-related research, product development research, and the delivery of cancer prevention programs through three programs: Academic Research, Prevention, and Product Development Research. To appropriately manage and support the grant making processes, CPRIT utilizes a number of contracts for highly specialized services.

To guide the agency in procuring goods and services to support its mission, CPRIT has a Procurement Plan and Contract Management Guide that details the procurement standards and processes to help ensure that the agency complies with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller's Office) requirements. CPRIT procures goods and services for agency use including, but not limited to, the following:

- Office supplies and equipment
- Professional and other services
- ITSAC and Temp contract labor
- Software and hardware contracts

Purchases begin when a purchase request for a commodity or service is submitted to the Purchaser with any necessary background information. The Purchaser determines whether the commodity or service is available through cooperative contracts in place with the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) or Texas Correction Industries (TCI). The Purchaser also determines whether the commodity or service is available through the contracts managed by the Office of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' Statewide Procurement Division (SPD): TxSmartBuy Term Contracts and Texas Multiple Award Schedule (TXMAS). If the good or service is available through one of these, the Purchaser initiates a purchase requisition in CAPPS for budget and executive approval of the purchase, and then follows the established procurement procedures for the appropriate purchasing method.

If purchasing through one of the cooperative contract programs is not available, the Purchaser will initiate the formal solicitation process. In this process, a formal solicitation is published, and responses are evaluated by an evaluation team. To complete the process and award a contract, the Purchaser notifies the selected vendor, acknowledges and obtains a signed Form 1295. The form 1295 is completed by the vendor and filed with the Texas Ethics Commission to certify that there are no controlling or intermediary interested parties to the contract.

In fiscal year 2023, an internal audit over CPRIT's purchasing compliance process was completed. The internal audit report identified one finding. Form 1295 was not being completed on the Texas Ethics Commission website by vendors with contracts of $100,000 or more before contract awards were made, as required by the State Procurement Guide and CPRIT's Procurement Plan and Contract Management Handbook.

Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas

IA #2024-01 Internal Audit Follow-Up Procedures Report over Purchasing Compliance

February 28, 2024

Issued: April 12, 2024

Follow-Up Procedures Objective and Scope

The follow-up procedures focused on the remediation efforts taken by CPRIT management to address the single finding identified in the Internal Audit Report over Purchasing Compliance, and to validate that appropriate corrective action had been taken.

We evaluated the corrective action for the outstanding finding.

Our procedures included conducting discussions and corresponding with key CPRIT procurement personnel, examining existing documentation, and evaluating whether corrective action has been taken. Our coverage period was October 1, 2023, to January 31, 2024.

Executive Summary

The finding from the 2023 Internal Audit Report over Purchasing Compliance included an item that was identified as being out of compliance with CPRIT's policies and procedures, and state procurement rules.

Through our discussions and written correspondence, review of documentation, observations and testing we determined that the single finding we evaluated for corrective action was remediated.

Risk Rating	Total Findings	Remediated	Open
High	-	-	-
Moderate	-	-	-
Low	1	1	-
Total	**1**	**1**	**-**

A summary of our results, by audit objective, is provided in the table below. *See the Appendix for an overview of the Assessment and Risk Ratings*.

FOLLOW-UP ASSESSMENT	Strong

Scope Area	Result	Rating
Objective: Validate that adequate corrective action has been taken in order to remediate the issues identified in the 2023 Internal Audit Report over Purchasing Compliance.	We identified that procedures implemented by management fully remediated the internal audit finding.	Strong

Conclusion

Based on our evaluation, the agency has remediated the single finding from the 2023 Internal Audit Report over Purchasing Compliance.

Detailed Procedures Performed, Findings, Recommendations and Management Response

Detailed Procedures Performed, Findings, Recommendations and Management Response

Our procedures included conducting discussions, review of documentation, performing tests to validate the remediation, and correspondence with key procurement personnel to gain an understanding of the corrective actions taken to address the single outstanding internal audit finding identified in the 2023 Internal Audit Report over Purchasing Compliance. We evaluated the existing policies, procedures, and processes in their current state.

Objective: Validate Remediation

Validate that adequate corrective action has been taken to remediate the internal audit finding identified in the 2023 Internal Audit Report over Purchasing Compliance.

Vendor Contract Compliance

Finding 2 – Low – Open Market Solicitations:

CPRIT is not obtaining Form 1295 before contract award as required by the State Procurement Guide and CPRIT's Procurement Plan and Contract Management Handbook. We tested all five open market solicitations in the coverage period, and for all five samples, we verified that there were no Form 1295 within the maintained contract files.

Results: Finding remediated

CPRIT requires that the Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) form 1295 be completed by any vendor with a contract of $100,000 in accordance with the CPRIT Procurement Plan and Contract Management Handbook and the Texas Procurement and Contract Management Guide. These high value contracts must also be approved by the CPRIT Oversight Committee.

CPRIT has retroactively obtained the form 1295 from the four vendors with pre-existing contracts with a value of $100,000 or more prior to the November 30, 2023, implementation date. We obtained and reviewed the 1295 forms, for validation of accuracy and completeness. There have been no contracts awarded since the November 30, 2023, implementation date. Additionally, we reviewed CPRIT's existing Procurement Plan and Contract Management Handbook, last updated in 2022, and confirmed the policy requires vendors to complete the TEC form 1295.

Appendix

The appendix defines the approach and classifications utilized by Internal Audit to assess the residual risk of the area under review, the priority of the findings identified, and the overall assessment of the procedures performed.

Report Ratings

The report rating encompasses the entire scope of the engagement and expresses the aggregate impact of the exceptions identified during our test work on one or more of the following objectives:

- Operating or program objectives and goals conform with those of the agency
- Agency objectives and goals are being met
- The activity under review is functioning in a manner which ensures:
    - Reliability and integrity of financial and operational information
    - Effectiveness and efficiency of operations and programs
    - Safeguarding of assets
    - Compliance with laws, regulations, policies, procedures and contracts

The following ratings are used to articulate the overall magnitude of the impact on the established criteria:

Strong	The area under review meets the expected level. No high risk rated findings and only a few moderate or low findings were identified.
Satisfactory	The area under review does not consistently meet the expected level. Several findings were identified and require routine efforts to correct, but do not significantly impair the control environment.
Unsatisfactory	The area under review is weak and frequently falls below expected levels. Numerous findings were identified that require substantial effort to correct.

Risk Ratings

Residual risk is the risk derived from the environment after considering the mitigating effect of internal controls. The area under audit has been assessed from a residual risk level utilizing the following risk management classification system.

High

High risk findings have qualitative factors that include, but are not limited to:

- Events that threaten the agency's achievement of strategic objectives or continued existence
- Impact of the finding could be felt outside of the agency or beyond a single function or department
- Potential material impact to operations or the agency's finances
- Remediation requires significant involvement from senior agency management

.

Moderate

Moderate risk findings have qualitative factors that include, but are not limited to:

- Events that could threaten financial or operational objectives of the agency
- Impact could be felt outside of the agency or across more than one function of the agency
- Noticeable and possibly material impact to the operations or finances of the agency
- Remediation efforts that will require the direct involvement of functional leader(s)
- May require senior agency management to be updated

Low

Low risk findings have qualitative factors that include, but are not limited to:

- Events that do not directly threaten the agency's strategic priorities
- Impact is limited to a single function within the agency
- Minimal financial or operational impact to the agency
- Require functional leader(s) to be kept updated, or have other controls that help to mitigate the related risk

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

IA# 2024-02 Internal Audit Report over Internal Agency Compliance
Report Date: March 25, 2024
Issued: April 26, 2024

weaver
Assurance • Tax • Advisory

CONTENTS

The Oversight Committee
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
1701 North Congress Avenue, Suite 6-127
Austin, TX 78701

This report presents the results of the internal audit procedures performed for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) during the period of January 15, 2024, through March 25, 2024, relating to the internal agency compliance processes.

The objectives of this internal audit were to evaluate the design and effectiveness of CPRIT's internal agency compliance processes as follows:

A. Ensure that internal controls over the internal agency compliance processes were implemented and designed effectively to manage and monitor internal agency compliance with statutory and agency requirements.

B. Ensure that controls over critical requirements within the internal agency compliance processes are operating efficiently and effectively.

Our procedures included performing interviews with key personnel responsible for internal agency compliance to gain an understanding of the current processes in place, examining existing supporting documentation, and evaluating the internal controls over the processes. We evaluated the existing policies, procedures, and processes in their current state. Our coverage period was from June 1, 2022, through November 30, 2023.

The following report summarizes the findings identified, risks to CPRIT, recommendations for improvement and management's responses.

Weaver and Tidwell, L.L.P.
WEAVER AND TIDWELL, L.L.P.

Austin, Texas
April 26, 2024

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

IA #2024-02 Internal Audit Report over Internal Agency Compliance
Report Date: March 25, 2024
Issued: April 26, 2024

Background

The Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) Is the state agency established to create and expedite innovation in cancer research and enhance the potential for a medical or scientific breakthrough in the prevention of cancer and cures for cancer.

CPRIT advances its mission by awarding merit-based, peer reviewed grants to Texas-based entities and institutions for cancer-related research, product development research, and the delivery of cancer prevention programs through three programs: Academic Research, Prevention, and Product Development Research.

As part of granting funds for cancer research, prevention, and product development, the agency has the responsibility to ensure that the individuals participating in the grant awards process do not have conflicts of interest with those receiving the grant funds. State Government Code, CPRIT's Administrative Rules, Code of Conduct and Ethics, Policies and Procedures, and Compliance Handbook establish the compliance requirements for CPRIT's Oversight Committee, employees and other stakeholders.

The General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer share the responsibility within CPRIT to monitor and manage the agency's internal compliance requirements. Through their efforts, updates and changes in agency compliance requirements are identified, integrated into agency Administrative Rules (where applicable), and communicated to agency employees, peer reviewers, and Oversight Committee Members.

Through the compliance management processes, CPRIT is responsible for ensuring that their Oversight Committee, Program Integration Committee (PIC), Chief Executive Officer, and employees complete Ethics Compliance Statements, Conflict of Interest Disclosures, Non-Disclosure Agreements, and Gifts Disclosures. Oversight Committee members and the Chief Executive Officer are also required to complete Financial Disclosure Statements annually. In addition, the Chief Executive Officer and agency employees are required to complete annual Certifications of No Financial Interest and Outside Employment Disclosures to report possible conflicts with other employment. As part of the grant award process, each Oversight Committee member and PIC member must complete a Certification of No Financial Interest and Statement of No Communication prior to Oversight Committee Meetings.

CPRIT management reports any identified conflicts of interest and instances of non-compliance to the Oversight Committee through the course of the Oversight Committee meetings. The Oversight Committee is responsible for ensuring that individuals with reported conflicts of interest do not participate in restricted activities and rely on the compliance reports provided by the Chief Compliance Officer to ensure that participation in grant application and award activities is appropriate.

In fiscal year 2017, an internal audit over CPRIT's internal agency compliance was completed. The internal audit report identified one finding within the internal agency compliance process for Conflict of Interest Form submissions, in which the required forms were not submitted during the fiscal years 2016 and 2017 by the designated Program Integration Committee (PIC) members. In 2018, follow-up procedures were performed, and the identified finding was remediated.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

IA #2024-02 Internal Audit Report over Internal Agency Compliance
Report Date: March 25, 2024
Issued: April 26, 2024

Audit Objective and Scope

The audit focused on CPRIT's internal processes and programs to manage and monitor agency personnel and Oversight Committee compliance with statutory and agency requirements. We reviewed the procedures in place for appropriate risk and regulatory coverage and compliance to ensure efficient and effective processes. Key functions and sub-processes within the internal agency compliance processes that were reviewed included:

- Compliance Requirement Identification
- Internal Policy Development
- Required Disclosures
- Internal Compliance Monitoring
- Non-Compliance Identification and Reporting

Our procedures were designed to ensure relevant risks are covered and verify the following:

Compliance Requirement Identification

- New compliance requirements were identified and evaluated
- Changes to existing compliance requirements were identified and evaluated
- Legislative and regulatory requirements were communicated to appropriate levels of management

Internal Policy Development

- Agency administrative rules were updated to be in compliance with new and/or changes in compliance requirements in a timely manner and communicated to all relevant parties
- Policies and procedures were regularly evaluated to ensure alignment with requirements
- Policies and procedures were approved by management prior to implementation

Required Disclosures

- Oversight Committee members, PIC members, the Chief Executive Officer, and agency employees completed Conflict of Interest Disclosures, Ethics Compliance Statements, and Non-Disclosure Agreements timely and accurately
- The Chief Executive Officer and agency employees disclosed outside employment on a timely basis
- Oversight Committee members and the Chief Executive Officer completed Financial Disclosure Statements timely and accurately
- Oversight Committee members and PIC members completed Statements of No Communication and Certifications of No Financial Interest prior to Oversight Committee meetings
- Required forms and disclosures were monitored to ensure completion and submission

Internal Compliance Monitoring

- Compliance with policy and regulatory requirements was monitored and managed on an ongoing basis
- Employee compliance with policy and regulatory requirements was monitored.

Non-Compliance Identification and Reporting

- Potential non-compliance was identified and evaluated
- Non-compliance was reported to appropriate management
- Non-compliance was reported externally as required
- Corrective action was implemented and monitored

The objectives of this internal audit were to evaluate the design and effectiveness of CPRIT's internal agency compliance processes as follows:

A. Ensure that internal controls over the internal agency compliance processes were implemented and designed effectively to manage and monitor internal agency compliance with statutory and agency requirements.

B. Ensure that controls over critical requirements within the internal agency compliance processes are operating efficiently and effectively.

Our procedures included interviewing key personnel within the agency that have responsibilities in internal agency compliance to gain an understanding of the current processes in place, examining existing documentation, and evaluating the internal controls over the process. We evaluated the existing policies, procedures, and processes in their current state. Our coverage period was from June 1, 2022, through November 30, 2023.

Executive Summary

Through our interviews, observations, evaluation of internal control design, and testing of controls, we did not identify any findings over internal agency compliance.

A summary of our results, by audit objective, is provided in the table below. *See the Appendix for an overview of the Assessment and Risk Ratings*.

Overall Assessment		**Strong**
Scope Area	**Result**	**Rating**
Objective A: Ensure that internal controls over the internal agency compliance processes are implemented and designed effectively to manage and monitor internal agency compliance with statutory and agency requirements.	We identified 12 controls to be in place in the internal agency compliance process. Based on the procedures performed, the internal controls over the internal agency compliance processes are implemented and designed effectively to manage and monitor internal agency compliance with statutory and agency requirements.	**Strong**
Objective B: Ensure that controls over critical requirements within the internal agency compliance processes are operating efficiently and effectively.	Based on the procedures performed, the controls over critical requirements within the internal agency compliance processes are operating efficiently and effectively.	**Strong**

Conclusion

Based on our evaluation, the internal agency compliance functions have procedures and controls in place to conduct effective management of the significant processes within CPRIT. No findings were identified.

Detailed Procedures Performed, Findings, Recommendations and Management Response

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

IA #2024-02 Internal Audit Report of Internal Agency Compliance
Report Date: March 25, 2024
Issued: April 26, 2024

Detailed Procedures Performed, Findings, Recommendations and Management Response

Our procedures included interviewing key personnel within the internal agency compliance process to gain an understanding of the current processes in place, examining existing documentation, and evaluating the internal controls over the process. We evaluated the existing policies, procedures, and processes in their current state. Our coverage period was from June 1, 2022, through November 30, 2023.

Objective A: Design of Internal Controls

Ensure that internal controls over the internal agency compliance processes were implemented and designed effectively to manage and monitor internal agency compliance with statutory and agency requirements.

1. **Procedures Performed:** We conducted interviews with key personnel to confirm our understanding of the current processes in place, examined existing documentation, and evaluated the internal controls over the process. We evaluated the existing policies, procedures, and processes in their current state. We updated our documentation of the processes and internal controls over the following sub processes:

    - Compliance Requirement Identification
    - Internal Policy Development
    - Required Disclosures
    - Internal Compliance Monitoring
    - Non-Compliance Identification and Reporting

    We confirmed that internal controls are sufficiently designed to comply with CPRIT policies and procedures and mitigate the critical requirements of the internal agency compliance processes. We identified risk exposures due to control design inadequacy or any opportunities to strengthen the effectiveness of the existing control design.

    We confirmed that CPRIT has controls and processes in place to ensure compliance with the requirements and identified any gaps or potential non-compliance.

    Results: No Findings Identified

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

IA #2024-02 Internal Audit Report of Internal Agency Compliance
Report Date: March 25, 2024
Issued: April 26, 2024

Process Area	Control Coverage	Findings
Internal Agency Compliance Process		
Compliance Requirement Identification	3	-
Internal Policy Development	3*	-
Required Disclosures	3*	-
Internal Compliance Monitoring	4	-
Non-Compliance Identification and Reporting	2	-
Total:	**12**	**None**

***Duplicate Control: The total number of controls identified is 12. However, based on their design, control address risks in multiple processes. We have mapped the 12 identified controls to the processes in which they mitigate the risks within the processes.**

2. **Procedures Performed:** We evaluated the CPRIT controls identified against the 69 compliance requirements identified in the following authoritative statutes, codes and agency rules:

Statutes/Rules/Codes	# Requirements
Health and Safety Code, Title 2. Health, Subtitle E. Health Care Councils and Resource Centers, Chapter 102. Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas	14
Texas Government Code, Title 5. Open Government; Ethics	3
Texas Administrative Code, Title 25 Health Services, Part 11 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas	27
CPRIT Code of Conduct and Ethics	22
Oversight Committee Bylaws	3
Total:	**69**

Results: No findings identified.

Objective B: Effectiveness of Internal Controls

Ensure that controls over critical requirements within the internal agency compliance processes are operating efficiently and effectively.

1. **Procedures Performed:** We reviewed all administrative rule changes that occurred from June 1, 2022, through November 30, 2023. This period covered a total of eight Oversight Committee meetings, in which three covered administrative rule changes. For each meeting, we verified that:

    - Administrative rule changes caused by changes in state statutes, grant administration procedures, and/or grant monitoring procedures were identified and proposed to the Oversight Committee
    - Changes were published in a timely manner
    - Changes were communicated to appropriate levels of CPRIT management
    - Changes to administrative rules were communicated to CPRIT staff and other relevant stakeholders in a timely manner

    Results: No findings identified.

2. **Procedures Performed:** We reviewed the required Statements of No Communication and Certifications of No Financial Interest for the Oversight Committee members and Program Integration Committee (PIC) members during the coverage period of June 1, 2022, through November 30, 2023. We verified that for all eight of the Oversight Committee meetings that the required Statements of No Communication and Certifications of No Financial Interest were submitted timely and accurately.

    Results: No findings identified.

3. **Procedures Performed:** We reviewed the submission dates of the required Financial Disclosures (Personal Financial Statement – PFS) for the Oversight Committee members and Chief Executive Officer during the coverage period of June 1, 2022, through November 30, 2023. We verified that the required Financial Disclosures were submitted timely and accurately.

    Results: No findings identified.

4. **Procedures Performed:** We reviewed the required Certification of No Financial Interest Disclosures for the Chief Executive Officer and seven CPRIT employees during the coverage period of June 1, 2022, through November 30, 2023. We verified that the required Certification of No Financial Interest Disclosures were submitted timely and accurately.

    Results: No findings identified.

5. **Procedures Performed:** We reviewed the required Outside Employment Disclosures for 60 CPRIT employees, including the Chief Executive Officer, during the coverage period of June 1, 2022, through November 30, 2023. We verified that the required Outside Employment Disclosures were submitted timely and accurately.

    Results: No findings identified.

