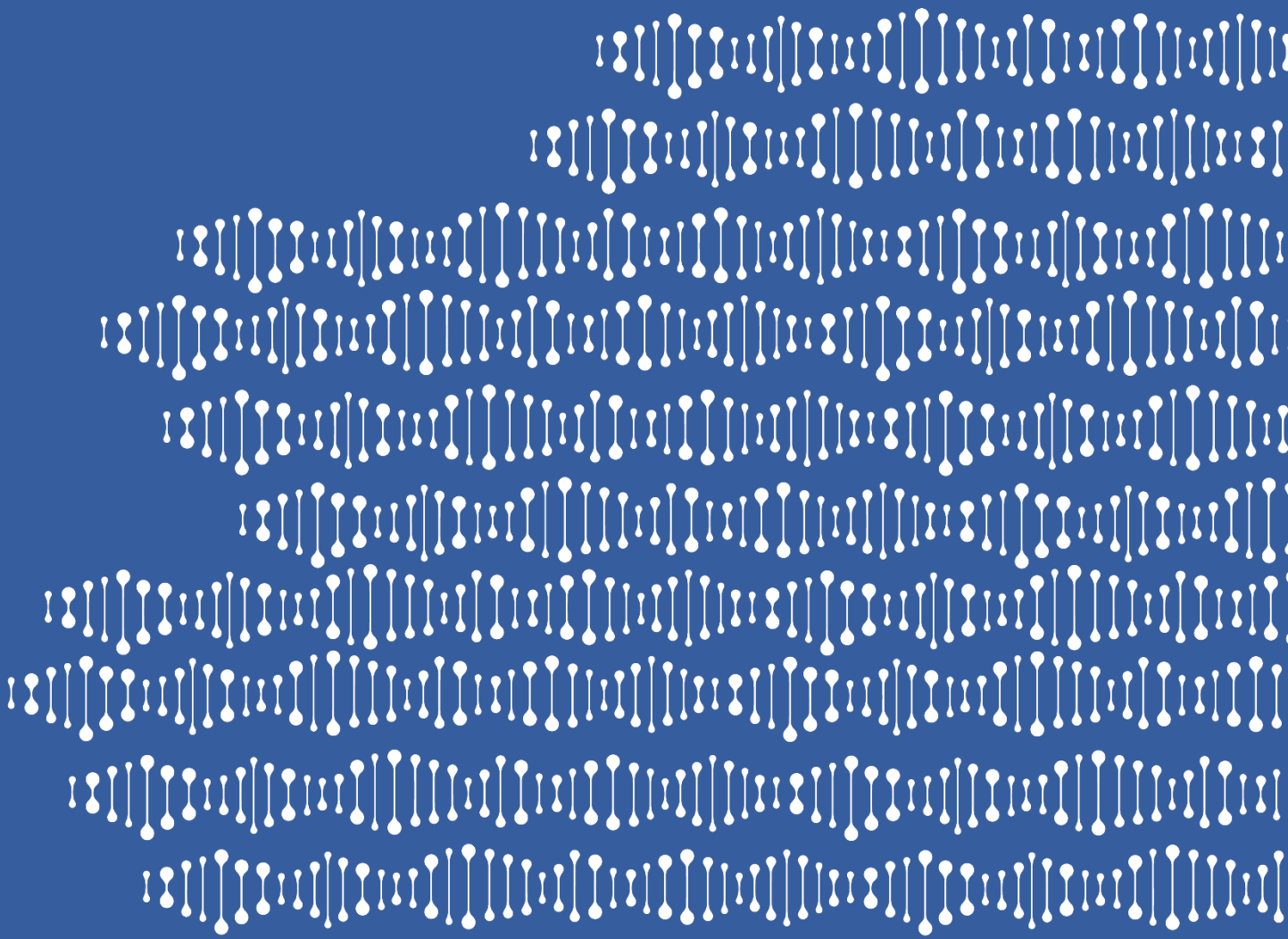
Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas

Proposed Grant Awards

May 15, 2024



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM: MICHELLE LE BEAU, PH.D., CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

SUBJECT: RECRUITMENT AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS FY2024, CYCLE 24.6, 24.7, 24.8 AND 24.9

DATE: MAY 15, 2024

The Scientific Review Council (SRC) and Program Integration Committee (PIC) recommendations for FY2024 Recruitment Cycles 24.6, 24.7, 24.8 and 24.9 include **eleven awards** from three grant mechanisms totaling **$33,998,639** as displayed in Table 1. Please note that SRC recommended grant application #RR240028, was withdrawn by the nominating institution on 4/29/2024.

Table 1.

Grant Mechanism	SRC Recommendations	
	Awards	Funding
Recruitment of Established Investigators	2	$12,000,000
Recruitment of Rising Stars	2	$8,000,000
Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members	7	$13,998,639
Total	**11**	**$33,998,639**

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, childhood and adolescent cancers, and hepatocellular carcinoma. Priorities addressed by the proposed slate of awards are displayed in Table 2 and Attachment 1.

Table 2.

Program Priorities Addressed by Grant Recommendations		
# Awards*	Program Priorities	Funding*
11	Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas	$33,998,639
11	A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects,	$33,998,639
4	Childhood and Adolescent Cancers	$12,000,000
2	Hepatocellular Cancer	$6,000,000
*Some grant awards address more than one program priority and are double counted.		

1. RECRUITMENT OF ESTABLISHED INVESTIGATORS (RFA R-24.1 – Cycles 24.6, 24.7, 24.8 and 24.9) Slate

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 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.

Recommended Awards:
Three Recruitment of Established Investigators grant applications were submitted and two were recommended by the Scientific Review Council for an Established Investigators Award.

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

RR240017
Candidate: Thomas Milner, Ph.D.
Funding Mechanism: Recruitment of Established Investigator
Applicant Organization: Baylor College of Medicine
Original Organization of Nominee: The University of California at Irvine
Overall Evaluation Score [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]: 1.0
Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration: $6,000,000
CPRIT Priorities Addressed: Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas.

Description:
Baylor College of Medicine has nominated Thomas E. Milner, PhD, for a CPRIT Established Investigator Scholar Award. Dr. Milner is Director of the Beckman Laser Institute and Professor of Surgery and Biomedical Engineering at the University of California Irvine. He will be appointed as a tenured Professor and Director of the Surgical Oncology Biomedical Engineering Research Program, and member of the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center.
Dr. Milner, a renowned biomedical engineer and researcher, is an international pioneer in the field of photomedicine with a strong history of successfully translating technologies to patient care. His groundbreaking work in tissue diagnostics for laser surgery led to significant advancements in laser dosimetry for treating vascular lesions, including highly vascularized tumors. Dr. Milner's team achieved several notable firsts: they applied optical coherence

tomography (OCT) to characterize blood flow in in vivo tissues, spawning the widely used OCT angiography. His innovative approach to selectively cooling biological tissues during laser surgery has been widely adopted, benefiting thousands of patients worldwide. Recently, Dr. Milner collaborated with CPRIT Grantee, Dr. Livia Eberlin, to develop the MasSpec Pen, a rapid cancer detection technology, further cementing his impact in the medical field. His research and development efforts focus on four primary areas relevant to cancer diagnostics and therapy: biophotonic devices and methodologies, OCT, dynamic cooling of tissues, and laser surgery for malignant tissue ablation. His success as an inventor has been recognized nationally by his election as a Fellow to the National Academy of Inventors in 2016. He has 55 issued patents, returning royalties of over $100 million to University IP Owners/Licensees.

Dr. Milner proposes to design and fabricate nano-biophotonic devices by tackling three projects initially. In project 1, he will develop a nanophotonic sensor that uses low-cost optical waveguides and surface enhanced Raman spectroscopy (SERS) for the detection of microRNAs (miRNAs). miRNAs are small nucleotide sequences that are key regulators of gene function in cancer and other diseases. At present, there are no rapid, cost-effective, office-based miRNA screening devices. Although SERS nanophotonic sensors will first be developed for detection of miRNAs in urine of multiple myeloma patients, the approach is broadly applicable to all cancers. Cutaneous cancer detection is limited by the lack of availability of wide-field high resolution imagers that can detect subsurface lesions. The hypothesis underlying Project 2 is that spatial frequency domain imaging (SFDI) in the visible and short-wavelength infrared (SWIR) spectral regions can fill this gap. VIS-SWIR SFDI will track suspicious cutaneous lesions and machine learning algorithms will allow early detection of melanoma and non-melanoma in transplant patients, and aid planning for intraoperative resection of hepatocellular carcinoma. Project 3 will tackle a fundamental problem in laparoscopic cancer surgery - rapid and accurate detection of cancer and tumor margins, biopsy, and resection. Existing biopsy techniques require tens-of-minutes for pathological analysis. The hypothesis underlying this project is that a multifunctional masSpec catheter for rapid intraoperative cancer detection, combined with laser micro-biopsy, virtual histology and tissue resection – initially developed and tested in an in vivo hepatocellular carcinoma animal model - can revolutionize tumor resection providing cancer free outcomes. These innovative projects to design novel nano-biophotonic devices have a high potential to advance and transform detection, prevention, and treatment within the state of Texas

RR240024
Candidate: Radek Skoda, MD
Funding Mechanism: Recruitment of Established Investigator
Applicant Organization: Baylor College of Medicine
Original Organization of Nominee: University Hospital Basel and University of Basel
Overall Evaluation Score [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]: 1.0
Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration: $6,000,000
CPRIT Priorities Addressed: Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas, A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects

Description:
Baylor College of Medicine is nominating Radek Skoda, MD for a CPRIT Established Investigator Award. Dr. Skoda is being recruited as a Professor of Medicine, and a member in

the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center. He is a world-renowned physician-scientist at the University of Basel whose discoveries are the bedrock for the diagnosis and care of myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs) and acute leukemias, and who provided compelling insights into an emerging cancer risk factor - Clonal Hematopoiesis of Indeterminate Potential (CHIP).

Dr. Skoda was responsible for the seminal discovery of the *JAK2*^{V617F} mutation as the most frequent cause of MPNs, which led to success in therapeutic targeting of mutant JAK2 proteins. This discovery has singularly transformed the diagnosis and treatment of all MPN patients across the globe. He further dissected the molecular and clonal architecture of MPN, defining the contribution of co-operating gene mutations to outcome and prognosis, and demonstrating the promoting role of IL1B-mediated inflammation in MPN initiation and progression to fibrosis. Collectively, his body of work has shown how a single mutation in a disease driver gene can cause clonal hematologic cancers, and how additional genetic and environmental factors influence its phenotypic and pathogenic manifestations. Dr. Skoda is being recruited to direct the MPN Program and establish a CHIP clinic that will encompass research and clinical care.

The *JAK2*^{V617F} mutation is detectable in blood samples of up to 3% of older healthy individuals, now known as CHIP. *JAK2*^{V617F} CHIP is ~30x more frequent than the prevalence of clinical MPN (~ 0.1%), indicating that not all individuals with CHIP progress to MPN. However, the underlying mechanisms are poorly understood, and we currently cannot predict the individual risk for conversion to clinical MPN. Dr. Skoda's research will focus on understanding the evolution of CHIP to MPN in the context of JAK2 mutations using innovative murine lineage tracing models, Cas9 screening, and single-cell transplantation strategies. He will investigate the role of immune surveillance in CHIP initiation and identify key genetic determinants that accelerate conversion to MPN, in part via access to a unique biobank. Dr. Skoda will also investigate mechanisms through which complementary mutations augment the progression of JAK2-mutant cells to pathologic entities such as myelofibrosis. Ultimately, Skoda's work will delineate key mechanisms of disease initiation, progression and therapeutic response/resistance. This has relevance to a broad spectrum of human cancers, many of which are initiated as a pre-malignant state, and progress to a malignancy, and will inform new therapeutic strategies.

2. RECRUITMENT OF RISING STARS (FY24.1, Cycles 24.6, 24.7, 24.8 and 24.9) Slate

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 Rising Stars Awards:
The aim is to recruit outstanding early-stage investigators to Texas, who have demonstrated the promise for continued and enhanced contributions to the field of cancer research.

Funding levels for Recruitment of Rising Stars Awards:
Up to $4 million over a period of 5 years.

Recommended Awards:
Seven Recruitment of Rising Stars grant applications were submitted and two were recommended by the Scientific Review Council for an award.

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

RR240035
Candidate: Susan Bullman, PhD
Funding Mechanism: Recruitment of Rising Stars
Applicant Organization: The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Original Organization of Nominee: Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center
Overall Evaluation Score [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]:1.1
Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration: $4,000,000.
CPRIT Priorities Addressed: Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas.

Description:
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center seeks to recruit Susan Bullman, PhD, currently an assistant professor at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, as a CPRIT Rising Star Scholar, and Associate Professor in the Department of Immunology. Dr. Bullman is an accomplished scientist who focuses on modulating the crosstalk between the microbiome and the immune system to improve the efficacy of cancer immunotherapy. Her expertise, bridging the human microbiome, single-cell transcriptomic profiling and cell-cell signaling is key toward advancing the institution's vision of developing a comprehensive understanding of the many elements of the tumor immune response, the dynamic interactions involved, and the potential to capitalize on this knowledge to advance cancer immunotherapy.

Human tumors consist of many different cell types with varying functions that influence cancer growth and treatment responses. Additionally, analyses of human cancers have revealed the presence of bacterial communities within tumors, especially in cancers along the gastrointestinal tract. Studies of these cancers demonstrate that patients with tumors containing specific bacteria face poorer outcomes and an increased risk of cancer recurrence after treatment. Dr. Bullman and other investigators have shown that these bacteria travel with the cancer when it metastasizes, and that targeted killing of specific bacteria within human tumors with antibiotic treatment can reduce tumor growth. The goal of Dr. Bullman's research is to enhance our understanding of how bacteria within tumors impact cancer development, growth, and patient responses to cancer treatments.

Dr. Bullman hypothesizes that intratumoral microbes orchestrate a highly organized and spatially diverse network of interactions within human tumors, contributing to immune evasion, cancer progression, and therapy resistance. In Aim 1, she will use a reverse translational approach, employing spatial omics and single-cell sequencing of patient tumors to determine how intra-tumoral microbiota in distinct microniches impact the tumor microenvironment. In Aim 2, using in-vivo and in-vitro models, she will assess the impact of oncomicrobes, like *Fusobacterium nucleatum* (Fn), on immune and cancer cell function, enhancing our understanding of Fn's role in cancer progression and immune evasion. Building on her findings that targeting intratumoral microbiota reduces tumor growth, the goal of Aim 3 is to develop an Fn-specific growth inhibitor and assess efficacy in preclinical models. This proposal holds strong translational potential for identifying novel biomarkers, therapeutic targets, and strategies for the intervention of infection-associated cancers.

RR240037
Candidate: Oren Rom, PhD
Funding Mechanism: Recruitment of Rising Stars
Applicant Organization: The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Original Organization of Nominee: LSU Health Shreveport
Overall Evaluation Score [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]:1.7
Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration: $4,000,000.
CPRIT Priorities Addressed: Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas, Hepatocellular cancer.

Oren Rom, PhD, RD, is being nominated for a CPRIT Recruitment of a Rising Star Scholar Award, and appointment as an Associate Professor in the Department of Cancer Biology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Rom is an exceptional researcher who has made remarkable contributions to the study of liver and cardiometabolic diseases. For example, he recently uncovered novel dysregulated pathways linking amino acid and lipid metabolism in metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) and cardiometabolic diseases as potential therapeutic targets, as well as targets for the prevention of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Texas leads the US in the incidence of HCC, aligned with a high prevalence of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH); thus, his work is highly relevant to the cancer burden in Texas.

Dr. Rom's research program will focus on identifying metabolic pathways linking amino acid and lipid metabolism in MASH for the prevention of HCC by pursuing three Aims: Aim 1 studies a novel group of metabolites he discovered in MASH called N-acyl amino acids (NAAAs). He will define changes in the metabolism of NAAAs as MASH progresses to HCC and evaluate NAAAs as a treatment for HCC prevention. Aim 2 focuses on a toxic product of amino acid breakdown called oxalate. Dr. Rom will assess the increased formation of oxalate during MASH-HCC progression and the value of lowering oxalate for HCC prevention. Aim 3 addresses products of specific amino acids called polyamines, and will determine how a specific polyamine (putrescine) promotes MASH-HCC, and whether reducing putrescine is a viable approach for HCC prevention.

Dr. Rom's research program utilizes a multidisciplinary approach involving human specimens, genome-wide association studies and novel animal models (using CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing and dietary approaches) combined with multi-omics tools (metabolomics, transcriptomics, and genomics) together with pathophysiology, biochemistry, and molecular biology. His proposed studies will enhance our understanding of how MASH progresses to HCC, and have a high potential to uncover new strategies to prevent HCC as well as identify novel therapeutic targets, thereby addressing an urgent clinical need.

3. RECRUITMENT OF FIRST-TIME TENURE-TRACK FACULTY MEMBERS (RFA R-24.1 – Cycles 24.6, 24.7, 24.8 and 24.9) Slate

Peer Review Recommendations
The applications were evaluated and scored by the Scientific Review Council 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, his/her 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 First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Recruitment
The aim is to recruit and support very promising emerging investigators, pursuing their first faculty appointment in Texas, who can make outstanding contributions to the field of cancer research.

Funding levels for First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Members Recruitment
Up to $2 million over a period of up to 5 years.

Recommended Projects:
Nineteen Recruitment of First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Members grant applications were submitted and eight were recommended by the Scientific Review Council for an award. Note one application RR240028 was withdrawn by the institution on April 29, 2024.

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

RR240060
Candidate: Isaac Fianu, PhD
Funding Mechanism: Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Member
Applicant Organization: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Original Organization of Nominee: University of Gottingen
Overall Evaluation Score [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]:1.0
Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration: $2,000,000.
CPRIT Priorities Addressed: Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas, A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects, Hepatocellular cancer.

Description:
Isaac Fianu, PhD has been nominated by the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center for a CPRIT First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member Award, and appointment as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Biophysics, and member in the Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Fianu is an extraordinarily talented biophysicist who uses biochemistry and cryo-electron microscopy (cryoEM) to study transcriptional regulation by the Integrator Complex, a large complex of 15 proteins that is a critical regulator of gene expression.

As a graduate student and postdoctoral fellow, he used biochemical approaches to reconstitute the large, 1.5 MDa Integrator complex, and used cryoEM to understand the structural mechanisms by which it directs paused RNA Polymerase II (Pol II) to terminate transcription. He extended this work as a post-doctoral fellow to determine 4 landmark structures of Integrator, Pol II, pausing factors and the PP2A phosphatase frozen in different activity states. These structures showed how Integrator recognizes paused Pol II, cleaves nascent mRNA, dephosphorylates the Pol II tail, and disassembles the system to mediate transcription termination. This work was viewed as a tour-de force in the field, and established him as a young transformative figure in this field, emphasizing his remarkable skill, intellect, and perseverance in solving an incredibly difficult problem.

His future research will seek to explain how Integrator is recruited to specific gene loci in healthy and cancerous cells, and how it enables resolution of conflicts between three cellular processes occurring simultaneously on DNA - transcription, repair, and replication. He will also identify novel inhibitors of Integrator activity. The work will address leading-edge questions in gene regulation and genomic stability, provide new insights into the roles of Integrator in diverse cancers, and inform therapeutic strategies that can be used in combination with existing cancer therapies.

RR240042
Candidate: Maria Falzone, PhD
Funding Mechanism: Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Member
Applicant Organization: The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
Original Organization of Nominee: The Rockefeller University
Overall Evaluation Score [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]:1.4
Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration: $2,000,000.
CPRIT Priorities Addressed: Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas, A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects

Description:
Maria Falzone, PhD is being recruited by the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSA) to join the Department of Biochemistry and Structural Biology and Mays Cancer Center as an Assistant Professor, and recipient of a CPRIT First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member Recruitment Award. Dr. Falzone's doctoral work led her to become interested in the structural biology of membrane-associated phospholipase (PL) signaling, and how this affects cellular physiology in health and disease. She has been pursuing her post-doctoral fellowship with Dr. Roderick MacKinnon of Rockefeller University, a Nobel Laureate, and one

of the premier structural biochemists of our generation. Dr. Falzone's project has led to penetrating mechanistic insights into how the activity of phospholipase C beta (PLCβ) is regulated by enzymes (GTPases) to mediate signaling through the KRAS/RhoA pathway at the cell membrane. In the pursuit of these goals, Dr. Falzone developed novel methods to reconstitute complexes of PLCβ-GTPase within biological membranes and solve the high-resolution structures of these complexes by cryoEM. Dr. Falzone was awarded a prestigious Ruth Kirschstein F32 fellowship from the NIH to support her postdoctoral studies.

In her independent laboratory, she will devote her effort to building an impactful program focusing on the structure and function of phospholipase C epsilon (PLCε) – a poorly understood phospholipase C family member that has been implicated in cancers - and its oncogenic role in gastric cancer using cellular and mouse xenograft tumor models. Based on insights derived from the initial biochemical and in vivo studies, she plans to work with the CPRIT-supported Center for Innovative Drug Discovery at UTHSA to develop first-in-class chemical inhibitors of the PLCε/KRAS/RhoA axis, which will be valuable chemical biology probes to examine signaling pathway function, and could lead to new cancer therapeutics.

