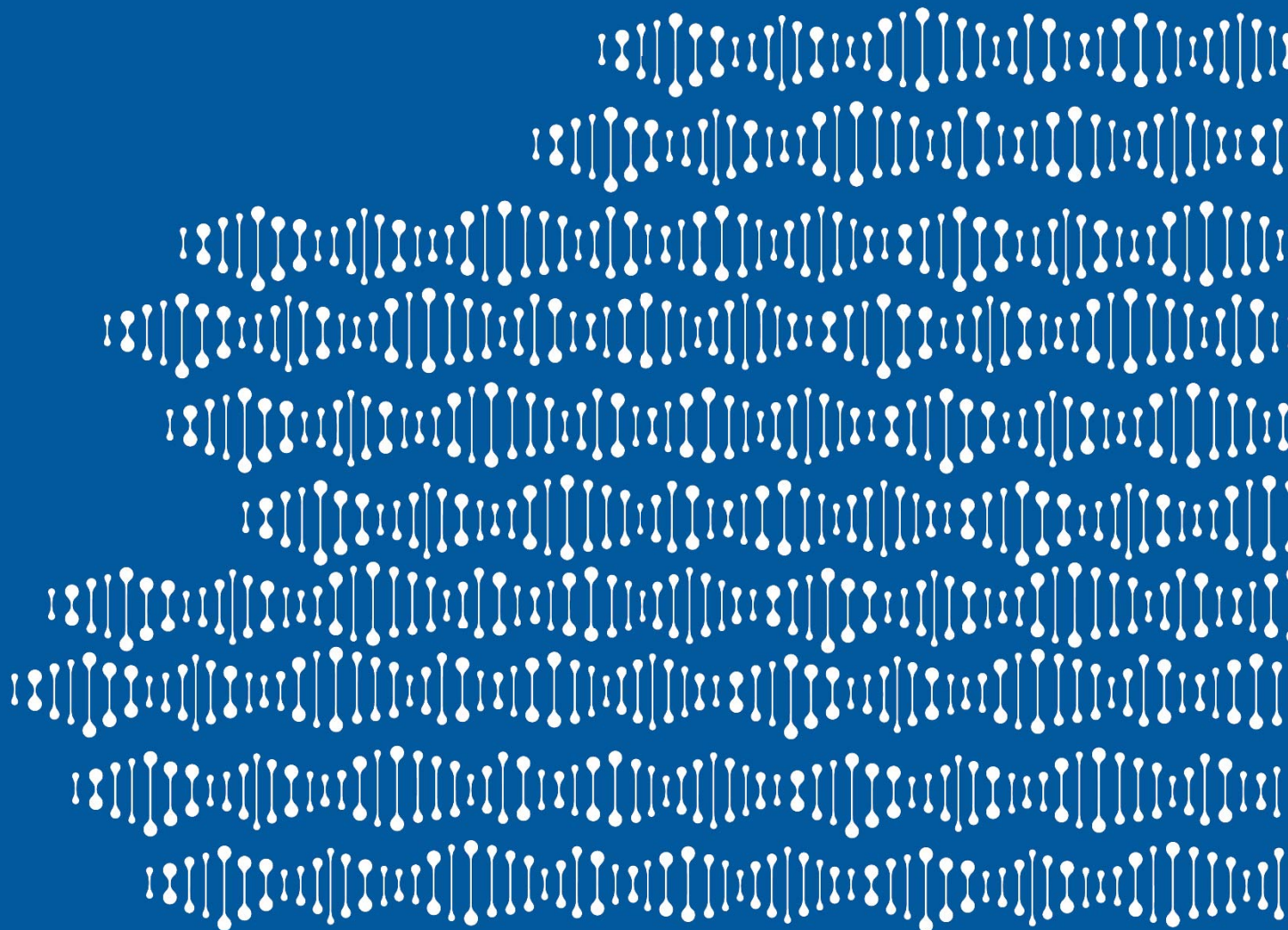




CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Proposed Grant Awards

November 16, 2022





CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
FROM: MICHELLE LE BEAU, PH.D., CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER
SUBJECT: ACADEMIC RESEARCH RECRUITMENT AWARD
RECOMMENDATIONS FY2023, CYCLE 23.1
DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2022

The Scientific Review Council (SRC) and Program Integration Committee (PIC) recommendations for FY2023 recruitment cycle 23.1 includes **two awards** from one grant mechanism totaling **\$11,999,198** as displayed in Table 1.

Table 1:

Grant Mechanism	SRC Recommendations	
	Awards	Funding
Recruitment of Established Investigators	2	\$11,999,198
Total	2	\$11,999,198

Program Priorities Addressed:

The applications proposed to the Program Integration Committee for funding address the following Academic Research Program Priorities: recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas and childhood and drug discovery, as shown in Table 2 and Attachment 1.

Table 2

Program Priorities Addressed by Grant Recommendations		
# Awards*	Program Priorities	Funding*
2	Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas	\$11,999,198
2	Drug Discovery	\$11,999,198
*Some grant awards address more than one program priority and are double counted.		

1. RECRUITMENT OF ESTABLISHED INVESTIGATORS SLATE FY23.1

Peer Review Recommendations

The applications were evaluated and scored by the Scientific Review Council (SRC) to determine the candidates' potential to make a significant contribution to the cancer research program of the nominating institution. Review criteria focused on the overall impression of the candidate and his/her potential for continued superb performance as a cancer researcher, scientific merit of the proposed research program, his/her long-term contribution to and impact on the field of cancer research, and strength of the institutional commitment to the candidate.

Purpose of Recruitment of Established Investigators Awards: The aim is to recruit outstanding senior research faculty with distinguished professional careers and established cancer research programs to academic institutions in Texas.

Funding levels for Recruitment of Established Investigators Awards:

Up to \$6 million over a period of 5 years.

Below is a listing of the candidates with their associated expertise:

RR230005

Candidate: Rugang Zhang, Ph.D.

Funding Mechanism: Recruitment of Established Investigator

Applicant Organization: The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center

Original Organization of Nominee: Wistar Cancer Institute

Overall Evaluation Score [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]: 2.0

Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration: \$6,000,000

CPRIT Priorities Addressed: Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas; Drug Discovery

Description:

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center has nominated Rugang Zhang, PhD for a CPRIT Recruitment of Established Investigators Award, and appointment as a professor and chair of the Department of Experimental Therapeutics. Dr. Zhang is currently the Christopher M. Davis Endowed Chair Professor and Deputy Director of the Wistar Cancer Institute, an NCI-designated Cancer Center, and is internationally recognized for his discoveries related to the molecular mechanisms leading to ovarian cancer and the development of novel therapeutic agents for this disease. The past decade has brought unprecedented progress in understanding the genetics of ovarian cancer, including the importance of epigenetic regulators, but cures remain elusive due to insufficient insights into mechanisms that can be leveraged to develop new therapies. Dr. Zhang's past programmatic contributions have created new concepts on the impact of epigenetics in the disease and the therapeutic strategies developed by his laboratory are now entering clinical testing as potential practice-changing treatments. However, the full potential of targeting epigenetic dysregulation in ovarian cancer remains to be realized. Dr. Zhang's overarching goal is to leverage epigenetic mechanisms to address unmet clinical needs

in ovarian cancer. His objectives are 1) to develop new therapeutic strategies for rare subtypes of ovarian cancer based on genetic mutations in the epigenetic regulators - ARID1A and PPP2R1A; and 2) to leverage epigenetic alterations associated with the tumor microenvironment to develop novel therapeutic strategies. His integrated research holds promise to change the standard of care for patients with ovarian and other cancers driven by epigenetic dysregulation that are areas of unmet clinical need.

