



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2021**

NOTE: CPRIT conducted this meeting by videoconference in accordance with Governor Abbott's suspension of various provisions requiring government officials 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 in the "Oversight Committee Board Packet" section for the corresponding meeting date at <http://ocmeetings.cprit.texas.gov>.

Call to Order – Agenda Item 1

With a quorum present, Presiding Officer Dee Margo called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Roll Call/Excused Absences – Agenda Item 2

Committee Members Present

David Cummings, M.D. (joined the meeting at 9:50, present until 10:35)

Ambrosio Hernandez, M.D.

Donald (Dee) Margo

Will Montgomery

Mahendra Patel, M.D. (joined the meeting at 9:06)

Cindy Barberio Payne

Bill Rice, M.D.

Craig Rosenfeld, M.D.

Adoption of Minutes from the November 18, 2020 Meeting – Agenda Item 3 – Tab 1

MOTION:

On a motion by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Rice, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2020, Oversight Committee meeting as presented.

Public Comment – Agenda Item 4

No member of the public requested to address the Oversight Committee.

Grantee Presentation – Agenda Item 5, Tab 2

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid. Ms. Magid introduced Dr. Abbey Berenson, professor, Departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Pediatrics, Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Women's Health, and The Ruth Hartgraves MD Chair in Obstetrics & Gynecology at The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. Dr. Berenson gave a brief presentation about her work on CPRIT-funded prevention projects from 2012 through 2021.

Mr. Roberts concluded his report by highlighting CPRIT’s fiscal year 2020 Annual Report, which is available exclusively online for the first time. Mr. Roberts complimented the work of Therry Simien, Shannon Cusick, Chris Cutrone and Kristen Doyle on the new annual report.

Before the Oversight Committee took up the next agenda item, Ms. Doyle announced that Dr. Cummings left the meeting due to inclement weather conditions affecting his wireless connectivity.

Chief Compliance Officer Report and Compliance Certification for the Proposed Grant Awards – Agenda Item 7, Tab 4

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Compliance Officer Vince Burgess to present the Compliance Report and Compliance Certification of Grant Award Process. Mr. Burgess updated members on the compliance program activities for the past quarter. He highlighted the compliance program’s match expenditures review. CPRIT requires academic research and product development research grantees to provide a detailed match expenditure report annually; the compliance team is reviewing all match expenditure reports. It processed three grantee reviews in January, with ten completed in total - about 19 million dollars in match expenses.

With no questions on compliance activities, Mr. Burgess moved on to certify the review process for the proposed academic research awards presented for the Oversight Committee’s consideration, explaining that the review complied with all applicable state and agency requirements. He noted that he included his written certification in the award book at page 21.

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

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Jim Willson to present the academic research program update and award recommendations. Dr. Willson referred members to page 5-1 of the meeting book and provided an overview of the Research Training Award RFA and the number of applications submitted for the 21.1 RFA Cycle. He will present the Scientific Review Council (SRC) recommendations regarding the training awards to the Program Integration Committee (PIC) and Oversight Committee in May.

Looking ahead to future review cycles, Dr. Willson noted that CPRIT will convene virtual peer review meetings in late May to evaluate the second cycle of research applications submitted for fiscal year 2021 grant awards. The Oversight Committee will consider the SRC’s recommendations in August. Peer review panels will meet in October to evaluate applications submitted for the first grant award cycle in fiscal year 2022.

Dr. Willson referred members to page 6 of the award book and presented the recruitment slate recommended by the SRC and the PIC for fiscal year 2021 recruitment cycles 21.4 and 21.5.

Recommendations for Recruitment Cycles FY 21.4 and FY 21.5

Rank	App. ID	Award	Candidate	Organization	Budget	Score
1	RR210023	REI	Alex Mazin, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	\$6,000,000	1.0
2	RR210009	REI	Othon Iliopoulod, M.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	\$6,000,000	2.4

REI- Recruitment of Established Investigators

MOTION:

On a motion made by Dr. Patel and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the proposed timeline and Product Development Research RFAs for the first and second cycles of fiscal year 2022.

Internal Auditor Report – Agenda Item 11, Tab 8

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Alyssa Martin, a partner with Weaver & Tidwell, to review the fiscal year 2021 internal audits and the projected schedule of internal audit activities. She directed the members to the chart on page 8-3 of the meeting packet, which provides an overview of internal audit activities since 2015. Ms. Martin noted that CPRIT will address the four open items in the follow-up procedure audits.

Mr. Montgomery asked about the outstanding findings that the communications follow-up procedures audit was to evaluate in fiscal year 2020. Ms. Martin responded that CPRIT and the internal auditors postponed the follow-up procedures audit until fiscal year 2021 because of COVID-19 scheduling and travel issues.

Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee Appointments – Item 12, Tab 9

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Mr. Roberts to present his three appointments to the Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committees (Dr. Martin Pomper, Dr. Trey Ideker and Dr. Joya Delgado Harris) and the Presiding Officer’s appointment to the Prevention Advisory Committee.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Dr. Rice and seconded by Dr. Patel, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve Mr. Roberts’ three appointments to CPRIT’s Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committees.

Amendments to 25 T.A.C. Chapters 702 and 703 – Item 13, Tab 10

Presiding Officer Margo recognized CPRIT assistant general counsel Cameron Eckel to explain proposed rule changes to Chapter 703. Ms. Eckel presented a final order approving the amendments to T.A.C. §§703.3 and 703.26, which the Oversight Committee initially approved for publication in the *Texas Register* at the November 2020 Oversight Committee meeting.

She also addressed preliminary approval for the proposed amendments to T.A.C. §§ 702.19 and 703.10, which CPRIT will publish in the *Texas Register* for public comments and bring back to the Oversight Committee for final approval in May.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, 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 Chapters 702 and 703 in the Texas Register.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items – Agenda Item 20

The next regular Oversight Committee meeting will convene on May 19, 2021. CPRIT expects to hold the May meeting by videoconference.

Adjournment – Agenda Item 21

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 Mr. Montgomery.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Signature 

Date 5/19/21



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MOTION:

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Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Signature 

Date 5/20/21



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

February 4, 2021

Dear Oversight Committee Members:

I am pleased to present the Program Integration Committee's (PIC) unanimous recommendations for funding two grant applications totaling \$12,000,000. The PIC recommendations for two academic research grant awards are attached.

Dr. Jim Willson, CPRIT's Chief Scientific Officer, has prepared an overview of the academic research slate to assist your evaluation of the recommended awards. The overview is intended to provide a comprehensive summary with enough detail to understand the substance of the proposal and the reasons endorsing grant funding. In addition to the full overviews, all the information considered by the 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 February 17, 2021. 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



PIC Recommendation
FY2021 (February)

Academic Research Recruitment Grant Award Recommendations

Rank	Application ID	Mechanism	Candidate	Organization	Budget	Final Overall Score
1	RR210023	REI	Alex Mazin, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	\$6,000,000	1.0
2	RR210009	REI	Othon Iliopoulos, M.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	\$6,000,000	2.4

REI: Recruitment of Established Investigators