6. **Procedures Performed:** We reviewed the required Ethics Compliance Statements, Non-Disclosure Agreements, and Gift Disclosures for the Oversight Committee members, PIC Members, Chief Executive Officer, and seven CPRIT employees during the coverage period of June 1, 2022, through November 30, 2023. We verified that the required Ethics Compliance Statements, Non-Disclosure Agreements, and Gift Disclosures were submitted timely and accurately.

   Results: No findings identified.

7. **Procedures Performed:** We reviewed the required Conflict of Interest Disclosures for the Oversight Committee members, PIC Members, and 60 CPRIT employees, including the Chief Executive Officer, during the coverage period of June 1, 2022, through November 30, 2023. We verified that the required Conflict of Interest Disclosures were submitted timely and accurately.

   Results: No findings identified.

8. **Procedures Performed:** We reviewed the Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes provided on the CPRIT website and identified all instances of non-compliance reported between June 1, 2022, through December 31. We verified that CPRIT had procedures embedded into Oversight Committee Meetings and operational processes to monitor employee and Oversight Committee compliance. Additionally, we verified that any instances of non-compliance were reported appropriately, and corrective action was implemented timely. However, there were no instances reported during the period.

   Results: No findings identified.

Appendix

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

IA #2024-02 Internal Audit Report over Internal Agency Compliance
Report Date: March 25, 2024
Issued: April 26, 2024

The appendix defines the approach and classifications utilized by Internal Audit to assess the residual risk of the area under review, the priority of the findings identified, and the overall assessment of the procedures performed.

Report Ratings

The report rating encompasses the entire scope of the engagement and expresses the aggregate impact of the exceptions identified during our test work on one or more of the following objectives:

- Operating or program objectives and goals conform with those of CPRIT
- CPRIT objectives and goals are being met
- The activity under review is functioning in a manner which ensures:
    - Reliability and integrity of financial and operational information
    - Effectiveness and efficiency of operations and programs
    - Safeguarding of assets
    - Compliance with laws, regulations, policies, procedures and contracts

The following ratings are used to articulate the overall magnitude of the impact on the established criteria:

Strong	The area under review meets the expected level. No high risk rated findings and only a few moderate or low findings were identified.
Satisfactory	The area under review does not consistently meet the expected level. Several findings were identified and require routine efforts to correct, but do not significantly impair the control environment.
Unsatisfactory	The area under review is weak and frequently falls below expected levels. Numerous findings were identified that require substantial effort to correct.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

IA #2024-02 Internal Audit Report over Internal Agency Compliance
Report Date: March 25, 2024
Issued: April 26, 2024

Risk Ratings

Residual risk is the risk derived from the environment after considering the mitigating effect of internal controls. The area under audit has been assessed from a residual risk level utilizing the following risk management classification system.

High

High risk findings have qualitative factors that include, but are not limited to:

- Events that threaten the agency's achievement of strategic objectives or continued existence
- Impact of the finding could be felt outside of agency or beyond a single function or department
- Potential material impact to operations or agency's finances
- Remediation requires significant involvement from senior agency management

.

Moderate

Moderate risk findings have qualitative factors that include, but are not limited to:

- Events that could threaten financial or operational objectives of the agency
- Impact could be felt outside of the agency or across more than one function of the agency
- Noticeable and possibly material impact to the operations or finances of the agency
- Remediation efforts that will require the direct involvement of functional leader(s)
- May require senior agency management to be updated

Low

Low risk findings have qualitative factors that include, but are not limited to:

- Events that do not directly threaten the agency's strategic priorities
- Impact is limited to a single function within the agency
- Minimal financial or operational impact to the agency
- Require functional leader(s) to be kept updated, or have other controls that help to mitigate the related risk

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	CAMERON ECKEL, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL
SUBJECT:	APPOINTMENTS TO THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
DATE:	MAY 6, 2024

Summary and Recommendation

The Chief Executive Officer has appointed 39 experts to CPRIT's Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee. CPRIT's statute requires Oversight Committee approval for the appointments. At their May 2 meeting, the Board Governance subcommittee reviewed the appointees to the Academic Research, Prevention, and Product Development Research peer review panels and recommends approval by the Oversight Committee.

Discussion

Scientific Research and Prevention Programs committee members (also referred to as "peer reviewers") are responsible for reviewing grant applications and recommending grant awards for meritorious projects addressing cancer prevention and research, including product development research. Peer reviewers perform a significant role for the state; all CPRIT grant awards must first be recommended by a Scientific Research and Prevention Programs committee. Individuals appointed to serve as CPRIT's Scientific Research and Prevention Programs committee members must be exceptionally qualified, highly respected, well-established members of the cancer research, product development research, and prevention communities.

Texas Health and Safety Code Section 102.151(a) directs the Chief Executive Officer to appoint members to the Scientific Research and Prevention Programs committees. The CEO's appointments are final once approved by a simple majority of the Oversight Committee. The Board Governance Subcommittee charter assigns the subcommittee with the responsibility "to circulate to Oversight Committee members in advance of a public meeting written notification of the committee's intent to make the nomination, along with such information about the nominee as may be relevant."

The Board Governance Subcommittee reviewed the 39 appointees at its May 2 meeting and recommends their approval by the Oversight Committee.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee ("Peer Reviewer") Appointments
May 2024

Program/ Panel	Name	Organization	Title	Expertise
Academic Research (Scientific Review Council)	Gene Yeo, Ph.D., MBA (Ad hoc Reviewer)	University of California San Diego *La Jolla, CA*	Professor Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine	RNA Biology, RNA Therapeutics, RNA Processing, RNA Binding Proteins, RNA Targeting, Post-Transcriptional Gene Networks, Computational Algorithms, Drug Targets, Therapeutics
Academic Research (Scientific Review Council)	Simon Powell, M.D., Ph.D. (Ad hoc Reviewer)	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center *New York, NY*	Professor Department of Radiation Oncology	Radiation Oncology, Breast Cancer, DNA Repair, Translational Research
Academic Research (Scientific Review Council)	James Manley, Ph.D. (Ad hoc Reviewer)	Columbia University *New York, NY*	Julian Clarence Levi Professor of the Life Sciences Department of Biological Sciences	Cell, Developmental, and Stem Cell Biology; Genome Organization; Cancer and Disease Biology
Academic Research (Scientific Review Council)	Michael Hollingsworth, Ph.D. (Ad hoc Reviewer)	University of Nebraska Medical Center *Omaha, NE*	Professor and Hugh & Jane Hunt Chair in Cancer Research UNMC Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer and Allied Diseases	Pancreatic cancer biochemistry, diagnostics, and treatments (including immunotherapies)
Academic Research (Scientific Review Council)	Philip Hinds, Ph.D. (Ad hoc Reviewer)	Tufts University *Boston, MA*	Professor Department of Genetics, Molecular and Cellular Biology	Cell Cycle, Cyclins, CDK, Retinoblastoma Protein, Retinoblastoma Protein Pathway, Differentiation, Development, p53, Mouse Model, Osteosarcoma, Breast Cancer, Cancer Stem Cells, Melanoma
Academic Research	Anthony Alberg, Ph.D., M.P.H (Ad hoc Reviewer)	University of South Carolina *Columbia, SC*	Professor and Chair Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics	Cancer Epidemiology, Cancer Prevention, Cigarette Smoking, Health Effects,

Program/ Panel	Name	Organization	Title	Expertise
(Basic Cancer Research Panel 1)				Prevention, Population Science
Academic Research (Basic Cancer Research Panel 2)	Joseph Mancias, M.D., Ph.D.	Harvard Medical School Dana-Farber Cancer Institute *Boston, MA*	Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology Radiation Oncology Physician-Scientist	Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDAC), Pancreatic Cancer, Therapeutic Resistance, Autophagy, Mass Spectrometry-Based Proteomics, Gene Editing, Mouse Modeling
Academic Research (Basic Cancer Research Panel 2)	Sheila Stewart, Ph.D.	Washington University School of Medicine *St. Louis, MO*	Gerty Cori Professor and Vice Chair Department of Cell Biology & Physiology	Cancer, Microenvironment, Fibroblasts, RNAi, Senescence, Telomeres, Age-Related Changes in the Tumor Microenvironment
Academic Research (Cancer Biology)	Piro Lito, M.D., Ph.D.	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center *New York, NY*	Director of Basic and Translational Research Division of Solid Tumor Oncology, Department of Medicine Associate Member, Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program	Breast Cancer, Tumor Microenvironment, Immunotherapy, Stromal Cells, Therapeutic Target, Senescence, Cancer, Imaging Technology And Informatics, Age-Related Cancer Drivers
Academic Research (Cancer Biology)	Mandip Sachdeva, Ph.D.	Florida A&M University *Tallahassee, FL*	Professor and Section Leader, Pharmaceutics Department of Pharmaceutics College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences	Cancer Pharmacology, Cancer Biology, Cancer Therapeutics, Drug Delivery Systems, Nanoparticles, Breast Cancer, Lung Cancer, Pancreatic Cancer
Academic Research (Cancer Biology)	Christopher Scharer, Ph.D.	Emory University School of Medicine *Atlanta, GA*	Associate Professor Department of Microbiology and Immunology	Epigenetics, Genomics, Gene Regulation, Transcriptional and Epigenetic Regulation, Immunology, Molecular Biology, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Autoimmunity, B Cells

Program/ Panel	Name	Organization	Title	Expertise
Academic Research (Cancer Biology)	Karen Sfanos, Ph.D.	Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine *Baltimore, MD*	Associate Professor Department of Pathology	Prostate Cancer, Tumor Immunology, Inflammation
Academic Research (Cancer Biology)	Jian-Ting Zhang, Ph.D.	The University of Toledo *Toledo, OH*	Professor and McMaster Endowed Chair of Biochemistry and Cell and Cancer Biology Department of Cell and Cancer Biology	Cancer Biology and Experimental Therapeutics, Eukaryotic Translation Initiation Factors, Gene Expression, Signal Transduction, Cell Growth and Differentiation; Multidrug Resistance in Cancer Chemotherapy, DNA Repair, Molecular DNA Repair, Molecular Biology, Molecular Genetics, Risk Factors, Drug Discovery
Academic Research (Cancer Biology)	Michael Holtz, M.S. (Advocate Reviewer)	Colon Cancer Alliance *Knoxville, TN*		Colorectal Cancer, Survivorship, Legislative Advocacy, Patient Support, Writing, Content Development, Content Strategy
Academic Research (Cancer Biology)	Robert Riter, M.P.H (Advocate Reviewer)	Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes *Ithaca, NY*		Connecting young investigators with the cancer community
Academic Research (Clinical and Translational Cancer Research Panel 1)	Joshua Brody, M.D.	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai *New York, NY*	Associate Professor and Director of the Lymphoma Immunotherapy Program Department of Hematology/Oncology	Immunotherapy, Immunology, Tumor Immunology, CAR-T Vaccines, Stem Cell Transplantation, Breast Cancer, Lymphoma
Academic Research (Clinical and	Haitao Ji, Ph.D.	Moffitt Cancer Center *Tampa, FL*	Associate Member and Associate Professor	Synthetic Medicinal Chemistry, Protein-Protein Interaction

Program/ Panel	Name	Organization	Title	Expertise
Translational Cancer Research Panel 1)				Modulators, Drug Design, Cancer Metastasis
Academic Research (Clinical and Translational Cancer Research Panel 1)	Christian Jobin, Ph.D.	University of Florida College of Medicine *Gainesville, FL*	Professor Department of Medicine	Mucosal Immunology, Microbiology, Microbiome, Cancer Microbiota, Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IBD), Colorectal Cancer, Innate Signaling, Next-Generation Sequencing, Microbial Gene Mutations, Microbial RNA-sequence
Academic Research (Clinical and Translational Cancer Research Panel 1)	Song Li, M.D., Ph.D.	University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy *Pittsburgh, PA*	Professor and Director of the Center for Pharmacogenetics Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences	Pharmaceutical Sciences, Medicine, Biology, Nanotechnology, Nanoparticles, Drug and Gene Delivery, Lipid- and Polymer-Based Nanodelivery Systems, Therapeutics, Anticancer Agents, Antioxidants, Proteins, Small Molecules, siRNA, Peptide Nucleic Acids, Cancer
Academic Research (Clinical and Translational Cancer Research Panel 2)	Jalal Ahmed, M.D., Ph.D.	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai *New York, NY*	Assistant Professor Department of Radiation Oncology; physician scientist Precision Immunology Institute	Immunology, Oncology, Immunotherapy, Stem Cells, Tumor Immune Microenvironment, Radiotherapy, Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T cells, Radiation Oncology
Academic Research (Clinical and Translational Cancer	Joshua Campbell, Ph.D.	Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine	Associate Professor, Medicine	Computational Biomedicine, Computational Biology, Bioinformatics, Cancer Genomics, High-throughput Genomics,

Program/ Panel	Name	Organization	Title	Expertise
Research Panel 2)		*Boston, MA*		Lung Cancer, Prostate Cancer, Single Cell Biology, Mutational Signatures
Academic Research (Clinical and Translational Cancer Research Panel 2)	Beatriz Carreno, Ph.D.	University of Pennsylvania *Philadelphia, PA*	Associate Professor Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Perelman School of Medicine	Immunology, T Cell Immunology, Tumor Antigens, Immune Therapeutics, Dendritic Cell (DC)-Based Vaccines, Cellular Immunotherapies
Academic Research (Clinical and Translational Cancer Research Panel 2)	Ryan Cassaday, M.D.	University of Washington School of Medicine *Seattle, WA*	Associate Professor Division of Hematology and Oncology	Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), Clinical Trials, Hematology
Academic Research (Clinical and Translational Cancer Research Panel 2)	Chrystal Paulos, Ph.D.	Emory University School of Medicine *Atlanta, GA*	Associate Professor Department of Surgery and Department of Microbiology and Immunology Director, Translational Research for Cutaneous Malignancies	Melanoma; Immunology, Mechanisms underlying Protective Immunity in Solid Tumors; Adoptive T Cell Transfer (ACT) Therapy
Academic Research (Clinical and Translational Cancer Research Panel 2)	Mark Rubinstein, Ph.D.	The Ohio State University *Columbus, Ohio*	Associate Professor Division of Medical Oncology	Tumor Immunotherapy, Protein Therapeutics, T Cell Biology
Academic Research (Clinical and Translational Cancer Research Panel 2)	Jens Wrammert, Ph.D.	Emory University School of Medicine *Atlanta, GA*	Associate Professor Department of Microbiology and Immunology	Immunology, Virology, Vaccines, Vaccine Design and Development, Infectious Disease, Influenza, Dengue, Cholera, HIV, SIV
Academic Research	Samuel Armato, Ph.D.	University of Chicago	Associate Professor Department of Radiology	Imaging, Computed Tomography (CT), Lung

Program/ Panel	Name	Organization	Title	Expertise
(Imaging Technology and Informatics)		*Chicago, IL*		Nodules, Lung Cancers, Computer-Aided Diagnosis
Academic Research (Imaging Technology and Informatics)	Jun Deng, Ph.D.	Yale University School of Medicine *New Haven, CT*	Professor Department of Therapeutic Radiology	Big Data, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Medical Imaging, Medical Informatics, Ionizing Radiation, Radiation Oncology, Public Health Informatics, Early Detection of Cancer, Image-guided Radiotherapy
Academic Research (Imaging Technology and Informatics)	Issam El Naqa, Ph.D.	Moffitt Cancer Center *Tampa, FL*	Chair of Machine Learning, Department of Machine Learning	Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Medical Physics, Oncology, Medical Imaging, Radiobiology
Academic Research (Imaging Technology and Informatics)	Anant Madabhushi, Ph.D.	Emory University and Georgia Institute of Technology *Atlanta, GA*	Robert Woodruff Professor of Biomedical Engineering Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering	Medical Imaging, SPECT, MRI, Prognosis and Theragnosis, Prostate Cancer, Breast Cancer, Ovarian Cancer, Development of Computerized Image and Spectral Analysis and Multimodal Registration Tools
Prevention	Rick Bangs, MBA, PMP	*Pittsford, NY*		Research Advocate Clinical Trials; Survivorship Research and Interventions; Government Lobbying; IT Solutions; Fundraising; Leadership
Prevention	Thelma Perry Brown	*Birmingham, AL*		Patient/Research Advocate
Prevention	Debbie A. Denardi	*Sunny Isles Beach, FL*		Patient Advocate with concentration in

Program/ Panel	Name	Organization	Title	Expertise
				Hereditary Cancer (all cancer types depending on the mutation) and early-stage Breast Cancer
Product Development Research	Pamela A. Bush, Ph.D., MBA	Blugene Consulting, LLC *Tampa, FL*	Founder and Managing Partner	Molecular biology, genetics, cell biology and biochemistry, investment, licensing, strategic planning
Product Development Research	Annette T. Byrne, Ph.D.	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland *Dublin*	Professor, Head of RCSI Precision Cancer Medicine Group, Director of National Pre-clinical Imagine Centre	Oncology, cell biology
Product Development Research	Mingji Dai, Ph.D.	Emory University *Atlanta, GA*	Asa Griggs Candler Professor, Editorial Board Member, Green Synthesis and Catalysis by Elsevier, ACS Grant Reviewer	Chemical biology, medicinal chemistry, drug discovery, natural product, imaging
Product Development Research	Gaurav Mehta, MBA	Alveolus Bio *Cambridge, MA*	Chief Executive Officer	Corporate development, strategic partnership, AI, Biotech, MedTech, and digital health
Product Development Research	Benjamin Naovarat, M.D.	Cybernetix Ventures *Boston, MA*	Senior Associate	Encompassed autoimmunity, genetics, infectious disease, venture, novel targets for therapeutics and small molecule inhibitors
Product Development Research	Yhenneko Jallah Taylor, Ph.D.	Wake Forest University School of Medicine *Winston-Salem, NC*	Director of Center for Health System Sciences, AVP for Analytics and Outcomes Research of Atrium Health	Biostatistics, health services research, health system and healthcare research

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	CAMERON ECKEL, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL
SUBJECT:	APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES REQUIRING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE APPROVAL
DATE:	MAY 6, 2024

Summary

At its May 2 meeting, the Board Governance subcommittee reviewed Presiding Officer Dr. David Cummings' proposed appointments to the Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancers (ACCC) and Prevention Advisory Committee (PAC). The subcommittee recommends that the Oversight Committee approve the two appointments.

Discussion

Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.155 allows the Oversight Committee to create ad hoc committees of experts to advise the Oversight Committee. The presiding officer of the Oversight Committee is responsible for appointing experts to serve on CPRIT's advisory committees. The appointments must be approved by the Oversight Committee.

The ACCC advises the Oversight Committee on issues surrounding childhood cancer. The Oversight Committee is responsible for appointing members to the committee. The ACCC collects current information regarding innovative research on the prevention, control and cure of childhood cancers, and current information regarding treatment programs designed to prevent and control cancer.

The PAC advises the Oversight Committee on important issues surrounding cancer prevention and control. The members of the PAC, appointed by the Oversight Committee, share their advice on opportunities to increase CPRIT's impact on cancer prevention and control in Texas.