RR230010**Candidate:** Keith Chan, Ph.D.**Funding Mechanism:** Recruitment of Established Investigator**Applicant Organization:** The Methodist Hospital Research Institute**Original Organization of Nominee:** Cedars Sinai Medical Center**Overall Evaluation Score** [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]: 2.3**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$5,999,198**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas; Drug Discovery**Description:**

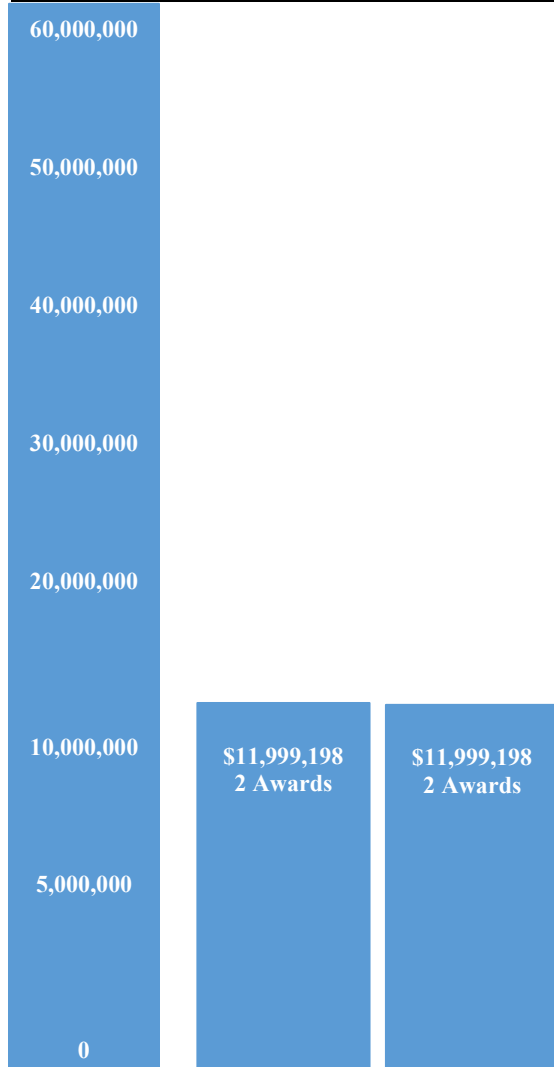
Dr. Keith Chan has been nominated by the Houston Methodist Research Institute (HM) for a CPRIT Recruitment of Established Investigators Award, and appointment as a professor and Director of Translational Research in the Department of Urology. Dr. Chan is an internationally recognized genitourinary cancer translational scientist at Cedars Sinai Medical Center who has made key advances in defining markers to characterize bladder cancer stem cells and translating them into prognostic tools, investigating how cell death and the factors secreted during that process modulate cancer biology, and understanding how extracellular matrix components influence the tumor and metastasis microenvironments. The emphasis of Dr. Chan's research at HM will be to integrate basic/translational research efforts in the Department of Urology and Neal Cancer Center to expedite the development and conduct of innovative early phase clinical trials to benefit cancer patients and to build the research prowess in GU Oncology. The specific objectives are 1) to leverage HM's clinical infrastructure to translate discoveries into therapeutics, e.g., planning and initiating a proof-of-concept Phase 1 clinical trial of iDAMP blockade as an innovative approach to enhance chemoimmunotherapy response in bladder cancer patients, and establishing a Center for Tumor Microenvironment Spatial Profiling in GU Oncology; 2) to translate discovery and validation of drugs that induce immunogenic cell death into commercialization; and 3) to enhance Texas' research capacity by leveraging his successful record in mentoring trainees into independence.

Attachment #1

***Academic Research Program Priorities Addressed by Recommended Awards**

(*Some grant awards address more than one program priority and are double counted.)

Scale	Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas	Drug Discovery	Access to innovative clinical trials	Childhood and Adolescent Cancers	Population Disparities	Computational biology and analytic methods	Hepatocellular Cancer
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Attachment #2
RFA Descriptions



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

- **Recruitment of Established Investigators (RFA R-23-1 REI):**
Recruits outstanding senior research faculty with distinguished professional careers and established cancer research programs to academic institutions in Texas.
Award: Up to \$6 million over a period of five years.



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

November 4, 2022

Dear Oversight Committee Members:

I am pleased to present the Program Integration Committee's (PIC) unanimous recommendations for funding two grant applications totaling \$11,999,198. The PIC recommendations for two academic research grant awards are attached.

Dr. Michelle Le Beau, 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 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 16, 2022. 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 GRANT AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The PIC unanimously recommends approval of two academic research grant proposals totaling \$11,999,198. The recommended grant proposals were submitted in response to *the Recruitment of Established Investigators* request for applications. The Scientific Review Council (SRC) provided the prioritized list of recommendations for the awards to the presiding officers on October 28. The PIC approved the award recommendations as presented by the SRC.

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 fund manel science in Cancer Research
- Ensure a comprehensive coordinated approach to Cancer Research and Cancer Prevention;
- Address federal or other major research sponsors’ priorities in emerging scientific or Technology fields in the area of Cancer Prevention, or cures for cancer;
- 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 be attracting from outside this state additional researchers and resources; and
- Address the goals of the Texas Cancer Plan.

Academic Research Recruitment Grant Award Recommendations <i>Recruitment of Established Investigators</i>					
Rank	Application ID	Candidate	Nominating Institution	Budget	Final Overall Score
1	RR230005	Rugang Zhang, Ph.D.	The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$6,000,000	2.0
2	RR230010	Keith Syson Chan, Ph.D.	The Methodist Hospital Research Institute	\$5,999,198	2.3



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: VINCE BURGESS, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER
SUBJECT: COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION – NOVEMBER 2022 AWARDS
DATE: NOVEMBER 3, 2022

Summary and Recommendation:

As CPRIT’s Chief Compliance Officer, I am responsible for reporting to the Oversight Committee regarding the agency’s compliance with applicable statutory and administrative rule requirements during the grant review process. I have reviewed the compliance pedigrees for the grant applications submitted to CPRIT for the:

- Recruitment of Established Investigators

The following mechanism also received applications during this award cycle; however, did not result in recommendations to the Oversight Committee for its November 16, 2022, meeting: First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members. I have conferred with staff at CPRIT and General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT), CPRIT’s contracted third-party grants administrator, regarding the academic research awards and studied the supporting grant review documentation, including third-party observer reports for the peer review meetings. I am 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. I certify the academic research award recommendations for the Oversight Committee’s consideration.

Background:

CPRIT’s Chief Compliance Officer must report to the Oversight Committee regarding compliance with the statute and the agency’s administrative rules. Among the Chief Compliance Officer’s responsibilities is the obligation “to ensure that all grant proposals comply with this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter before the proposals are submitted to the oversight committee for approval.” Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.051(c) and (d).

CPRIT uses a compliance pedigree process to formally document compliance for the grant award process. The compliance pedigree tracks the grant application as it moves through the review process and documents compliance with applicable laws and administrative rules. A compliance pedigree is

created for each application; the information related to the procedural steps listed on the pedigree is entered and attested to by GDIT employees and CPRIT employees. CPRIT relies on GDIT to accurately record a majority of the information on the pedigree from the pre-receipt stage to final Review Council recommendation. To the greatest extent possible, information reported in the compliance pedigree is imported directly from data contained in CPRIT's Application Receipt System (CARS), the grant application database managed by GDIT. This is done to minimize the opportunity for error caused by manual data entry.

No Prohibited Donations:

Although CPRIT is statutorily authorized to accept gifts and grants pursuant to Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.054, the statute prohibits CPRIT from awarding a grant to an applicant who has made a gift or grant to CPRIT or a nonprofit organization established to provide support to CPRIT. I note that Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.251(a)(3) specifically addresses "donors from any nonprofit organization established to provide support to the institute compiled from information made available under § 102.262(c)." To the best of my knowledge, there are no nonprofit organizations that have been established to provide support to CPRIT on or after June 14, 2013, the effective date of this statutory change. The only nonprofit organization established to provide support to the Institute was the CPRIT Foundation; however, the CPRIT Foundation ceased operations and changed its name and its purpose prior to June 14, 2013. The institute has received no donations from the CPRIT Foundation made on or after June 14, 2013.

I have reviewed the list of donors to CPRIT maintained by CPRIT (and listed on CPRIT's website) and compared the donors to the list of applicants. No donors to CPRIT have submitted applications for grant awards during the award cycles that are the subject of this report.

Pre-Receipt Compliance:

The activities listed on a compliance pedigree in the pre-receipt stage cover the period beginning with CPRIT's approval and issuance of the Request for Applications (RFA) through the submission of grant applications. For the period covering these RFAs, CPRIT published the RFAs on the Texas.gov eGrants website. The RFA specifies a deadline and mandates that only those applications submitted electronically through CPRIT's Application Receipt System (CARS) are eligible for consideration. CARS blocks an application from being submitted once the deadline passes. Occasionally, an applicant may have technical difficulties that prevent the applicant from completing the application submission. When this occurs, the applicant may appeal to CPRIT (through the CPRIT Helpdesk that is managed by GDIT) to allow for a submission after the deadline. The program officer considers any requests for extension and may approve an extension for good cause. When a late filing request is approved, the applicant is notified and CARS is reopened for a brief period – usually two to three hours – the next business day.