RR240063
Candidate: Lauren Hagler, PhD
Funding Mechanism: Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Member
Applicant Organization: Texas A & M University
Original Organization of Nominee: Stanford University School of Medicine
Overall Evaluation Score [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]:1.7
Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration: $1,998,639
CPRIT Priorities Addressed: Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas

Description:
The Department of Chemistry at Texas A&M University has nominated Lauren Hagler, PhD for a CPRIT Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member Award, and appointment as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Hagler is the recipient of a prestigious HHMI post-doctoral fellowship at Stanford University, and is focusing on thermodynamic modeling of binding affinity of an RNA-binding protein and quantitative methods to measure RNA folding thermodynamics in cells using chemical probing. She is being recruited to develop a vibrant research program at the interface of cancer research and bioanalytical chemistry in the emerging discipline of RNA biology in cancer.

The dysregulation of RNA has been implicated in several diseases, including many forms of cancer, and the field is transitioning from simply describing RNA-mediated processes and alterations in cancer to predicting the functional consequences of manipulating RNA within these processes. The overarching goal of Dr. Hagler's research program is to develop quantitative models that expand our understanding of the biological roles of RNA interactions in gene regulation, how this regulation is altered in cancer, and how we can harness these systems to engineer changes in gene regulation for therapeutic intervention.

Dr. Hagler's research program will utilize quantitative biophysics, chemical biology, and high-throughput genomics to develop models to predict the effects of RNA folding, RNA-protein interactions, and RNA modifications on gene expression for any RNA sequence. She has already developed a versatile methodology and experimental framework called High-Throughput Cellular Biochemistry (HTCB) that can be widely applied to study RNA structure, protein binding, and the functional effects of these interactions in cells. Dr. Hagler will then study how those interactions are disturbed in cancer cells. Finally, she will use the knowledge gained from the predictive models to inform the development of cancer therapies that target RNA. This unique approach has the potential to transform our understanding of RNA gene regulation in cancer and to inform the development of RNA-targeted therapeutics.

RR240055
Candidate: Katherine Alexander, PhD
Funding Mechanism: Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Member
Applicant Organization: Baylor College of Medicine
Original Organization of Nominee: University of Pennsylvania, Institute of Epigenetics
Overall Evaluation Score [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]:2.0
Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration: $2,000,000
CPRIT Priorities Addressed: Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas, Childhood and adolescent cancers

Description:
Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) is nominating Katherine Alexander, PhD, for a CPRIT First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member Scholar Award, and appointment as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB), and the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Alexander is a talented and highly independent young investigator whose overall research is based on investigating fundamental mechanisms of gene regulation that are aberrant in cancer. She has pioneered an entirely new line of research into the function and regulation of a unique nuclear sub-compartment known as "speckles" that serve as sites of high transcriptional activity and, thus, are critical to gene regulation.

Nuclear speckles are dynamic substructures consisting of numerous proteins that exist interspersed with DNA in cell nuclei. Once thought to be a "sink" or "holding area" for nuclear proteins, Dr. Alexander's research has provided major insights into the nature of nuclear speckles and how DNA is organized around them. She discovered that speckles appear to be a major site of gene regulation that is aberrant in some cancers. Dr. Alexander also discovered a peptide sequence that targets transcription factors to the speckle structures, which then allows regions of chromatin to be brought to this special regulatory region. Proteins containing the targeting motif are some of the most important in cancer: TP53, HIF2alpha, and MYCN. Moreover, she found that the form and function of speckles deviates in reproducible ways across many cancer types. In specific malignancies, these alterations have prognostic value for predicting survival and therapeutic response.

In her research program, Dr. Alexander seeks to understand the fundamentals of gene regulation by nuclear speckles and to apply this new paradigm to improve cancer outcomes. She will test

the hypothesis that oncogenic transcription factors, such as HIF2alpha and MYCN involved in clear cell renal cell carcinoma (ccRCC) and neuroblastoma function by driving association between target genes and nuclear speckles. In Aim 1, she will employ conceptual advances from her previous research to elucidate how speckle-based gene regulation affects ccRCC cancer properties, and will also evaluate mechanisms of gene-speckle association as mediated by HIF2alpha. In Aim 2, she will examine how DNA-speckle association and speckle states regulate neuroblastoma expression programs. Collectively, these studies may uncover new foundations of gene regulatory mechanisms in cancer, known to be of fundamental importance for cancer development, progression, and response to therapy. Dr. Alexander's long-term goal is to harness this information to direct improvements in therapeutic options and patient care.

RR240039
Candidate: Richard Voit, MD, PhD
Funding Mechanism: Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Member
Applicant Organization: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Original Organization of Nominee: Boston Children's Hospital/Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Overall Evaluation Score [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]:2.0
Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration: $2,000,000.
CPRIT Priorities Addressed: Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas, A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects, Childhood and adolescent cancers

Description:
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center has nominated Richard Voit, MD, PhD for a CPRIT First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Award. He is currently an Instructor in Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, and is being recruited as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, with a secondary appointment in the Children's Research Institute at UT Southwestern. Dr. Voit is an emerging physician-scientist leader exploring the fundamental biology of human hematopoiesis.

Developing therapies for leukemia and preventing leukemic transformation after gene therapy requires a fundamental understanding of the transcriptional regulation of hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs). In his current studies, Dr. Voit has uncovered an essential HSC gene regulatory network involving the MECOM and KIAA0125 proteins, that is hijacked in high-risk AML and is required for the survival of the leukemia cells. To extend this work, Dr. Voit will explore the role of KIAA0125 in regulating AML, and explore the hypotheses that KIAA0125 is a targetable vulnerability in high-risk AML by developing tools to specifically block its function as a new class of targeted cancer drugs.

Dr. Voit is also interested in developing and optimizing gene therapies for blood-based disorders. Gene therapy offers a way to permanently cure an increasing number of genetic diseases. However, a major risk of some gene therapies is the development of secondary blood cancers months to years after gene therapy treatment, and he is developing tools to understand and minimize that risk. As a model, he studies a bone marrow failure disorder called Diamond-Blackfan anemia (DBA), which leads to insufficient numbers of red blood cells, and for which he has developed a new gene therapy to increase red blood cell output. In his second project, he

proposes to test the hypothesis that lentiviral gene therapy for DBA is safe, but can be optimized to reduce oncogenic risk in ways that will be applicable to future gene therapies.

The two projects described in his proposal reflect his broad approach to applying mechanistic insights from HSC biology to prevent cancer, and may lead to novel therapeutic candidates and minimize secondary cancer risk of future gene therapies.

RR240057
Candidate: Andrew Weems, PhD
Funding Mechanism: Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Member
Applicant Organization: The University of Texas at Austin
Original Organization of Nominee: University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Overall Evaluation Score [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]:2.0
Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration: $2,000,000
CPRIT Priorities Addressed: Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas

Description:
Andrew Weems, PhD has been nominated for a First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member Award and appointment as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular Biosciences at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Weems is currently a research instructor in the laboratory of CPRIT Scholar, Dr. Gaudenz Danuser, in the Lyda Hill Dept. of Bioinformatics at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, where he has developed a highly novel research program focused on elucidating the role cell morphology plays in signal transduction, and in understanding the ways cells manipulate their shapes as a means of altering signaling towards specific cell fates. His research placed particular emphasis on understanding how cancer cells evade cell death pathways. Dr. Weems utilized advanced subcellular resolution lightsheet microscopy and developed computer vision-aided analysis of quantitative 3D imaging datasets to discover 'bleb signaling', an entirely novel signaling pathway necessary for melanoma cell survival that is activated by specific cell surface topographies generated through the execution of an evolutionarily conserved morphological program. Importantly, some cancers only activate this signaling after treatment with anti-cancer therapies, thereby gaining drug resistance.

Using a well-characterized melanoma model, Dr. Weems will apply cutting-edge imaging technology to determine if bleb signaling explains a poorly understood form of drug resistance, characterize the molecular mechanism regulating its activation, and investigate its role in disease progression while testing the efficacy of therapy targeting this novel pathway. In Aim 1, he will identify signaling pathways responsible for bleb-dependent therapy resistance and survival in melanoma treated with MAPK inhibitors (MAPKi). Bleb signaling operates by constructing septin cytoskeleton signaling hubs capable of regulating a wide variety of signaling pathways, such as the ERK and RAS pathways; he will determine which of these pathways is responsible for therapeutic resistance, and if this explains known but poorly understood forms of drug resistance in melanoma. The focus of Aim 2 is to characterize the molecular mechanism of septin activation in MAPKi melanoma, testing the hypothesis that pathway activation is achieved via metabolic sensing by septins. In Aim 3, he will investigate septin activation during disease progression and targeted therapy in vivo.

Dr. Weems' work is foundational and will open-up new avenues for understanding normal cell physiology and cancer biology. With respect to melanoma patients, his work will determine if septin activation induces therapeutic resistance, the phases of disease progression to which it contributes, and whether adding septin-targeting therapy increases the efficacy of current therapies.

RR240051
Candidate: Claudia Yun Wei, PhD
Funding Mechanism: Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Member
Applicant Organization: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Original Organization of Nominee: Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital
Overall Evaluation Score [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]:2.0
Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration: $2,000,000
CPRIT Priorities Addressed: Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas, Childhood and Adolescent Cancers, A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects

Description:
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center is nominating Claudia Yun Wei, PhD, for a CPRIT Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member Award. She will be appointed as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, with a secondary appointment in the Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center. During her post-graduate research training, Dr. Wei has focused on understanding fundamental mechanisms of tumor plasticity, specifically the transcriptional and epigenetic regulators that dictate/influence if, when, and how a tumor cell transitions to another cell type, and how these decisions influence response and resistance to cancer therapy. She has already received several honorary awards and scholarships, as well as an NCI Pathway to Independence K99/R00 award for her research entitled "Chromatin regulators of stemness, and therapy resistance in rhabdomyosarcoma".

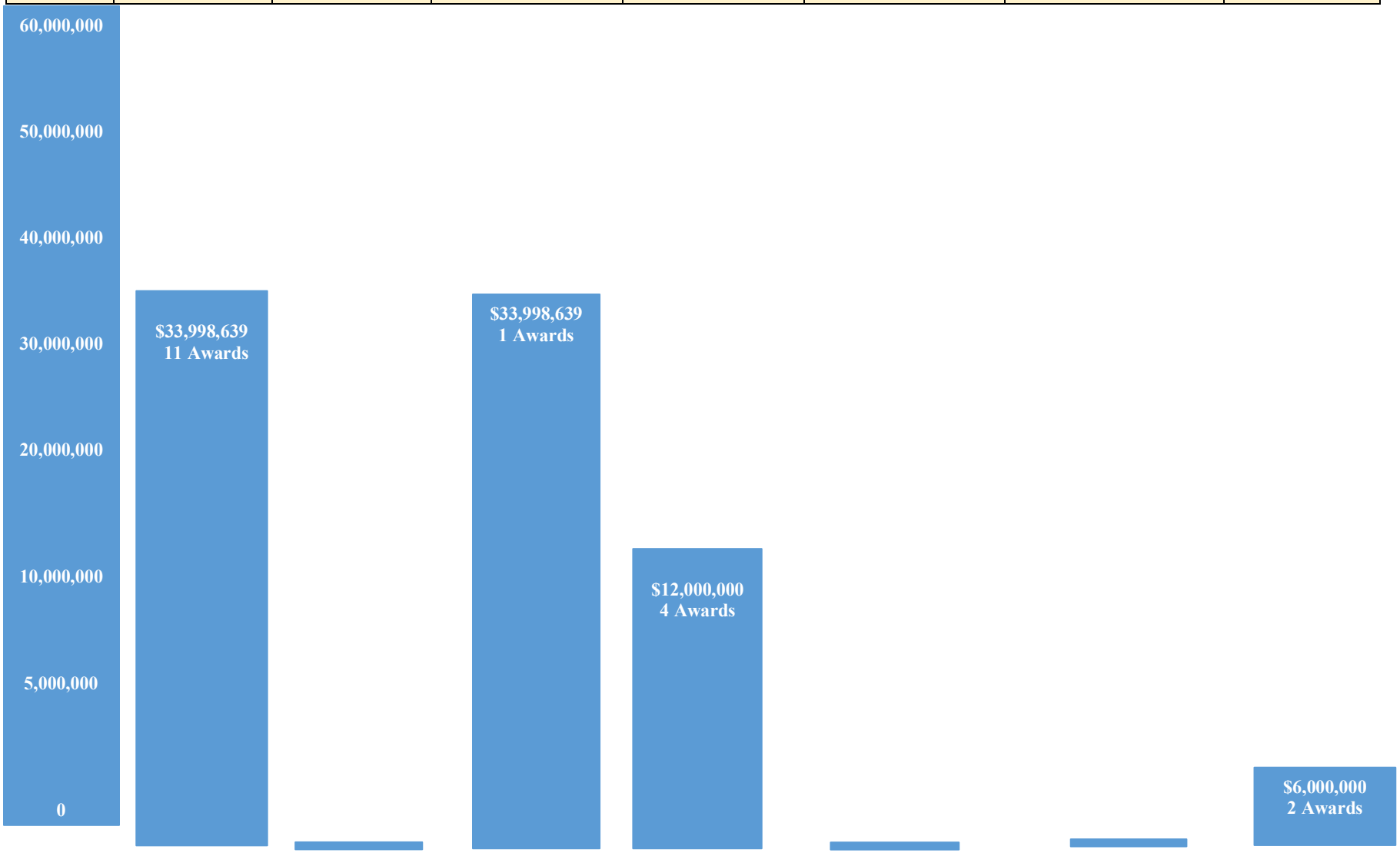
Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) is the most common childhood soft-tissue sarcoma. A significant subset of patients has a poor prognosis due to tumor relapse. Identifying cell subpopulations and regulatory factors that drive tumor relapse is key to developing new therapies for RMS. Using single-cell RNA sequencing and functional assays, Dr. Wei recently uncovered intra-tumoral heterogeneity and identified distinct cell states in RMSs, including a highly proliferative cell state, a mesenchymal-like state that transits to proliferation post-therapy, and a terminally differentiated muscle state.

The Polycomb Repressor Complex 2 (PRC2) and its subunit, EZH2, regulate histone methylation, suppressing chromatin accessibility to transcription factors and reducing gene expression. Dr. Wei has found that PRC2 is upregulated in RMS, and that EZH2 is exclusively expressed in proliferative cells, but depleted in differentiated muscle cells. In her independent laboratory, Dr. Wei plans to apply sophisticated multi-omics approaches (particularly single cell technologies) and a variety of in vitro and in vivo models to test the hypothesis that EZH2 functions to lock RMS cells in the proliferative cell state and inhibit terminal differentiation into muscle (Aim 1). In Aim 2, she will seek to identify mechanisms by which EZH2 maintains the

proliferative cell states by identifying chromatin regions that are bound by EZH2 and repress transcription. This basic cancer research has a high potential to advance our understanding of muscle development, as well as the pathogenesis of RMS, and provide new insights into new therapeutic targets.

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	A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects.	Childhood and Adolescent Cancers	Population Disparities	Computational biology and analytic methods	Hepatocellular Cancer



- **Recruitment of Established Investigators (RFA R-24-1 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.

- **Recruitment of Rising Stars (RFA R-24-1 RRS):**
  Recruits outstanding early-stage investigators to Texas, who have demonstrated the promise for continued and enhanced contributions to the field of cancer research.
  Award: Up to $4 million over a period of five years.

- **Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members (RFA R-24-1. RFT**):
  Supports very promising emerging investigators, pursuing their first faculty appointment in Texas, who have the ability to make outstanding contributions to the field of cancer research.
  Award: Up to $2 million over a period of up to five years.

UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

April 15, 2024

Dr. David A. Cummings, M.D.
Oversight Committee Presiding Officer
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Via email to dcummingsmd@yahoo.com

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

Dear Dr. Cummings and Mr. Roberts,

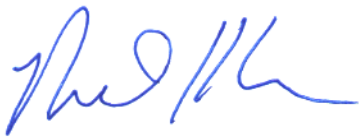
The Scientific Review Council (SRC) is pleased to submit this list of research grant recommendations for the Recruitment of Established Investigators, Recruitment of Rising Stars, and Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members.

The SRC met on February 8, 2024 to review recruitment applications submitted for Cycle FY24.6-7 and then on April 11, 2024 to review recruitment applications submitted for Cycle FY24.8-9.

Recommended funding amounts and the overall evaluation score are stated for each grant application. The total amount for the applications recommended is $35,998,639.

These recommendations meet the SRC's standards for grant award funding. These standards include selecting innovative research projects addressing CPRIT's long term goals to achieve a decrease in the burden of cancer in Texas through preventive measures, new diagnostics and treatments, and effective translation of discoveries into products.

Sincerely yours,



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

Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine
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Rank	ID	RFA	PI	Organization	Budget	Overall Score
1	RR240017	REI	Thomas Milner, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$6,000,000	**1.0**
2	RR240060	RFTFM	Isaac Fianu, Ph. D	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000	**1.0**
3	RR240024	REI	Radek Skoda, M.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$6,000,000	**1.0**
4	RR240028	RFTFM	Phillip Dumesic, M.D., Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$2,000,000	**1.0**
5	RR240035	RRS	Susan Bullan, Ph.D.	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$4,000,000	**1.1**
6	RR240042	RFTFM	Maria Falzone, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	$2,000,000	**1.4**
7	RR240063	RFTFM	Lauren Hagler, Ph.D.	Texas A&M University	$1,998,639	**1.7**
8	RR240037	RRS	Oren Rom, Ph.D.	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$4,000,000	**1.7**
9	RR240051	RFTFM	Claudia Yun Wei, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000	**2.0**
10	RR240055	RFTFM	Katherine Alexander, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$2,000,000	**2.0**
11	RR240057	RFTFM	Andrew Weems, Ph.D.	The University of Texas at Austin	$2,000,000	**2.0**
12	RR240039	RFTFM	Richard Voit, M.D., Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000	**2.0**

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

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Cancer Prevention & Research
Institute of Texas

CEO Affidavit
Supporting Information

Academic Research Recruitment
FY 2024—Cycles 6-9
Recruitment of Established Investigators

PO Box 12097 | Austin, Texas 78711 | PH: 512-463-3190 | F: 512-475-2563 | cprit.texas.gov

Request for Applications

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

RFA R-24.1-REI

Recruitment of Established Investigators

Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document, which will be posted on June 21, 2023

Application Receipt Dates:
June 21, 2023-June 20, 2024
FY 2024
Fiscal Year Award Period
September 1, 2023-August 31, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

RFA VERSION HISTORY

6/21/23	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.

To accomplish CPRIT's long-term vision, the Oversight Committee has identified these 2024 priorities:

- Investing in the cancer research capacity of Texas institutions through recruitment of cancer scholars, investment in core facilities, and investment in individual investigator awards in all regions of the state;
- Building the Texas cancer life science ecosystem across Texas by bridging discovery and translational research into early-stage company products with high impact on cancer patient care and creating economic development for the State of Texas; and
- Increasing the capacity for Texas to have a significant impact on cancer prevention and early detection, ultimately decreasing cancer incidence and mortality.

Established Principles:

- Scientific excellence and impact on cancer
- Increasing the life sciences infrastructure in all regions of the state

- Reducing cancer disparities

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, particularly to regions of the state currently with limited access

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. Principal Investigators (PIs) 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, research including population-based 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 PIs 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 PI will contribute significantly to and have a major impact on the institution's overall cancer research initiative. PIs will be leaders capable of initiating and developing creative ideas leading to novel solutions related to cancer prevention and control, detection, diagnosis, treatment, and/or survivorship. 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 PIs 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 PIs will have specific expertise in cancer-related areas needed to address an institutional priority. PIs 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, prevention and population health 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.

Applications that include purposeful collaborations with institutions eligible for a CPRIT Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer Award 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 (REI) Award must be complemented by a strong financial institutional commitment to the recruitment. The institutional commitment should be clearly documented in the application (see section 8.2.5) and include the amount and sources of salary support and all additional financial support that will be available to the PI's research program through the course of the CPRIT award. The financial commitments made to the PI 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 PI 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 2024 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: In the event of insufficient funds, specific recruitment categories may be eliminated (example REI/RRS/RFTTFM) and nominations for specific categories may be closed for the remaining cycles of the fiscal year. Additionally, depending on the availability of funds, review cycles may be reduced, and/or the number of applications per institution may be capped, and

recommended 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, 2024) or in the first quarter of the next fiscal year (starting September 1, 2024).

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.
- PIs 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 PI.
- A PI may be nominated by only 1 institution. If more than 1 institution is interested in a given PI, negotiations as to which institution will nominate him or her must be concluded before the nomination is made.
- No annual limit on the number of grant submissions by institutions has been set.
- A PI who has already accepted a position at the recruiting institution prior to the time that the Scientific Review Council reviews the PI 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 PIs 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 PI 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 PI 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 PI must devote at least 70% time to research activities. PIs whose major responsibilities are clinical care, teaching, or administration are not eligible.

