



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2020**

NOTE: CPRIT conducted this meeting by videoconference in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.016. Governor Abbott suspended various provisions that require government officials and members of the public to be physically present at a specified meeting location. 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 Dee Margo called the Oversight Committee to order at 10:07 a.m.

Roll Call/Excused Absences – Agenda Item 2

Committee Members Present

David Cummings, M.D.

Ambrosio Hernandez, M.D.

Donald (Dee) Margo

Will Montgomery

Mahendra Patel, M.D.

Cindy Barberio Payne

Bill Rice, M.D.

Craig Rosenfeld, M.D.

Oath of Office for newly appointed Oversight Committee member - Agenda Item 3

Presiding Officer Dee Margo administered the oath of office for Cindy Barberio Payne.

Adoption of Minutes from the February 19, 2020 Meeting – Agenda Item 4 – Tab 1

MOTION:

On a motion by Will Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Hernandez, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the Oversight Committee meeting of February 19, 2020, as presented.

Public Comment – Agenda Item 5

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Mr. Charlie Gagen to speak on behalf of the American Lung Association and the Texas Cancer Partnership. Mr. Gagen recommended that CPRIT reverse course on its decision to suspend FY 2021 award cycles and open requests for applications. Mr. Gagen contended that the benefits of funding outweigh potential cost and a continuity of research funding

is critical. He also observed that CPRIT creates economic growth and jobs and prevention services result in cost savings.

Chief Executive Officer Report – Agenda Item 6, Tab 2

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Executive Officer Wayne Roberts to present the CEO's report. Mr. Roberts reviewed the amount of funds available. He also provided an overview of CPRIT's response to COVID-19, including a dedicated COVID-19 webpage to help grantees and grant applicants, an internal workgroup to quickly respond to grantee issues, a 100% telework policy for CPRIT staff, peer review conducted via videoconference meetings, withdrawn 2021 RFAs, and the cancellation of the CPRIT conference that scheduled for July.

Chief Compliance Officer Report and Compliance Certification for the Proposed Grant Awards – Agenda Item 7, Tab 3

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Compliance Officer Vince Burgess to present the Compliance Report and Compliance Certification of Grant Award Process. Mr. Burgess presented the Compliance Report for the past quarter's activities. He noted that only one delinquent Grant Recipient report was past due. Mr. Burgess recognized the staff who were able to quickly implement second-level reviews of grantee Financial Status Reports reviews electronically due to the COVID-19 work from home orders.

An Oversight Committee member asked Mr. Burgess about the current delinquency rate. Mr. Burgess explained that the typical threshold is 28 delinquent reports per month, about 5% of all reports due. CPRIT is currently well below this threshold.

Mr. Burgess confirmed for another member that the compliance team can perform onsite reviews remotely; however, the compliance team has not yet done so.

Mr. Burgess also presented the Compliance Certification for the proposed academic research and product development research grant awards, confirming that the proposed awards and review process complied with all applicable state and agency requirements.

Chief Scientific Officer Report and Award Recommendations – Agenda Item 8, Tab 4

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Dr. Willson to present the academic research award recommendations and the program update.

Dr. Willson referred members to Tab 4 page 4-1 of the meeting packet and provided an update for the Academic Research Program. He reviewed FY 20.2 application submissions by mechanism and funding requested. He noted that peer reviewers conducted the review of the FY 20.2 applications in April via teleconference.

Dr. Willson referred members a to page 4.13 of the meeting book and presented the proposed FY 2021 CPRIT Scholar requests for applications (RFAs).

Dr. Willson referred members to page 7 of the Proposed Grant Award booklet and presented the recruitment award slates recommended by the Scientific Review Council and the Program Integration Committee (PIC), comprising 13 recommendations for recruitment cycles 20.7, 20.8 and 20.9 totaling \$41,973,674.