The Board Governance subcommittee reviewed the appointments to the ACCC and PAC at its May 2 meeting and voted to recommend approval to the Oversight Committee.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Advisory Committee Appointments
May 2024

Advisory Committee	Nominee	Institution
Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancers (ACCC)	**Amir Mian, M.D., MBA** Arthur H. Dilly Endowed Chair in Pediatric Oncology. Professor of Pediatrics Division Chief, Pediatric Hematology Oncology Children's Blood and Cancer Center. Dell Children's Medical Center	University of Texas at Austin
Prevention Advisory Committee	**Ashley Dedmon, MPH, CHES** Breast Health and BRCA Patient Advocate and Trained Research Advocate	Doctoral student at the University of Texas School of Public Health

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors in the order listed on Form Page 2.
Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED FOUR PAGES.**

NAME	POSITION TITLE
Amir Mian	Associate Professor of Pediatrics
AOSSM MEMBERSHIP STATUS AND NUMBER (if applicable)	

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE *(if applicable)*	MM/YY	FIELD OF STUDY
Allama Iqbal Medical College, Lahore, Pakistan	MD	1992	Medicine
Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, NY	Resident/Chief Resident	1998-2002	Pediatrics
Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Cincinnati, OH	Clinical Fellow	2002-2006	Heme-Oncology
University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH	MS	2006	Epidemiology
College of Business, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, AR	MBA-Health Care	2014-2017	Business of Health Care
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences	Graduate Certificate in Clinical Informatics	*2019-2020*	Data Analytics

NOTE: The Biographical Sketch may not exceed four pages. Follow the formats and instructions

A. Personal Statement

I serve as Arthur H. Dilly Endowed Chair in Pediatric Oncology, Professor of Pediatrics and Division Chief Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at UT-Austin Dell Medical School and Dell Children's Hospital. Additional training includes Certificate in Clinical Informatics/Data Analytics, MS (Clinical Epidemiology/Research Methods and MBA-HealthCare (Business of Medicine). My clinical interests include Leukemia/Lymphoma and HLH. My research interests include exploring novel biomarkers for outcome prediction in Fever-neutropenia-sepsis, Quality Improvement (specifically related to Central Line Bloodstream Infections-CLABSI), and incorporating patient data for predictive analytics using Machine Learning algorithms to improve patient related clinical outcomes. I have served in leadership roles within ASPHO (American Society of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology) as Chair of Practice Committee, Founding member and Chair of Innovation, Informatics and Entrepreneurship (IIE-SIG) and presently as Member Board of Trustees. In addition, currently serving as Vice Chair, Finance Committee ASTCT (American Society of Transplantation and Cellular Therapy).

B. Positions and Honors

07/2023 - present	Arthur H. Dilly Endowed Chair in Pediatric Oncology
07/2023 - present	Professor of Pediatrics**,** University of Texas-Austin
07/2023 - present	Division Chief**,** Pediatric Hematology Oncology
06/2021 - 06/2023	Professor of Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics, Augusta University, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA
06/2023 - 06/2024	Division Chief, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, Augusta University, Children's Hospital of Georgia (CHOG), Augusta, GA.
2017 – 05/2021	Medical Director (interim), Bone Marrow Transplant Program, Arkansas Children's Hospital, Little Rock AR.
2018 - 05/2021	Chair, BMT-Quality Committee, ACH, Little Rock.
2019-2021	Member, Arkansas Children's Hospital Credentialing Committee.
2017 - 2020	Member, Board of Directors, Arkansas Children's Care Network (ACCN), Little Rock, AR.
2017-2020	Member, Finance and Contracting Committee, Arkansas Children's Care Network (ACCN), Little Rock, AR.
2017-present	Chair, Clinical Competency Committee, Hematology-Oncology Fellowship, UAMS-ACH
2017-2021	Member, Faculty Council, UAMS-ACH, Little Rock, AR.
2018-2020	Physician Member, Child Health Finance Committee, ACH Child Health Practice Collaborative.
2018-2021	Member, Professionalism Committee, ACH-UAMS, Little Rock
2018 - 2021	Medical Advisory Council (Mid-South), Make-A-Wish Foundation, USA.
2018 - 2021	Member, Practice Committee, American Association of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology (ASPHO).
2018 - 2021	ASPHO Representative, American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) National Panel on Pediatric Quality Measures.
2019-2021	Member, Health Care Delivery and Health Care Policy Work Group, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)-Section on Hematology Oncology (SOHO) – American Society of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology (ASPHO).
2011 - 2014	Local Leader, Quality Improvement Project. MOC-Part-IV, American Board of Pediatrics (ABP).
2011 - 2015	Physician Champion, Improvement-U. Arkansas Children's Hospital, Little Rock, AR.

2009 - 2021 Physician Leader, Central Line Associated Blood Stream Infections (CLABSI), Hematology-Oncology, National Association of Children's Hospitals and Research Institutions

Honors / Professional:

2020 Workshop Moderator, "Financial Toxicity - A critical gap in the care for survivors of childhood cancer. American Society of Pediatric Hematology Oncology (ASPHO) Annual Conference, May 2020. Fort Worth, Texas.

2020 Workshop Moderator, "Why is my clinic so slow. Stop complaining and do something about it now". ASPHO Annual Conference, May 2020. Fort Worth, Texas.

2020 Vice Chair. ASPHO – Special Interest Group. Informatics, Innovation and Entrepreneurship. (Under review, ASPHO membership committee and ASPHO Board).

2019 Doctors Unbound podcast interview. "What's on horizon for U.S. Healthcare?. Ep 103. https://mailchi.mp/38d2b90c20ac/drmian

2019-2020 Nominated by ASPHO to serve on American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Pediatric Oncology Measures Task Force.

2019 Interviewed live. Make-a-Wish Annual Fundraising Radiothon. Little Rock, AR.

2018 Research Study (co-author) featured in The Scientist. https://www.the-scientist.com/the-nutshell/birth-defects-linked-to-increased-risk-of-childhood-cancer-30245

2018 Distinguished Service Award. Shaukat-Khanum Cancer Hospital and Research Institute, Lahore, Pakistan.

2016 My patient's family named their newborn "Amira" after their son's oncologist "Amir Mian".

2016 Finalist, Innovation Award-Health Care Heroes. Arkansas Business. https://s3.amazonaws.com/pageturnpro2.com/Publications/201511/188/69171/PDF/130919067291624000_Healthcare_Heroes_Digitalf.pdf

2011 Hyundai Scholar. Hope-on-Wheels. Hyundai Motors, America.

2011 - 16 Consecutive years selected "Best Doctors in America"

2009 - 13 Consecutive years, Arkansas's Best Doctors. AY Magazine.

2007 Finalist "Dean's Faculty Teacher Award". UAMS.

2002 Awarded "Saul-Blatmann Award of Excellence in Pediatrics", Department of Pediatrics, Beth Israel Medical Center, NY.

2002 Won "Best Resident Research Presentation Award", among the eight competing residency programs in NY.

C. Selected Peer-reviewed Publications

1. In pursuit of optimal outcomes: A framework for quality standards in Immune Effector Cell Therapy. C. Dandoy, C. Bredeson, K. Page, A. Mian, A. Neal, A. Artz, A. Steinberg, D. Howard. In press
2. Experience from the U.S. Voxelotor expanded access program for children with Sickle Cell Disease. C. Brown, A Anasah, E Yang, A Mian, S Ahah, S Dixon, A Anderson. In press.
3. Child and family perceptions of satisfaction with neutropenia management in pediatric acute myeloid leukemia. J Szymczak, K Getz, R Madding, A Mian, B Fischer, R Aplenc. Pediatric Blood and Cancer. April 2023:70:e:30420
4. Risk of bacterial bloodstream infection does not vary by central line type during neutropenic periods in pediatric acute myeloid leukemia. Elgarten, Otto, Shenton, Horowitz, Arnold, Maloney, Modi, Mian, Winick, Yu, Aplenc et al. Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology, 1-8.doi:10.1017/ice.2022.82. 2022

5. Medical Outcomes, Quality of Life, and Family Perceptions for Outpatient vs Inpatient Neutropenia Management After Chemotherapy for Pediatric Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Getz, Szymczak, Grametz, Arnold, Mian, Fisher, Aplenc. JAMA Network Open. 2021;4(10)e2128385
6. Market Forces and Evolving U.S. Health Care System: Economics and Winds of Change. Perspective. A Mian. The Journal. Arkansas Medical Society. Accepted for publication. February 2020.
7. Pediatric cancer risk based on attained age among children with birth defects in Arkansas. J Patel, P Lupo, J Schraw, A Mian, W Nembhard. Submitted February 2020.
8. Outcomes of hospitalized pediatric hematology, oncology and stem cell transplant patients who develop a bloodstream infection. C Dandoy, V Aquino, M Scurlock, M Langevin, J Lee, R Cooksey, A Mian, J Hord, A Billett. Pediatric Blood and Cancer. September 2019;e27978
9. Cancer Risk among Children and Adolescents with birth defects: A population based assessment in 10 million live births. P Lupo, J Schiffman, S Rasmussen, B Miller, A Mian, M Scheuder, A Scheuerle, J Schraw. JAMA Oncology. 2019;5(8):1150-1158
10. Griscelli Type II syndrome and Hemaphagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis: Sisters with the same mutation but different presentation. Case Report. A Russ, J Mack, A Murphy, A Mian. Journal of Pediatric Hematology Oncology 2019;41(6):473-477
11. Identifying patient- and family-centered outcomes relevant to inpatient versus at-home management of neutropenia in children with acute myeloid leukemia. J E. Szymczak, K Getz, E Raetz, N Hijiya, M Gramatges, A Mian, S Arnold. Pediatric Blood and Cancer. 2018. 56(4):
12. A multicenter comparison of rates of central venous catheter-associated blood stream infections by central venous catheter type among pediatric patients receiving treatment for newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukemia. J Horotitz, B Fisher, J Szymczack, J Mann, T Galvelis, R Suarez, A Mian, Naomi Winick, E Raetz, M Henry, K Getz. Blood 2017. 130:610
13. Methemoglobilinemia secondary to dapsone. J. Mack, A Mian. Pediatrics- In-Review. 2017 38(5);237-239.
14. Medical Student and Resident Burnout: A Review of Causes, Effects, and Prevention. A Mian, W Ward. Journal of Family Medicine and Disease Prevention. 2018;4(094):
15. Novel Treatment of Neuroblastoma in Congenital Central Hypoventilation Syndrome with a PHOX2B Polyalanine Repeat Expansion Mutation: New Twist on a Neurocristopathy Syndrome. A Armstrong, A Mian, J Maris, V Batra, Y Gosiengfiao, D Walterhouse. Pediatric Blood and Cancer 2015;62:2007-2010

D. Research Support

2021-2023 Institutional PI: A Prospective Study to Evaluate the Disease Status in Patients with Sickle Cell Disease: A Globin Regional Data and Discovery (GRNDaD) Network. Lead Investigator Lanskron-Johns Hopkins

2021-2023 Institutional PI. EMBRACE (Institutional/ State Lead). (Total costs 75,734) 2021-2026

2021-2023 Institutional PI. STRIDE (Sickle Cell Transplantation to Prevent Disease Exacerbation).

2021-2023 Institutional PI. Global Blood Therapeutics- Industry sponsored Trials (GBT-440-041. Total costs $311,261)

2021-2023 Institutional PI: POETIC (Pediatric Oncology Experimental Therapeutics Investigator's Consortium).

2014-2018 Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
PI-subcontract: Amir Mian (ACH). Project: Community Central line Infection Prevention Trial.

2014 - 2019 Patient Centered-Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)
PI-subcontract: Amir Mian (ACH). Project: Comparing clinicians and patient centered outcomes among myeloid leukemia patients during periods of neutropenia.

2011 - 14 Hyundai Scholar Grant. Funded by Hope on Wheels. PI: Amir Mian (ACH).
Project: Clinical outcome and proteomic profile of patients with fever neutropenia: A pilot study.

2012 - 2014 Lee-Saylors Chair in Hematology-Oncology Research Grant. PI: Amir Mian (ACHRI)
Project: Modules for management of FN in Emergency Department.

2010	Stella Boyle Smith Summer Science Scholar Program Student. collection for patients with malignancy.	Project: Central Line data
2008 - 2011	Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute (CUMG) PI: Amir Mian (ACHRI). Project: Outcome prediction of patients with fever-neutropenia.	
2000	Travel Grant for Podium Presentation. American Academy of Meeting. St. Louis, Missouri.	Clinical Psychiatrists. Annual
2000	Resident Travel Grant. American Academy of Pediatrics. Annual California.	Meeting. San Francisco,

Ashley Dedmon is a native Houstonian. Ashley holds a Bachelor of Science in Community Health from Prairie View A&M University. She also earned a Master of Public Health from Florida A&M University. She is a Certified Health Education Specialist and a doctoral student at the University of Texas School of Public Health.

Ashley is a breast health leader, advocate, author, and speaker. She enthusiastically advocates in her community as a BRCA2 patient speaker, where she speaks to physicians about the importance of genetic testing in their practices and other healthcare professionals on the importance of screening for family history. Ashley is a 2022 National Breast Cancer Coalition's Project LEAD Institute graduate. She is a research advocate with the Houston Methodist Research Institute and the National Cancer Institute Patient Advocate Workgroup. As an advocate, she works with researchers to ensure high-quality research that is sensitive to the priorities of cancer patients. She is a member of the National Cancer Institute and National Institute of Health Physical Sciences-Oncology Advocacy Network, National Breast Cancer Coalition, the Penn Medicine: Basser Center for BRCA Young Leadership Council, and the Black and BRCA Initiative.

She actively volunteers with The Tigerlily Foundation on various health equity initiatives and Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE) as a research advocate and peer navigator, an Ambassador for The Wisdom Study, and a member of the BRCA Exchange. Ashley serves on a myriad of related workgroups and committees that are focused on advancing equity and has presented at institutions and for organizations such as the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS), MD Anderson Cancer Center, Yale University, Houston Methodist Research Institute, and CURE® Education, The Tigerlily Foundation, FORCE, and a member of the Global BRCA Exchange.

Ashley is a BRCA2 previvor and was a teen caregiver of two parents with cancer. During her double mastectomy journey, she authored "The Big Discovery." A children's book that facilitates and guides families through a breast cancer diagnosis. Ashley and her journey have been featured speakers on the TED platform, Women's Health Magazine, Healthy Women, Essence Magazine, and other media platforms.

Ashley is affiliated with numerous organizations such as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Jack and Jill of America Incorporated, The Greater Houston Black Chamber, Houston Black Leadership Institute, Class IV, a 2020 Leadership ISD Graduate, a member of The Greater Houston Women's Chamber Health Network and serves on a myriad of professional workgroups and committees at the local, state, and national levels.

Ashley's most recent appointment is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer in Young Women, where she co-chairs the genetic and genomic workgroup. She was appointed to the National Minority Quality Forum Cancer Stage Shifting Initiative (CSSI) Scientific Advisory Board. She also joined the Board of Directors for CanCare Houston.

Ashley has received awards and recognition for her work in the community and business space. She was named a 2019 Houston Business Journal 40 Under 40, 2021 40 Under 40 in Cancer awardee, and 2021 The Greater Houston Women's Chamber Women in the Fast Lane of S.T.E.A.M.

Her greatest accomplishment is being a wife to her husband for nine years and a mother to their children. When she is not working, she loves to spend time with family and workout/spin.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.
Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.**

NAME: Dedmon, Ashley Alyse Armstrong

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login):

POSITION TITLE: Breast Health and BRCA Patient Advocate and Trained Research Advocate

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE *(if applicable)*	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Texas School of Public Health	Dr.PH	2028	Public Health
Prairie View A&M University	B.S.	08/07	Community Health
Florida A&M University	MPH	08/16	Masters Public Health
Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, Certificate		08/20	Lean Six Sigma Green Belt
Texas Education Agency, Certificate		2007	K-12 Health and Physical Education
Certified Health Education Specialist, Certificate	CHES		
Project LEAD Graduate		2022	
George Washington Cancer Center Oncology, Certificate		07/2021	Patient Navigator
John Hopkins		12/2021	Health Equity Research

A. Personal Statement

I enthusiastically work in my community as a patient speaker with Myriad Genetics, where I speak to physicians about the importance of genetic testing in their practices, as well as other healthcare professionals on the importance of screening for family history in communities of color. In this role, I enjoy speaking with survivors, fighters, and caregivers about genetic testing and reducing cancer risk for their family members and the next generation. I believe it is important to educate the next generation on the importance of personal and family health history, early detection, and self-care to be equipped and empowered to make informed health decisions.

As a research advocate with Houston Methodist Research Institute, I work with researchers to ensure high-quality research that is sensitive to the priorities of cancer patients. As an advocate, I aim to break down programmatic silos by identifying common themes, thorny issues, capacity-building strategies, metrics and measurements, and new engagement models. I am an active member of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and National Institute of Health (NIH) Physical Sciences-Oncology Advocacy Network, Texas Breast Health Collaborative, The National Breast Cancer Coalition, and the Penn Medicine: Basser Center for BRCA Young Leadership Council. I regularly attend annual meetings with these affiliations, give presentations, judge scientific poster presentations, review national research applications**,** and report on our advocacy work. My community and research advocacy work has allowed me to speak at national and global conferences, hospital systems, providers, companies, national radio and television interviews, and the TED platform.

As a peer navigator, I actively volunteer with The Tigerlily Foundation and Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE). In these roles, I serve on various health equity projects and committees. I believe everyone deserves a chance at achieving optimal health, and to do that, we must eliminate health inequities and health disparities. To understand the advances in breast cancer treatment and research and speak intelligently on the subject, I take advantage of educational opportunities, including conferences, symposia, seminars, and webinars. I am a 2022 National Breast Cancer Coalition Project LEAD graduate. I completed the Susan G. Komen ® Speak Truth to Power: Stand Up, Speak Up Texas 2021 Cohort and the George Washington Cancer Center Oncology Patient Navigator Certification Program in July 2021. I am also a 2021 40 Under 40 in Cancer Cohort member.

I am inspired by the three generations of women who died from breast cancer in my family, my father, and the amazing patient advocates I work with. There was a time when I did not see myself in scientific research. Still, I have developed an intellectual curiosity, and the constant quest for medical cures and health equity in under-supported populations continues to drive me and my work. We must keep moving that needle!

Past projects that I would like to highlight include:

Patient Advocate, Center for Immunotherapeutic Transport Oncophysics U54; Ferrari/Shen/Chang (Co-PI's)**;** Houston Methodist Research Institute, 2018 - 2022

Patient Advocate, P20 SPORE grant Application, RFA-CA-19-034; Chang/Nestor/Jorge (Co-PI's); Houston Methodist Research Institute; 2021

B. Positions and Honors

Positions

2021- The American Cancer Society National Breast Cancer Roundtable
2020-2022 Susan G. Komen, Health Equity, Genetic Counseling and Testing, and MBC Initiatives
2018-2020 Healthy Living Matters Project and Program Coordinator, Harris County Public Health
2017-2018 Community Outreach Specialist, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas
2008-2017 Physical Education and Health Education Educator, Health Curriculum Writer, Fort Bend Independent School District and Texas Education Agency (TEA)

Honors

2023 Houston Business Journal Women Who Mean Business Award-Non-profit Leadership
2021 National, 40 Under 40 in Cancer
2021 Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce, Role Model, Women in The Fast Lane of STEAM
2019 Houston Business Journal 40 Under 40

C. Contribution to Science

Cancer Research Support:

I serve as a trained scientific research patient advocate on numerous grant applications and grants for investigators at Houston.

