



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Oversight Committee Meeting
May 17, 2017

1. Call to Order

A quorum being present, Presiding Officer Geren called the Oversight Committee to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Roll Call/Excused Absences

Committee Members Present:

Angelos Angelou
Pete Geren
Donald (Dee) Margo
Amy Mitchell
Bill Rice, M.D.
Craig Rosenfeld, M.D.
Ned Holmes
Will Montgomery

3. Adoption of Minutes from the February 15, 2017, and April 17, 2017, meetings

Ms. Mitchell noted that the minutes of the Oversight Committee meeting of February 15, 2017, incorrectly stated that Dr. Cynthia Mulrow attended the meeting.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Holmes and seconded by Mr. Angelou, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the Oversight Committee meeting of February 15, 2017 as corrected, and the meeting of April 17, 2017, as presented.

4. Public Comment

Presiding Officer Geren noted that there were no requests for public comment.

5. Grantee Presentations

Dr. James Willson, Chief Scientific Officer, introduced Dr. Dean Edwards, Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Edwards studies the role of hormonal control in the development and progression of breast cancer and it is this research that led him to a CPRIT Individual Investigator Award. He is also a Principal Investigator of a CPRIT Core Facility award, presenting today on “The Impact of CPRIT Core Facility Support Awards.”

Dr. Edwards presented his CPRIT-funded project, the core facility award at Baylor College of Medicine. He concluded that the core facility has transformed the way they do research in genomics, proteomics, and metabolomics.

Dr. Edwards was asked whether the facility has made provisions for maintaining the laboratory when CPRIT funding is no longer available. Dr. Edwards responded that with the infrastructure in place, more grant money from other sources will become available to maintain the laboratory. Also, the users will be asked to share a larger percentage of funding from their grants.

When asked if there have been any new licensing or spinouts from the first five years of the core facility's operations, Dr. Edwards responded that the time required to achieve licensing or spinouts will be well past the second five years of their CPRIT grant, due to the nature of the research and length of time for clinical studies. He stated that some of the users have filed invention disclosures, but he does not have data on their status.

Michael Lang, Chief Product Development Officer, introduced Dr. Harpreet Singh, co-founder of Immatics Biotechnologies, GmbH, the parent company of Immatics US, Inc. He is currently Chief Executive Officer of Immatics US.

Dr. Singh reported on the work of his company, which is dedicated to cancer immunotherapy. He concluded by saying that Immatics US is committed to building a sustainable company in Texas. They have moved into a 15,000 square foot laboratory and office facility in Houston, and have hired 41 people and expect to reach 50 employees by the end of 2018. Chief Scientific Officer, Steffen Walter, and Dr. Singh both have moved from Germany to Houston with their families.

In response to a question about why Immatics US chose to operate in Texas as opposed to some of the other renowned centers of cancer research around the United States and the world. Dr. Singh responded that it was clear that the United States is leading the world in cell therapy research and MD Anderson Cancer Center is one of several well-known institutions that have experience in the science of cell therapy and additionally has an excellent infrastructure, allowing access to cancer patients in the biggest medical center of the world. Secondly, the CPRIT mechanism was clearly an important reason, being a catalyst to raise more money for Immatics and to show investors that there is local commitment. Thirdly, the "can do" attitude of Texas is very appealing to Dr. Singh.

Presiding Officer Geren thanked Dr. Edwards and Dr. Singh on behalf of the Oversight Committee for their presentations.

6. Agenda Item 6: Chief Executive Officer Report

Presiding Officer Geren recognized Mr. Wayne Roberts, Chief Executive Officer, to give his report.

Mr. Roberts stated that all legislative bills pertaining to CPRIT are still under consideration with support for the agency in both chambers. He expressed optimism that desired legislation would pass in the approximately two weeks before the close of the session.