- At the time of the application, the PI 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 PI 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 REI award mechanism. Any nomination for the REI that was previously submitted to CPRIT and reviewed but was not recommended for funding may not be resubmitted. A nomination for the REI that was previously submitted to CPRIT for any of the recruitment RFA mechanisms and reviewed and recommended for funding but declined by the PI may be submitted in response to this RFA if the PI 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. PIs 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 on a continuous basis throughout FY24.

In order to manage the timely review of nominations, it is anticipated that applications submitted by 11:59 PM central time on the 20th of each month 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 PI's name, organization from which the PI is being recruited, and the department and/or entity within the nominator's organization where the PI will hold the faculty position.

8.2.2. Layperson's Summary (2,000 characters)

Provide a layperson's summary of the proposed work. **This section must be completed by the PI.** Describe, in simple, nontechnical terms, the overall aims of the proposed work, the type(s) of cancer addressed, the potential significance of the results, and the impact of the work on advancing the field of cancer research, early detection, prevention, treatment, or survivorship. The information provided in this summary will be made publicly available by CPRIT, particularly if the application is recommended for funding. Do not include any proprietary information in the layperson's summary.

8.2.3. Summary of Specific Aims and Sub Aims (2,000 characters)

Please provide a summary of the aims of the proposal. **This section must be completed by the PI.** The Specific Aims Summary should identify the problem or gap in our current knowledge. It should present a hypothesis and briefly describe the aims and approaches and address the

proposal's innovation, novel approaches, and significance and impact on the field and cancer research.

8.2.4. Specific Aims and Sub Aims

List specific aims and sub aims to be achieved during this award. **This section must be completed by the PI**. These aims/sub aims will also be used during the submission and evaluation of progress reports and assessment of project success. Refer to the template for specific aims and sub aims document located in *Current Funding Opportunities* for Academic Research in CARS.

8.2.5. 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 REI faculty should be complemented by a strongly documented institutional commitment to the recruitment. The financial commitments made to the PI 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 PI:

- 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 PI's research program through the course of the CPRIT award. The financial commitments made to the PI 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 PI. If an award dictates that such funds

must be used for salary, the corresponding amount of institutional funds committed to pay the PI's salary will be redirected to allow the PI 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 PI's full salary, including summer salary, for the duration of the award must be documented. If the PI 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 PI.
- Include a brief job description for the PI should recruitment be successful.
- Describe the institutional environment and any professional commitments to the PI 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 PI.
- Institutions may provide additional information in support of a PI's research plan to demonstrate how the institutional commitment, through development of strategic collaborations, will foster a PI's cancer research. This additional information is highly encouraged when proposing a PI 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 PI.

Example of an acceptable Institutional Commitment table:

PI'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 PI must remain equal to or greater than 50% of the CPRIT award.

8.2.6. 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 PI 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 PI. 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 PI: The letter should include a description of the caliber of the PI and justification of nomination of the PI 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 PI 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 PI'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.

8.2.7. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

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

8.2.8. Research (4 pages)

Summarize the key elements of the PI's research accomplishments and provide an overview of the proposed research by outlining the background and rationale, hypotheses and aims, strategies, specific aims, 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 PI. References cited in this section should be listed in the Publications/References section (see section 8.2.9).**

PIs 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."

8.2.9. Publications/References (1 Page)

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

8.2.10. Research Collaboration/Synergy Plan (2 pages)

Institutions may provide additional information in support of a PI's research plan to demonstrate how the institutional commitment through development of strategic collaborations will foster a PI's cancer research. This additional information is highly encouraged when proposing a PI 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).

8.2.11. Publications

Provide the 5 most significant publications that have resulted from the PI'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.

8.2.12. 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.

8.2.13. Current and Pending Support

State the funding source, duration, and title of all current and pending research support held by the PI. If the PI 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.

8.2.14. Research Environment (1 page)

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

8.2.15. Descriptive Biography (Up to 2 pages)

Provide a brief descriptive biography of the PI, including his or her accomplishments, education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, publications relevant to cancer research, and a brief overview of the PI's specific aims, if selected, to receive the award. **This section of the application must be prepared by the PI.** If the application is approved for funding, this section will be made publicly available on CPRIT's website. PIs 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 monthly basis by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council. Council members may seek additional ad hoc evaluations of PIs. 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 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 PI 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 PI. 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 PI agrees to accept the recruitment offer at the time an application is submitted. However, applicant institutions should have an expectation that the recruitment will

be successful if an award is granted by CPRIT. It is the expectation that the nominating institution provides CPRIT with a status of the award acceptance as soon as status is known.

Review criteria will focus on the overall impression of the PI, 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 PI: Has the PI made significant, transformative, and sustained contributions to basic, translational, clinical, or population-based cancer research? Is the PI an established and nationally and/or internationally recognized leader in the field? Has the PI demonstrated excellence in leadership and teaching? Has the PI provided mentorship, inspiration, and/or professional training opportunities to junior scientists and students? Does the PI have a strong record of research funding? Does the PI have a publication history in high-impact journals within cancer research broadly, or within their specialty field, if applicable? Does the PI 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 PI'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 PI's research program? Is there evidence of strong institutional support? Will the PI 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, 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 specific aims 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) 24.6-7 Academic Research - Recruitment Review Panel (24.6-7_REC) Observation Report

Report No.	2024-02-08 24.6-7_REC
Program Name:	Academic Research
Panel Name:	24.6-7 Academic Research - Recruitment Review Panel (24.6-7 _REC)
Panel Date:	February 8, 2024
Report Date:	February 13, 2024

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 24.6-7 Academic Research - Recruitment Review Panel (24.6-7_REC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Richard Kolodner and conducted via videoconference on February 8, 2024.

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: Eight (8) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, and seven (7) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- 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 to aid in the observation of the COI procedures and objectives. A completed attendance sheet and sign-in log were 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.8-9 Academic Research Recruitment Review Panel (24.8-9_REC)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-04-11 24.8-9_REC
Program Name:	Academic Research
Panel Name:	24.8-9 Academic Research Recruitment Review Panel (24.8-9 _REC)
Panel Date:	April 11, 2024
Report Date:	April 16, 2024

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 24.8-9 Academic Research Recruitment Review Panel (24.8-9_REC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Richard Kolodner and conducted via videoconference on April 11, 2024.

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: Twenty-one (21 applications were discussed and scored
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, eleven (11) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Three (3)
- 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 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,

Mara Ash, CIA, CGAP, CGFM, CRMA, 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 Cycles 24.6-9
Awards Announced at the May 15, 2024, Oversight Committee Meeting

The following table 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 Cycles 24.6-9 include *Recruitment of Established Investigators; Recrutiment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members;* and *Recruitment of Rising Stars.*

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 Cycles 24.6-9

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
RR240024*	1.0
RR240017*	1.0
A	3.6

* Recommended for funding.

Final Overall Evaluation Scores and Rank Order Scores

UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

April 15, 2024

Dr. David A. Cummings, M.D.
Oversight Committee Presiding Officer
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Via email to dcummingsmd@yahoo.com

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

Dear Dr. Cummings and Mr. Roberts,

The Scientific Review Council (SRC) is pleased to submit this list of research grant recommendations for the Recruitment of Established Investigators, Recruitment of Rising Stars, and Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members.

The SRC met on February 8, 2024 to review recruitment applications submitted for Cycle FY24.6-7 and then on April 11, 2024 to review recruitment applications submitted for Cycle FY24.8-9.

Recommended funding amounts and the overall evaluation score are stated for each grant application. The total amount for the applications recommended is $35,998,639.

These recommendations meet the SRC's standards for grant award funding. These standards include selecting innovative research projects addressing CPRIT's long term goals to achieve a decrease in the burden of cancer in Texas through preventive measures, new diagnostics and treatments, and effective translation of discoveries into products.

Sincerely yours,

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

Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine
UC San Diego School of Medicine • 9500 Gilman Drive, Mail Code 0660 • La Jolla, CA 92093-0660
T: 858-534-7804 • F: 858-534-7750 • rkolodner@health.ucsd.edu

UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Rank	ID	RFA	PI	Organization	Budget	Overall Score
1	RR240017	REI	Thomas Milner, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$6,000,000	**1.0**
2	RR240060	RFTFM	Isaac Fianu, Ph. D	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000	**1.0**
3	RR240024	REI	Radek Skoda, M.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$6,000,000	**1.0**
4	RR240028	RFTFM	Phillip Dumesic, M.D., Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$2,000,000	**1.0**
5	RR240035	RRS	Susan Bullan, Ph.D.	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$4,000,000	**1.1**
6	RR240042	RFTFM	Maria Falzone, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	$2,000,000	**1.4**
7	RR240063	RFTFM	Lauren Hagler, Ph.D.	Texas A&M University	$1,998,639	**1.7**
8	RR240037	RRS	Oren Rom, Ph.D.	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$4,000,000	**1.7**
9	RR240051	RFTFM	Claudia Yun Wei, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000	**2.0**
10	RR240055	RFTFM	Katherine Alexander, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$2,000,000	**2.0**
11	RR240057	RFTFM	Andrew Weems, Ph.D.	The University of Texas at Austin	$2,000,000	**2.0**
12	RR240039	RFTFM	Richard Voit, M.D., Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000	**2.0**

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

Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine
UC San Diego School of Medicine • 9500 Gilman Drive, Mail Code 0660 • La Jolla, CA 92093-0660
T: 858-534-7804 • F: 858-534-7750 • rkolodner@health.ucsd.edu

Cancer Prevention & Research
Institute of Texas

CEO Affidavit
Supporting Information

Academic Research Recruitment
FY 2024—Cycles 6-9
Recruitment of First-Time,
Tenure-Track Faculty Members

Request for Applications

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

RFA R-24.1-RFT

Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members

Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document, which will be posted on June 21, 2023

Application Receipt Dates:
June 21, 2023-June 20, 2024

FY 2024
Fiscal Year Award Period
September 1, 2023-August 31, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

RFA VERSION HISTORY

6/21/23	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.

To accomplish CPRIT's long-term vision, the Oversight Committee has identified these 2024 priorities:

- Investing in the cancer research capacity of Texas institutions through recruitment of cancer scholars, investment in core facilities, and investment in individual investigator awards in all regions of the state;
- Building the Texas cancer life science ecosystem across Texas by bridging discovery and translational research into early-stage company products with high impact on cancer patient care and creating economic development for the State of Texas; and
- Increasing the capacity for Texas to have a significant impact on cancer prevention and early detection, ultimately decreasing cancer incidence and mortality.

Established Principles:

- Scientific excellence and impact on cancer
- Increasing the life sciences infrastructure in all regions of the state
- Reducing cancer disparities

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, particularly to regions of the state currently with limited access

2. RATIONALE

The aim of this award mechanism is to bolster cancer research in Texas by providing financial support to attract very promising investigators who are pursuing their first faculty appointment at the level of assistant professor (**first-time, tenure-track faculty members**). These individuals must have demonstrated academic excellence, innovation during predoctoral and/or postdoctoral research training, commitment to pursuing cancer research, and exceptional potential for achieving future impact in basic, translational, population-based, or clinical 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. Principal Investigators (PIs) with research programs addressing CPRIT's priority areas for research are encouraged. These include implementation research to accelerate the adoption and deployment of evidence-based prevention and screening

interventions, computational oncology and analytic methods, research including population-based research addressing cancer disparities, 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. All PIs are expected to have completed their doctoral and fellowship training and to have clearly demonstrated truly superior ability as evidenced by their accomplishments during training, proposed research plan, publication record, and letters of recommendation. This CPRIT-supported initiative is designed to enhance innovative programs of excellence by providing research support for promising, early-stage investigators **seeking their first tenure-track position.**

CPRIT will provide start-up funding for newly independent investigators, with the goal of augmenting and expanding the institution's efforts in cancer research. PIs will be expected to develop research projects within the sponsoring institution. Projects should be appropriate for a newly independent investigator and should foster the development of preliminary data that can be used to prepare applications for future independent research project grants to further both the investigator's research career and the CPRIT mission. The institution will be expected to work with each newly recruited research faculty member to design and execute a faculty career development plan consistent with his or her research emphasis. Relevance to cancer research and to CPRIT's priority areas are important evaluation criteria for CPRIT funding.

Applications nominating individuals who are well prepared to pursue careers in patient-oriented research and who have demonstrated exceptional potential to lead innovative discovery campaigns through conduct of clinical trials are appropriate for this mechanism and are 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 a First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member (RFTTFM) Award must therefore be complemented by a strong institutional commitment to the PI's career development that includes financial commitments that are in addition to the CPRIT award. The institutional commitment should be clearly documented in the application (see section 8.2.5) and include the amount and sources of salary support and all additional financial support that will be available to the PI's research program through the course of the CPRIT award. The financial commitments made to the PI for his or her research program 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, although individuals may apply for other future CPRIT funding as appropriate. Grant funds of up to $2,000,000 (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 $2,000,000 for the term of the award are acceptable if warranted by the scope of the research. Funding is to be used by the PI to support his or her research program. 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 CPRIT award may not be used for salary support of this PI or to construct or renovate laboratory space.

Note: In the event of insufficient funds, specific recruitment categories may be eliminated (example REI/RRS/RFTTFM) and nominations for specific categories may be closed for the remaining cycles of the fiscal year. Additionally, depending on the availability of funds, review cycles may be reduced, and/or the number of applications per institution may be capped, and recommended 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, 2024) or in the first quarter of the next fiscal year (starting September 1, 2024).

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.
- PIs 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 PI.
- A PI may be nominated by only 1 institution. If more than 1 institution is interested in a given PI, negotiations as to which institution will nominate him or her must be concluded before the nomination is made.
- No annual limit on the number of grant submissions by institutions has been set.
- A PI who has already accepted a position as a tenure-track assistant professor at the recruiting institution prior to the time that the Scientific Review Council reviews the PI 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 PIs 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 Scientific Review Council meeting. If a position is offered to the PI 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 PI 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 PI must devote at least 70% time to research activities. PIs whose major responsibilities are clinical care, teaching, or administration are not eligible.
- At the time of the application, the PI must ***not*** hold an appointment at the rank of assistant professor or above (or equivalent) at an accredited academic institution, research institution, industry, government agency, or private foundation. PIs holding non-tenure-track appointments at the rank of assistant professor are ***not*** eligible for this award. Examples of such appointments include research assistant professor, adjunct research assistant professor, assistant professor (non-tenure track).
- The PI may or may not reside in Texas at the time the application is submitted and may be nominated for a faculty position at the Texas institution where he or she is completing postdoctoral training or at another Texas institution.
- Applications nominating a PI for a faculty position at the Texas institution where he or she is completing postdoctoral training that do not clearly demonstrate a subsequent career pathway to independence for the PI will not be looked upon with favor.
- Successful PIs will be offered tenure-track academic positions at the rank of assistant professor.
- 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 RFTTFM Award mechanism. Any nomination for the RFTTFM Award that was previously submitted to CPRIT and reviewed but was not recommended for funding may not be resubmitted. If a nomination was administratively rejected prior to review, it can be resubmitted in the following cycles.

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. PIs 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 on a continuous basis throughout FY24.

In order to manage the timely review of nominations, it is anticipated that applications submitted by 11:59 PM central time on the 20th of each month and 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 Instructions for Applicants (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 (2,000 characters)

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

8.2.2. Layperson's Summary (2,000 characters)

Provide a layperson's summary of the proposed work. **This section must be completed by the PI.** Describe, in simple, nontechnical terms, the overall aims of the proposed work, the type(s) of cancer addressed, the potential significance of the results, and the impact of the work on advancing the field of cancer research, early detection, prevention, treatment, or survivorship.

The information provided in this summary will be made publicly available by CPRIT, particularly if the application is recommended for funding. Do not include any proprietary information in the layperson's summary.

8.2.3. Summary of Specific Aims and Sub Aims (2,000 characters)

Please provide a summary of the aims of the proposal. **This section must be completed by the PI.** The specific aims summary should identify the problem or gap in our current knowledge. It should present a hypothesis and briefly describe the aims and approaches and address the proposal's innovation, novel approaches, and significance and impact on the field and cancer research.

8.2.4. Specific Aims and Sub Aims

List specific aims and sub aims to be achieved during this award. **This section must be completed by the PI.** These aims/sub aims will also be used during the submission and evaluation of progress reports and assessment of project success. Refer to the template specific aims and sub aims document located in *Current Funding Opportunities* for Academic Research in CARS.

8.2.5. 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 RFTTFM Award must therefore be complemented by a strongly documented institutional commitment to the PI's career development that includes financial commitments that are in addition to the CPRIT award.

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

- 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 PI's research program through the course of the CPRIT award. The financial commitments made to the PI 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 a career transition award (K99/R00) or an investigator-initiated award received by the PI. If an award dictates that such funds must be used for salary, the corresponding amount of institutional funds committed to pay the PI's salary will be redirected to allow the PI 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 PI's full salary, including summer salary, for the duration of the award must be documented. If the PI 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 PI.
- Include a brief job description for the PI should recruitment be successful.
- Describe the institutional environment and any professional commitments to the PI 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 PI.
- Institutions may provide additional information in support of a PI's research plan to demonstrate how the institutional commitment through development of strategic collaborations will foster a PI's cancer research. This additional information is highly encouraged when proposing a PI 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 PI.

Example of an acceptable Institutional Commitment table:

PI'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 PI must remain equal to or greater than 50% of the CPRIT award.

8.2.6. 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 PI 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 PI. 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 PI: The letter should include a description of the caliber of the PI and justification of the nomination of the PI 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

upon 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 PI 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 PI'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.

The letter of support from the department chair must also do the following:

1. Describe how the PI will be independent and autonomous in developing his or her research program at the institution.
2. Present a plan for mentoring that includes the design and execution of a faculty career development plan for the PI.

8.2.7. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Provide a complete CV and list of publications for the PI. Only articles that have been published or that have been accepted for publication ("in press") should be cited.

8.2.8. Research (4 pages)

Summarize the key elements of the PI's research accomplishments and provide an overview of the proposed research by outlining the background and rationale, hypotheses and aims, strategies, specific aims , 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 PI. References cited in this section should be included in the Publications/References section (see 8.2.9).**

PIs 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."

8.2.9. Publications/References (1 page)

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

8.2.10. Research Collaboration/Synergy Plan (2 pages)

Institutions may provide additional information in support of a PI's research plan to demonstrate how the institutional commitment through development of strategic collaborations will foster a PI's cancer research. This additional information is highly encouraged when proposing a PI 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).

8.2.11. Publications

Provide the 3 most significant publications that have resulted from the PI'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.

8.2.12. 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.

8.2.13. Current and Pending Support

State the funding source, duration, and title of all current and pending research support held by the PI. If the PI 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.

8.2.14. Letters of Recommendation

Provide 3 letters of recommendation from individuals who are in a position to detail the PI's academic and scientific research accomplishments, potential for high-impact research, and ability to make a significant contribution to the field of cancer research.

8.2.15. Research Environment (1 page)

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

8.2.16. Descriptive Biography (Up to 2 pages)

Provide a brief descriptive biography of the PI, including his or her accomplishments, education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, publications relevant to cancer research, and a brief overview of the PI's specific aims, if selected, to receive the award. **This section of the application must be prepared by the PI.** If the application is approved for funding, this section will be made publicly available on CPRIT's website. PIs 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 monthly basis by the CPRIT Scientific Review

Council. Council members may seek additional ad hoc evaluations of PIs. 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 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 PI 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 PI. 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 PI agrees to accept the recruitment offer at the time an application is submitted. However, applicant institutions should have an expectation that the recruitment will be successful if an award is granted by CPRIT. It is the expectation that the nominating institution provides CPRIT with a status of the award acceptance as soon as status is known.

Review criteria will focus on the overall impression of the PI, his or her proposed research program, and his or her long-term potential for contributions to, and impact on, the field of cancer research. Questions to be considered by the reviewers are as follows:

Quality of the PI: Has the PI demonstrated academic excellence? Has the PI received excellent predoctoral and postdoctoral training? Does the PI show exceptional potential for achieving future impact on basic, translational, clinical, or population-based cancer research in the future? Has the PI demonstrated a commitment to cancer research? Has the PI demonstrated independence or the potential for independence?

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 have a significant impact on the field of cancer research? Will the proposed research generate preliminary data that can be used for the preparation of applications for future independent research project grants?

Relevance of PI'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?

Letters of Recommendation: Do the letters of recommendation detail the PI's academic and clinical research accomplishments, potential for high-impact research, and ability to make a significant contribution to the field of cancer research?

Research Environment: Does the institution have the necessary facilities, expertise, and resources to support the PI's research? Is there evidence of strong institutional support? Will the PI be free of major administrative/clinical responsibilities so that he or she can focus on growing his or her research? Has the institution identified a mentor who will design and execute a faculty career development plan for the PI?

10. KEY DATES

RFA

RFA Release June 21, 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 specific aims 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) 24.6-7 Academic Research - Recruitment Review Panel (24.6-7_REC) Observation Report

Report No.	2024-02-08 24.6-7_REC
Program Name:	Academic Research
Panel Name:	24.6-7 Academic Research - Recruitment Review Panel (24.6-7 _REC)
Panel Date:	February 8, 2024
Report Date:	February 13, 2024

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 24.6-7 Academic Research - Recruitment Review Panel (24.6-7_REC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Richard Kolodner and conducted via videoconference on February 8, 2024.