Academic Research:

For recruitment cycle 23.1, four applications were received for the Recruitment of Established Investigators RFA and one application was received in response to the Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty members RFA.

All Academic Research RFAs were posted on the Texas.gov eGrants website and all applications were submitted through CARS.

Receipt, Referral, and Assignment Compliance:

Once applications have been submitted through CARS, GDIT staff reviews the applications for compliance with RFA directions. If an applicant does not comply with the directions, GDIT notifies the program officer and the program officer makes the final decision whether to administratively withdraw the application. Recruitment grant applications and the Dissemination of CPRIT-funded Cancer Control Intervention grant applications are assigned to their respective review council members for review. All other academic research, product development research, and prevention applications are assigned by the peer review panel chair to their respective peer review panels. Prior to distribution of the applications, reviewers are given summary information about the applicant, including the Project Director and collaborators. Reviewers must sign a conflict of interest agreement and confirm that they do not have a conflict of interest with the application before they are provided with the full application.

The pedigrees attest that a conflict of interest statement was signed by each primary reviewer for each grant application.

Peer Review:

Primary reviewers (typically three) must submit written critiques for each of their assigned applications prior to the peer review meeting. After the peer review meetings, a final score report from the review committee is delivered to the Review Council for additional review. Following the peer review meeting, each participating peer reviewer must sign a post-review peer review statement certifying that the reviewer knew of and understood CPRIT's conflict of interest policy and followed the policy for this review process.

Academic Research:

For the Recruitment Awards, the applications are reviewed by the Scientific Review Council (SRC), which assigns two members of the SRC to be primary reviewers. I reviewed the supporting documentation, such as the sign-out sheets, third-party observer reports, and post-review peer reviewer statements. Sign out sheets are used to document when a reviewer with a conflict of interest associated with a particular application leaves the room (or disengages from the conference

call) during the discussion and scoring of the application. For recruitment cycle 23.1, no conflicts of interest were declared.

I reviewed and confirmed that the post review conflict of interest statements were signed by the seven reviewers that attended the Recruitment Review Panel meeting on September 15, 2022.

Programmatic Review:

Programmatic review is conducted by the Scientific Review Council, Prevention Review Council, and Product Development Review Council for their respective awards. Each review council creates a final list of grant applications it will recommend to the PIC for grant award slates.

Academic Research:

I reviewed the third-party observer report for the Review Council meeting on September 15, 2022. The third-party observer report documents that the Review Council discussions were limited to the merits of the applications and established evaluation criteria and that conflicted reviewers, if applicable, exited the room or the conference call when the application was discussed.

I reviewed and confirmed that the Review Council recommendations corresponded to RFAs that had been released. I also confirmed that the pedigrees reflect the date of the Review Council meeting and that the applications were recommended by the Review Council.

Because recruitment applications are assigned to the SRC, programmatic and peer review occur simultaneously when applications are reviewed by the SRC.

Program Integration Committee (PIC) Review:

Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.051(d) requires the Chief Compliance Officer to attend and observe the PIC meetings to ensure compliance with CPRIT's statute and administrative rules. CPRIT's statute requires that, at the time the PIC's final Grant Award recommendations are formally submitted to the Oversight Committee, the Chief Executive Officer shall prepare a written affidavit for each Grant Application recommended by the PIC containing relevant information related to the Grant Application recommendations.

I attended the November 2, 2022, PIC meeting held via videoconferencing as an observer and confirm that the PIC review process complied with CPRIT's statute and administrative rules.

The PIC considered two recruitment applications. Both applications were recommended by the PIC to move forward to the Oversight Committee.

A review of the CEO affidavits confirms that such affidavits were executed and provided for each Grant Application recommendation.



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO Affidavit Supporting Information

FY 2023—Cycle 1
Recruitment of Established Investigators

Request for Applications



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
RFA R-23.1-REI

Recruitment of Established Investigators

Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document, which will be posted on June 21, 2022

Applications for this award mechanism are subject to institutional limits and newly established application cycles. Applicants are advised to consult with their institution's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (or equivalent).

Application Receipt Dates:

June 21, 2022-June 20, 2023

FY 2023

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. ABOUT CPRIT	4
1.1. ACADEMIC RESEARCH PROGRAM PRIORITIES	4
2. RATIONALE	5
3. RECRUITMENT OBJECTIVES	5
4. INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT	7
5. FUNDING INFORMATION	7
6. ELIGIBILITY	8
7. RESUBMISSION POLICY	10
8. RESPONDING TO THIS RFA	11
8.1. APPLICATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES	11
8.2. APPLICATION COMPONENTS	12
8.2.1. <i>Summary of Nomination (2,500 characters)</i>	12
8.2.2. <i>Institutional Commitment (3 pages)</i>	12
8.2.3. <i>Letter of Support from Department Chair (up to 2 pages)</i>	14
8.2.4. <i>Curriculum Vitae (CV)</i>	15
8.2.5. <i>Summary of Goals and Objectives (2,000 characters)</i>	15
8.2.6. <i>Research (4 pages)</i>	15
8.2.7. <i>Publications/References (1 Page)</i>	16
8.2.8. <i>Research Collaboration/Synergy Plan (2 pages)</i>	16
8.2.9. <i>Publications</i>	16
8.2.10. <i>Timeline (1 page)</i>	16
8.2.11. <i>Current and Pending Support</i>	16
8.2.12. <i>Research Environment (1 page)</i>	17
8.2.13. <i>Descriptive Biography (Up to 2 pages)</i>	17
9. APPLICATION REVIEW	17
9.1. REVIEW PROCESS.....	17
9.1.1. <i>Confidentiality of Review</i>	18
9.2. REVIEW CRITERIA	19
10. KEY DATES	20
11. AWARD ADMINISTRATION	20
12. REQUIREMENT TO DEMONSTRATE AVAILABLE FUNDS	22
13. CONTACT INFORMATION	22
13.1. HELPDESK.....	22
13.2. SCIENTIFIC AND PROGRAMMATIC QUESTIONS	22

RFA VERSION HISTORY

6/21/22 RFA release

1. ABOUT CPRIT

The State of Texas has established the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), which may issue up to \$6 billion in general obligation bonds to fund grants for cancer research and prevention.

CPRIT is charged by the Texas Legislature to do the following:

- Create and expedite innovation in the area of cancer research and in enhancing the potential for a medical or scientific breakthrough in the prevention of or cures for cancer
- Attract, create, or expand research capabilities of public or private institutions of higher education and other public or private entities that will promote a substantial increase in cancer research and in the creation of high-quality new jobs in the State of Texas
- Develop and implement the Texas Cancer Plan

1.1. Academic Research Program Priorities

The Texas Legislature has charged the CPRIT Oversight Committee with establishing program priorities on an annual basis. These priorities are intended to provide transparency with regard to how the Oversight Committee directs the orientation of the agency's funding portfolio.

Established Principles:

- Scientific excellence and impact on cancer
- Increasing the life sciences infrastructure
- Achieving health equity and reducing cancer disparities

Priorities Across CPRIT's 3 Programs:

- Prevention and early detection initiatives
- Translation of Texas research (discoveries) to innovations
- Enhancing Texas' research capacity and life science infrastructure

The program priorities for academic research adopted by the Oversight Committee include funding projects that address the following:

- Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas
- Investment in core facilities
- A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects

- Implementation research to accelerate the adoption and deployment of evidence-based prevention and screening interventions and population research addressing cancer disparities
- Computational oncology and analytic methods
- Childhood and adolescent cancers
- Hepatocellular cancer
- Expanding access to innovative clinical trials

2. RATIONALE

The aim of this award mechanism is to bolster cancer research in Texas by providing financial support to attract world-class research scientists with distinguished professional careers to Texas universities and cancer research institutes to establish research programs that add research talent to the state. This award will support established academic leaders whose body of work has made an outstanding contribution to cancer research. Awards are intended to provide institutions with a competitive edge in recruiting the world's best talent in cancer research, thereby advancing cancer research and prevention efforts and promoting economic development in the State of Texas.