Methodist Research Institute. Among these investigators are:

- Dr. Mauro Ferrari, previously Chief Commercialization Officer and Executive Vice President of Houston Methodist Research Institute
- Jenny Chang, M.D., Medical Oncology, Breast Medical Oncology, Houston Methodist Research Institute
- Sara Nizzero, PhD, Applied Physics, Rice University, Mathematics in Medicine, Houston Methodist Research Institute

D. Advocacy

Volunteers and Patient Speaker

2016-Present The Basser Center for BRCA: Black and BRCA
2016-Present Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE), Peer Navigator and Research Advocate
2014-Present Myriad Genetics – Patient Advocate and Speaker
2014-2017 Susan G. Komen® Grant Reviewer

Leadership Boards

2022 Board of Directors CanCare Houston
2021-2022 Jack and Jill of America Houston South Belt Executive Board
2021 Leadership ISD 2021 Cohort
2019 Greater Houston Black Chamber – Houston Leadership Institute Fellow

Committees and Task Forces (Cancer & Science/Tech related)

2023 National Minority Quality Forum Cancer Stage Shifting Initiative (CSSI) Scientific Advisory Board
2022-2025 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer in Young Women
2021-2022 The Wisdom Study Ambassador
2021 Houston Methodist Research Institute: NCI PSON 2021 Research Advocacy Summit Committee
2021 Virginia Commonwealth University, Department of Health Behavior and Policy School of Medicine Genetic Testing Vignette Table Reading
2021 The Global BRCA Exchange
2021 Community Action Council for Houston Methodist Cancer Center
2021 Susan G. Komen ® Breast Cancer Advocacy Summit, Texas Facilitator
2021 Susan G. Komen ® Speak Truth Power: Stand Up, Speak Up Texas Cohort
2021 Physical Science Oncology Network- CITO, Annual Meeting Planning Committee
2021 CDC, The Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Digital Project Interview
2021 Penn Medicine: Black and BRCA Committee,
2020 FORCE African American Health Equity
2020 The Tigerlily Foundation, Health Equity
2020 Stand Up 2 Cancer Health Equity Grant Program,
2020 Houston Methodist Cancer Disparities P20 SPORE
2019 Susan G. Komen-Houston and JSI African American Health Equity Report
2018 PSON CITO Annual Meeting Scientific Poster Judge Committee
2018 Patient Advocate: National Cancer Institute and National Institute of Health Physical Sciences-Oncology Advocacy Network
2018 Research Advocate: Houston Methodist Research Institute
2018 Texas Breast Health Collaborative
2018 The National Breast Cancer Coalition
2016 Penn Medicine: Basser Center for BRCA Young Leadership Council

Advocacy Training and Other Experience

2022 National Breast Cancer Coalition Project LEAD
2021 The Wisdom Study
2021 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium – Panelist: Diversity in Clinical Trials
2021 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium®, Patient Advocate Moderator, Alamo Breast Cancer, Disparities Panel
2021 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium®, Patient Advocate Panel Member - “Fine Tuning Risk Assessment and Risk Reduction”
2021 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium®, Patient Advocate Panel Member Opening Session: Healthcare Panel Diversity in Clinical Trials- From Ideation to Implementation
2021 Myriad Genetics RiskScore® Educational Event, Patient Advocate Panel Member RiskScore All Ancestries Panel
2021 Tigerlily Foundation, Metastatic Breast Cancer Cohort, Genetic Testing

2021 KPRC Channel 2 News Makers, Breast Cancer Disparities in Houston
2021 NPR, September 2021- Breast Cancer Disparities in Houston
2021 Basser Center for BRCA, Central Synagogue in Manhattan: “BRCA and Family Health History.”
2021 Michigan Cancer Genetics Alliance, “Facilitating Conversations About Hereditary Cancer Among Underserved Populations”
2021 NCI Annual Investigators Meeting, Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Science, Engineering, and Medicine
2021 The Fellows Symposium for the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), Keynote Speaker
2021 The Tigerlily Foundation Breathe TV Season 2, Episode 2 "The Importance of Family Health History”
2021 SurviveHer Breast Cancer Podcast BRCA Patient Advocate and Speaker
2021 Susan G. Komen REAL PINK Podcast BRCA Patient Advocate and Speaker
2021 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Bring Your Brave Video The Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Digital Project Interview
2021 Susan G. Komen 2021 Advocacy Summit - The Social Determinates of Health
2021 Angles Surviving Cancer - The Social Determinates of Health
2021 MD Anderson Breast Cancer Health Disparities Symposium
2021 Carrie’s Touch - Daughters of Breast Cancer Panel
2021 Race to Better Health and The Tigerlily Foundation - Bridging the Gaps Between Patients and Providers
2021 CURE®'s Educated Patient® Breast Cancer Summit - Besides Therapies
2021 The Tigerlily Foundation #KnowMoreDisparities: "Why Black Genes Matter: A Conversation on Genetic Counseling”,
2020 The Basser Center for BRCA's Young Leadership Council - Racial Health Disparities in the US
2020 Yale University - Junior Scientist Program: Cancer Research Advocacy
2020 The Tigerlily Foundation
2019 TEDx Tomball - The Generational Impact of Cancer
2017-2018 Ovacome Inc., BRCA2+ Advocate
2017-2018 Ambassador for Got Boobs?, Previvor Advocate
2017-2019 Project Pink Gala: MD Anderson and Methodist Clear Lake Keynote Speaker

Grant Reviewing Experience

2018-2019 Susan G. Komen; Houston Affiliate

Publications:

1. Dedmon, A. A. (2018). The Big Discovery: How to Explain a Breast Cancer Diagnosis to Children.
2. Dedmon, A. A. (2023). The Big Family Reunion

Abstracts:

1. Accelerating Progress and Achieving Health Equity: The American Cancer Society National Breast Cancer Roundtable, San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium
2. Power of Convening: A Local Health Department’s Ability to Impact School Health through Collaborations; American Public Health Association (APHA)
3. The Power of Patient Advocacy in Effective Cancer Prevention and Treatment; The National Cancer Institute (NCI) and The National Institute of Health (NIH)
4. Breast Cancer Inequities in African American Women: An In-Depth Analysis of Ten Metropolitan Areas in The United States; American Public Health Association (APHA)
5. Breast Cancer in African American Women: An Analysis of Inequities in Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth; American Public Health Association (APHA)

Media:

2023	Myriad Genetics National Media Tour
2023	Essence Magazine
2022	Essence Magazine
2022	Healthy Women's Magazine
2021	Ana Ono Article: No. 66: Black Women and Breast Cancer Disparities | BIPOC
2021	The Tigerlily Foundation Four-Part Blog Series,
2019	Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE) Blog
2018	FOX NEWS
2018	Women's Health Magazine (National), October Issue

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

PLACE HOLDER

CPRIT University Advisory Committee: 2024 Annual Report

CPRIT Oversight Committee Meeting
May 15, 2024

Carlos Arteaga, M.D., Chair

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM: KRISTEN PAULING DOYLE, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER & GENERAL COUNSEL
CAMERON L. ECKEL, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL

SUBJECT: CHAPTERS 701 AND 703 RULE CHANGES PROPOSED FOR FINAL ADOPTION

DATE: MAY 6, 2024

Summary and Recommendation

The Board Governance Subcommittee convened on May 2 to review the final order adopting rule amendments to Chapters 701 and 703. Once the Oversight Committee approves the final order adopting the rule changes, CPRIT will submit the amendment to the Secretary of State and the change will be effective 20 days later.

Discussion

State law requires an agency to set policy using a rulemaking process, which includes an opportunity for public comment on proposed rules and rule changes before the agency formally adopts the policy. CPRIT published the proposed amendments in the March 22, 2024, edition of the *Texas Register*. CPRIT received no public comments regarding the proposed rule changes to Chapters 701 and 703.

The amendment to Chapter 701 adds "tranche" to the list of defined terms in TAC § 701.3. The amendments to Chapter 703 capitalize the use of word "tranche," denoting it as a defined term.

The Board Governance Subcommittee met on May 2 to discuss adoption of the proposed rule changes to Chapters 701 and 703 with CPRIT staff. The subcommittee voted to recommend that the Oversight Committee approve adoption of the rule changes.

Next Steps

After the Oversight Committee adopts the proposed rule changes, CPRIT will submit the final orders to the Secretary of State. The rule changes become effective 20 days after the date CPRIT files the orders with the Secretary of State.

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas ("CPRIT" or "the Institute") adopts the amendments to 25 Tex. Admin. Code § 701.3 without changes to the proposed amendments as published in the March 22, 2024, issue of the *Texas Register* (49 TexReg 1863); therefore, the rules will not be republished. The amendment adds "Tranche" to CPRIT's list of defined terms in Section 701.3.

Reasoned Justification

The term "Tranche" refers to the portion of total Grant Award funds that is released to a Grant Recipient upon their successful completion of predefined milestones or adherence to specific timelines as outlined in the Grant Contract.

Summary of Public Comments and Staff Recommendation

CPRIT received no public comments regarding the proposed amendments to § 701.3; CPRIT staff recommends moving forward with adoption of the amendments.

The rule changes are adopted under the authority of the Texas Health and Safety Code Annotated, § 102.108, which provides the Institute with broad rule-making authority to administer the chapter, including rules for awarding grants.

Certification

The Institute hereby certifies that Kristen Pauling Doyle, General Counsel, reviewed the adoption of the rules and found it to be a valid exercise of the agency's legal authority.

To be filed with the Office of Secretary of State on May 17, 2024.

<rule>

§701.3.Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) Advisory Committee--a committee of experts, including practitioners and patient advocates, created by the Oversight Committee to advise the Oversight Committee on issues related to cancer.

(2) Allowable Cost--a cost that is reasonable, necessary for the proper and efficient performance and administration of the project, and allocable to the project.

(3) Annual Public Report--the report issued by the Institute pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code §102.052 outlining Institute activities, including Grant Awards, research accomplishments, future Program directions, compliance, and Conflicts of Interest actions.

(4) Approved Budget--the financial expenditure plan for the Grant Award, including revisions approved by the Institute and permissible revisions made by the Grant Recipient. The Approved Budget may be shown by Project Year and detailed budget categories.

(5) Authorized Expense--cost items including honoraria, salaries and benefits, consumable supplies, other operating expenses, contracted research and development, capital equipment, construction or renovation of state or private facilities, travel, and conference fees and expenses.

(6) Authorized Signing Official (ASO)--the individual, including designated alternates, named by the Grant Applicant, who is authorized to act for the Grant Applicant or Grant Recipient in submitting the Grant Application and executing the Grant Contract and associated documents or requests.

(7) Bylaws--the rules established by the Oversight Committee to provide a framework for its operation, management, and governance.

(8) Cancer Prevention--a reduction in the risk of developing cancer, including early detection, control and/or mitigation of the incidence, disability, mortality, or post-diagnosis effects of cancer.

(9) Cancer Prevention and Control Program--effective strategies and interventions for preventing and controlling cancer designed to reduce the incidence and mortality of cancer and to enhance the quality of life of those affected by cancer.

(10) Cancer Prevention and Research Fund--the dedicated account in the general revenue fund consisting of legislative appropriations, gifts, grants, other donations, and earned interest.

(11) Cancer Research--research into the prevention, causes, detection, treatments, and cures for all types of cancer in humans, including basic mechanistic studies, pre-clinical studies, animal model studies, translational research, and clinical research to develop preventative measures, therapies, protocols, medical pharmaceuticals, medical devices or procedures for the detection, treatment, cure or substantial mitigation of all types of cancer and its effects in humans.

(12) Chief Compliance Officer--the individual employed by the Institute to monitor and report to the Oversight Committee regarding compliance with the Institute's statute and administrative rules. The term may also apply to an individual designated by the Chief Compliance Officer to fulfill the duty or duties described herein, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(13) Chief Executive Officer--the individual hired by the Oversight Committee to perform duties required by the Institute's Statute or designated by the Oversight Committee. The term may apply to an individual designated by the Chief Executive Officer to fulfill the duty or duties described herein, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(14) Chief Prevention Officer--the individual hired by the Chief Executive Officer to oversee the Institute's Cancer Prevention program, including the Grant Review Process, and to assist the

Chief Executive Officer in collaborative outreach to further Cancer Research and Cancer Prevention. The term may also apply to an individual designated by the Chief Prevention Officer to fulfill the duty or duties described herein, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(15) Chief Product Development Officer--the individual hired by Chief Executive Officer to oversee the Institute's Product Development program for drugs, biologicals, diagnostics, or devices arising from Cancer Research, including the Grant Review Process, and to assist the Chief Executive Officer in collaborative outreach to further Cancer Research and Cancer Prevention. The term may apply to an individual designated by the Chief Product Development Officer to fulfill the duty or duties described herein, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(16) Chief Scientific Officer--the individual hired by the Chief Executive Officer to oversee the Institute's Cancer Research program, including the Grant Review Process, and to assist the Chief Executive Officer in collaborative outreach to further Cancer Research and Cancer Prevention. The term may apply to an individual designated by the Chief Scientific Officer to fulfill the duty or duties described herein, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(17) Code of Conduct and Ethics--the code adopted by the Oversight Committee pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code §102.109 to provide guidance related to the ethical conduct expected of Oversight Committee Members, Program Integration Committee Members, and Institute Employees.

(18) Compliance Program--a process to assess and ensure compliance by the Oversight Committee Members and Institute Employees with applicable laws, rules, and policies, including matters of ethics and standards of conduct, financial reporting, internal accounting controls, and auditing.

(19) Conflict(s) of Interest--a financial, professional, or personal interest held by the individual or the individual's Relative that is contrary to the individual's obligation and duty to act for the benefit of the Institute.

(20) Encumbered Funds--funds that are designated by a Grant Recipient for a specific purpose.

(21) Financial Status Report--form used to report all Grant Award related financial expenditures incurred in implementation of the Grant Award. This form may also be referred to as "FSR" or "Form 269-A."

(22) Grant Applicant--the public or private institution of higher education, as defined by §61.003, Texas Education Code, research institution, government organization, non-governmental organization, non-profit organization, other public entity, private company, individual, or consortia, including any combination of the aforementioned, that submits a Grant Application to the Institute. Unless otherwise indicated, this term includes the Principal Investigator or Program Director.

(23) Grant Application--the written proposal submitted by a Grant Applicant to the Institute in the form required by the Institute that, if successful, will result in a Grant Award.

(24) Grant Award--funding, including a direct company investment, awarded by the Institute pursuant to a Grant Contract providing money to the Grant Recipient to carry out the Cancer Research or Cancer Prevention project in accordance with rules, regulations, and guidance provided by the Institute.

(25) Grant Contract--the legal agreement executed by the Grant Recipient and the Institute setting forth the terms and conditions for the Cancer Research or Cancer Prevention Grant Award approved by the Oversight Committee.

(26) Grant Management System--the electronic interactive system used by the Institute to exchange, record, and store Grant Application and Grant Award information.

(27) Grant Mechanism--the specific Grant Award type.

(28) Grant Program--the functional area in which the Institute makes Grant Awards, including research, prevention and product development.

(29) Grant Progress Report--the required report submitted by the Grant Recipient at least annually and at the close of the grant award describing the activities undertaken to achieve the Scope of Work of the funded project and including information, data and program metrics. Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the Grant Progress Report also includes other required reports such as a Historically Underutilized Business and Texas Supplier form, a single audit determination form, an inventory report, a single audit determination form, a revenue sharing form, and any other reports or forms designated by the Institute.

(30) Grant Recipient--the entire legal entity responsible for the performance or administration of the Grant Award pursuant to the Grant Contract. Unless otherwise indicated, this term includes the Principal Investigator, Program Director, or Company Representative.

(31) Grant Review Cycle--the period that begins on the day that the Request for Applications is released for a particular Grant Mechanism and ends on the day that the Oversight Committee takes action on the Grant Award recommendations.

(32) Grant Review Process--the Institute's processes for Peer Review, Program Review and Oversight Committee approval of Grant Applications.

(33) Indirect Costs--the expenses of doing business that are not readily identified with a particular Grant Award, Grant Contract, project, function, or activity, but are necessary for the general operation of the Grant Recipient or the performance of the Grant Recipient's activities.

(34) Institute--the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas or CPRIT.

(35) Institute Employee--any individual employed by the Institute, including any individual performing duties for the Institute pursuant to a contract of employment. Unless otherwise indicated, the term does not include an individual providing services to the Institute pursuant to a services contract.

(36) Intellectual Property Rights--any and all of the following and all rights in, arising out of, or associated therewith, but only to the extent resulting from the Grant Award:

(A) The United States and foreign patents and utility models and applications therefore and all reissues, divisions, re-examinations, renewals, extensions, provisionals, continuations and such claims of continuations-in-part as are entitled to claim priority to the aforesaid patents or patent applications, and equivalent or similar rights anywhere in the world in Inventions and discoveries;

(B) All trade secrets and rights in know-how and proprietary information;

(C) All copyrights, whether registered or unregistered, and applications therefore, and all other rights corresponding thereto throughout the world excluding scholarly and academic works such as professional articles and presentations, lab notebooks, and original medical records; and

(D) All mask works, mask work registrations and applications therefore, and any equivalent or similar rights in semiconductor masks, layouts, architectures or topography.

(37) Invention--any method, device, process or discovery that is conceived and/or reduced to practice, whether patentable or not, by the Grant Recipient in the performance of work funded by the Grant Award.

(38) License Agreement--an understanding by which an owner of Technology and associated Intellectual Property Rights grants any right to make, use, develop, sell, offer to sell, import, or otherwise exploit the Technology or Intellectual Property Rights in exchange for consideration.

(39) Matching Funds--the Grant Recipient's Encumbered Funds equal to one-half of the Grant Award available and not yet expended that are dedicated to the research that is the subject of the Grant Award. For public and private institutions of higher education, this includes the dollar amount equivalent to the difference between the indirect cost rate authorized by the federal government for research grants awarded to the Grant Recipient and the five percent (5%) Indirect Cost limit imposed by §102.203(c), Texas Health and Safety Code.

(40) Numerical Ranking Score--the score given to a Grant Application by the Review Council that is substantially based on the final Overall Evaluation Score submitted by the Peer Review Panel, but also signifies the Review Council's view related to how well the Grant Application achieves program priorities set by the Oversight Committee, the overall Program portfolio balance, and any other criteria described in the Request for Applications.

(41) Overall Evaluation Score--the score given to a Grant Application during the Peer Review Panel review that signifies the reviewers' overall impression of the Grant Application. Typically, it is the average of the scores assigned by two or more Peer Review Panel members.

(42) Oversight Committee--the Institute's governing body, composed of the nine individuals appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(43) Oversight Committee Member--any person appointed to and serving on the Oversight Committee.

(44) Patient Advocate--a trained individual who meets the qualifications set by the Institute and is appointed to a Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee to specifically represent the interests of cancer patients as part of the Peer Review of Grant Applications assigned to the individual's committee.

(45) Peer Review--the review process performed by Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee members and used by the Institute to provide guidance and recommendations to the Program Integration Committee and the Oversight Committee in making decisions for Grant Awards. The process involves the consistent application of standards and procedures to produce a fair, equitable, and objective evaluation of scientific and technical merit, as well as other relevant aspects of the Grant Application. When used herein, the term applies individually or collectively, as the context may indicate, to the following review process(es): Preliminary Evaluation, Individual Evaluation by Primary Reviewers, Peer Review Panel discussion and Review Council prioritization.

(46) Peer Review Panel--a group of Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee members conducting Peer Review of assigned Grant Applications.

(47) Prevention Review Council--the group of Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee members designated as the chairpersons of the Peer Review Panels that review Cancer Prevention program Grant Applications. This group includes the Review Council chairperson.

(48) Primary Reviewer--a Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee member responsible for individually evaluating all components of the Grant Application, critiquing the merits according to explicit criteria published in the Request for Applications, and providing an individual Overall Evaluation Score that conveys the general impression of the Grant Application's merit.

(49) Principal Investigator, Program Director, or Company Representative--the single individual designated by the Grant Applicant or Grant Recipient to have the appropriate level of authority and responsibility to direct the project to be supported by the Grant Award.

(50) Product Development Prospects--the potential for development of products, services, or infrastructure to support Cancer Research efforts, including but not limited to pre-clinical, clinical, manufacturing, and scale up activities.

(51) Product Development Review Council--the group of Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee Members designated as the chairpersons of the Peer Review Panels that review Grant Applications for the development of drugs, drugs, biologicals, diagnostics, or devices arising from earlier-stage Cancer Research. This group includes the Review Council chairperson.

(52) Program Income--income from fees for services performed, from the use or rental of real or personal property acquired with Grant Award funds, and from the sale of commodities or items fabricated under the Grant Contract. Except as otherwise provided, Program Income does not include rebates, credits, discounts, refunds, etc. or the interest earned on any of these items. Interest otherwise earned in excess of $250 on Grant Award funds is considered Program Income.