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: Eight (8) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, and seven (7) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- 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 to aid in the observation of the COI procedures and objectives. A completed attendance sheet and sign-in log were 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.8-9 Academic Research Recruitment Review Panel (24.8-9_REC)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-04-11 24.8-9_REC
Program Name:	Academic Research
Panel Name:	24.8-9 Academic Research Recruitment Review Panel (24.8-9 _REC)
Panel Date:	April 11, 2024
Report Date:	April 16, 2024

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 24.8-9 Academic Research Recruitment Review Panel (24.8-9_REC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Richard Kolodner and conducted via videoconference on April 11, 2024.

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: Twenty-one (21 applications were discussed and scored
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, eleven (11) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Three (3)
- 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 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,

Mara Ash, CIA, CGAP, CGFM, CRMA, 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 Cycles 24.6-9
Awards Announced at the May 15, 2024, Oversight Committee Meeting

The following table 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 Cycles 24.6-9 include *Recruitment of Established Investigators; Recrutiment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members;* and *Recruitment of Rising Stars.*

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 First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members

Academic Research Recruitment Cycles 24.6-9

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
RR240028[a]	1.0
RR240060*	1.0
RR240042*	1.4
RR240063*	1.7
RR240051*	2.0
RR240055*	2.0
RR240057*	2.0
RR240039*	2.0
B	2.6
C	3.0
D	3.0
E	3.0
F	3.9
G	3.9
H	4.0
I	4.0
J	4.7
K	5.0
L	5.0

[a] The Scientific Review Council recommended this application to the Program Integration Committee (PIC); however, the applicant withdrew the application prior to the May 1, 2024, PIC meeting.

* Recommended for funding.

Final Overall Evaluation Scores and Rank Order Scores

UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

April 15, 2024

Dr. David A. Cummings, M.D.
Oversight Committee Presiding Officer
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Via email to dcummingsmd@yahoo.com

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

Dear Dr. Cummings and Mr. Roberts,

The Scientific Review Council (SRC) is pleased to submit this list of research grant recommendations for the Recruitment of Established Investigators, Recruitment of Rising Stars, and Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members.

The SRC met on February 8, 2024 to review recruitment applications submitted for Cycle FY24.6-7 and then on April 11, 2024 to review recruitment applications submitted for Cycle FY24.8-9.

Recommended funding amounts and the overall evaluation score are stated for each grant application. The total amount for the applications recommended is $35,998,639.

These recommendations meet the SRC's standards for grant award funding. These standards include selecting innovative research projects addressing CPRIT's long term goals to achieve a decrease in the burden of cancer in Texas through preventive measures, new diagnostics and treatments, and effective translation of discoveries into products.

Sincerely yours,

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

Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine
UC San Diego School of Medicine • 9500 Gilman Drive, Mail Code 0660 • La Jolla, CA 92093-0660
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UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Rank	ID	RFA	PI	Organization	Budget	Overall Score
1	RR240017	REI	Thomas Milner, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$6,000,000	**1.0**
2	RR240060	RFTFM	Isaac Fianu, Ph. D	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000	**1.0**
3	RR240024	REI	Radek Skoda, M.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$6,000,000	**1.0**
4	RR240028	RFTFM	Phillip Dumesic, M.D., Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$2,000,000	**1.0**
5	RR240035	RRS	Susan Bullan, Ph.D.	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$4,000,000	**1.1**
6	RR240042	RFTFM	Maria Falzone, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	$2,000,000	**1.4**
7	RR240063	RFTFM	Lauren Hagler, Ph.D.	Texas A&M University	$1,998,639	**1.7**
8	RR240037	RRS	Oren Rom, Ph.D.	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$4,000,000	**1.7**
9	RR240051	RFTFM	Claudia Yun Wei, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000	**2.0**
10	RR240055	RFTFM	Katherine Alexander, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$2,000,000	**2.0**
11	RR240057	RFTFM	Andrew Weems, Ph.D.	The University of Texas at Austin	$2,000,000	**2.0**
12	RR240039	RFTFM	Richard Voit, M.D., Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000	**2.0**

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

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Cancer Prevention & Research
Institute of Texas

CEO Affidavit
Supporting Information

Academic Research Recruitment
FY 2024—Cycles 6-9
Recruitment of Rising Stars

Request for Applications

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

RFA R-24.1-RRS

Recruitment of Rising Stars

Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document, which will be posted on June 21, 2023

Application Receipt Dates:

June 21, 2023-June 20, 2024

FY 2024

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2023-August 31, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

RFA VERSION HISTORY

6/21/23	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.

To accomplish CPRIT's long-term vision, the Oversight Committee has identified these 2024 priorities:

- Investing in the cancer research capacity of Texas institutions through recruitment of cancer scholars, investment in core facilities, and investment in individual investigator awards in all regions of the state;
- Building the Texas cancer life science ecosystem across Texas by bridging discovery and translational research into early-stage company products with high impact on cancer patient care and creating economic development for the State of Texas; and
- Increasing the capacity for Texas to have a significant impact on cancer prevention and early detection, ultimately decreasing cancer incidence and mortality.

Established Principles:

- Scientific excellence and impact on cancer
- Increasing the life sciences infrastructure in all regions of the state

- Reducing cancer disparities

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, particularly to regions of the state currently with limited access.

2. RATIONALE

The aim of this award mechanism is to bolster cancer research in Texas by providing financial support to attract individuals whose work has outstanding merit, who show a marked capacity for self-direction, and who demonstrate the promise for continued and enhanced contributions to the field of cancer research ("Rising Stars"). 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. Principal Investigators (PIs) with research programs addressing CPRIT's priority areas for research are encouraged. These include implementation research to accelerate the adoption and deployment of evidence-based prevention and screening interventions, research including population-based research, 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. Having already demonstrated extraordinary accomplishments during their initial years of independent research, Rising Stars represent a unique blend of scholastic aptitude, scientific rigor, and commitment to exploring transformational research through the development of creative ideas with high potential.

PIs who have not historically worked in cancer research but are proposing creative hypotheses and research plans for this field are encouraged to apply. Similarly, PIs pursuing original and potentially high-impact basic science programs that have the potential to be translated toward clinical investigations or provide "proof of principle" are also encouraged to apply. It is expected that the PI will contribute significantly to, and have a major impact on, the institution's overall cancer research initiative. Funding will be given for exceptional PIs 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 PIs will have specific expertise in cancer-related areas needed to address an institutional priority. PIs are expected to be approximately at the career level of a late assistant/early associate professor or equivalent. This funding mechanism considers expertise, accomplishments, and breadth of experience 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 are 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.

Applications that include purposeful collaborations with institutions eligible for a CPRIT Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer Award 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 a Rising Star (RRS) Award must be complemented by a strong institutional commitment to the recruitment. The institutional commitment should be clearly documented in the application (see section 8.2.5) and include the amount and sources of salary support and all additional financial support that will be available to the PI's research program through the course of the CPRIT award. The financial commitments made to the PI 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 is a 5-year award and is not renewable. Grant funds of up to $4,000,000 (total costs) over a 5-year period may be requested. Exceptions to this limit will be entertained only if there is compelling written justification. Annual allocations of this award are at the discretion of the awardee as long as the total award does not exceed $4,000,000. 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 PI but may not be used to construct or renovate laboratory space.

No annual limit on the number of grant application submissions by institutions has been set.

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 2024 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: In the event of insufficient funds, specific recruitment categories may be eliminated (example REI/RRS/RFTTFM) and nominations for specific categories may be closed for the remaining cycles of the fiscal year. Additionally, depending on the availability of funds, review cycles may be reduced, and/or the number of applications per institution may be capped, and recommended 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, 2024) or in the first quarter of the next fiscal year (starting September 1, 2024).

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.
- PIs 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 PI.

- A PI may be nominated by only 1 institution. If more than 1 institution is interested in a given PI, negotiations as to which institution will nominate him or her must be concluded before the nomination is made.
- There is no limit to the number of applications that an institution may submit during a review cycle.
- A PI who has already accepted a position at the recruiting institution prior to the time that the Scientific Review Council reviews the PI 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 PIs 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 PI 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 PI 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 PI must devote at least 70% time to research activities. PIs whose major responsibilities are clinical care, teaching, or administration are not eligible.
- At the time of the application, the PI should hold an appointment at the rank of assistant or associate professor tenure track or tenured (or equivalent) at an accredited academic institution, research institution, industry, government agency, or private foundation. The PI 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 RRS Award mechanism. Any nomination for the RRS Award that was previously submitted to CPRIT and reviewed but was not recommended for funding may not be resubmitted. A nomination for the RRS Award that was previously submitted to CPRIT for the Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Member or RRS Award and reviewed and recommended for funding but declined by the PI may be submitted in response to this RFA if the PI 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] 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. PIs 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 on a continuous basis throughout FY24.

In order to manage the timely review of nominations, it is anticipated that applications submitted by 11:59 PM central time on the 20th day of each month will be reviewed by the 15th day of the following month. For an application to be considered for review during the monthly cycle, that application must be submitted on or before 11:59 PM central time. In the event that the 20th 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. During periods when CPRIT does not receive an adequate number of applications, the review may be extended into the following month. **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 *Instructions for Applicants* 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 PI's name, organization from which the PI is being recruited, and also the department and/or entity within the nominator's organization where the PI will hold the faculty position.

8.2.2. Layperson's Summary (2,000 characters)

Provide a layperson's summary of the proposed work. **This section must be completed by the PI.** Describe, in simple, nontechnical terms, the overall aims of the proposed work, the type(s) of cancer addressed, the potential significance of the results, and the impact of the work on advancing the field of cancer research, early detection, prevention, treatment, or survivorship. The information provided in this summary will be made publicly available by CPRIT, particularly if the application is recommended for funding. Do not include any proprietary information in the layperson's summary.

8.2.3. Summary of Specific Aims and Sub Aims (2,000 characters)

Please provide a summary of the aims of the proposal. **This section must be completed by the PI.** The specific aims summary should identify the problem or gap in our current knowledge. It should present a hypothesis and briefly describe the aims and approaches and address the proposal's innovation, novel approaches, and significance and impact on the field and cancer research.

8.2.4. Specific Aims and Sub Aims

List specific aims and sub aims to be achieved during this award. **This section must be completed by the PI.** These aims/sub aims will also be used during the submission and evaluation of progress reports and assessment of project success. Refer to the template for

specific aims and sub aims document located in *Current Funding Opportunities* for Academic Research in CARS.

8.2.5. 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 a Rising Stars PI must be complemented by a strongly documented institutional commitment to the recruitment. The financial commitments made to the PI 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 PI:

- 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 PI's research program through the course of the CPRIT award. The financial commitments made to the PI 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 PI. If an award dictates that such funds must be used for salary, the corresponding amount of institutional funds committed to pay the PI's salary will be redirected to allow the PI 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 PI's full salary, including summer salary, for the duration of the award must be documented. If the PI 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 PI.

- Include a brief job description of the PI should recruitment be successful.
- Describe the institutional environment and any professional commitments to the PI 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 PI.
- Institutions may provide additional information in support of a PI's research plan to demonstrate how the institutional commitment through development of strategic collaborations will foster a PI's cancer research. This additional information is highly encouraged when proposing a PI 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 PI.

Example of an acceptable Institutional Commitment table:

PI'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 PI must remain equal to or greater than 50% of the CPRIT award.

8.2.6. 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 PI 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 PI. 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 PI: The letter should include a description of the caliber of the PI and justification of nomination of the PI 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 PI 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 PI'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.

8.2.7. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

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

8.2.8. Research (4 pages)

Summarize the key elements of the PI'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 PI. References cited in this section should be included in the Publications/References Section (see 8.2.9).**

PIs 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."

8.2.9. Publications/References (1 Page)

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

8.2.10. Research Collaboration/Synergy Plan (2 pages)

Institutions may provide additional information in support of a PI's research plan to demonstrate how the institutional commitment through development of strategic collaborations will foster a PI's cancer research. This additional information is highly encouraged when proposing a PI 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).

8.2.11. Publications

Provide the 5 most significant publications that have resulted from the PI'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.

8.2.12. 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.

8.2.13. Current and Pending Support

State the funding source, duration, and title of all current and pending research support held by the PI. If the PI 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.

8.2.14. Research Environment (1 page)

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

8.2.15. Descriptive Biography (Up to 2 pages)

Provide a brief descriptive biography of the PI, including his or her accomplishments, education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, publications relevant to cancer research, and a brief overview of the PI's goals if selected to receive the award. **This section of the application must be prepared by the PI.** If the application is approved for funding, this section will be made publicly available on CPRIT's website. PIs 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 monthly basis by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council. Council members may seek additional ad hoc evaluations of PIs. 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, in 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 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 PI 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 PI. Recruitment efforts are not likely to be successful unless there is a strong commitment from CPRIT and the host institution.** It is not necessary that a PI agrees to accept the recruitment offer at the time an application is submitted. However, applicant institutions should have an expectation that the recruitment will be successful if an award is granted by CPRIT. It is the expectation that the nominating institution provides CPRIT with a status of the award acceptance as soon as status is known.

Review criteria will focus on the overall impression of the PI, 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 PI: Has the PI demonstrated extraordinary accomplishments during his or her initial years of independent research? Does the PI show promise of making important contributions with significant impact to basic, translational, clinical, or population-based cancer research in the future? Has the PI demonstrated strong self-direction, motivation, and commitment for transformative cancer research?

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 have a significant impact on the field of cancer research? Will it expand the boundaries of

cancer research beyond traditional methodology by incorporating novel and interdisciplinary techniques?

Relevance of PI'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 PI's research? Is there evidence of strong institutional support? Will the PI be free of major administrative/clinical responsibilities so that he or she can focus on maintaining and enhancing his or her research program? Will the PI be provided with adequate professional development opportunities to grow as a leader?

10. KEY DATES

RFA

RFA Release	June 21, 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 aims 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 for Academic Research.

Email: Research@cprit.texas.gov
Website: www.cprit.texas.gov

Third Party Observer Reports

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) 24.6-7 Academic Research - Recruitment Review Panel (24.6-7_REC) Observation Report

Report No.	2024-02-08 24.6-7_REC
Program Name:	Academic Research
Panel Name:	24.6-7 Academic Research - Recruitment Review Panel (24.6-7 _REC)
Panel Date:	February 8, 2024
Report Date:	February 13, 2024

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 24.6-7 Academic Research - Recruitment Review Panel (24.6-7_REC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Richard Kolodner and conducted via videoconference on February 8, 2024.

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: Eight (8) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, and seven (7) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- 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 to aid in the observation of the COI procedures and objectives. A completed attendance sheet and sign-in log were 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.8-9 Academic Research Recruitment Review Panel (24.8-9_REC)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-04-11 24.8-9_REC
Program Name:	Academic Research
Panel Name:	24.8-9 Academic Research Recruitment Review Panel (24.8-9 _REC)
Panel Date:	April 11, 2024
Report Date:	April 16, 2024

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 24.8-9 Academic Research Recruitment Review Panel (24.8-9_REC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Richard Kolodner and conducted via videoconference on April 11, 2024.

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: Twenty-one (21 applications were discussed and scored
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, eleven (11) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Three (3)
- 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 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,

Mara Ash, CIA, CGAP, CGFM, CRMA, 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 Cycles 24.6-9
Awards Announced at the May 15, 2024, Oversight Committee Meeting

The following table 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 Cycles 24.6-9 include *Recruitment of Established Investigators; Recrutiment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members;* and *Recruitment of Rising Stars.*

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 Rising Stars

Academic Research Recruitment Cycles 24.6-9

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
RR240035*	1.1
RR240037*	1.7
M	3.0
N	4.0
O	4.0

* Recommended for funding.

Final Overall Evaluation Scores and Rank Order Scores

UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

April 15, 2024

Dr. David A. Cummings, M.D.
Oversight Committee Presiding Officer
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Via email to dcummingsmd@yahoo.com

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

Dear Dr. Cummings and Mr. Roberts,

The Scientific Review Council (SRC) is pleased to submit this list of research grant recommendations for the Recruitment of Established Investigators, Recruitment of Rising Stars, and Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members.

The SRC met on February 8, 2024 to review recruitment applications submitted for Cycle FY24.6-7 and then on April 11, 2024 to review recruitment applications submitted for Cycle FY24.8-9.

Recommended funding amounts and the overall evaluation score are stated for each grant application. The total amount for the applications recommended is $35,998,639.

These recommendations meet the SRC's standards for grant award funding. These standards include selecting innovative research projects addressing CPRIT's long term goals to achieve a decrease in the burden of cancer in Texas through preventive measures, new diagnostics and treatments, and effective translation of discoveries into products.

Sincerely yours,

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

Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine
UC San Diego School of Medicine • 9500 Gilman Drive, Mail Code 0660 • La Jolla, CA 92093-0660
T: 858-534-7804 • F: 858-534-7750 • rkolodner@health.ucsd.edu

UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Rank	ID	RFA	PI	Organization	Budget	Overall Score
1	RR240017	REI	Thomas Milner, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$6,000,000	**1.0**
2	RR240060	RFTFM	Isaac Fianu, Ph. D	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000	**1.0**
3	RR240024	REI	Radek Skoda, M.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$6,000,000	**1.0**
4	RR240028	RFTFM	Phillip Dumesic, M.D., Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$2,000,000	**1.0**
5	RR240035	RRS	Susan Bullan, Ph.D.	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$4,000,000	**1.1**
6	RR240042	RFTFM	Maria Falzone, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	$2,000,000	**1.4**
7	RR240063	RFTFM	Lauren Hagler, Ph.D.	Texas A&M University	$1,998,639	**1.7**
8	RR240037	RRS	Oren Rom, Ph.D.	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	$4,000,000	**1.7**
9	RR240051	RFTFM	Claudia Yun Wei, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000	**2.0**
10	RR240055	RFTFM	Katherine Alexander, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$2,000,000	**2.0**
11	RR240057	RFTFM	Andrew Weems, Ph.D.	The University of Texas at Austin	$2,000,000	**2.0**
12	RR240039	RFTFM	Richard Voit, M.D., Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000	**2.0**

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

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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application RR240017
Recruitment of Established Investigators
Nomination of Thomas Milner, 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 three applications in response to this RFA during cycles 24.6 through 24.9. 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. The SRC recommended 18 applications to the PIC; however, one *Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members* application was withdrawn by the applicant prior to the May 1, 2024, PIC meeting.

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 2nd day of May, 2024, by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

Sandra Reyes
Notary Public, State of Texas

SANDRA REYES
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires October 21, 2025
Notary ID 12806624-2

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE **Date and time exported: 05/02/2024 02:03 PM CT**

FY:	2024
CYCLE:	1
PROGRAM:	Recruitment
MECHANISM:	Recruitment of Established Investigators
APPLICATION ID:	RR240017
APPLICATION TITLE	Nano-BioPhotonics for Circadian Cancer Prevention and Therapy
APPLICANT NAME:	Milner, Thomas
ORGANIZATION:	Baylor College of Medicine
PANEL NAME:	Recruitment FY24_Cycle 8 and 9

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	**RFA Approved by CSO**	**06/20/2023**	09/29/2023
	RFA Approved by CSO (revised)	**03/20/2024**	03/29/2024
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	**06/22/2023**	09/29/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	**01/23/2024**	04/16/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	**02/20/2024**	04/16/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened - 24.9	**02/21/2024**	04/16/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed - 24.9	**03/20/2024**	04/16/2024
	Date application submitted	**03/18/2024**	04/16/2024
	Method of submission	**CARS**	04/16/2024
	Within receipt period	**YES**	04/16/2024
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	**Administrative review notification**	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	**NO**	04/16/2024
	Assigned to primary reviewers	**04/01/2024**	04/16/2024
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	**03/29/2024**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	**03/22/2024**	04/16/2024
Peer Review Meeting	**Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted**	**04/10/2024**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	**04/03/2024**	04/16/2024
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	**NONE**	04/16/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	**YES**	04/16/2024
	Peer Review Meeting	**04/11/2024**	04/16/2024
	Post review statements signed	**04/16/2024**	04/17/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/16/2024**	04/23/2024
	Score report delivered to CSO	**04/16/2024**	04/16/2024
	Recommended for SRC review	**YES**	04/16/2024
Final SRC Recommendation	**COI indicated by SRC member**	**NONE**	04/16/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	SRC Meeting	**04/11/2024**	04/16/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/16/2024**	04/23/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/16/2024
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	**04/16/2024**	04/17/2024
PIC Review	**Candidate not accepted position prior to SRC date**	**YES**	05/02/2024
	COI indicated by PIC member	**None**	05/02/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	05/02/2024
	PIC Review Meeting	**05/01/2024**	05/02/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	05/02/2024
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**	

Comments:		
Comment	Created Date	Created By
No Comment		

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application RR240024
Recruitment of Established Investigators
Nomination of Radek Skoda, M.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 three applications in response to this RFA during cycles 24.6 through 24.9. 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. The SRC recommended 18 applications to the PIC; however, one *Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members* application was withdrawn by the applicant prior to the May 1, 2024, PIC meeting.