The recruitment of outstanding scientists will greatly enhance programs of scientific excellence in cancer research and will position Texas as a leader in the fight against cancer. Applications may address any research topic related to cancer biology, causation, prevention, detection or screening, treatment, or survivorship. Candidates with research programs addressing CPRIT's priority areas for research are encouraged. These areas include implementation research to accelerate the adoption and deployment of evidence-based prevention and screening interventions, population research addressing cancer disparities, computational oncology and analytic methods, childhood and adolescent cancers, hepatocellular cancer, and expansion of access to innovative clinical trials.

3. RECRUITMENT OBJECTIVES

The goal of this award mechanism is to recruit exceptional faculty to universities and/or cancer research institutions in the State of Texas. This award honors outstanding senior investigators with proven track records of research accomplishments combined with excellence in leadership

and teaching. All candidates should be recognized research or clinical investigators, held in the highest esteem by professional colleagues nationally and internationally, whose contributions have had a significant influence on their discipline and, likely, beyond. They must have clearly established themselves as exemplary faculty members with exceptional accomplishments in teaching and advising and/or basic, translational, population-based, or clinical cancer research activities. It is expected that the candidate will contribute significantly to and have a major impact on the institution's overall cancer research initiative. Candidates will be leaders capable of initiating and developing creative ideas leading to novel solutions related to cancer prevention and control, detection, diagnosis, and/or treatment. They are also expected to maintain and lead a strong research group and have a stellar, high-impact publication portfolio, as well as continue to secure external funding. Furthermore, recipients will lead and inspire undergraduate and graduate students interested in pursuing research careers and will engage in collegial and collaborative relationships with others within and beyond their traditional discipline in an effort to expand the boundaries of cancer research.

Funding will be given for exceptional candidates who will continue to develop new research methods and techniques in the life, population-based, physical, engineering, or computational sciences and apply them to solving outstanding problems in cancer research that have been inadequately addressed or for which there may be an absence of an established paradigm or technical framework.

Ideal candidates will have specific expertise in cancer-related areas needed to address an institutional priority. Candidates should be at the career level of a full professor or equivalent. This funding mechanism considers expertise, accomplishments, and breadth of experience as vital metrics for guiding CPRIT's investment in that person's originality, insight, and potential for continued contribution. Relevance to cancer research and to CPRIT's priority areas are important evaluation criteria for CPRIT funding.

Applications nominating individuals who carry out patient-oriented research and who have demonstrated exceptional ability to lead innovative discovery campaigns through conduct of clinical trials are appropriate for this mechanism and encouraged.

Additionally, population research that addresses the burden of cancer in Texas is a priority for CPRIT. Applications nominating individuals who have demonstrated exceptional ability to lead

innovative research programs involving any component across the continuum of cancer prevention and control research are appropriate for this mechanism and are highly encouraged.

Unless prohibited by policy, the institution is also expected to bestow on the newly recruited faculty member the prestigious title of “CPRIT Scholar in Cancer Research,” and the faculty member should be strongly encouraged to use this title on letterhead, business cards, publications, and other appropriate documents. The title is to be retained as long as the individual remains in Texas.

4. INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT

CPRIT recruitment awards are intended to provide institutions with a competitive edge in recruiting the world’s best talent in cancer research to Texas. The funds provided by CPRIT for the recruitment of an Established Investigator must be complemented by a strong financial institutional commitment to the recruitment. The institutional commitment should be clearly documented in the application (see [section 8.2.2](#)) and include the amount and sources of salary support and all additional financial support that will be available to the candidate’s research program through the course of the CPRIT award. The financial commitments made to the candidate by the recruiting institution are required to be equal to or exceed 50% of the proposed CPRIT award across the course of the CPRIT award.

5. FUNDING INFORMATION

This award is up to 5 years and is not renewable. Grant support will be awarded based upon the breadth and nature of the research program proposed. Grant funds of up to \$6,000,000 (total costs) for the 5-year period may be requested. Applicants are encouraged to tailor the budget as appropriate to the exigencies of the project; grant funds totaling less than \$6,000,000 for the term of the award are acceptable if warranted by the scope of the research. Exceptions exceeding this limit will be entertained only if there is compelling written justification. The award request may include indirect costs of up to 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs). CPRIT will make every effort to be flexible in the timing for disbursement of funds; recipients will be asked at the beginning of each year for an estimate of their needs for the year. Funds may not be carried over beyond 5 years except under extraordinary circumstances with strong justification for a no-cost extension. In addition, funds for extraordinary equipment needs may be awarded in

the first year of the grant if very well justified and a detailed justification is provided along with an institutional plan should the additional funds not be approved. Scholars may request funds for travel for 2 project staff to attend CPRIT's conference.

Funds from this award mechanism may be used for salary support of this candidate but may not be used to construct or renovate laboratory space.

Note that the annual salary (also referred to as direct salary or institutional base salary) that an individual may be reimbursed from a CPRIT award for FY 2023 is limited to a maximum of \$200,000. In other words, an individual may request salary proportional to the percent of effort up to a maximum of \$200,000. Salary does not include fringe benefits and/or facilities and administrative costs, also referred to as indirect costs. An individual's institutional base salary is the annual compensation that the applicant organization pays for an individual's appointment, whether that individual's time is spent on research, teaching, patient care, or other activities. Base salary excludes any income that an individual may be permitted to earn outside of his or her duties to the applicant organization.

Note: Depending on the availability of funds, review cycles may be reduced, and/or the number of applications per institution may be capped, and nominations submitted in response to this Request for Applications (RFA) during the current receipt period may be announced and awarded either in the current fiscal year (prior to August 31, 2023) or in the first quarter of the next fiscal year (starting September 1, 2023).

6. ELIGIBILITY

- The applicant must be a Texas-based entity. Any not-for-profit institution that conducts research is eligible to apply for funding under this award mechanism. A public or private company is not eligible for funding under this award mechanism.
- Candidates must be nominated by the president, provost, vice president for research, or appropriate dean of a Texas-based public or private institution of higher education, including academic health institutions. The application must be submitted on behalf of a specific candidate.

- A candidate may be nominated by only 1 institution. If more than 1 institution is interested in a given candidate, negotiations as to which institution will nominate him or her must be concluded before the nomination is made.
- An institution is allowed to submit **only 6** Recruitment applications (either a Recruitment of Established Investigator, or a Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member) **during the FY23 application receipt period**. An exception will be made for **up to 3** additional submissions of a Recruitment of Established Investigator application, if the application involves a meaningful collaboration with a Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer eligible institution (see eligible Universities in IFA). Applications that exceed these limits will be returned. Institutions may use their own discretion as to the timing of submission of applications in FY23, with the understanding that the limit of 6 applications per FY23 receipt period will be strictly upheld (with the exception noted above).
- A candidate who has already accepted a position at the recruiting institution prior to the time that the Scientific Review Council reviews the candidate for a recruitment award is not eligible for a recruitment award, as an investment by CPRIT is obviously not necessary. No award is final until approved by the Oversight Committee at a public meeting. However, in recognition of the timeline involved with recruiting highly sought-after candidates who are often considering multiple offers, CPRIT's Academic Research program staff will notify the nominating institution of the Scientific Review Council's review decision following the Review Council meeting. If a position is offered to the candidate during the period following the Scientific Review Council's review decision but prior to the Oversight Committee's final approval, the institution does so at its own risk. There is no guarantee that the recruitment award will be approved by the Oversight Committee.
- The candidate must have a doctoral degree, including MD, PhD, DDS, DMD, DrPH, DO, DVM, or equivalent, **and reside in Texas for the duration of the appointment**. The candidate must devote at least 70% time to research activities. Candidates whose major responsibilities are clinical care, teaching, or administration are not eligible.
- At the time of the application, the candidate should hold an appointment at the rank of professor (or equivalent) at an accredited academic institution, research institution,

industry, government agency, or private foundation. The candidate must not reside in Texas at the time the application is submitted.

- An applicant is eligible to receive a grant award only if the applicant certifies that the applicant institution or organization, including the nominator, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's institution or organization (or any person related to 1 or more of these individuals within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity), has not made and will not make a contribution to CPRIT or to any foundation specifically created to benefit CPRIT.
- An applicant is not eligible to receive a CPRIT grant award if the applicant nominator, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's institution or organization is related to a CPRIT Oversight Committee member.
- The applicant must report whether the applicant institution or organization, the nominator, or other individuals who contribute to the execution of the proposed project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not the individuals will receive salary or compensation under the grant award, are currently ineligible to receive federal grant funds or have had a grant terminated for cause within 5 years prior to the submission date of the grant application.

