



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**Oversight Committee Meeting
May 15, 2019**

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

A quorum being present, Presiding Officer Will Montgomery called the Oversight Committee to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call/Excused Absences – Agenda Item 2

Committee Members Present

Bill Rice, M.D.
Will Montgomery
Mahendra Patel, M.D.
Donald (Dee) Margo
David Cummings, M.D.
Craig Rosenfeld, M.D.

Committee Members Absent

Angelos Angelou

MOTION:

On a motion by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the excused absence of Mr. Angelou.

Adoption of Minutes from the February 21, 2019 Meeting – Agenda Item 3 – Tab 1

MOTION:

On a motion by Mr. Margo and seconded by Dr. Cummings, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the Oversight Committee meeting of February 21, 2019, as presented.

Public Comment – Agenda Item 4

There were no requests to provide public comment.

Chief Executive Officer Report – Agenda Item 5, Tab 2

Chief Executive Officer Wayne Roberts thanked the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Commissioner for use of their facilities for CPRIT’s recent open meetings. Mr. Roberts introduced new IT department staff. He informed the Oversight Committee regarding the amount of funds

available for awards. Mr. Roberts updated members on the recent legislative approval of important CPRIT legislation, HB 39, HB 2507, and HJR 12.

Chief Compliance Officer Report – Agenda Item 6, Tab 3

Chief Compliance Officer Vince Burgess presented the Compliance Report for the past quarter’s activities. He highlighted CPRIT’s new enhanced desk review pilot that includes financial and match expenditure testing along with a deeper dive into prior repeat findings.

Mr. Burgess also informed members that the Compliance Program has implemented separate Annual Compliance Training webinars for each of CPRIT’s three grant programs. He reported that grantees attending the March 2019 trainings provided positive feedback related to the new format.

Following his compliance report, Mr. Burgess certified that the review process for the Academic Research grant awards recommended for consideration by the Oversight Committee complied with CPRIT’s statute and administrative rules.

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

Presiding Officer Montgomery recognized CPRIT Chief Scientific Officer Dr. James Willson. Dr. Willson presented the academic research program update and the 10 recruitment awards totaling \$31,562,426 recommended by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council (SRC) and the Program Integration Committee (PIC) for the FY2019 recruitment cycles 19.7, 19.8 and 19.9. (Proposed Grant Award booklet, pages 7-16) He reported that one application, RR190038, withdrew application after the SRC meeting but prior to PIC meeting.

Academic Research Recruitment Slate

Rank	App ID	Candidate	Mechanism	Organization	Budget	Overall Score
1	RR190034	Samuel K. McBrayer, Ph.D.	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000	1.0
2	RR190059	Chengcheng Jin, Ph.D.	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000	1.0
3	RR190046	Yang Gao, Ph.D.	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members	Rice University	\$2,000,000	1.0
4	*RR190038	Feng Yue, Ph.D.	Recruitment of Rising Stars	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$4,000,000	1.2
5	RR190052	Xiaojing J Gao, Ph.D.	Recruitment of First-Time,	Rice University	\$2,000,000	1.6

			Tenure-Track Faculty Members			
6	RR190037	Suzanne D. Conzen, M.D.	Recruitment of Established Investigators	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$6,000,000	1.8
7	RR190054	Anthony M Mustoe, Ph.D.	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000	2.0
8	RR190056	Kevin J McHugh, Ph.D.	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members	Rice University	\$2,000,000	2.0
9	RR190043	Yong Li, Ph.D.	Recruitment of Established Investigators	Baylor College of Medicine	\$6,000,000	2.0
10	RR190058	Qing Zhang, Ph.D.	Recruitment of Rising Stars	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$4,000,000	2.0
11	RR190050	Christina Dieli-Conwright, Ph.D.	Recruitment of Rising Stars	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$3,562,426	2.6

*Note: #RR190038 withdrew application after SRC meeting but prior to Program Integration Committee meeting.

An Oversight Committee Member remarked that extraordinary talent continues to come to Texas through the CPRIT's recruitment program.

Conflict of Interest Notifications

Presiding Officer Montgomery informed members of his conflict of interest with all the proposed awards and requested that Vice Presiding Officer Dee Margo preside over the vote and discussion of the proposed awards.

Approval Process – Research Awards

The Oversight Committee agreed to take up the 10 award recommendations together in one vote, Vice Presiding Officer Margo called for a vote on consideration of the award recommendations.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Dr. Rice and seconded by Dr. Cummings, all Oversight Committee members present and able to vote approved the PIC's recommendations for the Recruitment of Established Investigators, Rising Stars and Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Dr. Rice and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld, all Oversight Committee members present and able to vote approved the delegation of contract negotiation authority to CPRIT's CEO and staff and authorized the CEO to sign the contracts on behalf of CPRIT.

Presiding Officer Montgomery did not discuss or vote on any of the grant applications.