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 2nd day of May, 2024, by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

Sandra Reyes
Notary Public, State of Texas

SANDRA REYES
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires October 21, 2025
Notary ID 12806624-2

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE **Date and time exported: 05/02/2024 02:03 PM CT**

FY:	2024
CYCLE:	1
PROGRAM:	Recruitment
MECHANISM:	Recruitment of Established Investigators
APPLICATION ID:	RR240024
APPLICATION TITLE	Dissecting the mechanisms governing clonal evolution and oncogenic dependency in myeloproliferative neoplasms
APPLICANT NAME:	Skoda, Radek
ORGANIZATION:	Baylor College of Medicine
PANEL NAME:	Recruitment FY24_Cycle 6 and 7

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	**RFA Approved by CSO**	**06/20/2023**	09/29/2023
	RFA Approved by CSO (revised)	**03/20/2024**	03/29/2024
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	**06/22/2023**	09/29/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	**11/21/2023**	03/29/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	**12/20/2023**	03/29/2024
	Date application submitted	**12/20/2023**	03/29/2024
	Method of submission	**CARS**	03/29/2024
	Within receipt period	**YES**	03/29/2024
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	**Administrative review notification**	**N/A**	03/29/2024
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	**NO**	03/29/2024
	Assigned to primary reviewers	**01/31/2024**	03/29/2024
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	**N/A**	03/29/2024
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	**01/29/2024**	03/29/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	**01/30/2024**	03/29/2024
Peer Review Meeting	**Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted**	**02/05/2024**	03/29/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	**02/06/2024**	03/29/2024
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	**NONE**	03/29/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	03/29/2024
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	**YES**	03/29/2024
	Peer Review Meeting	**02/08/2024**	03/29/2024
	Post review statements signed	**04/01/2024**	04/01/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**02/13/2024**	03/29/2024
	Score report delivered to CSO	**02/16/2024**	03/29/2024
	Recommended for SRC review	**YES**	03/29/2024
Final SRC Recommendation	**COI indicated by SRC member**	**NONE**	03/29/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	03/29/2024
	SRC Meeting	**02/08/2024**	03/29/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**02/13/2024**	03/29/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	03/29/2024
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	**04/16/2024**	04/17/2024
PIC Review	**Candidate not accepted position prior to SRC date**	**YES**	05/02/2024
	COI indicated by PIC member	**None**	05/02/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	05/02/2024
	PIC Review Meeting	**05/01/2024**	05/02/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	05/02/2024
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**	

Comments:

Comment	Created Date	Created By
No Comment		

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application RR240039
Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members
Nomination of Richard Voit, M.D., 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 First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 19 applications in response to this RFA during cycles 24.6 through 24.9, including one application that was withdrawn. 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. The SRC recommended 18 applications to the PIC; however, one application submitted in response to this RFA was withdrawn by the applicant prior to the May 1, 2024, PIC meeting.

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 2nd day of May, 2024, by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

Sandra Reyes
Notary Public, State of Texas

SANDRA REYES
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires October 21, 2025
Notary ID 12806624-2

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE **Date and time exported: 05/02/2024 02:04 PM CT**

FY:	2024
CYCLE:	1
PROGRAM:	Recruitment
MECHANISM:	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members
APPLICATION ID:	RR240039
APPLICATION TITLE	Prevention and treatment of AML by overcoming transcriptional dysregulation
APPLICANT NAME:	Voit, Richard
ORGANIZATION:	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
PANEL NAME:	Recruitment FY24_Cycle 6 and 7

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	**RFA Approved by CSO**	**06/20/2023**	09/29/2023
	RFA Approved by CSO (revised)	**03/20/2024**	03/29/2024
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	**06/22/2023**	09/29/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	**11/21/2023**	03/29/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	**12/20/2023**	03/29/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened - 24.7	**12/21/2023**	03/29/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed - 24.7	**01/22/2024**	03/29/2024
	Date application submitted	**01/19/2024**	03/29/2024
	Method of submission	**CARS**	03/29/2024
	Within receipt period	**YES**	03/29/2024
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	**Administrative review notification**	**N/A**	03/29/2024
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	**NO**	03/29/2024
	Assigned to primary reviewers	**01/31/2024**	03/29/2024
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	**N/A**	03/29/2024
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	**01/29/2024**	03/29/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	**01/28/2024**	03/29/2024
Peer Review Meeting	**Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted**	**02/05/2024**	03/29/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	**02/06/2024**	03/29/2024
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	**NONE**	03/29/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	03/29/2024
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	**YES**	03/29/2024
	Peer Review Meeting	**02/08/2024**	03/29/2024
	Post review statements signed	**04/01/2024**	04/01/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**02/13/2024**	03/29/2024
	Score report delivered to CSO	**02/16/2024**	03/29/2024
	Recommended for SRC review	**YES**	03/29/2024
Final SRC Recommendation	**COI indicated by SRC member**	**NONE**	03/29/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	03/29/2024
	SRC Meeting	**02/08/2024**	03/29/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**02/13/2024**	03/29/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	03/29/2024
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	**04/16/2024**	04/17/2024
PIC Review	**Candidate not accepted asst. prof. tenure track position prior to SRC date**	**YES**	05/02/2024
	COI indicated by PIC member	**None**	05/02/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	05/02/2024
	PIC Review Meeting	**05/01/2024**	05/02/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	05/02/2024
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**	

Comments:		
Comment	Created Date	Created By
No Comment		

CPRIT retrains the identity of the attesting party.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application RR240042
Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members
Nomination of Maria Falzone, 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 First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 19 applications in response to this RFA during cycles 24.6 through 24.9, including one application that was withdrawn. 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. The SRC recommended 18 applications to the PIC; however, one application submitted in response to this RFA was withdrawn by the applicant prior to the May 1, 2024, PIC meeting.

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 2nd day of May, 2024, by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

Sandra Reyes
Notary Public, State of Texas

SANDRA REYES
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires October 21, 2025
Notary ID 12806624-2

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE **Date and time exported: 05/02/2024 02:04 PM CT**

FY:	2024
CYCLE:	1
PROGRAM:	Recruitment
MECHANISM:	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members
APPLICATION ID:	RR240042
APPLICATION TITLE	Defining Oncogenic Roles of Lipid Cleavage Enzymes
APPLICANT NAME:	Falzone, Maria
ORGANIZATION:	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
PANEL NAME:	Recruitment FY24_Cycle 8 and 9

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	**RFA Approved by CSO**	**06/20/2023**	09/29/2023
	RFA Approved by CSO (revised)	**03/20/2024**	03/29/2024
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	**06/22/2023**	09/29/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	**01/23/2024**	04/16/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	**02/20/2024**	04/16/2024
	Date application submitted	**02/20/2024**	04/16/2024
	Method of submission	**CARS**	04/16/2024
	Within receipt period	**YES**	04/16/2024
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	**Administrative review notification**	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	**NO**	04/16/2024
	Assigned to primary reviewers	**04/01/2024**	04/16/2024
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	**03/22/2024**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	**03/27/2024**	04/16/2024
Peer Review Meeting	**Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted**	**04/09/2024**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	**04/09/2024**	04/16/2024
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	**NONE**	04/16/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	**YES**	04/16/2024
	Peer Review Meeting	**04/11/2024**	04/16/2024
	Post review statements signed	**04/16/2024**	04/17/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/16/2024**	04/23/2024
	Score report delivered to CSO	**04/16/2024**	04/16/2024
	Recommended for SRC review	**YES**	04/16/2024
Final SRC Recommendation	**COI indicated by SRC member**	**NONE**	04/16/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	SRC Meeting	**04/11/2024**	04/16/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/16/2024**	04/23/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/16/2024
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	**04/16/2024**	04/17/2024
PIC Review	**Candidate not accepted asst. prof. tenure track position prior to SRC date**	**YES**	05/02/2024
	COI indicated by PIC member	**None**	05/02/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	05/02/2024
	PIC Review Meeting	**05/01/2024**	05/02/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	05/02/2024
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**	

Comments:

Comment	Created Date	Created By
No Comment		

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application RR240051
Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members
Nomination of Claudia Yun Wei, 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).

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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 2nd day of May, 2024, by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

Sandra Reyes
Notary Public, State of Texas

SANDRA REYES
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires October 21, 2025
Notary ID 12806624-2

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE **Date and time exported: 05/02/2024 02:04 PM CT**

FY:	2024
CYCLE:	1
PROGRAM:	Recruitment
MECHANISM:	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members
APPLICATION ID:	RR240051
APPLICATION TITLE	Chromatin regulators in cancer plasticity and therapy resistance of rhabdomyosarcoma
APPLICANT NAME:	Wei, Claudia Yun
ORGANIZATION:	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
PANEL NAME:	Recruitment FY24_Cycle 8 and 9

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	**RFA Approved by CSO**	**06/20/2023**	09/29/2023
	RFA Approved by CSO (revised)	**03/20/2024**	03/29/2024
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	**06/22/2023**	09/29/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	**01/23/2024**	04/16/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	**02/20/2024**	04/16/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened - 24.9	**02/21/2024**	04/16/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed - 24.9	**03/20/2024**	04/16/2024
	Date application submitted	**03/18/2024**	04/16/2024
	Method of submission	**CARS**	04/16/2024
	Within receipt period	**YES**	04/16/2024
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	**Administrative review notification**	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	**NO**	04/16/2024
	Assigned to primary reviewers	**04/01/2024**	04/16/2024
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	**03/22/2024**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	**03/24/2024**	04/16/2024
Peer Review Meeting	**Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted**	**04/03/2024**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	**04/09/2024**	04/16/2024
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	**NONE**	04/16/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	**YES**	04/16/2024
	Peer Review Meeting	**04/11/2024**	04/16/2024
	Post review statements signed	**04/16/2024**	04/17/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/16/2024**	04/23/2024
	Score report delivered to CSO	**04/16/2024**	04/16/2024
	Recommended for SRC review	**YES**	04/16/2024
Final SRC Recommendation	**COI indicated by SRC member**	**NONE**	04/16/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	SRC Meeting	**04/11/2024**	04/16/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/16/2024**	04/23/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/16/2024
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	**04/16/2024**	04/17/2024
PIC Review	**Candidate not accepted asst. prof. tenure track position prior to SRC date**	**YES**	05/02/2024
	COI indicated by PIC member	**None**	05/02/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	05/02/2024
	PIC Review Meeting	**05/01/2024**	05/02/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	05/02/2024
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**	

Comments:		
Comment	Created Date	Created By
No Comment		

CPRIT retrains the identity of the attesting party.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application RR240057
Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members
Nomination of Andrew Weems, 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 First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 19 applications in response to this RFA during cycles 24.6 through 24.9, including one application that was withdrawn. 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. The SRC recommended 18 applications to the PIC; however, one application submitted in response to this RFA was withdrawn by the applicant prior to the May 1, 2024, PIC meeting.

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 2nd day of May, 2024, by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

Sandra Reyes
Notary Public, State of Texas

SANDRA REYES
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires October 21, 2025
Notary ID 12806624-2

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE **Date and time exported: 05/02/2024 02:04 PM CT**

FY:	2024
CYCLE:	1
PROGRAM:	Recruitment
MECHANISM:	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members
APPLICATION ID:	RR240057
APPLICATION TITLE	Bleb Signaling in Melanoma Therapeutic Resistance
APPLICANT NAME:	Weems, Andrew
ORGANIZATION:	The University of Texas at Austin
PANEL NAME:	Recruitment FY24_Cycle 8 and 9

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	**RFA Approved by CSO**	**06/20/2023**	09/29/2023
	RFA Approved by CSO (revised)	**03/20/2024**	03/29/2024
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	**06/22/2023**	09/29/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	**01/23/2024**	04/16/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	**02/20/2024**	04/16/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened - 24.9	**02/21/2024**	04/16/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed - 24.9	**03/20/2024**	04/16/2024
	Date application submitted	**03/19/2024**	04/16/2024
	Method of submission	**CARS**	04/16/2024
	Within receipt period	**YES**	04/16/2024
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	**Administrative review notification**	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	**NO**	04/16/2024
	Assigned to primary reviewers	**04/01/2024**	04/16/2024
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	**03/22/2024**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	**03/27/2024**	04/16/2024
Peer Review Meeting	**Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted**	**04/07/2024**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	**04/10/2024**	04/16/2024
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	**NONE**	04/16/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	**YES**	04/16/2024
	Peer Review Meeting	**04/11/2024**	04/16/2024
	Post review statements signed	**04/16/2024**	04/17/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/16/2024**	04/23/2024
	Score report delivered to CSO	**04/16/2024**	04/16/2024
	Recommended for SRC review	**YES**	04/16/2024
Final SRC Recommendation	**COI indicated by SRC member**	**NONE**	04/16/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	SRC Meeting	**04/11/2024**	04/16/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/16/2024**	04/23/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/16/2024
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	**04/16/2024**	04/17/2024
PIC Review	**Candidate not accepted asst. prof. tenure track position prior to SRC date**	**YES**	05/02/2024
	COI indicated by PIC member	**None**	05/02/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	05/02/2024
	PIC Review Meeting	**05/01/2024**	05/02/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	05/02/2024
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**	

Comments:		
Comment	Created Date	Created By
No Comment		

CPRIT retrains the identity of the attesting party.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application RR240060
Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members
Nomination of Isaac Fianu, 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 First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 19 applications in response to this RFA during cycles 24.6 through 24.9, including one application that was withdrawn. 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. The SRC recommended 18 applications to the PIC; however, one application submitted in response to this RFA was withdrawn by the applicant prior to the May 1, 2024, PIC meeting.

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 2nd day of May, 2024, by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

Sandra Reyes
Notary Public, State of Texas

SANDRA REYES
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires October 21, 2025
Notary ID 12806624-2

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE Date and time exported: 05/02/2024 02:04 PM CT

FY:	2024
CYCLE:	1
PROGRAM:	Recruitment
MECHANISM:	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members
APPLICATION ID:	RR240060
APPLICATION TITLE	Investigating the roles of Integrator complex in cancer development
APPLICANT NAME:	Fianu, Isaac
ORGANIZATION:	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
PANEL NAME:	Recruitment FY24_Cycle 8 and 9

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	**RFA Approved by CSO**	**06/20/2023**	09/29/2023
	RFA Approved by CSO (revised)	**03/20/2024**	03/29/2024
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	**06/22/2023**	09/29/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	**01/23/2024**	04/16/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	**02/20/2024**	04/16/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened - 24.9	**02/21/2024**	04/16/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed - 24.9	**03/20/2024**	04/16/2024
	Date application submitted	**03/19/2024**	04/16/2024
	Method of submission	**CARS**	04/16/2024
	Within receipt period	**YES**	04/16/2024
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	**Administrative review notification**	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	**NO**	04/16/2024
	Assigned to primary reviewers	**04/01/2024**	04/16/2024
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	**03/24/2024**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	**03/27/2024**	04/16/2024
Peer Review Meeting	**Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted**	**04/07/2024**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	**04/09/2024**	04/16/2024
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	**NONE**	04/16/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	**YES**	04/16/2024
	Peer Review Meeting	**04/11/2024**	04/16/2024
	Post review statements signed	**04/16/2024**	04/17/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/16/2024**	04/23/2024
	Score report delivered to CSO	**04/16/2024**	04/16/2024
	Recommended for SRC review	**YES**	04/16/2024
Final SRC Recommendation	**COI indicated by SRC member**	**NONE**	04/16/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	SRC Meeting	**04/11/2024**	04/16/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/16/2024**	04/23/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/16/2024
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	**04/16/2024**	04/17/2024
PIC Review	**Candidate not accepted asst. prof. tenure track position prior to SRC date**	**YES**	05/02/2024
	COI indicated by PIC member	**None**	05/02/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	05/02/2024
	PIC Review Meeting	**05/01/2024**	05/02/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	05/02/2024
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**	

Comments:

Comment	Created Date	Created By
No Comment		

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application RR240063
Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members
Nomination of Lauren Hagler, 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 First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 19 applications in response to this RFA during cycles 24.6 through 24.9, including one application that was withdrawn. 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. The SRC recommended 18 applications to the PIC; however, one application submitted in response to this RFA was withdrawn by the applicant prior to the May 1, 2024, PIC meeting.

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 2nd day of May, 2024, by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

Sandra Reyes
Notary Public, State of Texas

SANDRA REYES
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires October 21, 2025
Notary ID 12806624-2

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE **Date and time exported: 05/02/2024 02:04 PM CT**

FY:	2024
CYCLE:	1
PROGRAM:	Recruitment
MECHANISM:	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members
APPLICATION ID:	RR240063
APPLICATION TITLE	Developing High-throughput Methods to Measure, Predict, and Modulate RNA Interactions in Cells for Therapeutic Intervention in Cancer
APPLICANT NAME:	Hagler, Lauren
ORGANIZATION:	Texas A&M University
PANEL NAME:	Recruitment FY24_Cycle 8 and 9

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	**RFA Approved by CSO**	**06/20/2023**	09/29/2023
	RFA Approved by CSO (revised)	**03/20/2024**	03/29/2024
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	**06/22/2023**	09/29/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	**01/23/2024**	04/16/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	**02/20/2024**	04/16/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened - 24.9	**02/21/2024**	04/16/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed - 24.9	**03/20/2024**	04/16/2024
	Date application submitted	**03/28/2024**	04/16/2024
	Method of submission	**CARS**	04/16/2024
	Within receipt period	**NO**	04/16/2024
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	**Administrative review notification**	**03/26/2024**	04/16/2024
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	**NO**	04/16/2024
	Assigned to primary reviewers	**04/01/2024**	04/16/2024
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	**03/29/2024**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	**03/27/2024**	04/16/2024
Peer Review Meeting	**Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted**	**04/09/2024**	04/16/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	**04/10/2024**	04/16/2024
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	**NONE**	04/16/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	**YES**	04/16/2024
	Peer Review Meeting	**04/11/2024**	04/16/2024
	Post review statements signed	**04/16/2024**	04/17/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/16/2024**	04/23/2024
	Score report delivered to CSO	**04/16/2024**	04/16/2024
	Recommended for SRC review	**YES**	04/16/2024
Final SRC Recommendation	**COI indicated by SRC member**	**NONE**	04/16/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/16/2024
	SRC Meeting	**04/11/2024**	04/16/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/16/2024**	04/23/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/16/2024
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	**04/16/2024**	04/17/2024
PIC Review	**Candidate not accepted asst. prof. tenure track position prior to SRC date**	**YES**	05/02/2024
	COI indicated by PIC member	**None**	05/02/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	05/02/2024
	PIC Review Meeting	**05/01/2024**	05/02/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	05/02/2024
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**	

Comments:

Comment	Created Date
CARS reopened on Thursday, March 28 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM CST so that the applicants could provide a revised Institutional Commitment letter and revised Timeline document, change the Title and Institution for the PI, and enter a Sub-Aim for each Aim.	**2024-04-16 08:39:49.707**

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application RR240035
Recruitment of Rising Stars
Nomination of Susan Bullman, 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 Rising Stars* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received seven applications in response to this RFA during cycles 24.6 through 24.9. 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. The SRC recommended 18 applications to the PIC; however, one *Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members* application was withdrawn by the applicant prior to the May 1, 2024, PIC meeting.

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 2nd day of May, 2024, by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

Sandra Reyes
Notary Public, State of Texas

SANDRA REYES
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires October 21, 2025
Notary ID 12806624-2

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE **Date and time exported: 05/02/2024 02:03 PM CT**

FY:	2024
CYCLE:	1
PROGRAM:	Recruitment
MECHANISM:	Recruitment of Rising Stars
APPLICATION ID:	RR240035
APPLICATION TITLE	Targeting intra-tumoral microbes for the treatment, intervention, and prevention of cancer
APPLICANT NAME:	Bullman, Susan
ORGANIZATION:	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
PANEL NAME:	Recruitment FY24_Cycle 6 and 7

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	**RFA Approved by CSO**	**06/20/2023**	09/29/2023
	RFA Approved by CSO (revised)	**03/20/2024**	03/29/2024
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	**06/22/2023**	09/29/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	**11/21/2023**	03/29/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	**12/20/2023**	03/29/2024
	Date application submitted	**12/19/2023**	03/29/2024
	Method of submission	**CARS**	03/29/2024
	Within receipt period	**YES**	03/29/2024
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	**Administrative review notification**	**12/28/2023**	03/29/2024
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	**NO**	03/29/2024
	Assigned to primary reviewers	**01/31/2024**	03/29/2024
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	**N/A**	03/29/2024
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	**01/29/2024**	03/29/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	**01/26/2024**	03/29/2024
Peer Review Meeting	**Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted**	**02/07/2024**	03/29/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	**02/07/2024**	03/29/2024
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	**NONE**	03/29/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	03/29/2024
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	**YES**	03/29/2024
	Peer Review Meeting	**02/08/2024**	03/29/2024
	Post review statements signed	**04/01/2024**	04/01/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**02/13/2024**	03/29/2024
	Score report delivered to CSO	**02/16/2024**	03/29/2024
	Recommended for SRC review	**YES**	03/29/2024
Final SRC Recommendation	**COI indicated by SRC member**	**NONE**	03/29/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	03/29/2024
	SRC Meeting	**02/08/2024**	03/29/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**02/13/2024**	03/29/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	03/29/2024
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	**04/16/2024**	04/17/2024
PIC Review	**Candidate not accepted position prior to SRC date**	**YES**	05/02/2024
	COI indicated by PIC member	**None**	05/02/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	05/02/2024
	PIC Review Meeting	**05/01/2024**	05/02/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	05/02/2024
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**	

Comments:

Comment	Created Date	Created By
No Comment		

CPRIT retrains the identity of the attesting party.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application RR240037
Recruitment of Rising Stars
Nomination of Oren Rom, 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 Rising Stars* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received seven applications in response to this RFA during cycles 24.6 through 24.9. 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. The SRC recommended 18 applications to the PIC; however, one *Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members* application was withdrawn by the applicant prior to the May 1, 2024, PIC meeting.