(53) Program Integration Committee--the group composed of the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Scientific Officer, the Chief Product Development Officer, the Commissioner of State Health Services, and the Chief Prevention Officer that is responsible for submitting to the Oversight Committee the list of Grant Applications the Program Integration Committee recommends for Grant Awards.

(54) Project Results--all outcomes of a Grant Award, including publications, knowledge gained, additional funding generated, and any and all Technology and associated Intellectual Property Rights.

(55) Project Year--the intervals of time (usually 12 months each) into which a Grant Award is divided for budgetary, funding, and reporting purposes. The effective date of the Grant Contract is the first day of the first Project Year.

(56) Real Property--land, including land improvements, structures and appurtenances thereto, excluding movable machinery and equipment.

(57) Relative--a person related within the second degree by consanguinity or affinity determined in accordance with §§573.021 - 573.025, Texas Government Code. For purposes of this definition:

(A) examples of an individual within the second degree by consanguinity are a child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother, sister;

(B) a husband and wife are related to each other in the first degree of affinity. For other relationship by affinity, the degree of relationship is the same as the degree of the underlying relationship by consanguinity;

(C) an individual adopted into a family is considered a Relative on the same basis as a natural born family member; and

(D) an individual is considered a spouse even if the marriage has been dissolved by death or divorce if there are surviving children of that marriage.

(58) Request for Applications--the invitation released by the Institute seeking the submission of Grant Applications for a particular Grant Mechanism. It provides information relevant to the Grant Award to be funded, including funding amount, Grant Review Process information, evaluation criteria, and required Grant Application components. The Request for Applications includes any associated written instructions provided by the Institute and available to all Grant Applicants.

(59) Review Council--the term used to generally refer to one or more of the Prevention Review Council, the Product Development Review Council, or Scientific Review Council.

(60) Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee--a group of experts in the field of Cancer Research, Cancer Prevention or Product Development, including trained Patient Advocates, appointed by the Chief Executive Officer and approved by the Oversight Committee for the purpose of conducting Peer Review of Grants Applications and recommending Grant Awards. A Peer Review Panel is a Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee, as is a Review Council.

(61) Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee Member--an individual appointed by the Chief Executive Officer and approved by the Oversight Committee to serve on a Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee. Peer Review Panel Members are Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee Members, as are Review Council Members.

(62) Scientific Review Council--the group of Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee Members designated as the chairpersons of the Peer Review Panels that review Cancer Research Grant Applications. This group includes the Review Council chairperson.

(63) Scope of Work--the goals and objectives or specific aims and subaims, if appropriate, of the Cancer Research or Cancer Prevention project, including the timeline and milestones to be achieved.

(64) Senior Member or Key Personnel--the Principal Investigator, Project Director or Company Representative and other individuals who contribute to the scientific development or execution of a project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not the individuals receive salary or compensation under the Grant Award.

(65) Technology--any and all of the following resulting or arising from work funded by the Grant Award:

(A) Inventions;

(B) Third-Party Information, including but not limited to data, trade secrets and know-how;

(C) databases, compilations and collections of data;

(D) tools, methods and processes; and

(E) works of authorship, excluding all scholarly works, but including, without limitation, computer programs, source code and executable code, whether embodied in software, firmware or otherwise, documentation, files, records, data and mask works; and all instantiations of the foregoing in any form and embodied in any form, including but not limited to therapeutics, drugs, drug delivery systems, drug formulations, devices, diagnostics, biomarkers, reagents and research tools.

(66) Texas Cancer Plan--a coordinated, prioritized, and actionable framework that helps to guide statewide efforts to fight the human and economic burden of cancer in Texas.

(67) Third-Party Information--generally, all trade secrets, proprietary information, know-how and non-public business information disclosed to the Institute by Grant Applicant, Grant Recipient, or other individual external to the Institute.

(68) Tobacco--all forms of tobacco products, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff and chewing tobacco.

(69) Tranche—the portion of the Grant Award disbursed to the Grant Recipient in a sequential and conditional manner based upon the successful completion of predefined milestones as specified in the Grant Contract.

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas ("CPRIT" or "the Institute") adopts the amendments to 25 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 703.10, 703.21, and 703.23 without changes to the proposed amendments as published in the March 22, 2024, issue of the *Texas Register* (49 TexReg 1867); therefore, the rules will not be republished. The amendments ensure CPRIT's consistent use of "Tranche" throughout Chapter 703.

Reasoned Justification

The rule amendments to Chapter 703 capitalize "Tranche" to consistently refer to the term as written and defined in § 701.3.

Summary of Public Comments and Staff Recommendation

CPRIT received no public comments regarding the proposed amendments to §§ 703.10, 703.21, and 703.23; CPRIT staff recommends moving forward with adoption of the amendments.

The rule changes are adopted under the authority of the Texas Health and Safety Code Annotated, § 102.108, which provides the Institute with broad rule-making authority to administer the chapter, including rules for awarding grants.

Certification

The Institute hereby certifies that Kristen Pauling Doyle, General Counsel, reviewed the adoption of the rules and found it to be a valid exercise of the agency's legal authority.

To be filed with the Office of Secretary of State on May 17, 2024.

<rule>

§703.10.Awarding Grants by Contract.

(a) The Oversight Committee shall negotiate on behalf of the state regarding the awarding of grant funds and enter into a written contract with the Grant Recipient.

(b) The Oversight Committee may delegate Grant Contract negotiation duties to the Chief Executive Officer and the General Counsel for the Institute. The Chief Executive Officer may enter into a written contract with the Grant Recipient on behalf of the Oversight Committee.

(c) The Grant Contract shall include the following provisions:

(1) If any portion of the Grant Contract has been approved by the Oversight Committee to be used to build a capital improvement, the Grant Contract shall specify that:

(A) The state retains a lien or other interest in the capital improvement in proportion to the percentage of the Grant Award amount used to pay for the capital improvement; and

(B) If the capital improvement is sold, then the Grant Recipient agrees to repay to the state the Grant Award used to pay for the capital improvement, with interest, and share with the state a proportionate amount of any profit realized from the sale;

(2) Terms relating to Intellectual Property Rights and the sharing with the Institute of revenues generated by the sale, license, or other conveyance of such Project Results consistent with the standards established by this chapter;

(3) Terms relating to publication of materials created with Grant Award funds or related to the Cancer Research or Cancer Prevention project that is the subject of the Grant Award, including an acknowledgement of Institute funding and copyright ownership, if applicable:

(A) Acknowledgment of Institute funding must include the grant number of every Institute-funded grant contributing to the work memorialized in the publication; and

(B) Subparagraph (A) of this paragraph is effective beginning September 1, 2021;

(4) Repayment terms, including interest rates, to be enforced if the Grant Recipient has not used Grant Award funds for the purposes for which the Grant Award was intended;

(5) A statement that the Institute does not assume responsibility for the conduct of the Cancer Research or Cancer Prevention project, and that the conduct of the project and activities of all investigators are under the scope and direction of the Grant Recipient;

(6) A statement that the Cancer Research or Cancer Prevention project is conducted with full consideration for the ethical and medical implications of the project and that the project will comply with all federal and state laws regarding the conduct of the Cancer Research or Prevention project;

(7) Terms related to the Standards established by the Oversight Committee in Chapter 701 of this title (relating to Policies and Procedures) to ensure that Grant Recipients, to the extent reasonably possible, demonstrate good faith effort to purchase goods and services for the Grant Award project from suppliers in this state and from historically underutilized businesses as defined by Chapter 2161, Texas Government Code, and any other state law;

(8) An agreement by the Grant Recipient to submit to regular inspection reviews of the Grant Award project by Institute staff during normal business hours and upon reasonable notice to ensure compliance with the terms of the Grant Contract and continued merit of the project;

(9) An agreement by the Grant Recipient to submit Grant Progress Reports to the Institute on a schedule specified by the Grant Contract that includes information on a grant-by-grant basis quantifying the amount of additional research funding, if any, secured as a result of Institute funding;

(10) An agreement that, to the extent possible, the Grant Recipient will evaluate whether any new or expanded preclinical testing, clinical trials, Product Development, or manufacturing of

any real or intellectual property resulting from the award can be conducted in this state, including the establishment of facilities to meet this purpose;

(11) An agreement that the Grant Recipient will abide by the Texas Grant Management Standards (TxGMS) published by the Comptroller of Public Accounts Statewide Procurement Division, if applicable, unless one or more standards conflicts with a provision of the Grant Contract, Chapter 102, Texas Health and Safety Code, or the Institute's administrative rules. Such interpretation of the Institute rules and TxGMS shall be made by the Institute;

(12) An agreement that the Grant Recipient is under a continuing obligation to notify the Institute of any adverse conditions that materially impact the Scope of Work in the Grant Contract;

(13) An agreement that the design, conduct, and reporting of the Cancer Research or Prevention project will not be biased by conflicting financial interest of the Grant Recipient or any individuals associated with the Grant Award. This duty is fulfilled by certifying that an appropriate written, enforced Conflict of Interest policy governs the Grant Recipient;

(14) An agreement regarding the amount, schedule, and requirements for payment of Grant Award funds, if such advance payments are approved by the Oversight Committee in accordance with this chapter. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Institute may require that up to ten percent of the final Tranche of funds approved for the Grant Award must be expended on a reimbursement basis. Such reimbursement payment shall not be made until close out documents described in this section and required by the Grant Contract have been submitted and approved by the Institute;

(15) An agreement to provide quarterly Financial Status Reports and supporting documentation for expenses submitted for reimbursement or, if appropriate, to demonstrate how advanced funds were expended;

(16) A statement certifying that, as of June 14, 2013, the Grant Recipient has not made and will not make a contribution, during the term of the Grant Contract, to the Institute or to any foundation established specifically to support the Institute;

(17) A statement specifying the agreed effective date of the Grant Contract and the period in which the Grant Award funds must be spent. If the effective date specified in the Grant Contract is different from the date the Grant Contract is signed by both parties, then the effective date shall control;

(18) A statement providing for reimbursement with Grant Award funds of expenses made prior to the effective date of the Grant Contract at the discretion of the Institute. Pre-contract reimbursement shall be made only in the event that:

(A) The expenses are allowable pursuant to the terms of the Grant Contract;

(B) The request is made in writing by the Grant Recipient and approved by the Chief Executive Officer; and

(C) The expenses to be reimbursed were incurred on or after the date the Grant Award recommendation was approved by the Oversight Committee;

(19) Requirements for closing out the Grant Contract at the termination date, including the submission of a Financial Status Report, a final Grant Progress Report, an equipment inventory, a HUB and Texas Business report, a revenue sharing form, a single audit determination report form and a list of contractual terms that extend beyond the termination date;

(20) A certification of dedicated Matching Funds equal to one-half of the amount of the Research Grant Award that includes the name of the Research Grant Award to which the matching funds are to be dedicated, as specified in Section §703.11 of this chapter (relating to Requirement to Demonstrate Available Funds for Cancer Research Grants);

(21) The project deliverables as described by the Grant Application and stated in the Scope of Work for the Grant Contract reflecting modifications, if any, approved during the Peer Review process or during Grant Contract negotiation;

(22) An agreement that the Grant Recipient shall notify the Institute and seek approval for a change in effort for any of the Senior Members or Key Personnel of the research or prevention team listed on the Grant Application, including any proposed temporary leave of absence of a Principal Investigator, Program Director, or Company Representative;

(23) An agreement that the Grant Recipient is legally responsible for the integrity of the fiscal and programmatic management of the organization; and

(24) An agreement that the Grant Recipient is responsible for the actions of its employees and other research collaborators, including third parties, involved in the project. The Grant Recipient is responsible for enforcing its standards of conduct, taking appropriate action on individual infractions, and, in the case of financial conflict of interest, informing the Institute if the infraction is related to a Grant Award.

(d) The Grant Recipient's failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the Grant Contract may result in termination of the Grant Contract, pursuant to the process prescribed in the Grant Contract, and trigger repayment of the Grant Award funds.

§703.21.Monitoring Grant Award Performance and Expenditures.

(a) The Institute, under the direction of the Chief Compliance Officer, shall monitor Grant Awards to ensure that Grant Recipients comply with applicable financial, administrative, and programmatic terms and conditions and exercise proper stewardship over Grant Award funds. Such terms and conditions include requirements set forth in statute, administrative rules, and the Grant Contract.

(b) Methods used by the Institute to monitor a Grant Recipient's performance and expenditures may include:

(1) Financial Status Reports Review--The Institute shall review Grant Award expenditures reported by Grant Recipients on the quarterly Financial Status Reports and supporting documents to determine whether expenses charged to the Grant Award are:

(A) Allowable, allocable, reasonable, necessary, and consistently applied regardless of the source of funds; and

(B) Adequately supported with documentation such as cost reports, receipts, third party invoices for expenses, or payroll information.

(2) Timely submission of Grant Award Reports--The Institute shall monitor the submission of all required reports and implement a process to ensure that Grant Award funds are not disbursed to a Grant Recipient with one or more delinquent reports.

(3) Grant Progress Reports--The Institute shall review Grant Progress Reports to determine whether sufficient progress is made consistent with the Scope of Work set forth in the Grant Contract.

(A) The Grant Progress Reports shall be submitted at least annually but may be required more frequently pursuant to Grant Contract terms or upon request and reasonable notice of the Institute.

(B) Unless specifically stated otherwise herein, the annual Grant Progress Report shall be submitted within sixty (60) days after the anniversary of the effective date of the Grant Contract. The annual Grant Progress Report shall include at least the following information:

(i) An affirmative verification by the Grant Recipient of compliance with the terms and conditions of the Grant Contract;

(ii) A description of the Grant Recipient's progress made toward completing the Scope of Work specified by the Grant Contract, including information, data, and program metrics regarding the achievement of the Scope of Work;

(iii) The number of new jobs created and the number of jobs maintained for the preceding twelve-month period as a result of Grant Award funds awarded to the Grant Recipient for the project;

(iv) An inventory of the equipment purchased for the project in the preceding twelve-month period using Grant Award funds;

(v) A verification of the Grant Recipient's efforts to purchase from suppliers in this state more than 50 percent goods and services purchased for the project with grant funds;

(vi) A Historically Underutilized Businesses report;

(vii) Scholarly articles, presentations, and educational materials produced for the public addressing the project funded by the Institute;

(viii) The number of patents applied for or issued addressing discoveries resulting from the research project funded by the Institute;

(ix) A statement of the identities of the funding sources, including amounts and dates for all funding sources supporting the project;

(x) A verification of the amounts of Matching Funds dedicated to the research that is the subject of the Grant Award for the period covered by the annual report, which shall be submitted pursuant to the timeline in §703.11 of this title (relating to Requirement to Demonstrate Available Funds for Cancer Research Grants). In order to receive disbursement of grant funds, the most recently due verification of the amount of Matching Funds must be approved by CPRIT;

(xi) All financial information necessary to support the calculation of the Institute's share of revenues, if any, received by the Grant Recipient resulting from the project; and

(xii) A single audit determination form, which shall be submitted pursuant to the timeline in §703.13 of this title (relating to Audits and Investigations).

(C) Notwithstanding subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, in the event that the Grant Recipient and Institute execute the Grant Contract after the effective date of the Grant Contract, the Chief Program Officer may approve additional time for the Grant Recipient to prepare and submit the outstanding reports. The approval shall be in writing and maintained in the Institute's electronic Grants Management System. The Chief Program Officer's approval may cover more than one report and more than one fiscal quarter.

(D) In addition to annual Grant Progress Reports, a final Grant Progress Report shall be filed no more than ninety (90) days after the termination date of the Grant Contract. The final Grant Progress Report shall include a comprehensive description of the Grant Recipient's progress made toward completing the Scope of Work specified by the Grant Contract, as well as other information specified by the Institute.

(E) The Grant Progress Report will be evaluated pursuant to criteria established by the Institute. The evaluation shall be conducted under the direction of the Chief Prevention Officer, the Chief Product Development Officer, or the Chief Scientific Officer, as may be appropriate. Required financial reports associated with the Grant Progress Report will be reviewed by the Institute's financial staff. In order to receive disbursement of grant funds, the final progress report must be approved by CPRIT.

(F) If the Grant Progress Report evaluation indicates that the Grant Recipient has not demonstrated progress in accordance with the Grant Contract, then the Chief Program Officer shall notify the Chief Executive Officer and the General Counsel for further action.

(i) The Chief Program Officer shall submit written recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel for actions to be taken, if any, to address the issue.

(ii) The recommended action may include termination of the Grant Award pursuant to the process described in §703.14 of this chapter (relating to Termination, Extension, and Close Out of Grant Contracts, and De-Obligation of Grant Award Funds).

(G) If the Grant Recipient fails to submit required financial reports associated with the Grant Progress Report, then the Institute financial staff shall notify the Chief Executive Officer and the General Counsel for further action.

(H) In order to receive disbursement of grant funds, the most recently due progress report must be approved by CPRIT.

(I) If a Grant Recipient fails to submit the Grant Progress Report within 60 days of the anniversary of the effective date of the Grant Contract, then the Institute shall not disburse any Grant Award funds as reimbursement or advancement of Grant Award funds until such time that the delinquent Grant Progress Report is approved.

(J) In addition to annual Grant Progress Reports, Product Development Grant Recipients shall submit a Grant Progress Report at the completion of specific Tranches of funding specified in the Award Contract. For the purpose of this subsection, a Grant Progress Report submitted at the completion of a Tranche of funding shall be known as "Tranche Grant Progress Report."

(i) The Institute may specify other required reports, if any, that are required to be submitted at the time of the Tranche Grant Progress Report.

(ii) Grant Funds for the next Tranche of funding specified in the Grant Contract shall not be disbursed until the Tranche Grant Progress Report has been reviewed and approved pursuant to the process described in this section.

(K) A Grant Award in the prevention program with a Grant Contract effective date within the last quarter of a state fiscal year (June 1-August 31) will have an initial reporting period beginning September 1 of the following state fiscal year.

(4) Desk Reviews--The Institute may conduct a desk review for a Grant Award to review and compare individual source documentation and materials to summary data provided during the Financial Status Report review for compliance with financial requirements set forth in the statute, administrative rules, and the Grant Contract.

(5) Site Visits and Inspection Reviews--The Institute may conduct a scheduled site visit to a Grant Recipient's place of business to review Grant Contract compliance and Grant Award performance issues. Such site visits may be comprehensive or limited in scope.

(6) Audit Reports--The Institute shall review audit reports submitted pursuant to §703.13 of this chapter (relating to Audits and Investigations).

(A) If the audit report findings indicate action to be taken related to the Grant Award funds expended by the Grant Recipient or for the Grant Recipient's fiscal processes that may impact Grant Award expenditures, the Institute and the Grant Recipient shall develop a written plan and timeline to address identified deficiencies, including any necessary Grant Contract amendments.

(B) The written plan shall be retained by the Institute as part of the Grant Contract record.

(c) All required Grant Recipient reports and submissions described in this section shall be made via an electronic grant portal designated by the Institute, unless specifically directed to the contrary in writing by the Institute.

(d) The Institute shall document the actions taken to monitor Grant Award performance and expenditures, including the review, approvals, and necessary remedial steps, if any.

(1) To the extent that the methods described in subsection (b) of this section are applied to a sample of the Grant Recipients or Grant Awards, then the Institute shall document the Grant Contracts reviewed and the selection criteria for the sample reviewed.

(2) Records will be maintained in the electronic Grant Management System as described in §703.4 of this chapter (relating to Grants Management System).

(e) The Chief Compliance Officer shall be engaged in the Institute's Grant Award monitoring activities and shall notify the General Counsel and Oversight Committee if a Grant Recipient fails to meaningfully comply with the Grant Contract reporting requirements and deadlines, including Matching Funds requirements.

(f) The Chief Executive Officer shall report to the Oversight Committee at least annually on the progress and continued merit of each Grant Program funded by the Institute. The written report shall also be included in the Annual Public Report. The report should be presented to the Oversight Committee at the first meeting following the publication of the Annual Public Report.