CPRIT grants will be awarded by contract to successful applicants. Certain contractual requirements are mandated by Texas law or by administrative rules. Although applicants need not demonstrate the ability to comply with these contractual requirements at the time the application is submitted, applicants should make themselves aware of these standards before submitting a grant application. Significant issues addressed by the CPRIT contract are listed in [section 11](#) and [section 12](#). All statutory provisions and relevant administrative rules can be found at www.cprit.texas.gov.

7. RESUBMISSION POLICY

Resubmissions will not be accepted for the Recruitment of Established Investigators award mechanism. Any nomination for the Recruitment of Established Investigators that was previously submitted to CPRIT and reviewed but was not recommended for funding may not be

resubmitted. A nomination for the Recruitment of Established Investigators that was previously submitted to CPRIT for any of the recruitment RFA mechanisms and reviewed and recommended for funding but declined by the candidate may be submitted in response to this RFA if the candidate meets the eligibility criteria described in [section 6](#), and the application is not in the same fiscal year as the previous application. If a nomination was administratively rejected prior to review, it can be resubmitted in the following cycles. Applications being resubmitted according to the criteria permitted by this section should be submitted as a new application (refer to the *Instructions for Applicants* [IFA] document for more details).

8. RESPONDING TO THIS RFA

8.1. Application Submission Guidelines

Applications must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). **Only applications submitted through this portal will be considered eligible for evaluation.** The applicant is eligible solely for the grant mechanism specified by the RFA under which the grant application is submitted. Candidates must be nominated by the institution’s president, provost, vice president for research, or appropriate dean. The individual submitting the application (Nominator) must create a user account in the system (which includes the Nominator’s credentials and email address) to start and submit an application. Furthermore, the Application Signing Official, who is the person authorized to sign and submit the application for the organization, and the Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official, who is the individual who will manage the grant contract if an award is made, also must create a user account in CARS.

Dependent upon available funding, applications will be accepted within a 6-review-cycle schedule throughout FY23, as displayed in the table below.

Review Cycle	Open date	Close date
23.1	6/21/2022	8/20/2022
23.2	8/23/2022	10/20/2022
23.3	10/21/2022	12/20/2022
23.4	12/21/2022	2/20/2023
23.5	2/21/2023	4/20/2023
23.6	4/21/2023	6/20/2023

In order to manage the timely review of nominations, it is anticipated that applications submitted by 11:59 PM central time on the closing day of each cycle (see table above for closing date of each cycle) will be reviewed by the 15th day of the following month. For an application to be considered for review during the cycle, that application must be submitted on or before 11:59 PM central time. In the event that the closing date falls on Saturday or Sunday, applications may be submitted on or before 11:59 PM central time the following Monday. CPRIT will not extend the submission deadline. **Submission of an application is considered an acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFA.**

8.2. Application Components

Applicants are advised to follow all instructions to ensure accurate and complete submission of all components of the application. For details, please refer to the *IFA* document that will be available when the application receipt system opens. Submissions that are missing 1 or more components or do not meet the eligibility requirements listed in [section 6](#) will be administratively withdrawn without review.

8.2.1. Summary of Nomination (2,500 characters)

Provide a brief summary of the nomination. Include the candidate's name, organization from which the candidate is being recruited, and also the department and/or entity within the nominator's organization where the candidate will hold the faculty position.

8.2.2. Institutional Commitment (3 pages)

CPRIT recruitment awards are intended to provide institutions with a competitive edge in recruiting the world's best talent in cancer research to Texas. The funds provided by CPRIT for the recruitment of an Established Investigator Faculty should be complemented by a strongly documented institutional commitment to the recruitment. The financial commitments made to the candidate by the recruiting institution are required to be equal to or exceed 50% of the proposed CPRIT award across the course of the CPRIT award.

The following guidelines should be followed when documenting the institutional commitment to the candidate:

- The institutional commitment should be clearly documented in the form of a letter signed by the applicant institution's president, provost, or appropriate dean and include the

amount and sources of salary support and all additional financial support that will be available to the candidate's research program through the course of the CPRIT award. The financial commitments made to the candidate by the recruiting institution are required to be equal to or exceed 50% of the proposed CPRIT award across the course of the CPRIT award.

- The institutional commitment letter must include the following statement regarding the institution's financial commitment required to meet the 50% match.
 - This institutional financial commitment will not be offset by funds from an investigator-initiated award received by the candidate. If an award dictates that such funds must be used for salary, the corresponding amount of institutional funds committed to pay the candidate's salary will be redirected to allow the candidate to use them for program support.
- Institutional commitment as described above must be presented in a table (example below), that clearly identifies the salary amount, sources of salary, and any additional research support from institutional sources over the course of the CPRIT award. Sources of support for the candidate's full salary, including summer salary, for the duration of the award must be documented. If the candidate is expected to provide salary support from grants during the award period, the institutional commitment must identify the source for salary support in the event grant support is not available. Note that a federal indirect cost rate credit cannot be used to demonstrate an institutional commitment to the candidate.
- Include a brief job description for the candidate should recruitment be successful.
- Describe the institutional environment and any professional commitments to the candidate including, but not limited to, dedicated personnel, access to students, space assignment, and access to shared equipment, and discuss all other agreements between the institution and the candidate.
- Institutions may provide additional information in support of a candidate's research plan to demonstrate how the institutional commitment, through development of strategic collaborations, will foster a candidate's cancer research. This additional information is highly encouraged when proposing a candidate with exceptional expertise and/or talent that can be directed to cancer research such as a computational biologist, chemist, etc, whose prior experience has not been directly focused on cancer research.

- Note that Texas law allows an institution of higher learning to use its federal indirect cost rate credit to comply with the requirement to demonstrate that it has an amount of funds equal to one-half of the CPRIT funding dedicated to the research that is the subject of the award (see [section 12](#)). However, a federal indirect cost rate credit cannot be used to demonstrate an institutional commitment to the candidate.

Example of an acceptable Institutional Commitment table:

Candidate’s Name, Institutional Commitments					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Salary/Benefits					
Research Support					
Administrative Support					
Moving Expenses					

Total =

Note: CPRIT acknowledges that the institutional commitments by category may change during the course of the award; however, the total financial commitment to the candidate must remain equal to or greater than 50% of the CPRIT award.

8.2.3. Letter of Support from Department Chair (up to 2 pages)

Provide the letter of support from and signed by the chair of the department to which the candidate is being recruited. The following information should be included in the letter:

Recruitment Activities: CPRIT is committed to increasing the life sciences infrastructure in Texas via the recruitment of exceptional cancer researchers, as well as expanding research resources. The letter should provide a description of the recruitment activities, strategies, and priorities that have led to the nomination of this candidate. Provide the necessary context by describing the institution’s vision for the cancer programs, how the work of the nominee contributes to achieving these goals—including impact on diversity, equity, and inclusion, if applicable—and the expected impact of the recruitment on the institution (or department) and the burden of cancer in Texas (if applicable).

Caliber of Candidate: The letter should include a description of the caliber of the candidate and justification of nomination of the candidate by the institution. CPRIT recognizes that there is variability in the metrics of impact applicable across the continuum of cancer research. For

example, in some disciplines, research findings—although highly impactful on the field—are less likely to be published in the highest ranked journals, ie, *Science*, *Cell*, or *Nature* series. Thus, it is incumbent on the institution to describe the impact of a nominee’s work, including paradigm-shifting, practice-changing, or influence on public policy, population health behavior, or cancer disparities.

Description of Candidate Duties and Certification of 70% Time Commitment to Research:

While scholars may engage in direct patient care activities and/or have some administrative or teaching duties, at least 70% of the candidate’s time must be available for research. Breach of this requirement will constitute grounds for discontinuation of funding. The certification that 70% time will be spent on research must be included.

8.2.4. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Provide a complete CV and list of publications for the candidate.

8.2.5. Summary of Goals and Objectives (2,000 characters)

List goals and objectives to be achieved during this award. **This section must be completed by the candidate.**

8.2.6. Research (4 pages)

Summarize the key elements of the candidate’s research accomplishments and provide an overview of the proposed research by outlining the background and rationale, hypotheses and aims, strategies, goals, and projected impact of the focus of the research program. Highlight the innovative aspects of this effort and place it into context with regard to what pressing problem in cancer will be addressed. **This section of the application must be prepared by the candidate. References cited in this section should be listed in the Publications/References section (see 8.2.7).**

Candidates for CPRIT Scholar Awards must include the following signed statement at the end of this section. **Applications that do not contain this signed statement will be returned without review.**

“I understand that I do not need to have made a commitment to <nominating institution> before this application has been submitted. However, I also understand that only 1 Texas institution may

nominate me for a CPRIT Recruitment Award, and this is the nomination that I have endorsed. I understand that requests to change the recruiting institution during the recruitment process are not allowed after the application is submitted to CPRIT.”