Cycles FY 20.7, 20.8 and 20.9 Recommended Recruitment Awards

Rank	App ID	Mechanism	Candidate	Organization	Budget	Overall Score
1	RR200040	RFTFM	Van Nostrand, Eric	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000	1.0
2	RR200050	RFTFM	Cao, Junyue	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000	1.0
3	RR200039	RFTFM	Romero, Liela	Baylor University	\$2,000,000	1.2
4	RR200045	RFTFM	Hillman, Robert	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$2,000,000	1.2
5	RR200057	REI	Felsher, Dean	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$6,000,000	1.2
6	RR200072	REI	Wei, Wenyi	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$6,000,000	1.5
7	RR200065	RFTFM	Lee, Jason	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000	1.8
8	RR200046	REI	Manning, Henry Charles	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$5,000,000	2.0
9	RR200056	RRS	Fedirko, Veronika	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$4,000,000	2.0
10	RR200054	RFTFM	Whisenant, Megan	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	\$500,000	2.0
11	RR200070	RFTFM	Parker, Matthew	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000	2.0
12	RR200059	RFTFM	Fon Tracer, Klementina	Texas Tech University	\$1,400,000	2.2
13	RR200042	RRS	Wang, Ken	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$4,000,000	2.7
14	RR200043	REI	Lele, Tanmay	Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station	\$5,073,674	2.8

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

Conflict of Interest Notification

Presiding Officer Margo noted for the record that no Oversight Committee members reported conflicts of interest with any proposed academic research awards.

Approval Process – Academic Research Awards

Presiding Officer Margo called for a vote on the award recommendations.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Cummings, Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve the PIC's recommendations for the following Academic Research grant award mechanisms.

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

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld, Oversight Committee members voted 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.

Following the vote on recruitment awards, Presiding Officer Margo called for a vote on the proposed FY 2021 Recruitment RFAs.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld, Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve the proposed FY 2021 Recruitment RFAs as presented by Dr. Willson.

Chief Prevention Officer Report – Agenda Item 9, Tab 5

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid to present the Prevention Program award recommendations and provide an update on the program. Ms. Magid updated members on the Prevention Program activities.

Proposed Plan for RFAs for FY 2021

Ms. Magid presented the FY 2021 RFA release schedule for consideration. The proposed RFAs in the schedule include Evidence-Based Cancer Prevention Services, Expansion of Cancer Prevention Services to Rural and Medically Underserved Populations, Tobacco Control and Lung Cancer Screening, and Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions.

An Oversight Committee member asked CPRIT to clarify the amount of grant funding available for the Prevention program. Mr. Roberts explained that the Prevention Program may award up to 10% of the total amount available for grant funding in a fiscal year.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the Prevention Program's plan for proposed RFAs for FY 2021 as presented by Ms. Magid.

Chief Product Development Officer Report – Agenda Item 10, Tab 6

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Product Development Officer Dr. Cindy WalkerPeach to present the proposed product development research award recommendations and to provide an update on the product development program.

Dr. WalkerPeach presented the PIC’s product development award recommendation for Invectys USA, Inc., totaling \$14,196,990. Invectys is an applicant from the 20.1 review cycle.

Dr. WalkerPeach explained that the Product Development Review Council (PDRC) had not acted on the Invectys application at its January 13, 2020, Product Development Cycle 20.1 diligence meeting pending review of additional information requested from the applicant. Invectys provided the requested information, which the PDRC reviewed at its March 17, 2020, diligence meeting and recommended the company for an award. Dr. WalkerPeach noted that neither the PDRC nor the PIC proposed any changes to the company’s goals and objectives, timeline or budget.

An Oversight Committee member asked whether Invectys has already relocated to Texas. Dr. WalkerPeach responded that CPRIT allows recipients of Company Relocation Product Development Awards up to one year from receiving their first distribution of award funds to relocate to Texas.

An Oversight Committee member asked whether CPRIT requires product development award recipients to make payments back to the state. Dr. WalkerPeach responded that CPRIT’s award contract with a product development award recipient includes revenue-sharing terms that obligate the company to make payments to the state if the company makes money from selling or licensing CPRIT-funded technology.

Compliance Certification

Presiding Officer Margo reminded members that Mr. Burgess previously certified compliance of the product development awards process.