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 2nd day of May, 2024, by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

Sandra Reyes
Notary Public, State of Texas

SANDRA REYES
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires October 21, 2025
Notary ID 12806624-2

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE **Date and time exported: 05/02/2024 02:03 PM CT**

FY:	2024
CYCLE:	1
PROGRAM:	Recruitment
MECHANISM:	Recruitment of Rising Stars
APPLICATION ID:	RR240037
APPLICATION TITLE	Targeting Novel Amino Acid-Lipid Interactions in MASH to Prevent HCC
APPLICANT NAME:	Rom, Oren
ORGANIZATION:	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
PANEL NAME:	Recruitment FY24_Cycle 6 and 7

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	**RFA Approved by CSO**	**06/20/2023**	09/29/2023
	RFA Approved by CSO (revised)	**03/20/2024**	03/29/2024
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	**06/22/2023**	09/29/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	**11/21/2023**	03/29/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	**12/20/2023**	03/29/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened - 24.7	**12/21/2023**	03/29/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed - 24.7	**01/22/2024**	03/29/2024
	Date application submitted	**01/19/2024**	03/29/2024
	Method of submission	**CARS**	03/29/2024
	Within receipt period	**YES**	03/29/2024
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	**Administrative review notification**	**N/A**	03/29/2024
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	**NO**	03/29/2024
	Assigned to primary reviewers	**01/31/2024**	03/29/2024
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	**N/A**	03/29/2024
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	**01/29/2024**	03/29/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	**01/28/2024**	03/29/2024
Peer Review Meeting	**Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted**	**02/07/2024**	03/29/2024
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	**02/05/2024**	03/29/2024
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	**NONE**	03/29/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	03/29/2024
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	**YES**	03/29/2024
	Peer Review Meeting	**02/08/2024**	03/29/2024
	Post review statements signed	**04/01/2024**	04/01/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**02/13/2024**	03/29/2024
	Score report delivered to CSO	**02/16/2024**	03/29/2024
	Recommended for SRC review	**YES**	03/29/2024
Final SRC Recommendation	**COI indicated by SRC member**	**NONE**	03/29/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	03/29/2024
	SRC Meeting	**02/08/2024**	03/29/2024
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	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	05/02/2024
	PIC Review Meeting	**05/01/2024**	05/02/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	05/02/2024
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**	

Comments:		
Comment	Created Date	Created By
No Comment		

CPRIT retrains the identity of the attesting party.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

To: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
From: KEN SMITH, PHD, CHIEF PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
Subject: FY 24.2 PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS
Date: MAY 1, 2024

Summary of Recommendation:

The Product Development Review Council (PDRC) recommends that the Program Integration Committee (PIC) approve product development research awards to the following applicants: Crossbridge, Inc., Aakha Biologics, 7 Hills Pharma, LLC, Indapta Therapeutics, Bectas Therapeutics, Inc., and MS Pen Technologies, Inc. The table below reflects the ranked award recommendations, including the negotiated funding amounts and the evaluation scores for the six applications recommended for awards.

FY 2024 Cycle 2 Award Recommendations

Rank	ID	RFA	Company	Project	Score*	Original Budget	Negotiated Budget
1	DP240240	SEED	Crossbridge, Inc.	CBB-120 a next generation dual payload antibody-drug conjugate for the treatment of TROP-2+ tumors	2.0	$2,972,447	$2,575,275
2	DP240248	SEED	Aakha Biologics	AHA-1031 engages two strong activating receptors (NKG2D/MICA) and CD16/engineered Fc) in the tumor microenvironment for the treatment of advanced NSCLC	2.1	$3,000,000	$2,549,580
3	DP240244	TTC	7 Hills Pharma LLC	7HP349, an integrin agonist, to augment hematopoietic stem cell transplant for the treatment of hematologic malignancies	2.3	$4,999,618	$4,700,000
4	DP240243	TTC	Indapta Therapeutics	Phase 1 Trial of highly potent allogeneic G-NK cells for the treatment of multiple myeloma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	2.5	$5,000,000	$4,500,000

Rank	ID	RFA	Company	Project	Score*	Original Budget	Negotiated Budget
5	DP240239	SEED	Bectas Therapeutics, Inc.	OncoResponse OR502 anti-LILRB2 monoclonal antibody Phase 1-2 clinical study	3.0	$3,000,000	$2,750,000
6	DP240245	SEED	MS Pen Technologies Inc.	Development of the ultimate surgical sensing system for the intraoperative tissue sensing and surgical guidance	3.3	$3,000,000	$2,690,800
					TOTAL	**$ 21,971945**	**$19,765,655**

SEED – Texas Seed Company Award for Product Development Research
TTC – Texas Therapeutic Company Award for Product Development Research

Background - FY 2024 Review Cycle 2

CPRIT released four FY 2024 Product Development Research RFAs for the 24.2 review cycle on November 29, 2023, and opened the portal to receive preliminary applications December 1, 2023. Because of the smaller overall award budget (~$20 million) remaining for the 24.2 cycle, CPRIT capped the maximum amount a non-Seed company may request at $5 million. The regular $3 million budget cap for Seed awards remains the same in this cycle.

CPRIT received 63 preliminary applications by the December 11, 2023, deadline. After administratively withdrawing three applications for non-compliance, CPRIT assigned the 60 preliminary applications to eight review panels on December 15, 2023. The reviewers individually evaluated and scored the assigned preliminary applications and then met as a panel January 18 – 22 to rank the preliminary applications. The PDRC met January 23 to finalize a comprehensive ranked list of preliminary applications.

On January 24, CPRIT issued invitations to submit full applications to the eleven companies receiving the best preliminary application scores in the 24.2 cycle. In addition to the companies submitting preliminary applications in the 24.2 cycle, seven companies were eligible to submit full applications based on their performance in the 24.1 preliminary application review cycle. Five of the seven companies indicated they intended to submit full applications in the 24.2 cycle.

Fifteen companies submitted full applications by the February 13 deadline, although one withdrew its Seed Company application from consideration before the scheduled panel presentation. Live presentations to the full review panels occurred March 18 – March 27. Based upon the application scores and presentations to the panels, six companies moved forward to due diligence review, which took place in mid-April. Following due diligence review, the individual review panels recommended all six companies for awards. The PDRC met April 22 to vote on its final recommendations.

24.2 Mechanism	Prelim Apps	Total Request	Full Apps	Total Request	Due Diligence	Total Request
Texas Therapeutic Company	17	$84.1 M	5	$25.0 M	2	$10 M
Texas Device/Diag. Company	2	$10.0 M	0	--	0	--
Texas New Tech Company	10	$47.8 M	2	$ 9.9M	0	--
Seed Company	31	$88.1 M	8	$24.0 M	4	$12 M
TOTAL	**60**	**$230.0 M**	**15**	**$58.9 M**	**6**	**$22.0 M**

Product Development Research Priorities Addressed by the 24.2 Cycle Proposed Awards

The chart below shows that all recommended applications address one or more of the Product Development Research priorities.

Applications Addressing Priorities*	Product Development Research Priorities	Award Amount per Priority*
6	Funding novel projects that offer therapeutic or diagnostic benefits not currently available, i.e. disruptive technologies	**$19,765,655**
6	Funding projects addressing large or challenging unmet medical needs	**$19,765,655**
5	Investing in early-stage projects where private capital is least available	**$17,015,655**
5	Stimulating commercialization of technologies developed at Texas institutions	**$17,015,655**
5	Supporting new company formation in Texas or attracting promising companies to Texas that will recruit staff with life science expertise, especially experienced C-level staff to lead to seed clusters of life science expertise at various Texas locations	**$15,065,655**
6	Providing appropriate return on taxpayer investment	**$19,765,655**

*Some proposed awards address more than one priority.

Mechanism of Support

Applications submitted in the 24.2 review cycle responded to one of four product development research RFAs.

- *Texas Therapeutic Company Award (TTC)*

  This award mechanism seeks to support the companies that have identified and characterized a lead compound; demonstrated efficacy in multiple translationally relevant animal models; completed pilot/dose-ranging toxicology studies; determined the feasibility of a scalable, GMP-compliant manufacturing process, including release assays; and identified a prototype

formulation suitable for further development. The applicant is typically within 1 year from filing an IND/IDE or already in phase 1.

Award: Maximum amount $5 million over 36 months

- *Texas Device and Diagnostics Company Award (TDDC)*

  This award mechanism seeks to support the ongoing research and development of diagnostic tests and devices to treat, detect, diagnose, monitor, and assist in the treatment of cancer. Generally, at the time that an applicant applies to CPRIT pursuant to this RFA, the company has developed a commercial prototype of the device or a pictorial representation of the functional components/elements of the device. With respect to diagnostics, the company has developed assays that work on human samples and whose importance is well justified for development into clinical assays. The applicant should be working toward submitting an Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) or a 501(k) or Premarketing Approval (PMA) and is typically within 1 year from filing an IDE (or later stage work.)

  Award: Maximum amount $5 million over 36 months

- *Texas New Technologies Company Award (TNTC)*

  This award mechanism seeks to support the ongoing research and development of new and emerging technologies for the detection, diagnosis, prognosis, monitoring, or treatment of cancer. Proposals may include bioinformatics, artificial intelligence, production of radionuclides or their precursors, manufacture of cell-based therapies, processes to improve the quality of the samples used for cancer research or clinical care, and biomanufacturing of therapeutics.

  Award: Maximum amount $5 million over 36 months

- *Texas Seed Company Award* (SEED)

  This award mechanism seeks to support early stage “startup” companies in the development of innovative products and services with significant potential impact on cancer patient care.

  The proposed project must further the development of new products or services for the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of cancer; must foster a robust biotechnology industry ecosystem; or must fulfill a critical unmet need in cancer patient care. Company applicants must be headquartered in Texas or be willing to relocate to Texas upon receipt of the award.

  Strong candidates for the SEED award have developed compelling discovery stage data and/or developed a working prototype (if applicable) around a novel compound, diagnostic, device, computational tool, etc. that warrants further development efforts to establish proof of concept (POC) on the early pathway to commercial product. In addition, strong candidates

have at a minimum developed a strong value proposition, preliminary regulatory strategy, preliminary manufacturing plan, and early business/management team to warrant the amount of funding requested.

Award: Maximum amount of $3 million over 36 months.

Product Development Research Awards
Recommended by the PDRC for FY 2024 Review Cycle 2

Crossbridge Bio Inc.
Proposed SEED Award for Product Development Research

Summary of Recommendation

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Seed Company Award for Product Development Research to Crossbridge Bio Inc. for $2,575,275.

Crossbridge Bio Inc. is a Houston-based company that is developing advanced antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) targeting various cancers such as breast, lung, ovarian, and bladder.

CPRIT Product Development Research Priorities Addressed

Crossbridge Bio Inc. proposed project addresses six of the six Product Development Research Priorities:

- Funding novel projects that offer therapeutic or diagnostic benefits not currently available, i.e. disruptive technologies;
- Funding projects addressing large or challenging unmet medical needs;
- Investing in early-stage projects where private capital is least available;
- Stimulating commercialization of technologies developed at Texas institutions;
- Supporting new company formation in Texas or attracting promising companies to Texas that will recruit staff with life science expertise, especially experienced C-level staff to lead to seed clusters of life science expertise at various Texas locations; and
- Providing appropriate return on taxpayer investment.

Project Summary and Scientific Rationale

Current-generation ADCs, while revolutionary, face challenges like premature payload loss and resistance by cancer cells. CrossBridge Bio's solution, leveraging technology from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, includes a proprietary linker that provides greater stability and the ability to attach multiple payloads. This innovation decreases the ability of cancer cells to develop resistance, as evidenced by early preclinical data in cancer cell and animal models. The company's project focuses on targeting TROP-2, a protein prevalent in several cancers. The project will compare Crossbridge's lead asset, CBB-120, to Trodelvy, an existing TROP-2 targeting drug to demonstrate its product's superiority. Success in TROP-2 cancers could lead to the effective treatment of other cancer targets.

Select Reviewer Comments

The target product profile is well described. There are potential advantages relative to TRODELVY in safety profile based on unique antibody epitope, proprietary linker design, and payload delivered.

The EGCit and EVCit linkers display improved stability in plasma (human, monkey, mouse) relative to VCit linkers used in other ADCs. In vivo studies in mice show no hepatic toxicity.

The pharmaceutical properties of CBB-120 should be very similar to other ADCs with which the team is very familiar and for which FDA-approved precedent is available.

Aakha Biologics
Proposed SEED Award for Product Development Research

Summary of Recommendation

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Seed Company Award for Product Development Research to Aakha Biologics for $2,549,580.

Aakha Biologics is a Frisco-based company which is developing AHA-1031 which engages two strong activating receptors (NKG2D/MICA andCD16/engineered Fc) in the tumor microenvironment for the treatment of advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC).

CPRIT Product Development Research Priorities Addressed

Aakha's proposed project addresses six of the six Product Development Research Priorities:

- Funding novel projects that offer therapeutic or diagnostic benefits not currently available, i.e. disruptive technologies;
- Funding projects addressing large or challenging unmet medical needs;
- Investing in early-stage projects where private capital is least available;
- Stimulating commercialization of technologies developed at Texas institutions;
- Supporting new company formation in Texas or attracting promising companies to Texas that will recruit staff with life science expertise, especially experienced C-level staff to lead to seed clusters of life science expertise at various Texas locations; and
- Providing appropriate return on taxpayer investment.

Project Summary and Scientific Rationale

Advanced metastatic lung cancer is the deadliest form of cancer but is difficult to treat because many tumors lack immune cells that are critical for fighting cancer. Despite the discovery and advancement of newer therapies that target specific cancers, the patient's overall 5-year survival

rate is only 9%. Aakha Biologics is developing a novel antibody drug that potentially attracts immune cells to the tumor and activates them to kill the tumor. This antibody binds to an a newly validated cancer target on tumor surfaces and specifically recruits killer cells to destroy the tumor. Aakha's novel antibody will have a major impact on the care of lung cancer patients by treating tumors that are not responding to the standard of care treatments.

Select Reviewer Comments

MICA/B is a good, broad tumor target. Improved Fc binding is distinguished from products currently on market. This product, once developed and tested, has the potential to significantly address the treatment of many cancer types, including lung and ovarian cancers.

There is a well-validated target and approach. They have improved upon efficacy compared to first-generation molecules in the clinic now.

There is a strong management team, including consultants, in key areas relevant to the development stage of the project.

7 Hills Pharma LLC
Proposed TTC FULL Award for Product Development Research

Summary of Recommendation

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Therapeutics Company Award for Product Development Research to 7 Hills Pharma LLC for $4,700,000.

7 Hills Pharma LLC is a Houston-based company that is developing 7HP935, an integrin agonist, to augment hematopoietic stem cell transplant for the treatment of hematologic malignancies. CPRIT previously awarded 7 Hills Pharma a $13.4 million Texas Therapeutics Company Award for Product Development Research.

CPRIT Product Development Research Priorities Addressed

7 Hills LLC proposed project addresses five of the six Product Development Research Priorities:

- Funding novel projects that offer therapeutic or diagnostic benefits not currently available, i.e. disruptive technologies;
- Funding projects addressing large or challenging unmet medical needs;
- Investing in early-stage projects where private capital is least available;
- Stimulating commercialization of technologies developed at Texas institutions; and
- Providing appropriate return on taxpayer investment.

Project Summary and Scientific Rationale

7 Hills Pharma is developing 7HP935, which could benefit patients with leukemia who require stem cell transplant. The curative potential of transplant is limited by timely access to a suitable donor and an elevated risk of infection, particularly in Hispanic/Latino and Black patients, who comprise 51.8% of the Texas population. Umbilical cord blood (UCB) is a readily available, FDA approved stem cell source that research has shown to have curative potential. However, slow stem cell engraftment associated with UCB, resulting in high infection rates and extended hospital stays, limits its wider use for transplantation. 7HP935 given in combination with a UCB stem cell transplant, could ameliorate these limitations and, importantly, decrease racial disparities and increase access to curative therapy. If successful, these studies may represent a new treatment paradigm for patients with leukemia that could deliver the curative promise of stem cell transplant.

Select Reviewer Comments

The company and inventors have a long history of developing alpha4beta1 agonists/antagonists and demonstrate that they can develop such molecules in the clinic.

A novel small-molecule-based strategy to increase engraftment (that is not cell based) represents a key advancement in the field of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation.

The developmental and financial plans proposed by 7 HP are rational, comprehensive, and well detailed.

Indapta Therapeutics
Proposed TTC FULL Award for Product Development Research

Summary of Recommendation

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Therapeutics Company Award for Product Development Research to Indapta Therapeutics for $4,500,000.

Indapta Therapeutics is a Houston-based company that is developing highly potent allogeneic G-NK cells for the treatment of multiple myeloma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

CPRIT Product Development Research Priorities Addressed

Indapta Therapeutics proposed project addresses six of the six Product Development Research Priorities:

- Funding novel projects that offer therapeutic or diagnostic benefits not currently available, i.e. disruptive technologies;
- Funding projects addressing large or challenging unmet medical needs;
- Investing in early-stage projects where private capital is least available;
- Stimulating commercialization of technologies developed at Texas institutions;
- Supporting new company formation in Texas or attracting promising companies to Texas that will recruit staff with life science expertise, especially experienced C-level staff to lead to seed clusters of life science expertise at various Texas locations; and
- Providing appropriate return on taxpayer investment.

Project Summary and Scientific Rationale

Indapta has identified a highly potent subset of natural killer (NK) cells, g-NK cells, which scientists can expand from healthy donors. Indapta's g-NK product, IDP-023, has the potential to be a significant medical breakthrough in treating patients with advanced non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) and multiple myeloma (MM) who have few therapeutic options and are not candidates for autologous cellular therapy. Recently approved treatments (CAR-T, T cell engagers) have limitations: lack of durability, significant toxicities, and manufacturing delays. IDP-023 is an "off-the-shelf" cryopreserved product that is expected to have few side effects so that it can be easily administered in an outpatient setting. In mice, g-NK cells can cure cancer, killing tumors more effectively than conventional NKs. Indapta will conduct a Phase 1 trial of IDP-023 in combination with approved monoclonal antibodies, as a safe, highly effective therapy for patients with advanced NHL or MM.

Select Reviewer Comments

This is an innovative, exciting product. NK cell therapy has a lot of potential that has yet to be realized, and Indapta uses a novel approach with larger ability to extend to other cancer types if successful.

If successful, this project will result in the development of a novel off-the-shelf NK cell therapy that will be easily administered and with decreased toxicity compared to T-cell therapies. It will meet an unmet need for treatment of NHL and MM and can feasibly be extended to other cancers with available antibodies for antibody-dependent cellular toxicity.

Bectas Therapeutics Inc.
Proposed SEED Award for Product Development Research

Summary of Recommendation

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Seed Company Award for Product Development Research to Bectas Therapeutics Inc. for $2,750,000.

Bectas Therapeutics Inc. is a Houston-based company that is developing LILRB4 antibodies and companion precision biomarkers for patient selection to overcome myeloid-dependent resistance to T cell checkpoint therapy.

CPRIT Product Development Research Priorities Addressed

Bectas Therapeutics Inc proposed project addresses four of the six Product Development Research Priorities:

- Funding novel projects that offer therapeutic or diagnostic benefits not currently available, i.e. disruptive technologies;
- Funding projects addressing large or challenging unmet medical needs;
- Supporting new company formation in Texas or attracting promising companies to Texas that will recruit staff with life science expertise, especially experienced C-level staff to lead to seed clusters of life science expertise at various Texas locations; and
- Providing appropriate return on taxpayer investment.

Project Summary and Scientific Rationale

75% - 85% of patients are not cured by existing immune-based therapies. Researchers have made limited progress addressing the lack of response in these patients due to a lack of understanding of the patients that will benefit from additional therapy. Bectas has identified myeloid cell surface receptors, including the LILRB4 protein, that suppress the immune system and drive resistance to existing therapy in 25% of patients. Bectas has also identified a biomarker that enables precise identification of patients who will benefit from LILRB4 inhibition. The company has generated an antibody that blocks LILRB4 activity, inhibits solid tumor growth and improves survival in pre-clinical cancer models. Bectas will manufacture this antibody to further pre-clinical pharmacology and safety studies to support an Investigational New Drug application. The clinical trials will test the LILRB4 antibody in a biomarker selected patient population to assess the benefit of LILRB4 inhibition in biomarker positive patients.