8.2.7. Publications/References (1 Page)

Provide a concise and relevant list of publications/references cited for the application. Any appropriate citation format is acceptable; official journal abbreviations should be used.

8.2.8. Research Collaboration/Synergy Plan (2 pages)

Institutions may provide additional information in support of a candidate’s research plan to demonstrate how the institutional commitment through development of strategic collaborations will foster a candidate’s cancer research. This additional information is highly encouraged when proposing a candidate with exceptional expertise and/or talent that can be directed to cancer research, such as a computational biologist, chemist, etc, whose prior experience has not been directly focused on cancer research. Biographical sketches of collaborators established in the research collaborative plan must be uploaded as part of the application. This will be in addition to the 2-page synergy plan (see IFA).

8.2.9. Publications

Provide the 5 most significant publications that have resulted from the candidate’s research efforts. Publications should be uploaded as PDFs of full-text articles. Only articles that have been published or that have been accepted for publication (“in press”) should be submitted.

8.2.10. Timeline (1 page)

Provide a general outline of anticipated major award outcomes to be tracked. Timelines will be reviewed during the evaluation of annual progress reports. If the application is approved for funding, this section will be included in the award contract. Applicants are advised not to include information that they consider confidential or proprietary when preparing this section.

8.2.11. Current and Pending Support

State the funding source, duration, and title of all current and pending research support held by the candidate. If the candidate has no current or pending funding, a document stating this must be

submitted. Refer to the sample current and pending support document located in [Current Funding Opportunities](#) for Academic Research in CARS.

8.2.12. Research Environment (1 page)

Briefly describe the research environment available to support the candidate's research program, including core facilities, training programs, and collaborative opportunities.

8.2.13. Descriptive Biography (Up to 2 pages)

Provide a brief descriptive biography of the candidate, including his or her accomplishments, education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, publications relevant to cancer research, and a brief overview of the candidate's goals if selected to receive the award.

This section of the application must be prepared by the candidate. If the application is approved for funding, this section will be made publicly available on CPRIT's website.

Candidates are advised not to include information that they consider confidential or proprietary when preparing this section.

Applications that are missing 1 or more of these components; exceed the specified page, word, or budget limits; or do not meet the eligibility requirements listed above will be administratively withdrawn without review.

9. APPLICATION REVIEW

9.1. Review Process

All eligible applications will be evaluated and scored by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council using the criteria listed in this RFA. Applications may be submitted continuously in response to this RFA but will generally be reviewed on a cycle of 6 review periods per year by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council. Council members may seek additional ad hoc evaluations of candidates. Scientific Review Council members will review applications and provide an individual Overall Evaluation Score that conveys the members' recommendation related to the proposed recruitment. Applications recommended by the Council will be forwarded to the CPRIT Program Integration Committee (PIC) for review, prioritization, and recommendation to the CPRIT Oversight Committee for approval and funding. Approval is based on an application receiving a positive vote from at least two-thirds of the members of the Oversight Committee.

The review process is described more fully in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#).

The decision of the Scientific Review Council not to recommend an application is final, and such applications may not be resubmitted for a recruitment award. Notification of review decisions is sent to the nominator.

9.1.1. Confidentiality of Review

Each stage of application review is conducted confidentially, and all CPRIT Scientific Review Council members, PIC members, CPRIT employees, and Oversight Committee members with access to grant application information are required to sign nondisclosure statements regarding the contents of the applications. All technological and scientific information included in the application is protected from public disclosure pursuant to Health and Safety Code §102.262(b).

Individuals directly involved with the review process operate under strict conflict-of-interest prohibitions. All CPRIT Scientific Review Council members are non-Texas residents.

By submitting a grant application, the applicant agrees and understands that the only basis for reconsideration of a grant application is limited to an undisclosed conflict of interest as set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#).

Communication regarding the substance of a pending application is prohibited between the grant applicant (or someone on the grant applicant's behalf) and the following individuals: an Oversight Committee member, a PIC member, or a Scientific Review Council member.

Applicants should note that the CPRIT PIC comprises the CPRIT Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Scientific Officer, the Chief Prevention and Communications Officer, the Chief Product Development Officer, and the Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services. The prohibition on communication begins on the first day that grant applications for the particular grant mechanism are accepted by CPRIT and extends until the grant applicant receives notice regarding a final decision on the grant application. Intentional, serious, or frequent violations of this rule may result in the disqualification of the grant applicant from further consideration for a grant award.

9.2. Review Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on evaluation of the quality of the candidate and his or her potential for continued superb performance as a cancer researcher. **Also, of critical importance is the strength of the institutional commitment to the candidate. Recruitment efforts are not likely to be successful unless there is a strong commitment from both CPRIT and the host institution.** It is not necessary that a candidate agree to accept the recruitment offer at the time an application is submitted. However, applicant institutions should have a reasonable expectation that recruitment will be successful if an award is granted by CPRIT.

Review criteria will focus on the overall impression of the candidate, his/her proposed research program, and his/her long-term contribution to and impact on the field of cancer research.

Questions to be considered by the reviewers are as follows:

Quality of the Candidate: Has the candidate made significant, transformative, and sustained contributions to basic, translational, clinical, or population-based cancer research? Is the candidate an established and nationally and/or internationally recognized leader in the field? Has the candidate demonstrated excellence in leadership and teaching? Has the candidate provided mentorship, inspiration, and/or professional training opportunities to junior scientists and students? Does the candidate have a strong record of research funding? Does the candidate have a publication history in high-impact journals within cancer research broadly, or within their specialty field, if applicable? Does the candidate show evidence of collaborative interaction with others?

Scientific Merit of Proposed Research: Is the research plan comprehensive and well thought out? Does the proposed research program demonstrate innovation, creativity, and feasibility? Will it expand the boundaries of cancer research beyond traditional methodology by incorporating novel and interdisciplinary techniques? Does the research program integrate with and/or increase collaborative research efforts and relationships at the nominating institution?

Relevance of Candidate's Research: Is the proposed research likely to have a significant impact on reducing the burden of cancer in the near term, or address unique aspects of the burden of cancer in Texas? Does the research contribute to basic, translational, clinical, or population-based cancer research?

Research Environment: Does the institution have the necessary facilities, expertise, and resources to support the candidate’s research program? Is there evidence of strong institutional support? Will the candidate be free of major administrative/clinical responsibilities so that he or she can focus on maintaining and enhancing his or her research program?

10. KEY DATES

RFA

RFA Release June 21, 2022

Application Receipt and Review Timeline

Cycle	Application Receipt Date	Application Closing Date	Anticipated Application Review
23.1	6/21/2022	8/20/2022	9/15/2022
23.2	8/23/2022	10/20/2022	11/10/2022
23.3	10/21/2022	12/20/2022	1/12/2023
23.4	12/21/2022	2/20/2023	3/16/2023
23.5	2/21/2023	4/20/2023	5/11/2023
23.6	4/21/2023	6/20/2023	7/13/2023

11. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

Texas law requires that CPRIT grant awards be made by contract between the applicant and CPRIT. CPRIT grant awards are made to institutions or organizations, not to individuals. Awards made under this RFA are not transferable to another institution. Award contract negotiation and execution will commence once the CPRIT Oversight Committee has approved an application for a grant award. CPRIT may require, as a condition of receiving a grant award, that the grant recipient use CPRIT’s electronic Grant Management System to exchange, execute, and verify legally binding grant contract documents and grant award reports. Such use shall be in accordance with CPRIT’s electronic signature policy as set forth in [Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#).

Texas law specifies several components that must be addressed by the award contract, including needed compliance and assurance documentation, budgetary review, progress and fiscal monitoring, and terms relating to revenue sharing and intellectual property rights. These contract

provisions are specified in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, which are available at www.cprit.texas.gov.

Applicants are advised to review CPRIT's Administrative Rules related to contractual requirements associated with CPRIT grant awards and limitations related to the use of CPRIT grant awards as set forth in [Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#).