Approval Process – Product Development Research Awards

Rank	App ID	Mechanism (Cycle)	Company Name	Project	Maximum Recommended Budget	Overall Score*
1	DP200034	RELCO (20.1)	Invectys USA Inc.	CARGo: a CAR-T cell program targeting HLA-G - a novel immune checkpoint and tumor specific antigen for advanced clear cell renal and ovarian carcinomas	\$14,196,990	3.3

MOTION:

On a motion made by Dr. Rosenfeld and seconded by Dr. Cummings, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the PIC’s recommendation for Invectys USA.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Cumming, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the delegation of contract negotiation authority to

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

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Hernandez, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the disbursement of grant funds via advance payments to Invectys upon execution of the award contract and the successful completion of tranches.

Following the award recommendation, Dr. WalkerPeach updated the Oversight Committee on the status of applications under review in the 20.2 cycle. In addition, Dr. WalkerPeach noted that CPRIT has announced the suspension of the 21.1 review cycle because of budget uncertainties related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and declining oil and gas industry revenues.

Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee Appointments – Agenda Item 11, Tab 7

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Executive Officer Wayne Roberts to present his appointments to the Scientific Research and Prevention Program review panels. Mr. Roberts presented three appointments recommended by the Nominations Subcommittee.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Patel, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the three Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee appointments as presented by Mr. Roberts.

University Advisory Committee Annual Report – Item 12, Tab 8

Dr. Willson introduced Dr. Kent Osborne, Chair of the University Advisory Committee (UAC). Dr. Osborne is the Director of the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center and Professor of Medicine and Molecular and Cellular Biology at Baylor College of Medicine.

Dr. Osborne presented the UAC 2020 annual report and recommendations to the Oversight Committee (behind tab 8 in the meeting packet) and provided an overview of the UACs mission and member representation. He discussed the importance of CPRIT to Texas in reducing morbidity and mortality from cancer through research, education, and prevention and provided specific impact by academic research and prevention awards.

Dr. Osborne explained the UAC's recommended priorities for future award mechanisms, which include Recruitment Awards, Core Facilities, Prevention and Screening Programs, Training Next Generation of Scientists and Physicians, and Individual Investigator Awards. In addition, he reports that the UAC recommends that CPRIT develops a clinical trial infrastructure RFA mechanism targeted for rural and underserved catchment areas, that CPRIT avoids focused RFAs, and that CPRIT consider a redesigned strategy for product development.

Clinical Trials Advisory Committee Annual Report - Agenda Item 13, Tab 9

Following Dr. Osborne's presentation for the UAC, Dr. Willson explained that Dr. Osborne also serves as the Chair of the Clinical Trials Advisory Committee (CTAC).

Dr. Osborne presented the CTAC annual report and recommendations to the Oversight Committee (behind tab 9 in the meeting packet) and provided an overview of the Committee's charge and member representation. He provided the CTAC's recommended priorities for future award mechanisms, which include the continuation of the Early Clinical Investigator Award supporting early career clinical researchers who have made a commitment to focus on clinical research, and to increase access to clinical trials for patients in outlying and/or underserved areas by providing personnel and infrastructure to smaller hospitals through a clinical trials network RFA.

Product Development Advisory Committee Annual Report – Agenda Item 14, Tab 10

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Dr. Jonathan MacQuitty to present the Product Development Advisory Committee (PDAC) report behind tab 10 in the meeting packet.

Dr. MacQuitty presented the PDAC's annual report and the committee's recommendations for CPRIT's Product Development Program.

An Oversight Committee member asked Dr. MacQuitty whether the committee has any recommendations for target number goals for patients enrolled in clinical trials that product development grant awards support. Dr. MacQuitty responded that the goal should be to increase the number of awards that CPRIT makes through the Product Development Program. This will improve the odds that one of the funded therapies reaches clinical trials for market launch.

An Oversight Committee member inquired about whether Dr. MacQuitty had any recommendations regarding the number of SEED awards compared to the number of Texas Company or Relocation awards made by the Product Development Program. Dr. MacQuitty replied that PDAC recommends that CPRIT funds more product development applications in general, so CPRIT should make a greater number of both large and small awards overall.

Dr. MacQuitty closed his presentation by noting that his term as Chair of the PDAC will expire soon but that he plans to continue his involvement as a member of the committee. He is honored and delighted to contribute to CPRIT's mission in this manner.