Mr. Roberts reported that depending on legislative action, CPRIT's sunset date of either 2021 or 2023 is going to leave between \$807 and \$842 million for research grant awards, with additional funds for prevention grant awards. It is not yet known if CPRIT's sunset date will be extended, but either date will have an impact on the funding CPRIT has available for grant making and on how much can be awarded in each of its remaining years. Mr. Roberts referred to the spreadsheet included in the Oversight Committee meeting materials. He stated the assumptions used for calculations are identified on the spreadsheets. Several other assumptions will be explored in the weeks ahead. Using the projections in the spreadsheet, CPRIT staff is developing a proposal for allocating funds for Oversight Committee consideration at the August 2017 meeting. He noted that these projections could affect future program priorities adopted by the Oversight Committee. Staff believes that the funding and program priorities discussions are linked and should be combined for adoption by the Oversight Committee at its November 15, 2017, public meeting. This schedule allows time for staff to analyze the Legislature's sunset decision and for the Oversight Committee to review and modify a staff proposal through the fall priorities setting process.

Mr. Roberts affirmed that CPRIT has sufficient monies to fund the Scientific Review Council and Program Integration Committee recommendations being presented for approval today.

Mr. Roberts noted that the November 2017 meeting is scheduled Wednesday, November 15, the week before Thanksgiving. CPRIT's biennial conference is scheduled for Monday, November 13 and Tuesday, November 14. Staff will be requesting that the Oversight Committee consider moving the Oversight Committee meeting to another date as the meeting will have a large number of award recommendations presented in addition to the program priorities setting process, requiring extensive staff preparation. Moving the meeting date allows staff to give appropriate attention to both the meeting preparation and the conference preparation. An alternate date will be determined and presented to the Oversight Committee for its consideration and approval at the August 2017 meeting.

7. Agenda Item 10: Chief Product Development Officer Report

Mr. Michael Lang, Chief Product Development Officer, reported that the Request for Applications (RFAs) schedule has been set up such that CPRIT can accommodate the variability in the number of awards issued to maintain budgetary control. In general, Product Development issues two RFAs a year, resulting in awards being presented for Oversight Committee consideration every other meeting. This meeting is one at which no awards are being presented.

The FY 2017 Cycle 2 received 20 applications. Six of those applications were selected to present at Peer Review Panel meetings held April 25-26, where two firms were selected to progress to due diligence. Applications recommended by the Product Development Review

Council and the Program Integration Committee will be presented to the Oversight Committee in August for approval.

The FY 2018 Cycle 1 RFA is being edited for the planned June 29 opening of the CARS system to accept applications.

Mr. Lang reported that the Product Development Advisory Committee (PDAC) convened on March 30 to discuss how best to utilize remaining CPRIT funding and drafting the PDAC's annual report.

8. Agenda Item 11: Product Development Advisory Committee Annual Report

Mr. Lang introduced Dr. Jonathan MacQuitty, PDAC Chair, to present the advisory committee's annual report. He added that Dr. MacQuitty had come from California to present the committee report and Dr. MacQuitty and all the members of the PDAC provide a valuable service to CPRIT without compensation. Dr. MacQuitty is a venture partner in Lightspeed Venture Partners, a life science venture capital firm. He is also founder and Chief Executive Officer of 47 Inc., which is one of their investment companies in immunology area, similar technologies to Immatics US technologies. He has been in the venture capital life sciences for 35 years.

Dr. MacQuitty presented the PDAC's annual report, which is included in the Oversight Committee meeting materials.

Dr. MacQuitty was asked what Texas needs to become a center of life science, including academic and commercial experience. He said that over the last 20 years, the amount of seed funding has decreased. Funding has become more and more difficult for early stage clinical trials. The ability of CPRIT to take what looks like a \$25-30 million dollar insurmountable hurdle and put up \$15-20 million, reducing the funding gap, is critical. He believes that the reason venture capitalists are shunning life science investments is because they simply do not have enough capital for investing in a high dollar, high risk area. Dr. MacQuitty believes the mission of CPRIT allows it to take on the risk that others do not want to take on to help the development of potentially life-saving treatments. Essentially, it is a public policy issue.