Prior to disbursement of grant award funds, the grant recipient organization must demonstrate that it has adopted and enforces a tobacco-free workplace policy consistent with the requirements set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#).

CPRIT requires award recipients to submit an annual progress report. These reports summarize the progress made toward the research goals and address plans for the upcoming year. In addition, fiscal reporting, human studies reporting, and vertebrate animal use reporting will be required as appropriate. CPRIT requires funding acknowledgement to include the award grant ID on all print and visual materials that are funded in whole or in part by CPRIT grants. Examples of print and visual materials include, but are not limited to, publications, brochures, pamphlets, project websites, videos, and media materials. Grantees must have written approval from CPRIT prior to the purchase of any equipment. If the equipment is clearly defined in the grantee's budget submitted with the initiating award requirements, then approval of the grant award constitutes "prior approval" for the purchase. Unless prohibited by policy, the institution is also expected to bestow on the newly recruited faculty member the prestigious title of "CPRIT Scholar in Cancer Research," and the faculty member should be strongly encouraged to use this title on letterhead, business cards, publications, and other appropriate documents. The title is to be retained as long as the individual remains in Texas.

Continuation of funding is contingent upon the timely receipt of these reports. Failure to provide timely and complete reports may waive reimbursement of grant award costs and may result in the termination of the award contract. Forms and instructions will be made available at www.cprit.texas.gov.

12. REQUIREMENT TO DEMONSTRATE AVAILABLE FUNDS

Texas law requires that prior to disbursement of CPRIT grant funds, the award recipient must demonstrate that it has an amount of funds equal to one-half of the CPRIT funding dedicated to the research that is the subject of the award. The demonstration of available matching funds must be made at the time the award contract is executed and annually thereafter, not when the application is submitted. Grant applicants are advised to consult CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#), for specific requirements regarding the demonstration of available funding.

13. CONTACT INFORMATION

13.1. Helpdesk

Helpdesk support is available for questions regarding user registration and online submission of applications. Queries submitted via email will be answered within 1 business day. Helpdesk staff members are not in a position to answer questions regarding scientific aspects of applications.

Hours of operation: Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM central time

Tel: 866-941-7146

Email: Help@CPRITGrants.org

13.2. Scientific and Programmatic Questions

Questions regarding the CPRIT Program, including questions regarding this or other funding opportunities, should be directed to the CPRIT Director of Academic Research.

Email: Research@cprit.texas.gov

Website: www.cprit.texas.gov

Third Party Observer Reports



Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)

23.1 Scientific Review Council Recruitment Review

(23.1 SRC REC)

Observation Report

Report No. 2022-09-15 23.1_SRC_REC
Program Name: Academic Research
Panel Name: 23.1 Scientific Review Council Recruitment Review (23.1_SRC_REC)
Panel Date: September 15, 2022
Report Date: September 19, 2022

BACKGROUND

As part of CPRIT's ongoing emphasis on continuous improvement in its grants review/management processes and to ensure panel discussions are limited to the merits of the applications and focused on established evaluation criteria, CPRIT continues to engage a third-party independent observer at all in-person and telephone conference peer review meetings. CPRIT has authorized an independent party to function as a neutral third-party observer and has engaged Business and Financial Management Solutions, LLC (BFS) for that purpose.

INTRODUCTION

The subject of this report is the 23.1 Scientific Review Council Recruitment Review (23.1_SRC_REC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Richard Kolodner and conducted via videoconference on September 15, 2022.

PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

The third-party observation engagement was limited to observation of the following objectives:

- CPRIT's established procedure for panelists who have declared a conflict of interest is followed during the meeting (e.g., reviewers hang up from the teleconference or leave the room when an application with which there is a conflict is discussed);
- CPRIT program staff participation at meetings is limited to offering general points of information;

- CPRIT program staff do not engage in the panel's discussion on the merits of applications; and
- The panel focused on the established scoring criteria and/or making recommendations.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS

Two (2) BFS independent observers participated in observing the meeting. GDIT, CPRIT's contracted third-party grant application administrator, facilitated the meeting.

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Five (5) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, Six (6) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Two (2)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Two (2)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

There were no (0) Conflicts of Interest (COIs) identified prior to and/or during the meeting.

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT on request to aid in the observation of the COI procedures and objectives. A completed attendance sheet and sign-in log was provided following the meeting to confirm all attendees and COIs.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we observed that the activities of the meeting identified herein were limited to the identified objectives noted earlier in this report. Our observations are limited to the information made available.

BFS's third-party observation services did not include an evaluation of the appropriateness or rigor of the review panel's discussions of scientific, technical, or programmatic aspects of the applications. We were not engaged to perform an audit, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion on the accuracy of voting and scoring. Accordingly, we will not express such an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures; other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of CPRIT, its management and its Oversight Committee members. This report is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Mara Ash', written over the text 'With best regards,'.

Mara Ash, CIA, CGAP, CGFM, CMRA, CICA
Senior Partner
Business & Financial Management Solutions, LLC

cc: Vince Burgess, Chief Compliance Officer
Cameron Eckel, Attorney

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

CPRIT Academic Research Recruitment Cycle 23.1

Awards Announced at the November 16, 2022, Oversight Committee Meeting

The table below lists the conflicts of interest (COIs) identified by peer reviewers, Program Integration Committee (PIC) members, and Oversight Committee members on an application-by-application basis. Applications reviewed in Academic Research Recruitment Cycle 23.1 include: *Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members*; and *Recruitment of Established Investigators*.

All applications with at least one identified COI are listed below; applications with no COIs are not included. It should be noted that an individual is asked to identify COIs for only those applications that are to be considered by the individual at that particular stage in the review process. For example, Oversight Committee members identify COIs, if any, with only those applications that have been recommended for the grant awards by the PIC.

COI information used for this table was collected by General Dynamics Information Technology, CPRIT's third party grant administrator, and by CPRIT.

Application ID	Principal Investigator	Organization	Conflict Noted by Reviewer
Applications considered by the PIC and Oversight Committee:			
No reported COIs.			
Applications not considered by the PIC or Oversight Committee:			
No reported COIs.			

De-Identified Overall Evaluation Scores

Recruitment of Established Investigators

Academic Research Recruitment Cycle 23.1

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
RR230005*	2.0
RR230010*	2.3
a	2.5
b	2.7

* Recommended for funding

Final Overall Evaluation Scores and Rank Order Scores

Ludwig Institute for
Cancer Research Ltd

Richard D. Kolodner
Ph.D.

Head, Laboratory of
Cancer Genetics
San Diego Branch

Distinguished Professor of
Cellular & Molecular
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La Jolla, CA 92093-0660

T 858 534 7804
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October 27, 2022

Dr. Mahendra C. Patel
Oversight Committee Presiding Officer
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Via email to curingkids@gmail.com

Mr. Wayne R. Roberts
Chief Executive Officer
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Via email to wroberts@cpriti.texas.gov

Dear Dr. Patel and Mr. Roberts,

The Scientific Review Council (SRC) is pleased to submit this list of recruitment grant recommendations. The SRC met on September 15, 2022 to review and finalize the (REC Cycle 23.1) applications submitted to CPRIT under the Recruitment of Established Investigator and Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members RFA mechanisms.

The SRC recommends two applications, which are included on the attached list. The recommended funding amounts and the overall evaluation scores are stated for the grant applications. There were no recommended changes to funding amounts, goals, timelines, or project objectives requested. The total amount for the applications recommended is \$11,999,198.

The recommendation meets the SRC's standards for funding. These include selecting candidates at all career levels that have demonstrated academic excellence, innovation, excellent training, commitment to cancer research and exceptional potential for achieving future impact in basic, translational, population based or clinical research.

Sincerely yours,



Richard D. Kolodner, Ph.D.
Chair, CPRIT Scientific Review Council

Rank	App. ID	Mechanism	Candidate	Organization	Budget	Overall Scores
1	RR230005	REI	Rugang Zhang, Ph.D.	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$6,000,000	2.0
2	RR230010	REI	Keith Chan, Ph.D	The Methodist Hospital Research Institute	\$5,999,198	2.3

REI = Recruitmen of Established Investigators



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application RR230005
Recruitment of Established Investigators
Nomination of Rugang Zhang, Ph.D.

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Wayne R. Roberts, who swore or affirmed to tell the truth, and stated as follows:

“My name is Wayne R. Roberts, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). I am of sound mind and capable of making this sworn statement. I submit this affidavit pursuant to the legal requirement imposed by V.T.C.A., Health & Safety Code § 102.251(c).