Prevention Advisory Committee – Agenda Item 15, Tab 11

Ms. Magid introduced Dr. Navkiran Shokar, Professor of Family and Community Medicine and Molecular and Translational Medicine, Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, and Director of Cancer Prevention and Control in the Center of Excellence for Cancer at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso, to present the Prevention Advisory Committee's (PAC) recommendations to the Oversight Committee.

Dr. Shokar presented the PAC's report and the committee's recommendations for CPRIT's cancer prevention activities.

Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancer Annual Report - Agenda Item 16, Tab 12

Dr. Willson introduced Dr. Stephen Skapek, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancer (ACCC). Dr Skapek is a Professor of Pediatrics for The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center's Department of Pediatrics and the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Dr. Skapek presented the ACCC's annual report and recommendations (behind tab 9 in the meeting packet) and provided an overview of the Committee's charge and member representation. The ACCC recommends that CPRIT continue the Recruitment RFAs, release a specific Core Facility Support Award (CFSA) RFA that targets childhood cancers, and offer competitive renewals for high performing CFSAs that fill state-wide needs. Dr. Skapek explained that the ACCC also urges CPRIT to expand the childhood cancer control portfolio by creating a Texas Collaborative Action Program (CAP) for Childhood Cancer RFA.

Fiscal Year 2021 Bond Issuance Resolution – Item 21, Tab 17

Taking Agenda Item 21 out of order, Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Operating Officer Heidi McConnell to present the fiscal year 2021 Bond Issuance Resolution. Ms. McConnell explained that the recommended resolution requests that the Texas Public Finance Authority (TPFA) issue debt on CPRIT's behalf during FY2021. She projects that \$260.3 million in bond proceeds will be issued.

MOTION:

On a motion by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the resolution requesting financing for submission to the TPFA to issue debt on CPRIT's behalf in fiscal year 2021.

Contract Approvals – Agenda Item 22, Tab 18

Taking Agenda Item 22 out of order, Presiding Officer Margo recognized Ms. McConnell to explain staff's recommendation to renew the contract for grant management support services. Ms. McConnell reviewed the recommendation to exercise the final renewal option of the grant management support services contract with SRA International, Inc., a CSRA Company (acquired by General Dynamics Information Technology in 2018). The FY 2021 renewal will not exceed \$10,377,105.

MOTION:

On a motion by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the contract renewal with GDIT.

Amendments to 25 T.A.C. Chapter 703 – Item 18, Tab 14

Taking Agenda Item 18 out of order, Presiding Officer Margo recognized CPRIT assistant general counsel Cameron Eckel to discuss the proposed rule amendments. Ms. Eckel presented a final order for rule changes that were initially considered for publication at the February Oversight Committee meeting. No public comments were received.

MOTION:

On a motion by Dr. Rice and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the final order adopting rule changes to the Texas Administrative Code Chapter 703.

Internal Auditor Report – Agenda Item 17, Tab 13

Presiding Officer Margo recognized CPRIT internal auditor Dan Graves with Weaver and Tidwell. Mr. Graves presented the status report. He explained that Weaver delayed some internal audit activities during the prior quarter due to the travel and meeting restrictions caused by COVID-19 pandemic and to allow CPRIT to implement business continuity measures and to focus on customer service.

Communications Report – Agenda Item 19, Tab 15, Chief Operating Officer Report – Agenda Item 20, Tab 16, Compliance Investigation Pursuant to Health & Safety Code 102.2631 Agenda Item 24, Consultation with General Counsel – Agenda Item 25

Presiding Officer Margo noted that the Oversight Committee would not take up Agenda Items 19 and 20 and directed members to the written reports in the meeting book. He also reported that the Oversight Committee would not take up standing Agenda Items 24 and 25.

Subcommittee Business – Agenda Item 23

Presiding Chair Margo proposed that Ms. Barberio Payne join the Audit, Product Development, and Nominations subcommittees.

MOTION:

On a motion by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Patel, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve Ms. Payne’s subcommittee appointments.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items – Agenda Item 26

Presiding Officer Margo reminded members that the Oversight Committee will hold a special meeting on July 31, 2020.

Adjournment – Agenda Item 27

MOTION:

There being no further business, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve a motion to adjourn made by Presiding Officer Margo and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld.

Meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Signature 

Date 8/19/20