Dr. MacQuitty was asked to speak about lessons learned from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), which was funded in a similar manner to the way CPRIT was funded by the State of Texas. Dr. MacQuitty explained that CIRM focuses on stem cells in general and, consequently, because stem cells are involved in many cancers, much of their funding goes into cancer related activities. Part of the challenge for any funding agency like CIRM is the large amount of interesting and important academic projects that can be funded. At some point a report will have to be made to the legislature and to the voters who voted for it. Legislators and voters' enthusiasm for academic research may be tempered compared to their interest in prospective therapies being available in the near term. The feeling is that money spent on academic research and facilities could have been better spent elsewhere, such as on clinical trials to develop cures.

Dr. MacQuitty suggested that as a measure of CPRIT success, CPRIT should use the metric “the number of patients in CPRIT funded clinical studies.” No one can guarantee the success of clinical studies; it is certain that without clinical studies there can be no success.

Presiding Officer Geren thanked Dr. MacQuitty for his presentation and his service today.

9. Agenda Item 7: Chief Compliance Officer Report

Mr. Vince Burgess, Chief Compliance Officer, presented his report on grant compliance activities. Some of the other compliance activities are grantee monitoring, desk reviews and onsite reviews, audit tracking and attestation tracking, and training and support. He pointed to the chart provided in the Oversight Committee meeting materials titled Grant Recipient Report Monitoring 4-16 thru 4-17, Delinquent/Missing Reports. The chart shows a 13-month span of reporting where the non-compliance falls consistently below the 5 percent threshold. The 13-month average is at 1.5 percent. Staff meets weekly to review delinquent reporting, and works with grantees to resolve any issues regarding required reporting. Staff has also conducted 157 desk reviews this fiscal year and 13 on-site reviews. Another 10 onsite reviews and 20-30 desk reviews are scheduled through the end of August.

Mr. Burgess reported that CPRIT staff conducted grantee training on March 9, with approximately 150 grantee representatives in attendance. The webinar covered required reporting, administrative rule changes, grant closeouts, and an overview of the compliance program. Staff conducted a training for a new product development grantee on May 3, which included a hands-on navigation of the grants management system. Staff also conducted a second training on May 3, for three new Authorized Signing Officials (ASOs). CPRIT has scheduled another grantee training for June 7.

There were no questions for Mr. Burgess.

10. Agenda Item 8: Chief Scientific Officer Report and Grant Award Recommendations

Dr. James Willson, Chief Scientific Officer, presented the recommendations of the Scientific Review Council and the Program Integration Committee.

Academic Research Grant Award Recommendations

Dr. Willson ten awards in three slates corresponding to grant mechanisms and totaling \$25,104,127 for Oversight Committee approval. The applications proposed to the Program Integration Committee for funding address the following Academic Research Program Priorities: Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas, Childhood Cancers, Cancers of Importance in Texas and Computational Biology.

Academic Research Grant Award Recommendations

App ID	Candidate	Mech.	Organization	Budget
RR170023	Mack, Stephen	RFTFM	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
RR170039	Yun, Jihye	RFTFM	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
RR170030	Hilton, Isaac	RFTFM	Rice University	\$2,000,000
RR170040	Jasper, Heinrich	RRS	Baylor College of Medicine	\$4,000,000
RR170033	Skau, Colleen	RFTFM	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000
RR170037	Lu, Chao	RFTFM	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000
RR170026	Fregly, Benjamin	REI	Rice University	\$5,104,127
RR170024	Velez, Valentina	RFTFM	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
RR170036	Hodges, Courtney	RFTFM	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
RR170020	Gadad, Shrikanth	RFTFM	Texas Tech University Health Science Center at El Paso	\$2,000,000

REI: Recruitment of Established Investigators

RRS: Recruitment of Rising Stars

RFTFM: Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty Members

Compliance Certification

Mr. Vince Burgess, Chief Compliance Officer, reported reviewing the compliance pedigrees for the grant applications submitted to CPRIT for the following mechanisms:

- Recruitment of Established Investigators
- Recruitment of Rising Stars
- Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members

Mr. Burgess stated that he had conferred with staff at CPRIT and SRA, International (SRA), CPRIT's contracted third-party grants administrator, regarding academic research awards and studied the supporting grant review documentation, including third-party observer reports for the peer review meetings.