Following the vote, Dr. Willson referred the members to pages 4.11 and 4.12 of the meeting book and provided an overview of the current review cycles. He presented the proposed recruitment requests for FY20.1 applications (RFAs), as displayed on page 4.13 of the meeting book.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Dr. Rice and seconded by Dr. Patel, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the FY 2020 RFAs for recruitment awards.

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

Presiding Officer Montgomery recognized Chief Prevention and Communications Officer Dr. Becky Garcia to provide an update on the prevention program. Dr. Garcia presented a comprehensive overview of CPRIT's Prevention Program to date.

In recognition of Dr. Garcia's retirement, Presiding Officer Montgomery recognized her outstanding service to CPRIT and the state of Texas with a resolution from the Oversight Committee members. Mr. Roberts presented Dr. Garcia with a letter of congratulations from Governor and Mrs. Abbott.

Communications Report

Dr. Garcia discussed CPRIT's recent media coverage resulting from legislative developments and upcoming education outreach planning. She attributed the increased press and social media activity to CPRIT's increased collaboration efforts with grantee institutions and CPRIT's new website's digital newsroom.

She updated Committee members on the CPRIT Conference, which CPRIT will hold July 30-31, 2020, at the Austin Convention Center and the Fairmont Hotel. Dr. Garcia reported that Dr. Jim Allison will be the keynote speaker.

In response to an Oversight Committee member's question, Dr. Garcia confirmed that CPRIT sent a "save the date" notice about the conference and Dr. Allison's keynote to CPRIT's email listserve.

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

Presiding Officer Montgomery recognized Chief Product Development Officer Dr. Cindy WalkerPeach to provide an update on the product development program. She presented an overview of the Product Development Program activities from FY 2019 Cycle 1 (19.1) and FY 2019 Cycle 2 (19.2). In addition, Dr. WalkerPeach discussed planned activities for the upcoming FY 2020 Cycle 1 (20.1). She notified the Oversight Committee that one Product Development Review Council

(PDRC) member, Dr. Sandra Silberman, will step down from the PDRC effective May 28. PDRC Chair Dr. Jack Geltsky has recommended that a current CPRIT product development peer reviewer, Dr. Kelly Bolton, take the vacant seat on the PDRC effective June 1.

University Advisory Committee Annual Report – Agenda Item 12, Tab 9

Dr. Willson introduced Dr. Michelle Barton, Chair of the University Advisory Committee (UAC) to present the UAC's 2018 annual report and recommendations to the Oversight Committee and provide an overview of the UAC's mission and member representation. Dr. Barton is a Professor in the Department of Epigenetics and Molecular Carcinogenesis and the Colin Powell Chair for Cancer Research at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

As part of her report (Tab 9 in the meeting packet), Dr. Barton noted that CPRIT support played a significant role in the development of NCI Comprehensive Cancer Centers at Baylor College of Medicine and The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and that continuation of the Academic Research support will result in additional NCI Comprehensive Cancer Centers in Texas.

In response to a question from an Oversight Committee member about the UAC's recommendation that CPRIT decrease emphasis on Multi-Investigator Research Awards (MIRAs), Dr. Barton responded that while the initial MIRAs supported strong research, grantees did not sustain the projects with new multi-investigator awards, e.g., NCI Program Project Grants or NCI Specialized Programs of Research Excellence.

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

Presiding Officer Montgomery laid out for discussion the Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee Appointments.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Dr. Rosenfeld and seconded by Dr. Patel, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the five Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee Appointments.

Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancer (ACCC) Appointment – Item 11, Tab 8

Presiding Officer Montgomery laid out for discussion the ACCC appointment.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Dr. Rosenfeld and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve Dr. Theodore Laetsch's appointment to the Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancer.

Amendments to 25 T.A.C. Chapter 703 – Item 16, Tab 13

Presiding Officer Montgomery laid out for discussion the final order adopting rule changes to the Texas Administrative Code Chapter 703 and CPRIT's request to publish proposed changes to Chapter 703 rules.

MOTION:

On a motion by Dr. Rosenfeld and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the final order adopting rule changes to the Texas Administrative Code Chapter 703 and to approve the publication of the proposed changes to Chapter 703 in the Texas Register.

Clinical Trials Advisory Committee Annual Report – Agenda Item 12, Tab 10

Dr. Willson introduced Dr. Kent Osborne, Director of the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center and Professor of Medicine and Molecular and Cellular Biology at Baylor College of Medicine, to present the Clinical Trials Advisory Committee (CTAC) 2018 annual report and recommendations to the Oversight Committee (behind tab 10 in the meeting packet).

In response to a question from an Oversight Committee member on the feasibility of early phase trials being conducted at rural hospitals, Dr. Osborne responded that patients eligible to participate in phase I trials or trials requiring access to Cancer Center technologies would be treated at the cancer center.