Select Reviewer Comments

The scientific and leadership team is excellent. Dr Allison, a leader in the LILRB4 field, is a major advantage. Biomarker assay is a key distinguishing feature of this proposal compared to competitors.

The development of a blood-based biomarker to screen for patients who would benefit from the new treatment is a practical and necessary step.

There is a selection biomarker panel to enable a faster go/no-go decision on the anti-LILRB4 antibody.

MS Pen Technologies Inc.
Proposed SEED Award for Product Development Research

Summary of Recommendation

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Seed Company Award for Product Development Research to MS Pen Technologies Inc. for $2,690,800.

MS Pen Technologies Inc. is a Houston-based company developing an ultimate surgical sensing system for intraoperative tissue sensing and surgical guidance. CPRIT has previously awarded three academic research grants totaling $1.4 million for the research underlying this technology.

CPRIT Product Development Research Priorities Addressed

MS Pen Technologies, Inc.'s proposed project addresses six of the six Product Development Research Priorities:

- Funding novel projects that offer therapeutic or diagnostic benefits not currently available, i.e. disruptive technologies;
- Funding projects addressing large or challenging unmet medical needs;
- Investing in early-stage projects where private capital is least available;
- Stimulating commercialization of technologies developed at Texas institutions;
- Supporting new company formation in Texas or attracting promising companies to Texas that will recruit staff with life science expertise, especially experienced C-level staff to lead to seed clusters of life science expertise at various Texas locations; and
- Providing appropriate return on taxpayer investment.

Project Summary and Scientific Rationale

Incomplete surgical resection of cancer tissues is a critical problem in the care for cancer patients, leading to consequences such as recurrence, increased treatment costs, and post-operative complications. Current methods for intraoperative tissue identification and surgical margin evaluation are unreliable, time consuming, and require expert on-call pathologists for interpretation. Additionally, no current methods enable label-free, real-time margin evaluation and cancer detection in vivo to guide surgical decision making. MS Pen Technologies is developing the ultimate tissue sensing system (Ultiss MD), a platform for tissue sensing and surgical guidance that combines the simplicity of the MasSpec Pen, the performance of mass spectrometry, and the power of AI/ML software. Ultiss exploits the fundamentals of tumor biology to detect cancer on a molecular level in vivo to guide surgical decision making in real-time. Our initial focus is lung cancer, where curative resection is highly dependent on intraoperative decision making.

Select Reviewer Comments

Ultiss is a molecular-based cancer diagnosis and margin analysis tool with high accuracy, rapid cancer detection and classification, and much reduced risk for complication and tissue damage. The applicant has assembled an excellent team with complementary expertise and skill needed to develop a successful product.

This is very impressive technology, nondestructive and compatible with rapid intraoperative evaluations.

There is an excellent development team, with scientists involved not only in the company but continuing to work in their laboratories to advance the science and engineering.

April 22, 2024

Dr. David Cummings
CPRIT Oversight Committee Chair
Via email to dcummingsmd@yahoo.com

Mr. Wayne R. Roberts
CPRIT Program Integration Committee Chair
Via email to wroberts@cprit.texas.gov

Dr. Cummings and Mr. Roberts,

On behalf of the Product Development Review Council (PDRC), I am pleased to provide the PDRC's recommendation for CPRIT's Product Development Research 24.2 grant award cycle. The PDRC convened on October 24, 2023, and recommends that the Program Integration Committee and the Oversight Committee approve Product Development Research grant awards for the following applicants: Crossbridge, Inc., Aakha Biologics, 7 Hills Pharma LLC, Indapta Therapeutics, Bectas Therapeutics and MS Pen Technologies, Inc. The attached table reflects the ranked award recommendation for the six (6) grant applications.

Two (2) recommendations included contingencies associated with intellectual property (IP) ownership and licensing agreements, which CPRIT should address with the companies during contract negotiations. The IP due diligence report for both DP240240 (Crossbridge Bio, Inc.) and DP240245 (MS Pen Technologies, Inc.) reflects the recommended contingencies. In addition, for DP240239 (Bectas Therapeutics Inc.), the PDRC suggested CPRIT address milestone payments by Bectas to a parent company, dose planning and a hiring plan for key staff. Dr. Smith will address the proposed contingencies with the PIC and the Oversight Committee.

Each of the companies included in the PDRC's recommendation reflets 50+ hours of individual review panel discussion of the applicants' proposals as well as the PDRC's review of the due diligence reports. Our recommendations are consistent with one or more of the priorities set by the Oversight Committee for product development grant award funding. These standards include the potential of these companies to (1) bring important products to market; (2) promote the translation of research at Texas institutions into new companies able to compete in the marketplace; and (3) develop tools and technologies of special relevance to cancer research, treatment, and prevention.

Sincerely,

Jack Geltosky, PhD
Chair, CPRIT Product Development Review Council

CPRIT 24.2 Product Development Research
Review Council Recommendations

Ranking	ID	Mechanism	Type	PI Last Name	Application Title	Organization	Final Overall Score	Recommended Budget
1	DP240240	SEED	New	Torres, M.	CBB-120, a next-generation dual-payload antibody-drug conjugate for the treatment of TROP-2+ solid tumors	Crossbridge Bio, Inc.	2.0	$ 2,972,447
2	DP240248	SEED	Resubmission	Baruah, H.	AHA-1031 engages two strong activating receptors (NKG2D/MICA and CD16/engineered Fc) in the tumor microenviroment for the treatment of advanced NSCLC	Aakha Biologics	2.1	$ 2,999,880
3	DP240244	TTC	New	Lewis, L.	7HP935, an integrin agonist, to augment hematopoietic stem cell transplant for the treatment of hematologic malignancies	7 Hills Pharma Inc.	2.3	$ 4,999,618
4	DP240243	TTC	New	Frohlich, M.	Phase 1 Trial of Highly Potent Allogeneic G-NK Cells for Treatment of Multiple Myeloma and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	Indapta Therapeutics	2.5	$ 5,000,000
5	DP240239	SEED	New	O'Hagan, R.	Development of LILRB4 antibodies and companion precision biomarkers for patient selection to overcome myeloid-dependent resistance to T cell checkpoint therapy	Bectas Therapeutics Inc.	3.0	$ 3,000,000
6	DP240245	SEED	Resubmission	Wiseman, J.	Development of the Ultimate Surgical Sensing System for Intraoperative Tissue Sensing and Surgical Guidance	MS Pen Technologies, Inc.	3.3	$ 3,000,000

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

May 10, 2024

Oversight Committee Members,

Pursuant to 25 T.A.C. § 703.7(j), I request that the Oversight Committee approve authority for CPRIT to advance grant funds upon execution of grant contracts for the six companies that the Oversight Committee will consider for product development research grant awards at its May 15, 2024, meeting. The Program Integration Committee has recommended these companies for grant awards.

Although CPRIT disburses most grant funds pursuant to requests for reimbursement, CPRIT may disburse grant funds in advance payments consistent with the General Appropriations Act, Article IX, § 4.02(a). Typically, the grant amount to be paid in advance is based upon the project year budget or tranche amount. All grant recipients, including those that receive advance payment of grant funds, are required to submit quarterly financial status reports that are reviewed and approved by CPRIT's financial staff. The product development grant recipients must also certify that they have matching funds available to invest in the project prior to any disbursement of funds. Failure to submit the financial status reports on a timely basis or to certify matching funds will result in forfeiture of reimbursement for expenses for the quarter and may result in grant termination and repayment of grant funds.

Advance payment of grant funds is necessary because the projects proposed for grant awards involve preclinical work and/or clinical trials. The cost structure for this type of work is highly front loaded and service providers require substantial upfront payments. Advancing grant funds allows these projects to begin work as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Wayne R. Roberts
CPRIT Chief Executive Officer

Cancer Prevention & Research
Institute of Texas

CEO Affidavit
Supporting Information

Product Development Research
FY 2024—Cycle 2
SEED Awards for Product Development Research

Request for Applications

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
RFA C-24.2-SEED

SEED Awards for Product Development Research

Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document, which CPRIT will post December 1, 2023

Preliminary Application Deadline: December 11, 2023

Full Application Invitation Issued: January 24, 2024

Full Application Deadline: February 13, 2024

FY 2024

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2023-August 31, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

RFA VERSION HISTORY

Rev	11/29/2023	RFA release

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Texas created the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) to identify and financially support innovative projects related to the prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer. CPRIT's mission includes investing in Texas-based startup and early-stage oncology companies to narrow the funding gap (sometimes referred to as the "valley of death") between discovery and commercial development.

Texas-based companies and those companies willing to relocate to Texas may submit a preliminary application by the preliminary application deadline, which a panel of experts will review and score for scientific merit and consistency with CPRIT's portfolio, CPRIT will invite the best-scoring companies to submit a full application for review.

A company invited to submit a full application will present the proposed project to a panel of experts. If the panel recommends the company for potential CPRIT investment, the company will undergo due diligence before CPRIT makes a final award decision.

Applicants may request up to $3 million in funding so long as the request is appropriate to the work proposed. Regardless of the amount requested, CPRIT will analyze and negotiate final budgets with grantees in an effort to fund as many worthy projects as possible. CPRIT provides funding via an award contract between CPRIT and the company. The contract includes a negotiated budget tied to agreed goals and objectives (G&Os) and project timeline, as well as revenue-sharing terms and regular reporting requirements on the use of CPRIT funds and project progress. CPRIT also requires companies receiving a Product Development Award to contribute the company's own funds toward the project contemporaneous with CPRIT's investment.

Please note that this RFA will use the terms "grant," "award," and "investment" interchangeably to denote the contractual commitment of CPRIT funds to support a company project recommended by an expert review panel and approved by CPRIT's Oversight Committee.

Commitment to Locating in Texas and Maintaining Business Presence in the State

Applying to this RFA indicates that the company will operate in Texas for the foreseeable future should it receive CPRIT funding. Do not apply if this is not your intention.

Texas taxpayer-supported general obligation bonds fund all Product Development Awards. Accordingly, in addition to scientific progress, CPRIT expects every company it funds to appreciably strengthen the Texas life science ecosystem through its presence in the state. A company receiving CPRIT funds must meaningfully commit to locating in Texas and maintaining its business presence within the state.

While CPRIT will work in partnership with your company to advance development of innovative treatments for cancer, we take your obligation to Texas seriously. Fraud, deception, or other actions taken in bad faith to evade the obligation to establish and maintain your status as a Texas company will result in termination, repayment, and any other remedy available by law or contract.

CPRIT developed criteria that CPRIT-funded companies should use to signal the company's commitment to Texas and to developing the state's life science ecosystem. Prior to submitting an application, applicants should familiarize themselves with the criteria specified in section 4.1 "Award Recipients Must Be Texas-Based." If the company receives a CPRIT award, it must attest at least annually to fulfilling CPRIT's Texas location criteria.

2. ABOUT CPRIT

A statewide vote of Texans in 2007 created CPRIT and constitutionally authorized the state to issue $3 billion in taxpayer-backed general obligation bonds to fund cancer prevention and the research and development of innovative methods to prevent, detect, treat, and cure cancer. A second statewide vote in 2019 reauthorized CPRIT and increased the total general obligation bond issuance by another $3 billion, for a total of $6 billion.

2.1. CPRIT's Statutory Mission

The Texas Legislature has charged CPRIT with the following:

- Create and expedite innovation in cancer research and product or service development, thereby enhancing the potential for a medical or scientific breakthrough in the prevention, treatment, and possible 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.

- Continue to develop and implement the Texas Cancer Plan by promoting the development and coordination of effective and efficient statewide public and private policies, programs, and services related to cancer and by encouraging cooperative, comprehensive, and complementary planning among the public, private, and volunteer sectors involved in cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and research.

2.2. CPRIT's Product Development Research Program Priorities

In addition to overarching principles that include scientific excellence, impact on cancer, and increasing the state's life science infrastructure, CPRIT's Oversight Committee establishes annual priorities for each of its 3 programs. The priorities guide CPRIT on the development of RFAs and the evaluation of applications considered for awards.

The Product Development Research Program's priorities for FY 2024 are as follows:

- Funding novel projects that offer therapeutic or diagnostic benefits; ie, disruptive technologies
- Funding projects addressing large or challenging unmet medical needs
- Investing in early-stage projects when private capital is least available
- Stimulating commercialization of technologies developed at Texas entities
- Supporting new company formation in Texas or attracting promising companies to Texas that will recruit staff with life science expertise, especially experienced C-level staff
- Providing appropriate return on Texas taxpayer investment

Information about CPRIT's program priorities is available at http://priorities.cprit.texas.gov/.

3. FUNDING INFORMATION AND MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT

3.1. Overview

CPRIT provides project funding via a 3-year contract, with the opportunity to extend the contract duration based upon project progress. Funding is milestone driven, meaning that the company must fulfill the contractual G&Os associated with one funding tranche before receiving the next disbursement of funds.

3.2. Funding Stage for Texas SEED Company Awards

The SEED Award for Product Development Research supports company formation and preclinical research and development efforts that advance an interesting oncology technology toward a commercially viable business opportunity, ie, make it more attractive to private funding agents.

The ideal SEED Award applicant will be a company with compelling preclinical/discovery stage data around a novel target, compound, device, etc, that warrants further development efforts to establish preclinical proof of concept (POC) on the road to commercialization.

Typically, a SEED Award applicant has completed the following activities:

- Identified a novel therapeutic, diagnostic technology, or clinical tool and shown a biological effect
- Replicated/verified the research in a second model and in a second lab
- Conducted preliminary safety and toxicology testing (in the case of therapeutic agents)
- Shown the product can be manufactured at small scale or as a prototype
- Assessed the business opportunity and organized a business plan that begins to address key issues (clinical utility, target market, financial plan, intellectual property [IP] strategy, technical challenges, etc) and lays out a preliminary development plan (formulation, toxicology, scaleup, IND-enabling studies, phase 1 clinical trials, regulatory pathway, etc)
- Established key preclinical development milestones through IND submission
- Initiated a patent application
- Established a company

SEED Awards provide the funding for the company to begin IND/IDE-enabling studies to support filing the IND/IDE (or equivalent). As an example, in the case of drug candidates, specific technical activities the SEED Award mechanism can fund may include the following:

- Performing target validation
- Conducting lead optimization
- Performing target and cellular potency studies
- Developing and validating biomarker/pharmacodynamic (PD) marker assays

- Determining pharmacokinetic (PK) and exposure parameters; determining whether concentrations that result in significant cell death or tumor growth inhibition in vitro can be safely achieved in vivo; establishing in vivo PD POC
- Evaluating biopharmaceutical properties (absorption/bioavailability, distribution, metabolism, and clearance in rodents and nonrodents)
- Optimizing synthetic/bioengineering route
- Developing a prototype clinical formulation
- Expanding preclinical safety characterization in non-GLP studies
- Expanding in vivo preclinical efficacy characterization in tumor models, including where feasible patient-derived xenograft models, that most closely approximate the initial target indication

SEED Awards may be used to carry out comparable activities for other classes of applications such as medical devices or diagnostics.
Specific business activities the SEED Award mechanism can fund may include the following:

- Competitive analysis
- Extent of unmet need
- Target product profile (TPP)
- Description of development plans including integrated project milestones
- Preparation of clinical development plan
- IP development plans

3.3. Allowable Expenses

Companies may use CPRIT funds for expenses associated only with activities directly related to the specific project that CPRIT is funding. Allowable expenses include the following:

- Salary and fringe benefits
- Research supplies
- Equipment
- Clinical trial expenses
- IP acquisition and protection
- External consultants and service providers
- Travel in support of the project

- Other appropriate research and development costs, subject to certain limitations set forth by Texas law

Texas Health & Safety Code Section 102.203 limits the amount of awarded funds that a company may spend on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs).

CPRIT's strong preference is to fund research and development rather than construction or facility renovation. Applicants intending to use any CPRIT funds for construction or facility renovation must offer extremely compelling circumstances justifying the request, ie, critical facilities that do not already exist in the state.

3.4. Required Matching Funds

CPRIT requires each company receiving a CPRIT Product Development Research Award to contribute funds under the company's control toward the overall project expenses. The company's expenditure of these "matching funds" must take place at the same time the company is drawing down CPRIT funds; there is no credit toward the matching funds requirement for in-kind expenses or expenditures made prior to the CPRIT award. The amount that the company will contribute toward the project is dependent on the total amount of CPRIT funds committed to the company.

The company must demonstrate that it has available matching funds when CPRIT disburses funds under the contract, not when the company submits the CPRIT application.
See section 9.3 for more information about CPRIT's matching funds requirement.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND RESUBMISSION POLICY

4.1. Award Recipients Must Be Texas-based

CPRIT considers a company to be Texas-based if it fulfills at least 4 of the following criteria:

- The US headquarters are physically located in Texas.
- The chief executive officer resides in Texas.
- A majority of the company's personnel, including at least 2 other C-level employees (or equivalent), reside in Texas.
- Manufacturing activities take place in Texas.

- At least 90% of grant award funds are paid to individuals and entities in Texas, including salaries and personnel costs for employees and contractors.
- At least 1 clinical trial site is in Texas.
- The company collaborates with a medical research organization in Texas, including a public or private institution of higher education.

If appropriate, the applicant may propose 1 or more alternative location requirements, which the Oversight Committee may approve by a majority vote in an open meeting.

A company headquartered outside of Texas is eligible to apply for a CPRIT award, but the company must fulfill all location requirements identified in the application within 1 year of receiving the initial disbursement of CPRIT funds. Failure to maintain compliance with the location criteria will result in consequences ranging from suspension of grant funding to early termination of the grant contract and repayment of grant funds.

4.2. Contributors to CPRIT Ineligible to Receive CPRIT Awards

An applicant is eligible to receive a grant award only if the applicant certifies that the company, including the company representative, any senior member or key personnel listed on the application, or any company officer or director (or any person related to one 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.

4.3. Relatives of Oversight Committee Members Ineligible to Receive CPRIT Awards

An applicant is ineligible to receive CPRIT funding if the company representative, any senior member or key personnel listed on the application, or any company officer or director is related to a CPRIT Oversight Committee member.

4.4. Debarment/Termination of a Federal Grant May Affect Eligibility to Receive CPRIT Awards

The applicant must report whether the company, company representative, or any other individual who contributes to the execution of the proposed project in a substantive, measurable way, regardless of whether the individual receives salary or compensation under the grant award, is ineligible to receive federal grant funds or has had a grant terminated for cause within 5 years

prior to the submission date of the grant application. If the applicant or any other individual is ineligible to receive federal grant funds or has had a grant terminated for cause, CPRIT will contact the applicant to provide more information to determine eligibility for CPRIT awards.

4.5. Resubmission Policy

A preliminary application previously submitted to CPRIT on or after August 24, 2022, but not recommended for funding, may be resubmitted once and must follow all resubmission guidelines. CPRIT will not count against the resubmission limit an application previously submitted in the FY 2023 or FY 2024 review cycle if CPRIT administratively withdrew the preliminary or full application without review.

CPRIT considers an application to be a resubmission if the proposed project is substantially the same project as presented in the original submission. A change in the identity of the applicant or company representative for a project or a change of title of the project that the company previously submitted to CPRIT does not constitute a new preliminary application for the purposes of CPRIT's resubmission policy. A change in the type of RFA such as changing from a Texas Therapeutic Company application to a SEED application may constitute a resubmission depending on the number and degree of changes from one application to the other. In such cases, the applicant should contact the program office prior to initiating the subsequent application (see section 10.2). CPRIT does not characterize an application as "submitted" for purposes of the resubmission policy if the applicant or CPRIT administratively withdrew the application prior to review.

5. APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA

5.1. Overview

CPRIT uses a 3-step process to review company projects proposed for funding. The steps include (1) preliminary application, (2) full application and interview, and (3) due diligence review. An integrated panel of individuals with expertise in a wide variety of scientific fields including oncology as well as experts with experience in bringing products to market and those familiar with regulatory approval processes will review the applications. Cancer patient advocates also participate in the review of full applications.

Initially, applicants must submit a preliminary application. Based primarily upon a review of the scientific merit of the project as described in the preliminary application, CPRIT may invite a company to submit a full application and interview. The review of full applications will consider the quality of the research project and management team, commercial viability, product feasibility, scientific merit, project budget, timeline, and goals, the potential suggested by preclinical results, and the opportunity to address unmet medical need. If the review panel is favorably inclined to recommend the full application for funding after the interview, the application will undergo a due diligence review by the panel as well as by third-party reviewers, such as IP counsel. The due diligence review is intended to identify red flags that may negatively impact the panel's final recommendation regarding funding.

CPRIT conducts all stages of the review in confidence to protect the applicant's technological, scientific, and proprietary information. Individuals involved in the review process operate under strict conflict-of-interest prohibitions and nondisclosure agreements. Applicants must not contact or discuss a pending application with anyone involved in making a final decision on the application unless specifically invited by CPRIT to provide information on the proposed project.

CPRIT makes funding decisions via the review process and review criteria described below. CPRIT's Administrative Rules, Chapter 703, Sections 703.6 to 703.8 delineate the review process in more detail.

5.2. Review Process – Preliminary Applications

CPRIT uses a preliminary review process to quickly provide an applicant with feedback about whether the proposed project is compatible with the CPRIT portfolio and mission.