Mr. Burgess reported that he was satisfied that the application review process that resulted in the above mechanisms recommended by the Program Integration Committee (PIC) followed applicable laws and agency administrative rules. He certified the academic research award recommendations for the Oversight Committee's consideration.

Conflict of Interest Notification

Presiding Officer Geren noted for the record that no Oversight Committee member had reported a conflict of interest with any recruitment award being presented.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Holmes and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the Program Integration Committee's recommendations for recruitment awards.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Holmes and seconded by Ms. Mitchell, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the delegation of contract negotiation authority to the Chief Executive Officer and CPRIT staff, and authorized the Chief Executive Officer to sign the contracts on behalf of CPRIT.

11. Agenda Item 9: Chief Prevention and Communications Officer Report

Prevention Program Update

Dr. Rebecca Garcia, Chief Prevention and Communications Officer, presented her report on Prevention program activities. She stated that the Prevention program presented recommendations two times a year and no recommendations were being presented today.

Dr. Garcia reported that the peer review panels would be meeting on May 31-June 2 in Dallas to consider 37 applications submitted for the second cycle of FY 2017. These applications request about \$52 million in total. CPRIT has about \$14 million available for Preventions grants for the rest of FY 2017. The Program Integration Committee and the Oversight Committee will consider grant recommendations in August.

Dr. Garcia noted that CPRIT will release the following RFAs in June and will be for the first award cycle of FY 2018:

- Evidence-Based Cancer Prevention Services
- Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions
- Cancer Prevention Promotion and Navigation to Clinical Services
- Tobacco Control and Lung Cancer Screening

Dr. Garcia reported that discussion with the Prevention Subcommittee has begun about strategies on how CPRIT might provide better coverage in rural areas. Currently grantees are covering all but two counties in the state; however, there are some gaps in the types of available services.

Mr. Margo, Chair of the Prevention Subcommittee, noted that the subcommittee had discussed needs and outcomes, and the fact that sometimes the need was there but grant application expertise was not. The subcommittee discussed ways to address the issue of

entities in rural areas with capacity to provide services but without the expertise to complete a successful application and/or complete the required grant reporting.

Communications Program Update

Dr. Garcia directed the Oversight Committee members to the Communications update memo in the Oversight Committee meeting materials.

Staff has developed a media strategy to get coverage of CPRIT grantees in local markets during cancer awareness months. Dr. Garcia showed a media clip as an example of how that strategy is working.

Communications staff has also increased its production of videos, some revolving around cancer awareness months, and others with grantee interviews that can be used on social media and CPRIT's website.

Of interest, May is Cancer Research Month and the Communications Specialist has been working with the City of Houston to get a proclamation by the city. The goal is to have May proclaimed as National Cancer Research Month at a Houston City Council meeting and have CPRIT grantees present. Staff is still working on the scheduling details.

There were no questions for Dr. Garcia.

12. Agenda Item 12: Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee Appointments

Mr. Roberts presented the list of appointees to CPRIT review panels for Oversight Committee approval. He stated the Nominations Subcommittee discussed the appointments and recommended approval.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Margo and seconded by Mr. Holmes, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee appointments.

13. Agenda Item 13: Product Development Advisory Committee (PDAC) Appointments and Charter

Mr. Roberts presented the listing of appointees to PDAC for Oversight Committee approval. He reports that the Nominations Subcommittee discussed the appointments and recommends approval.

Mr. Roberts emphasized that these appointees have served on the PDAC previously and have provided valuable service to CPRIT. Mr. Roberts anticipates this advisory committee will be consulted more frequently going forward.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Margo and seconded by Mr. Holmes, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the nominations to the PDAC.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Margo and seconded by Mr. Holmes, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the PDAC charter.