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to *Recruitment of Established Investigators* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received four applications in response to this RFA during cycle 23.1. This application was assigned to the Scientific Review Council (SRC) for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.

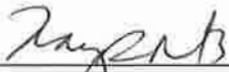
CPRIT staff and CPRIT’s third-party grants management vendor have recorded information and prepared documents during the course of their employment that are related to CPRIT’s grant review process described by Health & Safety Code Chapter 102. I have reviewed the information prepared by CPRIT staff and CPRIT’s third-party grants management vendor in my capacity as CPRIT’s CEO to prepare this affidavit. Some information (“CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information”) is applicable to all applications recommended for awards submitted pursuant to this RFA. The information listed below has been compiled as one packet and is incorporated herein by reference:

- The applicable Request for Applications (RFA) for this grant cycle
- An overview of the conflict of interest process, including any conflict of interest waivers granted
- The third-party observer report(s) documenting that CPRIT’s grant review processes were followed by the review panel evaluating the applications in this grant cycle
- A de-identified list of the overall evaluation scores for applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA for this grant cycle

- A final overall evaluation score and rank order score submitted by the SRPP committees for the grant applications recommended by the PIC in this cycle

In addition to the CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information that is applicable to all applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA and recommended for grant awards this cycle, I have also reviewed the application's grant pedigree. The grant pedigree for the application listed above has been attached to this affidavit. The application pedigree provides an overview of the conflict of interest process applicable to this application, including any conflicts of interest reported by the review panel or by the PIC.

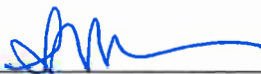
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process described in the statute and CPRIT's administrative rules. This statement is true."



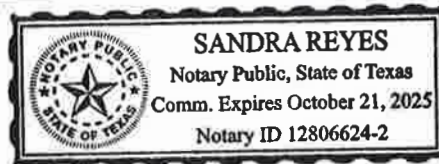
 Wayne R. Roberts,
 CEO, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

State of Texas
 County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on
 the 4th day of November, 2022,
 by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.



~~Melanie Cleveland~~ Sandra Reyes
 Notary Public, State of Texas



CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 11/02/2022 02:00 PM CT

FY: 2023
CYCLE: 1
PROGRAM: Recruitment
MECHANISM: Recruitment of Established Investigators
APPLICATION ID: RR230005
APPLICATION TITLE: Recruitment of Established Investigators - Rugang Zhang
APPLICANT NAME: Draetta, Gulio
ORGANIZATION: The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
PANEL NAME: Recruitment FY23_Cycle 1

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	08/22/2022	10/07/2022
	Date application submitted	08/19/2022	10/07/2022
	Method of submission	CARS	10/07/2022
	Within receipt period	YES	10/07/2022
	Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A
Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation		NO	10/07/2022
Assigned to primary reviewers		09/07/2022	10/07/2022
Applicant notified of review panel assignment		N/A	10/07/2022
Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed		08/26/2022	10/07/2022
Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed		08/26/2022	10/07/2022
Peer Review Meeting		Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	09/12/2022
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	09/13/2022	10/07/2022
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	10/07/2022
	COI recused from participation	N/A	10/07/2022
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	10/07/2022
	Peer Review Meeting	09/15/2022	10/07/2022
	Post review statements signed	09/15/2022	10/07/2022
	Third Party Observer Report	09/19/2022	10/07/2022
	Score report delivered to CSO	09/23/2022	10/07/2022
	Recommended for SRC review	YES	10/07/2022
Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	10/07/2022
	COI recused from participation	N/A	10/07/2022
	SRC Meeting	09/15/2022	10/07/2022
	Third Party Observer Report	09/19/2022	10/07/2022
	Recommended for grant award	YES	10/07/2022
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	10/28/2022	10/28/2022
PIC Review	Candidate not accepted position prior to SRC date	YES	11/02/2022
	COI indicated by PIC member	None	11/02/2022
	COI recused from participation	N/A	11/02/2022
	PIC Review Meeting	11/02/2022	11/02/2022
	Recommended for grant award	YES	11/02/2022
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	NO	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application RR230010
Recruitment of Established Investigators
Nomination of Keith Syson Chan, Ph.D.

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Wayne R. Roberts, who swore or affirmed to tell the truth, and stated as follows:

“My name is Wayne R. Roberts, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). I am of sound mind and capable of making this sworn statement. I submit this affidavit pursuant to the legal requirement imposed by V.T.C.A., Health & Safety Code § 102.251(c).

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to *Recruitment of Established Investigators* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received four applications in response to this RFA during cycle 23.1. This application was assigned to the Scientific Review Council (SRC) for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.

CPRIT staff and CPRIT’s third-party grants management vendor have recorded information and prepared documents during the course of their employment that are related to CPRIT’s grant review process described by Health & Safety Code Chapter 102. I have reviewed the information prepared by CPRIT staff and CPRIT’s third-party grants management vendor in my capacity as CPRIT’s CEO to prepare this affidavit. Some information (“CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information”) is applicable to all applications recommended for awards submitted pursuant to this RFA. The information listed below has been compiled as one packet and is incorporated herein by reference:

- The applicable Request for Applications (RFA) for this grant cycle
- An overview of the conflict of interest process, including any conflict of interest waivers granted
- The third-party observer report(s) documenting that CPRIT’s grant review processes were followed by the review panel evaluating the applications in this grant cycle
- A de-identified list of the overall evaluation scores for applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA for this grant cycle

- A final overall evaluation score and rank order score submitted by the SRPP committees for the grant applications recommended by the PIC in this cycle

In addition to the CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information that is applicable to all applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA and recommended for grant awards this cycle, I have also reviewed the application's grant pedigree. The grant pedigree for the application listed above has been attached to this affidavit. The application pedigree provides an overview of the conflict of interest process applicable to this application, including any conflicts of interest reported by the review panel or by the PIC.

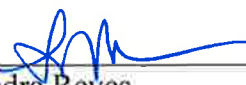
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process described in the statute and CPRIT's administrative rules. This statement is true."



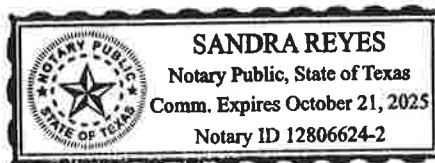
Wayne R. Roberts,
CEO, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

State of Texas
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on
the 4th day of November, 2022,
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.



Sandra Reyes
Notary Public, State of Texas



CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 11/02/2022 02:00 PM CT

FY: 2023
CYCLE: 1
PROGRAM: Recruitment
MECHANISM: Recruitment of Established Investigators
APPLICATION ID: RR230010
APPLICATION TITLE: Recruitment of Established Investigators: Dr. Keith Syson Chan, PhD
APPLICANT NAME: Sostman, Henry D
ORGANIZATION: The Methodist Hospital Research Institute
PANEL NAME: Recruitment FY23_Cycle 1

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	08/22/2022	10/07/2022
	Date application submitted	08/18/2022	10/07/2022
	Method of submission	CARS	10/07/2022
	Within receipt period	YES	10/07/2022
	Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A
Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation		NO	10/07/2022
Assigned to primary reviewers		09/07/2022	10/07/2022
Applicant notified of review panel assignment		N/A	10/07/2022
Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed		08/29/2022	10/07/2022
Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed		08/26/2022	10/07/2022
Peer Review Meeting		Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	09/14/2022
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	09/12/2022	10/07/2022
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	10/07/2022
	COI recused from participation	N/A	10/07/2022
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	10/07/2022
	Peer Review Meeting	09/15/2022	10/07/2022
	Post review statements signed	09/15/2022	10/07/2022
	Third Party Observer Report	09/19/2022	10/07/2022
	Score report delivered to CSO	09/23/2022	10/07/2022
	Recommended for SRC review	YES	10/07/2022
Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	10/07/2022
	COI recused from participation	N/A	10/07/2022
	SRC Meeting	09/15/2022	10/07/2022
	Third Party Observer Report	09/19/2022	10/07/2022
	Recommended for grant award	YES	10/07/2022
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	10/28/2022	10/28/2022
PIC Review	Candidate not accepted position prior to SRC date	YES	11/02/2022
	COI indicated by PIC member	None	11/02/2022
	COI recused from participation	N/A	11/02/2022
	PIC Review Meeting	11/02/2022	11/02/2022
	Recommended for grant award	YES	11/02/2022
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	NO	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	