In response to a question from an Oversight Committee member regarding the potential to create a centralized Institutional Review Board amongst participating entities for efficiency purposes, Dr. Osborne responded the model will include this feature, but noted it is up to the entities to adopt it.

Product Development Advisory Committee Annual Report – Agenda Item 14, Tab 11

Presiding Officer Montgomery recognized Dr. Jonathan MacQuitty to present the Product Development Advisory Committee report (behind tab 11 in the meeting packet).

Responding to an Oversight Committee member's question about academic centers' interest in commercial development area. Dr. MacQuitty said that there is interest, and that the existing Product Development Seed Award provides funding to these types of early-stage academic startup companies. He noted that academic researchers do not typically have the industry experience necessary to design and execute preclinical development plans, and therefore it is better to create spin-out companies and attract the necessary development and management expertise.

Another member asked whether investors from outside of Texas are willing to invest in Texas-based companies. Dr. MacQuitty replied that there are investors both within and outside Texas that are willing to invest in Texas-based biotech companies.

A member asked Dr. MacQuitty's opinion of the Product Development Program's current application success rate of 9.5% (number of applications vs. funded awards). Dr. MacQuitty responded that the number of companies funded by CPRIT to date is a more appropriate metric. He suggested that enlarging the overall pool of product development awards approved by CPRIT will increase the number of potentially successful therapeutic and diagnostic innovations hitting the market.

A member asked Dr. MacQuitty about whether CPRIT should be thinking about a recruitment program for product development personnel for entities across Texas. Dr. MacQuitty replied that it is a possibility.

Responding to an Oversight Committee member's question about whether CPRIT should consider combining funding with a venture capital group. Dr. MacQuitty said that a dedicated fund with commercial involvement may be worthy of consideration.

An Oversight Committee member inquired whether Dr. MacQuitty recommends that CPRIT have a booth at annual cancer research meetings such as ASCO, ASH and AACR and other relevant conferences for outreach purposes. Dr. MacQuitty responded that the approach may be an advisable way to increase the number of applications.

Internal Auditor Report – Agenda Item 15, Tab 12

Presiding Officer Montgomery recognized CPRIT internal auditor Dan Graves with Weaver and Tidwell to present the summary audit report (beginning on page 12-11 of the meeting book.) He directed the committee to the completed *Internal Audit Follow-Up Procedures Report over Post-Award Grant Contracting and Monitoring* and summarized the status of procurement and P-cards, information security, and communications follow-up procedures reports.

MOTION:

On a motion by Dr. Cummings and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the *Internal Audit Follow-Up Procedures Report over Post-Award Grant Contracting and Monitoring*.

Chief Operating Officer Report – Agenda Item 17, Tab 14

Chief Operating Officer Heidi McConnell updated Oversight Committee members on CPRIT operations, including the operating budget, CPRIT performance measures, and debt issuance.

Fiscal Year 2020 Bond Issuance Resolution – Agenda Item 18, Tab 15

Ms. McConnell summarized CPRIT's FY2020 bond issuance resolution, which CPRIT will submit to the Texas Public Finance Authority. She expects that the Texas Public Finance Authority will issue approximately \$231.3 million in commercial paper notes. Ms. McConnell advised that CPRIT may need to modify the program description should CPRIT receive funding at the \$300 million annual amount in the state budget for the 2020-2021 biennium.

MOTION:

On a motion by Dr. Cummings and seconded by Dr. Rice, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the resolution to request the Texas Public Finance Authority to issue debt on CPRIT's behalf in fiscal year 2020.

Contract Approvals – Agenda Item 19, Tab 16

Ms. McConnell presented three contract actions for Oversight Committee consideration and approval: an amendment to the due diligence evaluation contract with ICON, a renewal of the grant management support services contract renewal with SRA International, Inc. (a CSRA Company), and a catering contract with Austin Convention Center Catering (for the CPRIT 2020 conference.)

MOTION:

On a motion by Mr. Margo and seconded by Dr. Rice, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the contract amendment with ICON, the contract renewal with SRA International, Inc. (a CSRA Company), and a contract with Austin Convention Center Catering.

Subcommittee Business – Agenda Item 20

Not taken up.

Compliance Investigation Pursuant to Health & Safety Code 102.2631 – Agenda Item 21

Not taken up.

Consultation with General Counsel – Agenda Item 22

Not taken up.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items – Agenda Item 23

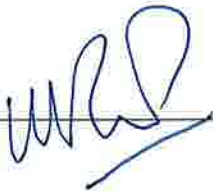
Presiding Officer Montgomery reminded members that the Oversight Committee will meet August 21 at the Texas Capitol.

Adjourn – Agenda Item 24

MOTION:

There being no further business, the Oversight Committee unanimously approved a motion to adjourn made by Dr. Cummings and seconded Dr. Angelou.

Meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Signature 

Date 8/21/19.