14. Agenda Item 14: Internal Auditor Report

Presiding Officer Geren recognized Dan Graves from Weaver and Tidwell, LLP, to present the Internal Auditor Report.

Mr. Graves reported that the training program audit covered training of the Oversight Committee members, CPRIT staff and grant recipients. The audit resulted in the highest rating of strong.

The internal agency compliance audit addressed compliance with administrative rules, state requirements, ethics, and CPRIT policy for all of the participants' involved in the grants process. The audit resulted in the highest rating of strong.

Mr. Graves reported that Weaver has completed field work for the pre-award grant management audit. Field work for the procurement and P-Cards audit is in progress.

Mr. Graves noted that the overall findings matrix and audit progress from 2015 to date is in the Oversight Committee meeting materials.

Presiding Officer Geren noted that the Audit Subcommittee met on May 8, 2017, to review the reports and recommended approval.

There were no questions for Mr. Graves.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Holmes and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the Internal Audit Reports over Internal Agency Compliance and Training Program.

15. Agenda Item 16: Amendments to 25 T.A.C. Chapters 701 and 703

Ms. Cameron Eckel, Staff Attorney, presented the following rules changes, which the Board Governance Subcommittee discussed and recommends approval:

- Final Order Approving Amendments to Chapters 701 and 703

Ms. Eckel noted that CPRIT legal staff presented these amendments initially at the February 2017 Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee approved publication in the *Texas Register*; the proposed amendments were published in the March 30 edition and were available on CPRIT's website. CPRIT received one comment related to the definition of relative in Chapter 701. Ms. Eckel explained that the purpose of the amendment was to clean up the definition and have it mirror the requirements found in the Government Code, Chapter 573. The requestor wanted in-laws included within the definition of relative— father-in-law, mother-in-law, son -and daughter-in-law, brother- and sister-in-law, as well as cousins, nieces and nephews, and aunts and uncles. Staff based CPRIT's definition on the second degree of consanguinity and affinity consistent with Chapter 573, which does not include uncles and aunts, nieces and nephews and cousins. CPRIT has declined to make the requested change to include uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, and cousins.

If approved today, CPRIT will file the final orders with the Secretary of State and they will become effective 20 days after filing.

- Proposed Amendments to Chapter 703 and Authorization to Publish in *Texas Register*

Ms. Eckel explained that the proposed rule change allows grant awards with a contract effective date in the last quarter of a state fiscal year to have an initial financial reporting period beginning September 1st of the following state fiscal year. Awards approved by the Oversight Committee in the last quarter of a fiscal year must have a contract effective date of August 31st. This causes CPRIT's Grant Management System (CGMS) to create a partial quarter or "fifth quarter" for those grant awards that remains in CGMS for the life of the grant. Ms. Eckel noted that the "fifth quarter" issue often causes confusion and reporting difficulties for grantees. The proposed rule amendment addresses this issue by eliminating the partial quarter and allowing grantees to report expenses for the partial quarter on the Financial Status Report period beginning September 1st.

Ms. Eckel explained that once the Oversight Committee approves the proposed amendment, CPRIT will publish it in the *Texas Register*. The publication date begins the 30-day period soliciting public comment. CPRIT staff will post the proposed rule on CPRIT's website and announce the opportunity for public comment via the CPRIT electronic list serve. CPRIT legal staff will summarize all public comments for the Oversight Committee's consideration when approving the final rule change in August.

There were no questions for Ms. Eckel.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Holmes and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the final orders adopting rule changes to the Texas Administrative Code Chapters 701 and 703.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Mr. Holmes, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the proposed change to Texas Administrative Code Chapter 703 for publication in the *Texas Register*.

16. Agenda Item 16: Chief Operating Officer Report

Ms. Heidi McConnell, Chief Operating Officer, reported on the following items.