(g) The Institute may rely upon third parties to conduct Grant Award monitoring services independently or in conjunction with Institute staff.

(h) If a deadline set by this rule falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday as designated by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, the required filing may be submitted on the next business day. The Institute will not consider a required filing delinquent if the Grant Recipient complies with this subsection.

§703.23.Disbursement of Grant Award Funds.

(a) The Institute disburses Grant Award funds by reimbursing the Grant Recipient for allowable costs already expended; however, the nature and circumstances of the Grant Mechanism or a particular Grant Award may justify advance payment of funds by the Institute pursuant to the Grant Contract.

(1) The Chief Executive Officer shall seek authorization from the Oversight Committee to disburse Grant Award funds by advance payment.

(A) A simple majority of Oversight Committee Members present and voting must approve the Chief Executive Officer's advance payment recommendation for the Grant Award.

(B) Unless specifically stated at the time of the Oversight Committee's vote, the Oversight Committee's approval to disburse Grant Award funds by advance payment is effective for the term of the Grant Award.

(2) Unless otherwise specified in the Grant Contract, the amount of Grant Award funds advanced in any particular Tranche may not exceed the budget amount for the corresponding Project Year.

(3) The Grant Recipient receiving advance payment of Grant Award funds must maintain or demonstrate the willingness and ability to maintain procedures to minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of the Grant Award funds and disbursement by the Grant Recipient.

(4) The Grant Recipient must comply with all financial reporting requirements regarding use of Grant Award funds, including timely submission of quarterly Financial Status Reports.

(5) The Grant Recipient must expend at least 90% of the Grant Award funds in a Tranche before Institute will advance additional grant funds or reimburse additional costs. To the extent possible, the Institute will work with the Grant Recipient to coordinate the advancement of Grant Award fund Tranches in such a way as to avoid affecting work in progress or project planning.

(6) Nothing herein creates an entitlement to advance payment of Grant Award funds; the Institute may determine in its sole discretion that circumstances justify limiting the amount of Grant Award funds eligible for advance payment, may restrict the period for the advance payment of Grant Award funds, or may revert to payment on a reimbursement-basis. Unless specifically stated in the Grant Contract, the Institute will disburse the last ten percent (10%) of the total Grant Award funds using the reimbursement method of funding, and will withhold payment until the Grant Recipient has closed its Grant Contract and the Institute has approved the Grant Recipient's final reports pursuant to §703.14 of this chapter relating to Termination, Extension, Close Out of Grant Contracts, and De-Obligation of Grant Award funds.

(A) A Grant Recipient receiving advance payment may request in writing that the Institute withhold less than ten percent (10%) of the total Grant Award funds. The Grant Recipient must submit the request and reasonable justification to the Institute no sooner than the start of the final year and no later than the start of the final financial status reporting period of the grant project.

(B) The Chief Executive Officer may approve or deny the request. If approved, the Chief Executive Officer will provide written notification to the Oversight Committee. The Chief Executive Officer's decision to approve or deny a request is final.

(b) The Institute will disburse Grant Award funds for actual cash expenditures reported on the Grant Recipient's quarterly Financial Status Report.

(1) Only expenses that are allowable and supported by adequate documentation are eligible to be paid with Grant Award funds.

(2) A Grant Recipient must pay their vendors and subcontractors prior to requesting reimbursement from CPRIT.

(c) The Institute may withhold disbursing Grant Award funds if the Grant Recipient has not submitted required reports, including quarterly Financial Status Reports, Grant Progress Reports, Matching Fund Reports, audits and other financial reports. Unless otherwise specified for the particular Grant Award, Institute approval of the required report(s) is necessary for disbursement of Grant Award funds.

(d) All Grant Award funds are disbursed pursuant to a fully executed Grant Contract. Grant Award funds shall not be disbursed prior to the effective date of the Grant Contract.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	KRISTEN PAULING DOYLE, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER & GENERAL COUNSEL CAMERON ECKEL, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL
SUBJECT:	CHAPTER 701 PROPOSED RULE CHANGE
DATE:	MAY 6, 2024

Summary and Recommendation

The Board Governance Subcommittee convened on May 2 to discuss the suggested rule change to Texas Administrative Code § 701.11(5). Publication of the anticipated rule change in the *Texas Register* is the first step in the agency rulemaking process. CPRIT Staff will bring back the proposed rule amendment and any public comments to the Oversight Committee in August for final approval.

Discussion

CPRIT's administrative rules set policy guiding CPRIT's grant review and grant contracting processes as well as managing other requirements of Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 102. State law requires agencies to use a rulemaking process, which includes an opportunity for the public to comment on the rule changes before the agency adopts the final policy.

The Board Governance Subcommittee met on May 2 to discuss the proposed rule change to Texas Administrative Code § 701.11(5) that removes the requirement that CPRIT provide a printed copy of the *Texas Cancer Plan* upon request. Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 102 charges CPRIT with the responsibility of facilitating the development of the *Texas Cancer Plan* and making the plan available to the public. The current version is available on our public website. Although a member of the public may request that CPRIT provide them with a printed copy, CPRIT has received no such requests. CPRIT plans to present the upcoming edition of the Texas Cancer Plan as a fully online, dynamic resource available to the public via our website, similar to the presentation we have used successfully for CPRIT's annual reports. Due to the format, we will not publish the plan as a printed document. The subcommittee voted to recommend that the Oversight Committee approve publication of the suggested changes in the *Texas Register*.

Next Steps

Once approved by the Oversight Committee, CPRIT will publish the proposed rule changes in the *Texas Register*. The publication date begins the 30-day period for soliciting comment from interested members of the public. CPRIT will also post the proposed rule changes on our website and announce the opportunity for public comment via CPRIT's electronic list serve. CPRIT legal staff will summarize any comments received from the public for the Oversight Committee's consideration when approving the final rule changes in August.

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas ("CPRIT" or "the Institute") proposes amending 25 Tex. Admin. Code § 701.11(5) by removing the hard copy option for the Texas Cancer Plan.

Background and Justification

Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 102 charges CPRIT with the responsibility of facilitating the development of the Texas Cancer Plan, which aims to reduce the cancer burden across the state to improve the lives of Texans. CPRIT maintains a link to a portable document file (PDF) of the most recent Texas Cancer Plan on its website that is available to the public at any time. Although a member of the public may request that CPRIT provide the requester with a printed copy of the Texas Cancer Plan, CPRIT has received no such requests. CPRIT plans to present the next version of the Texas Cancer Plan as a fully online, dynamic resource available to the public. The proposed amendment removes the requirement that CPRIT provide a hard copy of the Texas Cancer Plan.

Fiscal Note

Kristen Pauling Doyle, Deputy Executive Officer and General Counsel for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, has determined that for the first five-year period the rule change is in effect, there will be no foreseeable implications relating to costs or revenues for state or local government due to enforcing or administering the rules.

Public Benefit and Costs

Ms. Doyle has determined that for each year of the first five years the rule change is in effect the public benefit anticipated due to enforcing the rule will be clarifying grantee reporting obligations and consequences.

Small Business, Micro-Business, and Rural Communities Impact Analysis

Ms. Doyle has determined that the rule change will not affect small businesses, micro businesses, or rural communities.

Government Growth Impact Statement

The Institute, in accordance with 34 Texas Administrative Code §11.1, has determined that during the first five years that the proposed rule change will be in effect:

(1) the proposed rule change will not create or eliminate a government program;

(2) implementation of the proposed rule change will not affect the number of employee positions;

(3) implementation of the proposed rule change will not require an increase or decrease in future legislative appropriations;

(4) the proposed rule change will not affect fees paid to the agency;

(5) the proposed rule change will not create new rule;

(6) the proposed rule change will not expand existing rule;

(7) the proposed rule change will not change the number of individuals subject to the rule; and

(8) The rule change is unlikely to have an impact on the state's economy.

Submit written comments on the proposed rule changes to Ms. Kristen Pauling Doyle, General Counsel, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, P. O. Box 12097, Austin, Texas 78711, no later than June 1, 2024. The Institute asks parties filing comments to indicate whether they support the rule revision proposed by the Institute and, if the party requests a change, to provide specific text for the proposed change. Parties may submit comments electronically to kdoyle@cprit.texas.gov or by facsimile transmission to 512/475-2563.

Statutory Authority

The Institute proposes the rule change under the authority of the Texas Health and Safety Code Annotated, §102.108, which provides the Institute with broad rule-making authority to administer the chapter. Ms. Doyle has reviewed the proposed amendment and certifies the proposal to be within the Institute's authority to adopt.

There is no other statute, article, or code affected by these rules.

<rule>

§701.11.Texas Cancer Plan.

The Institute shall develop, implement, continually monitor, and revise the Texas Cancer Plan as necessary.

(1) The intent of the Texas Cancer Plan is to reduce the cancer burden across the state and improve the lives of Texans by providing a coordinated, prioritized, and actionable framework that will help guide statewide efforts to fight the human and economic burden of cancer in Texas.

(2) Activities undertaken by the Institute to monitor the Texas Cancer Plan will be described in the Annual Public Report required by Texas Health and Safety Code §102.052.

(3) The Institute will periodically update the Texas Cancer Plan by issuing a revised version of the Texas Cancer Plan every seven (7) years, unless a different timeline for a revised version of the Texas Cancer Plan is approved by a simple majority of the Oversight Committee.

(4) The Institute may solicit input from public or private institutions, government organizations, non-profit organizations, other public entities, private companies, and individuals affected by cancer to assist the Institute in monitoring, implementing, and revising the Texas Cancer Plan.

(5) The most recent version of the Texas Cancer Plan shall be posted on the Institute's Internet website. [~~A hard copy of the Texas Cancer Plan may be requested by contacting the Institute directly.~~]

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM: HEIDI MCCONNELL, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

SUBJECT: CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER REPORT

DATE: MAY 6, 2024

CPRIT Financial Overview for FY 2024, Quarter 2

FY 2024, Quarter 2 Operating Budget

CPRIT has an adjusted FY 2024 budget of $5.8 million in Indirect Administration and $16.3 million in Grant Review and Award Operations which incorporate $614,401 carried forward from FY 2023 to FY 2024 for a few contract extensions and IT projects.

CPRIT has expended or obligated 53% of the $5.8 million Indirect Administration budget and 84% of the $16.3 million in Grant Review and Award Operations budget.

CPRIT received approximately $149,757 in revenue sharing payments during the first quarter. This amount includes the receipt of a quarterly royalty payment for $107,624 from Merck & Co., Inc. from the sales revenue of WELIREG™ (belzutifan).

Revenue sharing payment deposits from CPRIT's inception total approximately $9.9 million through the end of February 2024.

FY 2024, Quarter 2 Performance Measure Report

In the second quarter, CPRIT reported to the Legislative Budget Board a total of 203,203 people served through CPRIT prevention and control grants and no company relocations.

Debt Issuance History

As reported in February 2024, TPFA has issued all CPRIT's $298.4 million requested debt for FY 2024. There are no updates.

FY 2024 Budget Strategy Transfer

The Chief Executive Officer has authorized a $1,575,949, or 5.7%, transfer out of the Award Cancer Prevention Grants strategy, or appropriations budget line item, directing $1,270,949 into the Award Cancer Research Grants strategy, $185,000 into the Indirect Administration strategy, and $120,000 into the Grant Review and Award Operations strategy. The Prevention Program will not be using this money in FY 2024 having completed their single award cycle with the prevention grants approved at the February 2024 Oversight Committee meeting.

The $1,270,949 being transferred into the Award Cancer Research Grants strategy together with a $53,109 reallocation of funds currently targeted toward academic research grants to product development research grants within the Award Cancer Research Grants strategy for a total of $1,324,058. The $1.3 million will satisfactorily fund the product development research grant awards being considered by the Oversight Committee at this meeting.

Of the $305,000 portion of the budget transfer, the $185,000 directed into the Indirect Administration strategy is supporting a $155,000 increase in costs for the agency's Microsoft Azure cloud services storage which has grown due to the amount of data the agency possesses and $30,000 to fund the Govenda board management software that the agency has purchased to streamline document production and distribution for Oversight Committee and subcommittee meetings. The remaining $120,000 directed into the Grant Review and Award Operations strategy is funding the two $60,000 increases to the outside counsel contracts for intellectual property due diligence approved by the Oversight Committee at the February 21, 2024, meeting.

Agency Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2025 to 2029

CPRIT staff are finalizing the Agency Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2025 to 2029 which is due to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the Texas House, Legislative Budget Board, and State Auditor's Office by June 1, 2024. The strategic plan is the precursor to the agency's legislative appropriations request (LAR) for the next biennium.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Quarterly Financial Report
As of February 29, 2024

Indirect Administration (B.1.1.)

		2024 Appropriated	2024 Budgeted	% of Total Budget	Actual Expenditures & Grant Encumbrances (FYTD)	Remaining Budget	Percent Expended	Estimated Expenditures (YTD)	Lapse/Overspent
1001	Salaries and Wages	$ 1,847,425	$ 1,856,148		$ 974,886	881,263	53%	$ 974,886	$ 881,263
1002	Other Personnel Costs	38,785	44,923		44,923	(0)	100%	44,923	(0)
2001	Professional Fees and Services	1,808,662	2,118,039		883,088	1,234,951	42%	883,088	1,234,951
2003	Consumable Supplies	24,000	24,000		3,206	20,794	13%	3,206	20,794
2004	Utilities	58,600	58,600		40,567	18,033	69%	40,567	18,033
2005	Travel	45,000	45,000		40,248	4,752	89%	40,248	4,752
2006	Rent-Building	11,000	17,712		17,712	0	0%	17,712	0
2007	Rent-Machine and Other	32,172	32,172		5,980	26,192	19%	5,980	26,192
2009	Other Operating Expenses	1,045,249	1,638,537		1,075,209	563,328	66%	1,075,209	563,328
	Subtotal - Indirect Administration (B.1.1.)	**$ 4,910,893**	**$ 5,835,132**	**1.96%**	**$ 3,085,818**	**$ 2,749,314**	**53%**	**$ 3,085,818**	**$ 2,749,314**

Grant Review and Award Operations (A.1.3.)

		2024 Appropriated	2024 Budgeted	% of Total Budget	Actual Expenditures & Grant Encumbrances (FYTD)	Remaining Budget	Percent Expended	Estimated Expenditures (YTD)	Lapse/Overspent
1001	Salaries and Wages	$ 3,505,873	3,313,095		$ 2,165,369	$ 1,147,726	65%	$ 2,165,369	$ 1,147,726
1002	Other Personnel Costs	45,000	64,135		64,135	0	0%	64,135	0
2001	Professional Fees and Services	12,419,373	12,520,777		11,424,285	1,096,492	91%	11,424,285	1,096,492
2003	Consumable Supplies	-	-		-	-	0%	-	-
2004	Utilities	12,000	12,000		-	12,000	0%	-	12,000
2005	Travel	45,000	45,000		18,158	26,842	40%	18,158	26,842
2009	Other Operating Expenses	71,649	342,598		25,624	316,974	7%	25,624	316,974
	Subtotal - Grant Operations (A.1.3.)	**$ 16,098,895**	**$ 16,297,605**	**5.47%**	**$ 13,697,570**	**$ 2,600,035**	**84%**	**$ 13,697,570**	**$ 2,600,035**

Grants

		2024 Appropriated	2024 Budgeted	% of Total Budget	Actual Expenditures & Grant Encumbrances (FYTD)	Remaining Budget	Percent Expended	Estimated Expenditures (YTD)	Lapse/Overspent
4000	Grants - Prevention (A.1.2)	$ 27,671,780	$ 27,544,573		$ -	$ 27,544,573	0%	$ -	$ 27,544,573
4000	Grants - Research (A.1.1.)	248,251,400	$ 248,251,400		63,196,634	$ 185,054,766	25%	63,196,634	185,054,766
	Subtotal - Grants	**$ 275,923,180**	**$ 275,795,973**	**92.57%**	**$ 63,196,634**	**$ 212,599,339**	**23%**	**$ 63,196,634**	**$ 212,599,339**
	Grand Totals	**$ 296,932,968**	**$ 297,928,710**	**100.00%**	**$ 79,980,022**	**$ 217,948,688**	**27%**	**$ 79,980,022**	**$ 217,948,688**

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute Fund Account - 5136

As of February 29, 2024

	2/01/2024-2/29/2024	AY 23 Year to Date as of 2/29/2024
Beginning Balance : 9/01/2023		**$ 600,506**
Increases:		
(1)	$ -	$ -
(2)	-	
Total Increases	**$ -**	**$ 600,506.00**
Reductions:		
Expenditures - Appropriated	$ -	$ -
	$ -	$ -
	$ -	$ -
Total Reductions	**$ -**	**$ -**
Ending Balance: 2/29/2024		**$ 600,506.00**

Note: (1) The Institute received a settlement from the Texas Cancer Coalition (TCC). This amount represents the final distribution and transfer of all funds ($303,877) from the TCC which ceased operations in May 2013. These funds are in the State Treasury but are not appropriated to CPRIT. The beginning balance reflects the transfer of all TCC funds.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

License Plate Trust Fund Account - 0802

As of February 29, 2024

		2/01/2024-2/29/2024	AY 23 Year to Date as of 2/29/2024
Beginning Balance : 9/01/2023			**$ 101,766.48**
Increases:			
(1)	License Plate Revenue Received	$ 555.48	$ 3,288.96
	Interest	$ 172.50	$ 1,027.83
		-	-
Total Increases		**$ 727.98**	**$ 106,083.27**
Reductions:			
	Expenditures - Appropriated	$ -	$ -
		-	-
Total Reductions		**$ -**	**$ -**
Ending Balance: 2/29/2024			**$ 106,083.27**

Note:

Balance forward from 2023 License Plate $101,766.48

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Appropriated Receipts - 666

As of February 29, 2024

		2/01/2024-2/29/2024	AY 23 Year to Date as of 2/29/2024
Beginning Balance : 9/01/2023			**$ 243,044.65**
Increases:			
(1)	Product Development Application Fees Received	$ 9,500.00	$ 9,500.00
(2)	Conference Registration Fees	$ -	$ 81,390.00
(3)	Conference Registration Fees-Credit Card	$ -	$ 1,761.70
Total Increases		**$ 9,500.00**	**$ 92,651.70**
Reductions:			
	Conference Expenditures - Appropriated	$ -	$ -
	Credit Card Fees Expended	$ -	$ -
	Refund-Application Fees	$ -	$ -
	Legal Services Expenses (Application Fees)	$ -	$ -
Total Reductions		**$ -**	**$ -**
Ending Balance: 2/29/2024			**$ 335,696.35**

Forward balance for FY 2022 is $55,246.90
Application Fees
Conference Fee for FY 2023 is $187,797.75

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Interest & Sinking Fund Account - 5168

As of February 29, 2024

		2/01/2024-2/29/2024	AY 23 Year to Date as of 2/29/2024
Beginning Balance : 9/01/2023			**$ 6,390,606.01**
Increases:			
(1)	Revenue Sharing / Royalties	$ 139,290.61	$ 282,679.13
		$ -	$ -
Total Increases		**$ 139,290.61**	**$ 6,673,285.14**
Reductions:			
	Expenditures - Appropriated	$ -	$ -
		$ -	
		$ -	$ -
Total Reductions		**$ -**	**$ -**
Ending Balance: 2/29/2024			**$ 6,673,285.14**

Balance forward from FY 2023 is $6,390,606.01

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
FY 2024, Quarter 2 Performance Measure Report

Measure	Targeted Performance	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	Sum of QTRs	% of Mandate Attained
Number of People Served by Institute Funded Prevention and Control Activities	750,000	195,607	203,203	0	0	398,810	53.17%
Number of Entities Relocating to TX for Cancer Research Related Projects	3	0	0	-	-	0	0.00%
Annual Age-adjusted Cancer Mortality Rate	138.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.00%
Number of Published Articles on CPRIT-Funded Research Projects	1,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
Number of New Jobs Created and Maintained	3,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%

Variance Explanations

Number of Entities Relocating to TX for Cancer Research Related Projects
This output is dependent on the number of companies applying for CPRIT Company Awards that can successfully advance through CPRIT's rigorous review and evaluation process, receive an award and relocate operations to Texas. A company must meet 4 of CPRIT's 7 criteria for a relocation to be considered complete. This year two companies who received a CPRIT award were able to complete this process.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
FY 2024, Quarter 1 Performance Measure Report

Measure	Targeted Performance	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	Sum of QTRs	% of Mandate Attained
Number of People Served by Institute Funded Prevention and Control Activities	750,000	195,607	0	0	0	195,607	26.08%
Number of Entities Relocating to TX for Cancer Research Related Projects	3	0	-	-	-	0	0.00%
Annual Age-adjusted Cancer Mortality Rate	138.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.00%
Number of Published Articles on CPRIT-Funded Research Projects	1,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
Number of New Jobs Created and Maintained	3,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%

Variance Explanations

Number of Entities Relocating to TX for Cancer Research Related Projects
This output is dependent on the number of companies applying for CPRIT Company Awards that can successfully advance through CPRIT's rigorous review and evaluation process, receive an award and relocate operations to Texas. A company must meet 4 of CPRIT's 7 criteria for a relocation to be considered complete. This year two companies who received a CPRIT award were able to complete this process.

