



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2021**

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

With a quorum present, Presiding Officer Dr. Mahendra Patel called the meeting to order at 9:08 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.
Cindy Barberio Payne
Bill Rice, M.D.
Craig Rosenfeld, M.D.

Adoption of Minutes from the August 18, 2021, Meeting – Agenda Item 3 – Tab 1

MOTION:

On a motion by Mr. Margo and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2021, Oversight Committee meeting as presented.

Public Comment – Agenda Item 4

Presiding Officer Patel noted for the record that no member of the public requested to provide comments.

Grantee Presentations – Agenda Item 5, Tab 2

Presiding Officer Patel recognized Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid to introduce Michael Pignone, M.D., MPH, to present an overview of his five CPRIT prevention projects.

Dr. Le Beau introduced Dr. Lulla, Assistant Professor, Center for Cell and Gene Therapy, Baylor College of Medicine. She noted that Dr. Lulla received a CPRIT Early Clinical Investigator Award in 2020.

Dr. Lulla explained that the CPRIT grant provides five years dedicated time in the clinic and in research (split 50/50) to hone his skills towards a clinical career. Dr. Lulla's presentation highlighted his first mentored trial as a principal investigator addressing leukemia-specific T cells for AML.

An Oversight Committee member asked Dr. Lulla to connect his studies and a CPRIT product development award to Marker Therapeutics, which he did.

An Oversight Committee member inquired about utilizing CAR-T cells as a first line treatment. Dr. Lulla explained that this is a hot topic. While he envisions near-term opportunities, he cautioned that CAR-T cells can have toxicities and long-term effects that need more study.

On behalf of the Oversight Committee, Presiding Officer Patel thanked Dr. Lulla for his presentation and applauded him for surviving his first IND submission.

Chief Executive Officer Report – Agenda Item 6, Tab 3

Presiding Officer Patel recognized Chief Executive Officer Wayne Roberts to present his report. Following his update, Mr. Roberts noted that the day marks the 12th anniversary of CPRIT's first award, a First-time, Tenure-Track recruitment award to Dr. Ralf Kitler at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Since that first award, CPRIT has successfully recruited 253 CPRIT scholars to Texas. There were no questions for Mr. Roberts.

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

Presiding Officer Patel recognized Chief Compliance Officer Vince Burgess to present the Compliance Report and Compliance Certification of Grant Award Process. Mr. Burgess reported on the compliance program's work for the past quarter and summarized FY 2021 activities. He reported that grantees averaged 10 delinquent reports per month in FY 2021, which is down for previous fiscal years and the lowest on record. He also noted that the number of desk reviews that resulted in one or more findings (22%) decreased by seven percent from FY 2020 and marked the lowest percentage of findings across desk reviews.

An Oversight Committee member asked about the priority rankings for reviews. Mr. Burgess explained that priority rankings correlated to the level of review the grantee would receive during the fiscal year, with grantees ranked priority 1 and 2 receiving an onsite review, and priority 3 grantees receiving an enhanced desk review.

Mr. Burgess certified the review process for the proposed recruitment grant awards, confirming that the proposed awards and review process complied with all applicable state and agency requirements.

Approval Process – Academic Research Awards

Presiding Officer Patel called for a vote on the recruitment award recommendations.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Mr. Margo the Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve the PIC's recommendations for the Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members; Recruitment of Rising Stars; and Recruitment of Established Investigators.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Mr. Margo the Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve delegating contract negotiation authority to the CEO and CPRIT staff and to authorize the CEO to sign the contracts on behalf of CPRIT.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Margo and seconded by Dr. Cummings the Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve the proposed FY 2023 RFAs presented by Dr. Le Beau.

Chief Prevention Officer Report – Agenda Item 9, Tab 6

Presiding Officer Patel recognized Ms. Magid to present the prevention program update. As part of her update, Ms. Magid referred to a series of maps showing the 11 year (FY 2010 – FY 2021) cumulative progression of the CPRIT-funded projects serving each of Texas' 254 counties.

An Oversight Committee member asked if it was possible to use population of each county to determine CPRIT's reach. Ms. Magid responded that while CPRIT could do this, issues such as age/gender eligibility for each type of cancer screening would first need consideration.

Another Oversight Committee member requested that CPRIT distribute the maps to legislative offices.

Members and Ms. Magid also discussed the impact of the pandemic on cancer screenings.

Chief Product Development Officer Report – Agenda Item 10, Tab 7

Presiding Officer Patel recognized Chief Product Development Officer Dr. Cindy WalkerPeach to present the product development research program update. She updated members on the status of the applications currently under review in the first cycle of 2022.