- FY 2017, Quarter 2 Operating Budget
During this quarter, the agency received about \$21,000 in revenue sharing payments, bringing the total payments received through February 2017 to about \$37,000. The overall total collected is still about \$3.1 million since the inception of the agency.
- Debt Issuance History
CPRIT has issued \$222.9 million in debt this year, a combination of commercial paper and long-term financing that the Texas Public Finance Authority issued on CPRIT's behalf in February. To date, CPRIT has issued almost \$1.3 billion in debt since CPRIT's inception.

There were no questions for Ms. McConnell.

17. Agenda Item 17: Contract Approvals

Ms. McConnell presented staff's recommendation that the Oversight Committee approve the following contracts for FY 2018:

- Contract renewal with ICON Clinical Research for \$206,000 to provide due diligence services;
- Contract renewal with SRA International, Inc., a CSRA Company, for \$8,995,852 to provide grant management support services;
- Contract renewal with CohnReznick for \$163,220 to provide compliance monitoring services;
- Contract extension with Vinson & Elkins, LLP for \$125,000 to provide outside counsel services;
- Contract extension with Baker Botts, LLP for \$125,000 to provide outside counsel services; and
- Contract with Yudell Isidore, PLLC for \$125,000 to provide outside counsel services.

Ms. McConnell explained that the contract amounts are not-to-exceed amounts; payment is based on the delivery of actual services from the vendor, either time and materials or a unit cost.

Ms. McConnell reported that the renewals with CSRA, Vinson & Elkins, and Baker Botts will require approval from the Legislative Budget Board before CPRIT finalizes the contracts. In addition, the Office of the Attorney General must approve all outside counsel agreements and contract extensions prior to contract execution.

There were no questions for Ms. McConnell.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Margo and seconded by Mr. Holmes, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve contracts for the following services: ICON (due diligence); CSRA (grant management support); CohnReznick (compliance monitoring); and Vinson & Elkins, Yudell Isidore and Baker Botts (outside legal counsel).

18. Agenda Item 18: FY 2018 Bond Issuance Resolution

Ms. McConnell presented the FY 2018 Bond Issuance Resolution for an aggregate amount of \$300 million for Oversight Committee approval.

There were no questions for Ms. McConnell.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Margo and seconded by Mr. Angelou, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the FY 2018 bond issuance resolution.

19. Agenda Item 19: Election of Board Officer Process

Presiding Officer Geren explained that the Oversight Committee bylaws call for the election of a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson at the last regular meeting of each odd-numbered fiscal year. This means that new officers will be elected at the Oversight Committee meeting in August. He reminded the members that officers are elected by a simple majority vote.

During the last elections, the Oversight Committee tasked the Nominations Subcommittee to facilitate the elections process. The Nomination Subcommittee will accept nominations and recommend candidates for Oversight Committee consideration.

20. Agenda Item 20: Subcommittee Business

21. Agenda Item 21: Compliance Investigation Pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 102.2631

22. Agenda Item 22: Consultation with General Counsel

Presiding Officer Geren reported that the Oversight Committee would not take up items 20, 21, and 22.

23. Agenda Item 23: Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

Presiding Officer Geren announced the next regular Oversight Committee meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

24. Agenda Item: Adjourn

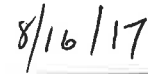
MOTION:

There being no further business, the Oversight Committee unanimously approved a motion to adjourn made by Presiding Officer Geren and seconded Dr. Rice.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.



Signature



Date



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Handwritten signature in black ink and initials "mm" in blue ink.

May 4, 2017

Dear Oversight Committee Members:

I am pleased to present the Program Integration Committee's (PIC) unanimous recommendations for funding ten grant applications totaling \$25,104,127. The PIC recommendations for ten academic research grant awards are attached.

Dr. Jim Willson, CPRIT's Chief Scientific Officer has prepared an overview of the academic research slates to assist your evaluation of the recommended awards. The overviews are intended to provide a comprehensive summary with enough detail to understand the substance of the proposals and the reasons endorsing grant funding. In addition to the full overviews, all of the information considered by the Scientific Review Council is available by clicking on the appropriate link in the portal. This information includes the application, peer reviewer critiques, and the CEO affidavit for each proposal.