CPRIT Commercial Paper and G.O. Bond Issuance

Fiscal Year	Amount Appropriated	Dated Issued	Amount Issued	Amount Issued for Fiscal Year	Commercial Paper or GO Bond Issuance	Series	Comments	Interest Rate
2010	$ 225,000,000	September 9, 2009	$ 9,100,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
2010		September 9, 2009	$ 3,600,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series B, Tax-Exempt	Defeased with cash July 2011	
2010		March 12, 2010	$ 63,800,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
2010		August 26, 2010	$ 148,500,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
				$ 225,000,000				
2011	$ 225,000,000	September 7, 2010	$ 11,800,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable		
2011		August 10, 2011	$ 51,000,000		G.O. Bonds	Taxable Series 2011	Par amount of new money	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 4.0144%
2011		August 10, 2011	$ 232,045,000		G.O. Bonds (Refunding Bonds)	Taxable Series 2011	Par amount of refunding; Refunded $233.2M of GOCP CPRIT Series A (9/9/09, 3/12/09, 8/26/09, 9/7/10)	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 4.0144%
				$ 62,800,000				
2012	$ 300,000,000	September 7, 2011	$ 3,200,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
2012		December 8, 2011	$ 3,200,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
2012		March 2, 2012	$ 12,300,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
2012		June 21, 2012	$ 15,000,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
2012		August 16, 2012	$ 42,000,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
				$ 75,700,000				
2013	$ 300,000,000	September 6, 2012	$ 9,600,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
2013		May 16,2013	$ 13,400,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
				$ 23,000,000				
2014	$ 300,000,000	November 25, 2013	$ 55,200,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
2014		March 13, 2014	$ 47,000,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
2014		June 17, 2014	$ 60,300,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
2014		July 8, 2014	$ 233,280,000		G.O. Bonds (Refunding Bonds)	Taxable Series 2014	Par amount of refunding; Refunded $237.88M of GOCP CPRIT Series A	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 3.327184%
				$ 162,500,000				
2015	$ 300,000,000	November 5, 2014	$ 57,600,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
2015		April 29, 2014	$ 112,000,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
2015		June 26, 2015	$ 75,000,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
				$ 244,600,000				

CPRIT Commercial Paper and G.O. Bond Issuance

Fiscal Year	Amount Appropriated	Dated Issued	Amount Issued	Amount Issued for Fiscal Year	Commercial Paper or GO Bond Issuance	Series	Comments	Interest Rate
2016	$ 300,000,000	September 22, 2015	$ 55,400,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable		
2016		October 29, 2015	$ 300,000,000		G.O. Bonds (Refunding Bonds)	Taxable Series 2015C	Par amount of refunding; Refunded $300M of GOCP CPRIT Series A	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 3.299867%
2016		October 29, 2015	$ 69,800,000		G.O. Bonds	Taxable Series 2015C	Par amount of new money: Disbursed to CPRIT January 2016	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 3.299867%
2016		May 16, 2016	$ 92,100,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
2016		August 29, 2016	$ 60,000,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
				$ 277,300,000				
2017	$300,000,000	October 19, 2016	$ 58,000,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
2017		January 5, 2017	$ 58,900,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
2017		February 8, 2017	$ 269,000,000		G.O. Bonds (Refunding Bonds)	Taxable Series 2017	Par amount of refunding: Refunded $269M of GOCP CPRIT Series A	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 3.4622%
2017		February 8, 2017	$ 106,000,000		G.O. Bonds	Taxable Series 2017	Par amount of new money	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 3.4622 %
				$ 222,900,000				
2018	$300,000,000	September 29, 2017	$ 68,200,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
2018		March 8, 2018	$ 99,000,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
2018		July 11, 2018	$ 55,000,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable	Refunded as G.O. Bonds	
				$ 222,200,000				
2019		September 21, 2018	$ 222,200,000		G.O. Bond (Refunding Bonds)	Taxable Series 2018	Par amount of refunding: Refunded $222.2M of GOCP CPRIT Series A	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 3.720632%
2019	$300,000,000	September 21, 2018	$ 75,975,000		G.O. Bonds	Taxable Series 2018	Par amount of new money	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 3.720544%
2019		March 28, 2019	$ 77,725,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable		Interest rates between 1.90% - 2.55%
2019		July 12, 2019	$ 54,000,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable		Interest rates between 1.95% - 2.35%
				$ 207,700,000				

CPRIT Commercial Paper and G.O. Bond Issuance

Fiscal Year	Amount Appropriated	Dated Issued	Amount Issued	Amount Issued for Fiscal Year	Commercial Paper or GO Bond Issuance	Series	Comments	Interest Rate
2020		September 16, 2019	$ 64,300,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable		Interest rate of 2.10%
2020		January 9, 2020	$ 52,000,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable		
2020		April 23, 2020	$ 237,720,000		G.O. Bonds (Refunding Bonds)	Taxable Series 2020	Par amount of refunding: Refunded $248.025M of GOCP CPRIT Series A	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 2.644360%
2020		April 23, 2020	$ 115,000,000		G.O. Bonds	Taxable Series 2020	Par amount of new money	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 2.644360%
2020		April 23, 2020	$ 119,750,000		G.O. Bonds (Refunding Bonds)	Taxable Series 2020	Par amount of refunding. Refunded $120.525M of Taxable Series 2011	
				$ 231,300,000				
2021	$300,000,000	September 11, 2020	$ 75,000,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable		
2021		January 14, 2021	$ 59,000,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable		
2021		April 29, 2021	$ 68,900,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable		
2021		August 12, 2021	$ 57,400,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable		
				$ 260,300,000				
2022	$300,000,000	September 28, 2021	$ 87,000,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable		
2022		November 18, 2021	$ 334,745,000		G.O. Bonds (Refunding Bonds)	Taxable Series 2021B	Par amount of refunding: Refunded $347.300M of GOCP CPRIT Series A	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 2.191715%
2022		November 18, 2021	$ 139,565,000		G.O. Bonds	Taxable Series 2021B	New money proceeds of $144.800M	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 2.191715%
2022		November 18, 2021	$ 108,005,000		G.O. Bonds (Refunding Bonds)	Taxable Series 2021B	Par amount of refunding: Refunded $108.660M of Taxable Series 2014B	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 2.191715%
2022		July 14, 2022	$ 66,300,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable		Interest rate of 2.30%
				$ 298,100,000				
2023	$300,000,000	September 20, 2022	$ 79,500,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable		Interest rate of 3.15%
2023		March 2, 2023	$ 66,000,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable		Interest rate of 4.80%
2023		April 6, 2023	$ 79,000,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable		Interest rate of 5.10%
2023		June 15, 2023	$ 59,200,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable		Interest rate of 5.40%
2023		August 29, 2023	$ 350,000,000		G.O. Bonds (Refunding Bonds)	Taxable Series 2023	Par amount of refunding	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 5.020317%
2023		August 29, 2023	$ 14,600,000		G.O. Bonds	Taxable Series 2023	Par amount of new money proceeds	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 5.020317%
				$ 298,300,000				
2024	$ 300,000,000	October 4, 2023	$ 92,800,000		Commercial Paper Notes	Series A, Taxable		Interest rate of 5.45%

CPRIT Commercial Paper and G.O. Bond Issuance

Fiscal Year	Amount Appropriated	Dated Issued	Amount Issued	Amount Issued for Fiscal Year	Commercial Paper or GO Bond Issuance	Series	Comments	Interest Rate
		November 15, 2023	$ 92,800,000		G.O. Bonds (Refunding Bonds)	Taxable Series 2023A	Par amount of refunding	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 6.129887%
		November 15, 2023	$ 205,600,000		G.O. Bonds	Taxable Series 2023A	Par amount of new money proceeds	Fixed Rate Bonds All-In-True Interest Cost 6.129887%
				$ 298,400,000				
TOTAL ISSUED TO DATE				**$ 3,110,100,000**				

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

To:	**OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
From:	**HEIDI MCCONNELL, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**
Subject:	**FY 2025 REQUEST FOR FINANCING OF CPRIT BONDS**
Date:	**MAY 6, 2024**

Recommendation
CPRIT staff recommends that the Oversight Committee approve the attached resolution for a request for financing for the Texas Public Finance Authority (TPFA) to issue debt on behalf of CPRIT in fiscal year 2025. The amount to be financed will not exceed $300 million in bond proceeds appropriated to CPRIT for its operations and prevention and research grant awards. I estimate that CPRIT will request TPFA to issue $298.1 million in commercial paper notes four times during fiscal year 2025 to pay for CPRIT administrative operations and grant reimbursements or authorized advances related to awards made in fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Background
During fiscal year 2024, TPFA has issued $298.4 million in general obligation debt on CPRIT's behalf for current agency operations and multiple years' grant award expenses. Since fiscal year 2010, TPFA has issued approximately $3.11 billion in general obligation debt for CPRIT. There are active grant awards from fiscal year 2017 through the present.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

A RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING A REQUEST FOR FINANCING
AND THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF DOCUMENTS
REQUIRED TO EFFECT SUCH FINANCING

Whereas, the Texas Public Finance Authority (the "Authority") is authorized to issue general obligation bonds to finance the grant program for cancer research and prevention and control for the use and benefit of the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (the "Agency") pursuant to Article III, Section 67, Texas Constitution; Texas Health & Safety Code, Chapter 102, as amended; and Texas Government Code, Chapter 1232, as amended, (collectively, the "Authorizing Law");

Whereas, the Agency desires and intends to request the Authority to finance the costs of the program as permitted by the Authorizing Law; and

Whereas, the Agency recognizes that in order to finance the cost of the program, the Authority may issue short term obligations, general obligation bonds, either or both ("Obligations") in an aggregate principal amount sufficient to finance program costs in the estimated amount of $300,000,000, plus the costs of issuance and related administrative costs, if any, which will be determined at the time of issuance; and

Whereas, the form of a Request for Financing, dated as of May 15, 2024, (the "Request for Financing") from the Agency to the Authority, which includes a detailed description of the program to be financed for the Agency ("program" herein) and a proposed expenditure schedule is presently before the CPRIT Oversight Committee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the CPRIT Oversight Committee that:

Section 1. The purpose of the financing is to provide funds sufficient to make grant awards for cancer research and prevention and control and for the operations of the Agency, and the financing thereof is appropriate at this time. Accordingly, the execution and delivery of the Request for Financing to the Authority pursuant to the Authorizing Law is hereby ratified, approved and confirmed.

Section 2. The Chief Executive Officer of the Agency is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to:

a. sign and deliver any and all documents necessary or desirable to effect the financing and provide the projects, which may include but not be limited to a Memorandum of Understanding and a Financing Agreement between the Agency and the Authority;

b. cooperate with the Authority and its consultants to prepare an Official Statement in connection with the sale of the Obligations;
c. and to take any other action necessary to assist in such sale.

Section 3. All actions not inconsistent with provisions of this Resolution heretofore taken by the Institute and the Chief Executive Officer or designee thereof and the other officers of, or consultants to the Institute, directed toward the financing of the Program, and the issuance of the Obligations are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed.

Section 4. The officers and employees of the Agency shall take all action in conformity with the Authorizing Law and the provisions of the General Appropriations Act, 88th Legislature, R.S. (2023) to effect the issuance of the Obligations and complete the Program as provided in the Agreement and take all action necessary or desirable or in conformity with the Authorizing Law for carrying out, giving effect to, and consummating the transactions contemplated by the Memorandum of Understanding, the Agreement, the Obligations, and this Request for Financing, including without limitation, the execution and delivery of any closing documents in connection with the closing of the Obligations.

Section 5. This Resolution was adopted at a meeting open to the public, and public notice of the time, place and purpose of said meeting was given, all as required by Ch. 551, Texas Government Code.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas Oversight Committee present and voting on this 15th day of May, 2024.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute
of Texas Oversight Committee

Attested:

David Cummings, M.D.
Presiding Officer

Ambrosio Hernandez, M.D.
Secretary

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Fiscal Year 2025 Request for Financing Program Description

Purpose

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) is the state agency mandated to:

1) create and expedite innovation in the area of cancer research and in enhancing the potential for a medical or scientific breakthrough in the prevention of cancer and cures for cancer;
2) attract, create, or expand research capabilities of public or private institutions of higher education and other public or private entities that will promote a substantial increase in cancer research and in the creation of high-quality new jobs in this state; and
3) develop and implement the Texas Cancer Plan.

Powers and Duties

CPRIT will make grants to provide funds to public or private persons to implement the Texas Cancer Plan, and make grants to institutions of learning and to advanced medical research facilities and collaborations in this state for:

1) research into the causes of and cures for all types of cancer in humans;
2) facilities for use in research into the causes of and cures for cancer;
3) research, including translational research, to develop therapies, protocols, medical pharmaceuticals, or procedures for the cure or substantial mitigation of all types of cancer in humans; and
4) cancer prevention and control programs in this state to mitigate the incidence of all types of cancer in humans.

Implementation Plan

CPRIT estimates that $298.1 million in bonds proceeds must be issued on an as-needed basis consistent with Texas Government Code, Chapter 1232 to cover grant award obligations from fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 and operating costs for general agency administration and pre- and post-award grants management processes.

During fiscal year 2025, CPRIT will use the bond proceeds to disburse grant funds for grants awarded by CPRIT during fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025. CPRIT is authorized to obligate approximately $275.5 million for cancer prevention and research grant awards in fiscal year 2025.

CPRIT announces grant awards for cancer prevention education and service programs and academic and product development cancer research programs four times per year. CPRIT

anticipates that it will obligate the available $275.5 million for cancer prevention, product development research, and academic research grants.

Grant funds are generally disbursed quarterly on a reimbursement basis to grant recipients. For product development research grant awards, CPRIT may advance funds to provide recipients of those types of awards with working capital to meet their research milestones or objectives.

CPRIT is authorized to use bond proceeds to fund its grant review and award operations and indirect administration costs. At this time, the approximate budgeted amount of these two categories is $21.4 million in bond proceeds for fiscal year 2025 based on the appropriations provided in the General Appropriations Act (House Bill 1), 88th Legislature. CPRIT must transfer $3.1 million in bond proceeds to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for the operating costs associated with the Texas Cancer Registry. From the total of all the agency's operating costs, CPRIT requires half of the proceeds to be available at the beginning of the state fiscal year to be able to cover the operating expenses for six months. CPRIT also requires proceeds at the beginning of each state fiscal quarter to pay for award costs reimbursed to grant recipients for the previous state fiscal quarter.

The academic research program provides awards in the following areas: cancer biology, cancer genetics, immunology, imaging, therapeutics, prevention/epidemiology, and informatics/ computation. The product development research program focuses awards on the development of cancer drugs, diagnostics, and devices based on discoveries made in one of the seven areas described above. Prevention program grants are awarded for cancer prevention information and services, early detection and treatment, professional education and practice, cancer data acquisition and utilization, or survivorship (the areas of the Texas Cancer Plan). Awards for all programs are issued for multiple years, ranging from two to five years.

CPRIT has established a grant process that allows grant proposals for cancer prevention, academic research, and product development research to be submitted through requests for applications (RFA) issued throughout each fiscal year. All proposals are reviewed by multiple experts in the appropriate area. CPRIT has approximately 200 national experts in cancer prevention, academic research, and product development research to review proposals and provide funding recommendations to CPRIT.

The award recommendations developed by the peer review committees are forwarded to the Program Integration Committee (PIC) for consideration. The five-member PIC is statutorily composed of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Scientific Officer, Chief Prevention Officer, Chief Product Development Officer, and DSHS Commissioner. The PIC finalizes award recommendations across all programs prior to every Oversight Committee meeting. When those proposed awards are forwarded to the Oversight Committee, each recommended award is accompanied by an affidavit signed by the CEO to affirm that the award followed all required pre-award grant procedures. The Oversight Committee considers these recommendations and votes to approve the awards.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Estimated Expenditure Schedule, Fiscal Year 2025

Fiscal Year 2025	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Total
Bond proceeds for Indirect Administration	$ 2,455,447	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,455,446	$ -	$ -		$ -	$ -	$ 4,910,893
Bond proceeds for Grant Review and Award Operations	$ 8,029,448	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 8,029,447	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 16,058,895
Bond proceeds for Salary Adjustments	$ 373,819												$ 373,819
Bond proceeds for Texas Cancer Registry (GAA 2024-25, Art. I, CPRIT Rider 4)	$ 1,559,016	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,559,016	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 3,118,032
Bond proceeds for Prevention and Research Grants	$ 73,582,270	$ -	$ -	$ 69,500,000	$ -	$ -	$ 65,956,091	$ -	$ -	$ 64,600,000	$ -	$ -	$ 273,638,361
Debt Issuance Subtotal, Fiscal Year 2025	$ 86,000,000	$ -	$ -	$ 69,500,000	$ -	$ -	$ 78,000,000	$ -	$ -	$ 64,600,000	$ -	$ -	$ 298,100,000
Cumulative Debt Total, Fiscal Year 2025	**$ 86,000,000**	**$ 86,000,000**	**$ 86,000,000**	**$ 155,500,000**	**$ 155,500,000**	**$ 155,500,000**	**$ 233,500,000**	**$ 233,500,000**	**$ 233,500,000**	**$ 298,100,000**	**$ 298,100,000**	**$ 298,100,000**	**$ 298,100,000**

CPRIT Program Description Appendix: Appropriation and Debt History

Fiscal Year	2010	2011	2012	2013^	2014	2015	2016	2017	SUBTOTAL
GAA Appropriations	**$ 225,000,000**	**$ 225,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 2,250,000,000**
BRB-Approved Debt	**$ 225,000,000**	**$ 225,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 2,250,000,000**
Total Value of Grant Awards Contracted	**$ 216,122,105**	**$ 210,651,285**	**$ 269,354,368**	**$ 105,493,808**	**$ 255,834,556**	**$ 269,707,850**	**$ 275,627,458**	**$ 272,030,746**	$ 1,874,822,176
Agency Operations and Transfer to DSHS (Texas Cancer Registry)	$ 8,866,523	$ 11,773,670	$ 18,591,666	$ 16,750,815	$ 20,492,668	$ 22,525,206	$ 20,341,154	$ 19,770,432	$ 139,112,134
Total Agency Expenses Obligated	$ 224,988,628	$ 222,424,955	$ 287,946,034	$ 122,244,623	$ 276,327,224	$ 292,233,056	$ 295,968,612	$ 291,801,178	$ 2,013,934,310
Issued Debt to Date	**$ 225,000,000**	**$ 221,851,288**	**$ 288,581,794**	**$ 122,244,623**	**$ 276,327,225**	**$ 288,915,409**	**$ 296,042,524**	**$ 291,846,455**	**$ 2,010,809,318**
Unobligated Bond Authority Appropriations	**$ -**	**$ 2,575,045**	**$ 12,053,966**	**$ 177,755,377**	**$ 23,672,776**	**$ 7,766,944**	**$ 4,031,388**	**$ 8,198,822**	**$ 236,054,318**
Remaining Balances in Closed Grant Contracts (Available for Deobligation)	**$ 38,525,292**	**$ 9,032,975**	**$ 13,321,630**	**$ 3,397,268**	**$ 23,978,388**	**$ 13,115,236**	**$ 10,154,522**	**$ 26,575,890**	**$ 138,101,201**
Unbudgeted ERS Cash Transfer for DSHS Retired Employee Insurance Payments	$ (10,779)	$ (11,953)	$ (103,591)	$ (91,534)	$ (134,151)	$ (129,694)	$ (139,609)	$ (156,337)	$ (777,648)

*Current state fiscal year

**Upcoming state fiscal year under consideration by the 88th Texas Legislature.

^State leadership moratorium on CPRIT grant awards.