An Oversight Committee asked about factors that may contribute to the lower than usual application numbers for the first cycle of 2022. Dr. WalkerPeach responded that this may be due to extenuating factors related to COVID and other issues. The Oversight Committee members and Dr. WalkerPeach talked about investigating changes CPRIT could implement that may increase the number of product development awards.

MOTION:

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

Advisory Committees – Item 14, Tab 11

Presiding Officer Patel recognized Mr. Roberts to take up the Presiding Officer’s new appointment to CPRIT’s Prevention Advisory Committee. Mr. Roberts presented Dr. Ernest Hawk’s appointment to the Prevention Advisory Committee. He noted that the Board Governance Subcommittee and the Prevention Subcommittee recommended the appointment.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Margo and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve the new appointment to the advisory committees.

Amendments to 25 T.A.C. Chapters 703 – Item 15, Tab 12

Presiding Officer Patel recognized CPRIT assistant general counsel Cameron Eckel to discuss the proposed administrative rule change. Ms. Eckel reviewed the proposed amendment to rule 703.26. The Board Governance subcommittee recommended the proposed change for publication in the *Texas Register* to receive public comment. She explained that CPRIT will bring the rule amendment back to the Oversight Committee for final adoption at its meeting in February.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Margo and seconded by Dr. Hernandez, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the proposed amendment to Chapter 703 and Authorization to Publish in Texas Register.

Chief Operating Officer Report – Agenda Item 17, Tab 14

Taking agenda item 17 out of order, Presiding Officer Patel recognized Chief Operating Officer Heidi McConnell for her report. She updated members on issues including revenue sharing payments, recent debt issuance, the ongoing audit of CPRIT’s FY 2021 financial statements, and the CPRIT 2022 Conference. She noted that CPRIT selected Swift Solutions to serve as CPRIT’s conference planning vendor, with the next step to procure a conference venue in Austin.

Regarding the revenue sharing payment update, an Oversight Committee member asked about the number of years between the Peloton award and the revenue sharing payments. She explained that it was about 11 years from the CPRIT award to the payments.

Another member asked about how CPRIT uses the revenue sharing payments. Ms. McConnell explained that the payments go in the CPRIT interest and sinking fund in state treasury that only the legislature can appropriate to pay down CPRIT’s debt service.

recommended increase in contract pricing to incorporate additional advisory audit services based on the updated FY 2022 Internal Audit Plan.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the contract change for the FY 2022 Weaver and Tidwell internal audit contract.

Adjournment – Agenda Item 24

MOTION:

There being no further business, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve Presiding Officer Patel’s a motion to adjourn, which Mr. Montgomery seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 12:59a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. M. M.', written over a horizontal line.

Signature

2/16/22

Date



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Cynthia Barberis Payne
Nov. 18, 2021
Michelle Le Beau
11/18/21

November 4, 2021

Dear Oversight Committee Members:

I am pleased to present the Program Integration Committee's (PIC) unanimous recommendations for funding 12 grant applications totaling \$38,000,000. The PIC recommendations for 12 academic research grant awards are attached.

Dr. Michelle Le Beau, CPRIT's Chief Scientific Officer, has prepared an overview of the academic research slates 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 proposals and the reasons endorsing grant funding. In addition to the full overview, 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 November 18, 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. Le Beau 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 Recruitment Grant Award Recommendations

Rank	Application ID	Mechanism	Candidate	Organization	Budget	Final Overall Score
1	RR220015	RFTFM	Jacob Luber, Ph.D.	The University of Texas at Arlington	\$2,000,000	1.0
2	RR220007	RRS	Mingji Dai, Ph.D.	The University of Texas at Dallas	\$4,000,000	1.0
3	RR220009	RFTFM	Sachet Shukla, Ph.D.	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$2,000,000	1.2
4	RR220008	RFTFM	Gül Zerze, Ph.D.	University of Houston	\$2,000,000	1.3
5	RR220021	RFTFM	Wanhe Li, Ph.D.	Texas A&M University	\$2,000,000	1.5
6	RR220016	RFTFM	Filippo Romiti, Ph.D.	The University of Texas at Dallas	\$2,000,000	1.6
7	RR220013	REI	Samuel Achilefu, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$6,000,000	1.6
8	RR220010	REI	James Harbour, M.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$6,000,000	1.8
9	RR220024	RRS	Siyuan Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$4,000,000	2.0
10	RR220028	RRS	Gregory Delgoffe, Ph.D.	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$4,000,000	2.0
11	RR220017	RFTFM	Kristopher Brannan, Ph.D.	The Methodist Hospital Research Institute	\$2,000,000	2.0
12	RR220012	RFTFM	Mingxing Teng, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000	2.0

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