The approval of these grant recommendations is governed by a statutory process that requires two-thirds of the members present and voting to approve each recommendation. Vince Burgess, CPRIT's Chief Compliance Officer, will certify that the review process for the recommended grants followed CPRIT's award process prior to any Oversight Committee action.

The award recommendations will not be considered final until the Oversight Committee meeting on May 17, 2017. Consistent with the non-disclosure agreement that all Oversight Committee members have signed, the recommendations should be kept confidential and not be disclosed to anyone until the award list is publicly announced at the Oversight Committee meeting. I request that Oversight Committee members not print, email or save to your computer's hard drive any material on the portal. I appreciate your assistance in taking all necessary precautions to protect this information.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the review process or any of the projects recommended for an award, CPRIT's staff, including myself and Dr. Willson are always available. Please feel free to contact us directly should you have any questions. The programs that will be supported by the CPRIT awards are an important step in our efforts to mitigate the effects of cancer in Texas. Thank you for being part of this endeavor.

Sincerely,
Wayne R. Roberts
Chief Executive Officer

Academic Research Award Recommendations –

The PIC unanimously recommends approval of ten academic research grant proposals totaling \$25,104,127. The recommended grant proposals were submitted in response to three grant mechanisms: Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members; Recruitment of Rising Stars; and Recruitment of Established Investigators. The PIC followed the recommendations made by the Scientific Review Council (SRC). The SRC provided the prioritized list of recommendations for the Recruitment awards to the presiding officers on April 26, 2017.

The PIC is required to give funding priority, to the extent possible, to applications that meet one or more criteria set forth in V.T.C.A., TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 102.251(a)(2)(C). The PIC determined that these academic research proposals met the following CPRIT funding priorities:

- could lead to immediate or long-term medical and scientific breakthroughs in the area of cancer prevention or cures for cancer;
- strengthen and enhance fundamental science in cancer research;
- ensure a comprehensive coordinated approach to cancer research and cancer prevention;
- are interdisciplinary or interinstitutional;
- address federal or other major research sponsors' priorities in emerging scientific or technology fields in the area of cancer prevention or cures for cancer;
- are matched with funds available by a private or nonprofit entity and institution or institutions of higher education;
- are collaborative between any combination of private and nonprofit entities, public or private agencies or institutions in this state, and public or private institutions outside this state;
- have a demonstrable economic development benefit to this state;
- enhance research superiority at institutions of higher education in this state by creating new research superiority, attracting existing research superiority from institutions not located in this state and other research entities, or enhancing existing research superiority by attracting from outside this state additional researchers and resources;
- expedite innovation and commercialization, attract, create, or expand private sector entities that will drive a substantial increase in high-quality jobs, and increase higher education applied science or technology research capabilities; and
- address the goals of the Texas Cancer Plan.

Academic Research Recruitment Grant Award Recommendations

Rank	App ID	Candidate	Mechanism	Organization	Budget	Overall Score
1	RR170023	Mack, Stephen	RFTFM	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000	1.0
2	RR170039	Yun, Jihye	RFTFM	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000	1.0
3	RR170030	Hilton, Isaac	RFTFM	Rice University	\$2,000,000	1.2
4	RR170040	Jasper, Heinrich	RRS	Baylor College of Medicine	\$4,000,000	1.3
5	RR170033	Skau, Colleen	RFTFM	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000	1.3
6	RR170037	Lu, Chao	RFTFM	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000	1.8
7	RR170026	Fregly, Benjamin	REI	Rice University	\$5,104,127	2.0
8	RR170024	Velez, Valentina	RFTFM	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000	2.2
9	RR170036	Hodges, Courtney	RFTFM	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000	2.3
10	RR170020	Gadad, Shrikanth	RFTFM	Texas Tech University Health Science Center at El Paso	\$2,000,000	2.8

REI: Recruitment of Established Investigators

RRS: Recruitment of Rising Stars

RFTFM: Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty Members