Fiscal Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	*2025***	TOTAL
GAA Appropriations	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	***$ 300,000,000***	***$ 300,000,000***	**$ 4,650,000,000**
BRB-Approved Debt	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**	**$ 300,000,000**		**$ 4,350,000,000**
Total Value of Grant Awards Contracted	**$ 257,225,313**	**$ 238,511,809**	**$ 254,604,570**	**$ 256,483,156**	**$ 262,077,988**	**$ 252,839,426**			$ 3,396,564,438
Agency Operations and Transfer to DSHS (Texas Cancer Registry)	$ 19,707,288	$ 20,196,337	$ 22,766,115	$ 23,277,916	$ 24,105,308	$ 24,087,820	$ 24,575,171	*$ 24,501,639*	$ 322,329,728
Total Agency Expenses Obligated	$ 276,932,601	$ 258,708,146	$ 277,370,685	$ 279,761,072	$ 286,183,296	$ 276,927,246			$ 3,669,817,356
Issued Debt to Date	**$ 276,942,339**	**$ 242,235,121**	**$ 197,238,031**	**$ 166,129,883**	**$ 121,637,317**	**$ 67,837,820**	**$ 27,270,171**		**$ 3,110,100,000**
Unobligated Bond Authority Appropriations	**$ 23,067,399**	**$ 43,726,910**	**$ 38,824,256**	**$ 39,070,385**	**$ 16,888,587**	**$ 6,872,754**			**$ 404,504,609**
Remaining Balances in Closed Grant Contracts (Available for Deobligation)	**$ 23,204,248**	**$ 4,718,301**	**$ 230,111**	**$ 406,651**	**$ 4,709,197**	**$ -**			**$ 171,369,709**
Unbudgeted ERS Cash Transfer for DSHS Retired Employee Insurance Payments	$ (166,003)	$ (389,362)	*$ (384,886)*	$ (348,028)	$ (311,237)	$ (1,178,085)	$ (242,539)		$ (3,797,788)

*Current state fiscal year.

**Upcoming state fiscal year.

^State leadership moratorium on CPRIT grant awards.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	WAYNE ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER HEIDI MCCONNELL, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
SUBJECT:	LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FOR THE 2026-27 BIENNIUM
DATE:	MAY 6, 2024

Recommendation

CPRIT staff advises the Audit Subcommittee to recommend that the Oversight Committee approve the CPRIT staff's proposed Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) for the 2026-27 biennium that includes $300 million in general obligation bonds for each fiscal year, or $600 million for the biennium. The recommendations include requesting increases to the agency's two exempt position salaries for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) and two exceptional budget items totaling approximately $1.1 million per year in the 2026-27 biennium. One of the exceptional budget items for approximately $100,000 per year is to fund the increases to the two exempt position salaries, and the second is to increase the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions by 10 from 44 to 54 authorized FTEs.

CPRIT staff propose requesting in the administrator's statement the five percent per year cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) authorized for state employees in the 2026-27 biennium be applied to the CEO's exempt position salary in the amount of 10 percent because the COLA was not applied to this exempt position in the General Appropriations Act for the 2026-27 Biennium. In addition, the staff propose requesting a 10 percent increase to the CSO's exempt position salary to ensure it remains approximately comparable to analogous positions found at institutions of higher education. To provide these exempt salary increases, CPRIT must allocate $95,358 in bond proceeds per year from the grant award to the two operating budget line items, Grant Review and Award Operations and Indirect Administration. This is the first budget exceptional item proposed.

CPRIT staff also propose a second budget exceptional item for 10 additional FTEs which requires an allocation of $975,953 of bond proceeds in FY 2026 and $954,105 of bond proceeds in FY 2027 from the grant award line items to the two operating budget line items. Seven of the FTE positions enhance CPRIT's capabilities to suitably manage the more than 550 active grant awards totaling approximately $1.4 billion in the agency's portfolio and strengthen the agency's data analysis and evaluation capabilities to develop resources that illustrate CPRIT's research grant trends and outcomes as well as the intellectual property that has been created. The other three FTEs would provide support to agency staff on IT systems, maintain and enhance the agency website, as well as maintain the agency's information security infrastructure.

Background

Following the established practices of the state's biennial budget cycle, the Governor and Legislative Budget Board (LBB) will most likely release budget instructions to state agencies in late May or early June. Those instructions include the due dates for agencies to submit their budget requests through the online Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST). Generally, CPRIT's budget request, or LAR, for the next biennium must be submitted by early August. ABEST is not available to any agency to begin entering their budget requests until after the budget instructions are released and an agency's base budget reconciliation (CPRIT's is due on May 3, 2024) is approved by the Governor and LBB.

Due to the timing of CPRIT's budget request submission occurring between the Oversight Committee's two standing quarterly meetings in May and August, the staff brings forward the recommendations for the agency's request at the May meeting for Oversight Committee approval. This provides CPRIT with the authorization necessary to enter the budget request into ABEST once the system is available to the agency and submit the request. CPRIT cannot submit the budget without Oversight Committee approval.

CPRIT Legislative Appropriations Request for the 2026-27 Biennium

Budget Strategies	FY 2023 Expended	FY 2024 Budgeted	FY 2025 Budgeted	FY 2026 Requested	FY 2027 Requested	FY 2026 Requested Adjusted for Exceptional Items	FY 2027 Requested Adjusted for Exceptional Items
A.1.1. Award Cancer Research Grants	**$ 251,369,432**	**$ 251,369,432**	**$ 251,369,432**	**$ 250,790,754**	**$ 250,790,754**	**$ 249,826,574**	**$ 249,846,237**
Lapsed Research Grant Appropriations Authority	$ (6,132,394)						
Rider 5 Transfer to DSHS for the Cancer Registry	$ (3,118,032)	$ (3,118,032)	$ (3,118,032)	*$ (3,118,032)*	*$ (3,118,032)*	*$ (3,118,032)*	*$ (3,118,032)*
A.1.2. Award Cancer Prevention Grants	**$ 27,671,780**	**$ 27,489,429**	**$ 27,297,961**	**$ 27,876,639**	**$ 27,876,639**	**$ 27,769,508**	**$ 27,771,693**
Lapsed Prevention Grant Appropriations Authority	$ (740,360)						
A.1.3. Grant Review and Award Operations	**$ 16,098,895**	**$ 16,235,658**	**$ 16,379,259**	**$ 16,379,259**	**$ 16,379,259**	**$ 17,142,470**	**$ 17,129,712**
B.1.1. Indirect Administration	**$ 4,910,893**	**$ 4,956,481**	**$ 5,004,348**	**$ 5,004,348**	**$ 5,004,348**	**$ 5,312,448**	**$ 5,303,358**
Carryforward Amounts	$ 325,629	$ 300,719					
Administrative Budget Appropriations Unexpended Balance Carryforward (Service Contracts)	$ (614,401)	$ 614,401					
Unrealized License Plate Revenue	$ (2,477)						
License Plate Receipt Revenue Unexpended Balance Carryforward	$ (55,145)	$ 55,145					
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES/ APPROPRIATION	**$ 289,713,820**	**$ 297,903,233**	**$ 296,932,968**	**$ 296,932,968**	**$ 296,932,968**	**$ 296,932,968**	**$ 296,932,968**

Method of Finance							
780 G.O. Bond Proceeds	$ 252,556,690	$ 297,575,972	$ 296,881,968	$ 296,881,968	$ 296,881,968	$ 296,881,968	$ 296,881,968
666 Appropriated Receipts	$ 71,950	$ 40,000	$ 40,000	$ 40,000	$ 40,000	$ 40,000	$ 40,000
802 License Plate Trust Fund Account	$ -	$ 34,995	$ 11,000	$ 11,000	$ 11,000	$ 11,000	$ 11,000
Total Method of Finance	$ 252,628,640	$ 297,650,967	$ 296,932,968	$ 296,932,968	$ 296,932,968	$ 296,932,968	$ 296,932,968

Unbudgeted ERS Transfer for DSHS Retired Employee Insurance Payments	$ (1,178,085)	*$ (242,539)*	*$ (242,539)*	*$ (242,539)*	*$ (242,539)*

CPRIT Legislative Appropriations Request for the 2026-27 Biennium

Exceptional Item Request 1
Item Name: 10 FTEs for Grant Award Portfolio Management and IT Infrastructure Support

Description/Justification:	Funding for the Following Strategies	Exceptional 2026	Exceptional 2027
CPRIT requests ten (10) new full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for grant award portfolio management and appropriate agency operations infrastructure support. The request includes: -3 new Grant Accountants to address the financial reports workload of 500+ grants each financial quarter, -1 new Grant Compliance Specialist to address the increasing workload of performing the necessary annual grant compliance reviews, monitoring visits, and trainings for CPRIT's portfolio of 500+ active grants -1 Systems Support Specialist to provide first-line support on IT systems and equipment for agency staff, -1 Cybersecurity Analyst to monitor, analyze, and mitigate threats to the agency's information security contols, -1 Front End Developer to update content on and maintain required accessibility standards on the agency website, -1 Program Manager for the Prevention Program to address the programmatic workload in RFA development, tracking grant reporting documentation, data collection and analysis, and summarization of grant results, -1 new Data Scientist for the Academic Research Program to better gather and fully analyze and evaluate the program's grant award data to inform strategic decisions, and -1 new Intellectual Property Database Manager to update and maintain the IP information for all reseach grant awards in the database.	**A.1.1. Award Cancer Research Grants**	$ (878,358)	$ (858,695)
	A.1.2. Award Cancer Prevention Grants	$ (97,595)	$ (95,410)
	A.1.3. Grant Review and Award Operations	$ 681,967	$ 669,209
	B.1.1. Indirect Administration	$ 293,986	$ 284,896
	Total Method of Finance		
	780 G.O. Bond Proceeds	$ 975,953	$ 954,105

CPRIT Legislative Appropriations Request for the 2026-27 Biennium

Exceptional Item Request 2
Item Name: 10% Increase for Exempt Position Salaries

Description/Justification:	Funding for the Following Strategies	Exceptional 2026	Exceptional 2027
CPRIT requests that the salaries for both exempt positions, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Scientific Officer (CSO), be increased by 10% in order to ensure that both positions provide competitive salaries to employ individuals the the unique skills required to fulfill both positions. In the 2024-25 GAA, the CEO salary was not adjusted by the 5% cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) in each year of the biennium authorized by the Texas Legislature for all other state employees. The CSO salary increase is necessary to ensure that this position remains approximately comparable to analogous positions found primarily at institutions of higher education.	**A.1.1. Award Cancer Research Grants**	$ (85,822)	$ (85,822)
	A.1.2. Award Cancer Prevention Grants	$ (9,536)	$ (9,536)
	A.1.3. Grant Review and Award Operations	$ 81,244	$ 81,244
	B.1.1. Indirect Administration	$ 14,114	$ 14,114
	Total Method of Finance		
	780 G.O. Bond Proceeds	$ 95,358	$ 95,358

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	HEIDI MCCONNELL, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
SUBJECT:	FY 2025 GRANT MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES CONTRACT RENEWAL APPROVAL
DATE:	MAY 6, 2024

Recommendation

CPRIT staff recommends that the agency exercise the first renewal option on its contract with General Dynamics Information Technology, Inc. (GDIT) for an amount not to exceed $10,892,677 in FY 2025. This amount includes an annual payment of $1.55 million as a subscription to the electronic grant management platform (GMP) with access to the application receipt, peer review evaluation, and post-award grant contract and report management modules in the platform. The remaining $9,342,677 is an estimate of the time and materials that will be expended by GDIT on labor and direct costs. CPRIT pays only for actual services received and direct costs incurred by GDIT up to the contracted price.

All peer review meetings will be held using remote video technology, so contract pricing includes only the use of the remote video technology and honoraria payments to peer review panel members for these meetings.

The renewal will require approval from the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) before CPRIT can finalize the FY 2025 contract with GDIT.

To support the 12.7% increase in this contract, CPRIT will have to transfer the difference of $1,229,777 from the Award Cancer Research Grants line item in the agency's appropriations to the Grant Review and Award Operations line item.

Background

GDIT services include:

- Provision of a help desk call number and e-mail to provide assistance to grant applicants with the online grant application process or grant recipients with questions about grant report submission or use of the online grant management system;
- A Software as a Service (SaaS) subscription to the Grants Management Platform (GMP) software including maintenance and support of the application receipt module, program and peer review module, and grant management module;
- Processing all grant applications received through the application receipt system;
- Logistical support for peer review meeting arrangements using remote video technology;

- Administrative support for peer review panel honoraria payments;
- Summarized evaluation reports for each grant application including peer review chair consensus statements, budget recommendations, and noted issues in clinical trials with human subjects or animal research;
- Incorporation of grant request for application requirements in the GMP application receipt module for electronic application submission;
- Enhancements to the GMP grant management module for improved progress reporting by redesigning the reports, restructuring the report database, and migrating the report to a report formatting technology already in use on other reports in the module;
- Administration of electronic grant application pedigrees; and
- Scientific expertise for the evaluation of the annual and final progress reports for academic research grants.

The FY 2024 contract renewal with GDIT is $9,662,900.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	MARK DALLAS LOEFFLER
SUBJECT:	COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE
DATE:	MAY 6, 2024

These are highlights of the CPRIT communications team efforts since the February Oversight Committee meeting.

Events

- Supported THBI Life Sciences Summit (April 2, Austin, Texas) with CPRIT printed materials, photos
- Helped promote several external events (ACS CAN RGV Health Equity Breakfast, etc.)

Media Relations

- Facilitated *Dallas Morning News* interview with CEO Wayne Roberts and Marin Wolf after his departure announcement.
- Facilitated interview for Carlton Allen with Mara Ramazanoglu at the *Daily Texan* (UT student newspaper) regarding CPRIT prevention efforts.

The communications team posted and distributed several media advisories and press releases related to CPRIT programs and news:

- Press Release (February 21): CPRIT CEO Roberts Announces Plan To Step Down
- Press Release (February 21): CPRIT approves almost $100 million in grants to advance the fight against cancer in Texas

Direct Communication

The communications team distributed listserv notifications regarding:

- CPRIT Academic Research Program Releases Cycle 25.1 RFAs
- THBI Texas Life Sciences Summit CPRIT Grantee Invite
- NOTICE: RFA Closing Notification
- UTMB Health 2024 DMAC Workshop
- ARPA-H ADAPT Program Applications
- Proposed Changes to Current Agency Rules - 3/25/24
- Customer Experience Survey 2024
- ACS CAN RGV Health Equity Breakfast 2024

- CPRIT Updated Policies and Procedures Guide March 2024
- ARPA-H EMBODY Applications
- Product Development Research RFAs (25.1)
- ACS Discovery Mini Symposium - Advancing Health Equity

Newsclips

We shared **536** articles and social media posts through CPRIT ENews from February 12 to May 6, 2024.

Social Media Statistics

Social Media from February 9, 2024, to May 6, 2024

Facebook	X	LinkedIn
8.41% post engagement rate	**3.79%** engagement rate	**7.96%** engagement rate
1,276 Fans (**0**)	**3,589** followers (**+46**)	**3,687** followers (**+349**)
Top Post: **18.18%** engagement (2/21/24)	Top Tweet: **9,443** impressions (2/21/24)	Top Post: **7,820** impressions (2/21/24)

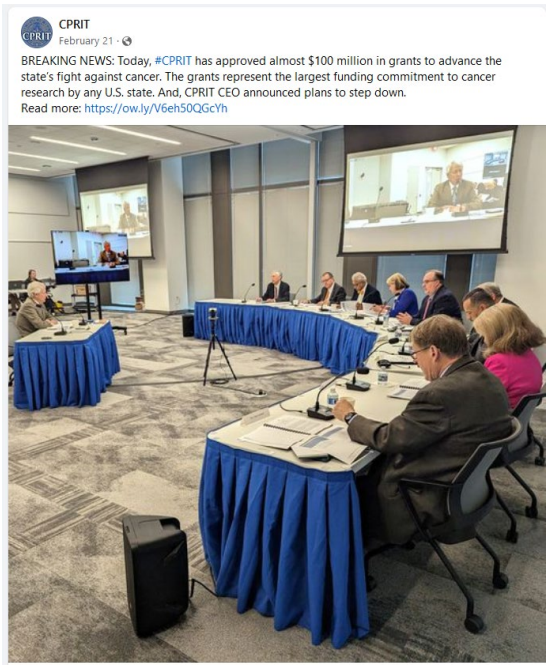
Website Hits and Visitors February 9, 2024, to May 6, 2024

Users	New Users	Sessions (Visits)	Pageviews	Engage Rate
25,793	**24,175**	**42,896**	**80,738**	**50.4%**

Top Performing Posts

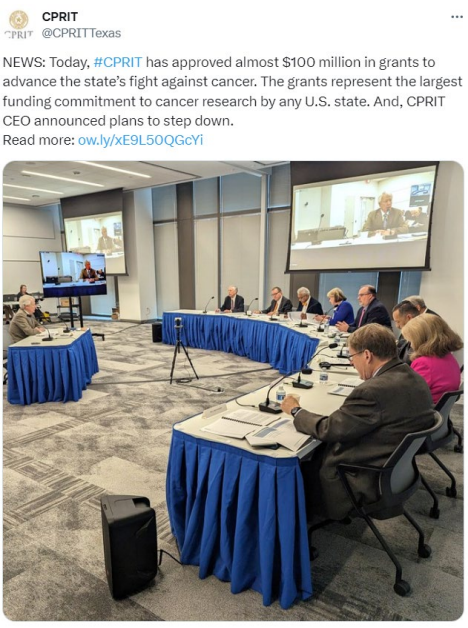
FACEBOOK: 2/21/24

BREAKING NEWS: Today, #CPRIT has approved almost $100 million in grants to advance the state's fight against cancer. The grants represent the largest funding commitment to cancer research by any U.S. state. And, CPRIT CEO announced plans to step down. Read more: https://ow.ly/V6eh50QGcYh



X: 2/21/24

NEWS: Today, #CPRIT has approved almost $100 million in grants to advance the state's fight against cancer. The grants represent the largest funding commitment to cancer research by any U.S. state. And, CPRIT CEO announced plans to step down. Read more: https://ow.ly/xE9L50QGcYi



LINKEDIN: 2/21/24

BREAKING NEWS: Today, #CPRIT has approved almost $100 million in grants to advance the state's fight against cancer. The grants represent the largest funding commitment to cancer research by any U.S. state. And, CPRIT CEO announced plans to step down.
Read more: https://ow.ly/mLg250QGcYj