Preliminary applications must be submitted by December 11, 2023, 4 PM central time. A panel of experts will individually review and score the preliminary application using the criteria listed below. The panel reviewers may meet collectively to discuss the final decision regarding the preliminary application and will decide whether to invite the applicant to submit a full application for award consideration. In January 2024, CPRIT will issue invitations to submit full applications to companies with the best-ranking preliminary application scores. The review process ends after preliminary review for those applicants not invited to submit a full application.

5.3. Review Criteria – Preliminary Applications

The review panel will evaluate the preliminary applications based on the scientific merit of the technology underlying the proposed project and whether the company presents a compelling idea for CPRIT investment.

5.4. Review Process – Full Applications

5.4.1. Product Development and Scientific Review

CPRIT assigns full applications to individual CPRIT product development review panel members for evaluation using the criteria listed in section 5.5. In addition to reviewing the written application, the review panel will provide questions to the company that the company will address during a meeting convened virtually for the applicant to present the application in person and respond to reviewers' questions. To the extent that the company has had any interaction with regulatory agencies, the applicant should provide CPRIT with documents related to that interaction in section 8.8 of the application and also promptly submit any new correspondence that occurs at any time with the agencies during the course of the review.

5.4.2. Due Diligence Review

Following the in-person presentations, a subset of applications that the review panel judges to be most meritorious will move forward for additional in-depth due diligence, including, but not limited to, IP, management team strength, regulatory considerations, manufacturability, and market assessments.

After the due diligence review, the review panel will determine whether to recommend the application for a CPRIT award. The Product Development Review Council will create a final ranked list of applications recommended for funding by the review panels. The Product Development Review Council's ranking will be based on scores and programmatic priorities.

5.4.3. Program Integration Committee (PIC) Review

The CPRIT Program Integration Committee (PIC) meets to review the Product Development Review Council's final list of applications recommended for funding. The PIC will consider factors including program priorities set by the Oversight Committee, portfolio balance across programs, and available funding when creating its comprehensive list of award recommendations for the Oversight Committee. By law, the PIC's list of recommended Product Development

Awards may not include any applications not also recommended by the Product Development Review Council.

5.4.4. Oversight Committee Approval

CPRIT's Chief Product Development Officer will present the PIC's award recommendations at a public meeting of the Oversight Committee for approval by two-thirds of the Oversight Committee members present and eligible to vote. By law, the Oversight Committee may not approve any Product Development Awards to applicants not also recommended by the Product Development Review Council and the PIC.

5.5. Review Criteria – Full Application

Generally, the review panel will assess an application on the scientific merit, the quality of the company and management team, the appropriateness of the proposed project, and the potential clinical impact. The criteria provide an overview of topics that may be pertinent to the assessment of SEED Award applications during peer review. Specific criteria applied to evaluate a given application will depend on the type of product described by the applicant, eg, therapeutic versus medical device. More specific criteria employed for different product classes are provided in the appendices to this RFA. A successful applicant's proposal will have no significant weaknesses in any of the following areas:

- Significance and impact
- Unmet medical need
- Product validation/POC
- Safety
- Preclinical strength/development to date
- Development Plan
- Communications with regulatory agencies
- Anticipated competitive landscape with justification for assumptions of competitive advantages of product in question
- IP
- Business/commercial aspects
- Relevant experience and accomplishments of management team and key consultants
- Production/manufacturing plan

- Overview of clinical/regulatory plan
- Adequate budget and project timeline paired with realistic G&Os
- Overall commitment to Texas

See the appendices for more information on review criteria.

5.6. Confidential, Conflict-Free Review

CPRIT conducts each stage of application review confidentially and requires all CPRIT Product Development Review Panel members, Product Development Review Council members, PIC members, Oversight Committee members, and CPRIT employees with access to grant application information to sign nondisclosure statements regarding the contents of the applications. State law (Texas Health & Safety Code §102.262[b]) protects all technological and scientific information included in the application from public disclosure.

CPRIT will notify an applicant regarding the peer review panel assigned to review the grant application. CPRIT lists the review panel members on our website. Individuals directly involved with the review process operate under strict conflict-of-interest prohibitions. All CPRIT Product Development Peer Review Panel members and Product Development Review Council members are non-Texas residents.

5.7. Reconsideration of an Application Review Decision Limited to Unreported Conflicts of Interest

CPRIT is committed to providing a fair, unbiased review process conducted by expert reviewers familiar with the science, development stage, and business challenges underlying the project proposed for funding. That said, application review is a subjective process. **By applying, the applicant agrees and accepts that the sole basis for reconsideration of an application is a reviewer's undisclosed conflict of interest as set forth in CPRIT Administrative Rule 703.9.**

5.8. Prohibited Communication Between Applicant and Reviewers During Review

Except as noted below, CPRIT prohibits communication regarding any aspect of a pending preliminary or full application between the applicant or someone on the grant applicant's behalf and the following individuals: an Oversight Committee member, a PIC member, a Product Development Review Panel member, or a Product Development Review Council member.

Intentional, serious, or frequent violations of this rule may result in the disqualification of the grant applicant from further consideration for a grant award.

- The communication prohibition begins at the time the applicant submits the preliminary or full application and extends until it receives notice regarding a final decision on the application. An applicant invited to submit a full application who has questions about the application process, or the substance of the application should contact the CPRIT Product Development Program Manager.
- The communication prohibition does not apply when CPRIT staff or reviewers specifically invite the applicant to discuss the pending application for purposes of the review process, such as the in-person presentation or to respond to information requests during due diligence review. CPRIT will document communication between the applicant and CPRIT staff/reviewers, including the reason for the communication, as part of the grant review process records.

NOTE: The following individuals are members of the PIC: the CPRIT Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Scientific Officer, the Chief Prevention Officer, the Chief Product Development Officer, and the Commissioner of State Health Services.

6. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND DEADLINES

By submitting an application, the applicant accepts the terms and conditions of the RFA. Carefully review information in this section and the *Instructions for Applicants* document to ensure the accurate and complete submission of all components of the application. It is imperative that applicants allow sufficient time to familiarize themselves with the application format and instructions to avoid unexpected issues. CPRIT will administratively withdraw without review any application that lacks 1 or more required components, exceeds the specified page or word limits, or fails to meet the eligibility requirements listed in section 4.

6.1. Online Application Receipt System

Applicants submit preliminary and full applications via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) (https://CPRITGrants.org). **Only applications submitted through this portal are eligible for evaluation.** Applicants must create a CARS user account to generate and submit the

application. The *Instructions for Applicants* associated with this RFA provide information about establishing a user account.

6.2. Invitations to Submit Full Applications Valid Only for the FY 2024 Review Process

The invitation to submit a full application is valid only for the FY 2024 review cycle. An applicant who is invited to submit a full application for the FY 2024 review cycle but does not do so must restart the review process in future fiscal years by resubmitting the preliminary application.

6.3. CPRIT Will Honor Invitations to Submit Full Applications for the FY 2024 Review Cycle

Companies that received an invitation to submit a full application in the first cycle of FY 2024 but did not submit the full application before CPRIT closed the review portal on June 30, 2023, may submit a full application for this cycle. Companies wishing to submit a full application for this cycle using an invitation issued earlier this fiscal year must notify CPRIT of their intention to do so by January 16, 2024.

6.4. Preliminary and Full Application Submission Deadlines; Other Key Dates

Preliminary Applications: An applicant may submit a preliminary application via CARS by December 11, 2023, 4 PM central time. Following the review and scoring of all preliminary applications, CPRIT will issue a limited number of invitations to submit a full application in January 2024 to the companies with the best ranking scores.

Full Applications: CPRIT will convene panels for review of full applications submitted by the February 13, 2024 deadline. Key dates for the second FY 2024 review cycle are as follows:

FY 2024 Review Cycle 2

Full Application Deadline	February 13, 2024; 4 PM central time
In-Person Presentation	Mid-March 2024
Due Diligence	March-April 2024
Oversight Committee Meeting	May 15, 2024

6.5. Submission Deadline Extensions

Review cycle schedules are set in advance and do not accommodate receipt of a preliminary or full application days after the deadline. Therefore, potential applicants that are unable to meet the application deadline because of travel, sabbaticals, conferences, prolonged illness, or other leave, etc, should not request additional time to file an application but should instead consider applying in the next review cycle.

In exceptional instances, CPRIT may extend the submission deadline for a preliminary or full application upon a showing of good cause, usually for technology problems related to CARS. In this event, the applicant should submit a request to extend the submission deadline via email to the CPRIT Helpdesk within 8 hours of the submission deadline. If CPRIT approves the applicant's request for extension, then CPRIT will reopen CARS for a 2-hour window to allow an applicant with an unsubmitted application to complete and submit it. CPRIT will document submission deadline extensions, including the reason for the extension, as part of the grant review process records.

CPRIT urges applicants to initiate the registration process in CARS a minimum of 5 business days prior to deadline to ensure enough time to complete and apply. The applicant's failure to adequately review application instructions and plan accordingly to avoid unexpected issues is not sufficient grounds to justify approval for a late submission.

6.6. Product Development Review Fee for Full Applications

All applicants submitting a full application must pay a nonrefundable fee of $500 to partially offset the cost of reviewing Product Development Award applications. The application review fee must be postmarked by the full application submission deadline unless CPRIT approves a request to submit the fee after the deadline.

Applicants should make the payment by check or money order payable to "Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas." Indicate the application ID and the name of the submitter on the check. CPRIT will not accept electronic and credit card payments.

Applicants using the US Postal Service to mail the application review fee should send it to CPRIT's PO Box (see address below). **DO NOT** use CPRIT's physical address when mailing checks via the US Postal Service.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

PO Box 12097

Austin, TX 78711

Contact name: Michelle Huddleston

Phone 1-512-305-8420

For those applicants using a delivery service (eg, FedEx, UPS) to send the application review fee, CPRIT's physical address is as follows:

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Wm B Travis State Office Building

1701 N Congress Ave Ste 6-127

Austin, TX 78701

Contact name: Michelle Huddleston

Phone 1-512-305-8420

7. PRELIMINARY APPLICATION COMPONENTS

CPRIT strongly advises applicants to attend the webinar offered by CPRIT before applying (https://cprit.texas.gov/news-events/webinars/).

7.1. Abstract (maximum 1,500 characters)

Explain the question or problem to be addressed and the approach to its answer or solution. The aims of the application should be obvious from the abstract although they need not be restated verbatim from the research plan. Address how the proposed project, if successful, will have an impact on cancer. Describe the unmet medical need addressed by the proposed project. Briefly explain the product, service, technology, or infrastructure proposed and funding needs.

7.2. Executive Summary (maximum 2 pages)

The Executive Summary should demonstrate the applicant's ability to think strategically and to orchestrate the execution of key operational aspects of cancer drug, device, or diagnostic development. Listed below are some key elements to address in the Executive Summary. CPRIT encourages applicants to provide concise responses in bulleted format.

a. Company location and year of incorporation

b. Brief description of asset/technology
c. Target/mechanism of action
d. Initial target indication(s)/patient populations: tumor type(s), stage, extent of prior standard-of-care (SOC) therapy
e. Unmet medical need of initial target indications
f. Characteristics of agent/target interaction: potency, reversibility, selectivity, PD effects
g. In vitro preclinical efficacy characterization (eg, cell lines tested with corresponding EC50s selectivity versus normal cells; potency versus competitive agents)
h. In vivo preclinical efficacy characterization (list animal models tested and describe their translational relevance to initial target indication[s]; effectiveness versus SOC; tumor growth inhibition versus tumor regression; effects on survival; combination studies)
i. Preliminary data to support development of devices or diagnostics
j. In vivo tumor PD data supporting in vivo POC
k. Absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion (ADME), PK, TK (brief statement addressing status of key studies and results if available)
l. Safety characterization to date
m. Biomarker candidates, if any, for companion diagnostic test development
n. Stage of development of the device or diagnostic product
o. Manufacturing/chemistry, manufacturing, and controls (CMC) development status
p. Clinical trial status and plans forward to be covered by the grant
q. Regulatory status and plan (eg, brief summary of agency interactions to date, **including any communications with a regulatory agency, US or foreign**, and planned, likely regulatory paths)
r. High-level overview of work to be done during the funding period, including key milestones and budget estimates by year; manufacturing/CMC; safety toxicology; further in vivo efficacy characterization; biomarker exploration; diagnostic test development; clinical plans
s. Potential competitive advantages together with supporting rationale
t. Senior management team accomplishments in cancer drug development
u. Company financial status/fundraising plans

7.3. Slide Presentation (maximum 16 slides)

Provide a slide presentation summarizing the proposed project, scientific support, and management team. The slides should concisely capture all essential elements of the proposed project and should be sufficiently encompassing to be a standalone document. Submit the presentation in PDF format, with 1 slide filling each landscape-orientated page.

7.4. Proposed Project Aims and Budget (maximum 1 page)

Succinctly describe the aims of the proposed project. Provide an anticipated budget request for the project, linking the aims to expected budget amounts. Should CPRIT invite the applicant to submit a full application, the proposed aims and budget will serve as the basis for the project G&Os and requested budget.

7.5. Resubmission Summary (maximum 1 page)

If the applicant submitted a preliminary or full application to CPRIT in previous fiscal years, upload a brief summary of the revised approach, including a summary of the applicant's response to specific feedback. The Resubmission Summary is distinct from the Executive Summary. Clearly indicate to reviewers how the applicant has improved the proposal in response to the critiques from CPRIT. In the Resubmission Summary, refer to specific sections in the resubmission where the reviewer may find further detail on the questions and feedback to the original application.

Responsiveness to previous critiques is a factor in the review. However, reviewers will assess and score the resubmission as a whole, not solely based on improvement and progress made. The review panel for the resubmission may differ from the previous review panel.

8. FULL APPLICATION COMPONENTS

CPRIT does not require or request letters of commitment and/or memoranda of understanding from community organizations, key faculty, etc. Do not submit letters of support as part of your preliminary or full application package. CPRIT will remove any such information from your application before review. Applicants should minimize repetition among application components to the extent possible and use discretion when cross-referencing sections to maximize the amount of information presented within the page limits.

8.1. Abstract and Significance (maximum 5,000 characters)

Coherently explain the question or problem to be addressed and the approach to its answer or solution. The specific aims of the application must be obvious from the abstract although they need not be restated verbatim from the research plan. Address how the proposed project, if successful, will have a major impact on the care of patients with cancer. Describe the unmet medical need addressed by the proposed project and detail how this application provides a path for acquiring proof-of-principle data necessary for next-stage commercial development. Clearly explain the product, service, technology, or infrastructure proposed; competition; market need and size; development or implementation plans; regulatory path; reimbursement strategy; and funding needs. Applicants must clearly describe the existing or proposed company infrastructure and personnel located in Texas for this endeavor.

8.2. Layperson's Summary (maximum 1,500 characters)

Provide an abbreviated summary for a lay audience using clear, nontechnical terms. Describe the overall goals of the work, the type(s) of cancer addressed, the potential significance of the results, and the impact of the work on advancing the fields of diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of cancer. Explain how the proposed project supports CPRIT's statutory mission. For example, will the project fill a needed gap in patient care or in the development of a sustainable oncology industry in Texas? Will it synergize with Texas-based resources? Address how the company's work, if successful, may have a major impact on the care of patients with cancer.

Do not include any proprietary information in this section because CPRIT makes the Layperson's Summary publicly available (eg, posted on CPRIT's public website) if the company receives CPRIT funding.

Advocate reviewers use the Layperson's Summary when evaluating the significance and impact of the proposed work.

The Layperson Summary should describe the following:

a. How the proposed project specifically supports CPRIT's mission
b. The overall goals of the work
c. The type(s) of cancer addressed
d. The potential significance of the results

e. The impact of the work on advancing the fields of diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of cancer
f. How the company's work, if successful, may have a major impact on the care of patients with cancer

8.3. Goals and Objectives (G&Os) (maximum of 1,200 characters each)

List specific G&Os for each year of the project. G&Os should be clearly delineated, realistic, and consistent with the development plan and timeline to allow for unambiguous measurement of progress. While the G&Os may be more detailed than the proposed project aims included in the applicant's preliminary application, the G&Os should not vary significantly from the proposed project aims.

The G&Os are a fundamental aspect of the application; applicants should carefully consider and justify each proposed G&O. CPRIT will incorporate the G&Os into the award contract and will use the G&Os to evaluate progress of the funded project. Demonstrating the timely and successful achievement of G&Os is necessary before CPRIT will advance the next tranche of funding. While it is laudable to pursue aggressive goals, failure to achieve a goal or objective during the specified time will result in CPRIT withholding funds until the company can show that the company has completed the outstanding issue.

NOTE: CPRIT and the company may negotiate a contractual change to 1 or more G&Os during the funded project as scientific progress and development activities dictate; however, material changes will require substantial justification because the G&Os are part of the foundation of the funding decision by CPRIT.

8.4. Executive Summary (maximum 2 pages)

The Executive Summary should demonstrate the applicant's ability to think strategically and to orchestrate the execution of key operational aspects of cancer drug, device, or diagnostic development. Listed below are some key elements to address in the Executive Summary. CPRIT encourages applicants to provide concise responses in bulleted format. NOTE: The applicant may submit the same Executive Summary it provided in its preliminary application or may update it, as necessary.

a. Company location and year of incorporation
b. Brief description of asset/technology

c. Target/mechanism of action
d. Initial target indication(s)/patient populations: tumor type(s), stage, extent of prior SOC therapy
e. Unmet medical need of initial target indications
f. Characteristics of agent/target interaction: potency, reversibility, selectivity, PD effects
g. In vitro preclinical efficacy characterization (eg, cell lines tested with corresponding EC50s selectivity versus normal cells; potency versus competitive agents)
h. In vivo preclinical efficacy characterization (list animal models tested and describe their translational relevance to initial target indication[s]; effectiveness versus SOC; tumor growth inhibition versus tumor regression; effects on survival; combination studies)
i. Preliminary data to support development of devices or diagnostics
j. In vivo tumor PD data supporting in vivo POC
k. ADME, PK, TK (brief statement addressing status of key studies and results if available)
l. Safety characterization to date
m. Biomarker candidates, if any, for companion diagnostic test development
n. Stage of development of the device or diagnostic product
o. Manufacturing/CMC development status
p. Clinical trial status and plans forward to be covered by the grant
q. Regulatory status and plan (eg, brief summary of agency interactions to date, **including any communications with a regulatory agency, US or foreign**, and planned, likely regulatory paths)
r. High-level overview of work to be done during the funding period, including key milestones and budget estimates by year; manufacturing/CMC; safety toxicology; further in vivo efficacy characterization; biomarker exploration; diagnostic test development; clinical plans
s. Potential competitive advantages together with supporting rationale
t. Senior management team accomplishments in cancer drug development
u. Company financial status/fundraising plans

8.5. Timeline (maximum 1 page)

Provide a visual depiction of anticipated major milestones tracked in the form of a Gantt chart. Identify time-specific references as follows: Y1Q1, Y1Q2, etc, as opposed to naming specific

months and years. CPRIT will include the timeline in the executed contract. An applicant should avoid including information that it considers confidential or proprietary in this section.

If the development plan (see section 8.8) incorporates or depends on results from parallel studies or development programs that CPRIT is not funding, the Gantt chart/timeline should reference these studies, their timelines and the contingencies they create or resolve with the studies and G&Os funded by CPRIT.

CPRIT will review timelines for reasonableness. Applicants should provide realistic timelines because the G&Os link directly to the timeline. If CPRIT approves the application for funding, the award contract will include the approved timeline. Adherence to timelines is a criterion for continued support of successful applications.

8.6. Slide Presentation (maximum 10 slides)

Provide a slide presentation summarizing the application. Submit the presentation in PDF format, with 1 slide filling each landscape-orientated page. The slides should succinctly capture all essential elements of the application and should be sufficiently encompassing to be a standalone document.

8.7. Resubmission Summary (maximum 2 pages)

If the applicant submitted a preliminary or full application to CPRIT in previous fiscal years, upload a summary of the revised approach, including a summary of the applicant's response to specific feedback. The Resubmission Summary is distinct from the Executive Summary. Clearly indicate to reviewers how the applicant has improved the proposal in response to the critiques from CPRIT. In the Resubmission Summary, refer to specific sections in the resubmission where the reviewer may find further detail on the questions and feedback to the original application.

Responsiveness to previous critiques is a factor in the review. However, reviewers will assess and score the resubmission as a whole, not solely based on improvement and progress made. The review panel for the resubmission may differ from the previous review panel.

8.8. Development Plan (maximum 12 pages)

Present the rationale behind the proposed product or service, emphasizing the pressing problem in cancer care that it will address. Summarize the evidence gathered to date in support of the company's ideas. Describe the label claims that the company ultimately hopes to make and

describe the plan to gather evidence to support these claims. Outline the steps to be taken during the proposed period of the award, including the design of the translational and/or clinical research, methods, and anticipated results. Describe potential problems or pitfalls and alternative approaches to these risks. If clinical research is proposed, present a realistic plan to accrue a sufficient number of human subjects meeting the inclusion criteria within the proposed time.

The development plan should include a defined product profile (PP). The format for the PP should be a TPP in the case of a therapeutic or analogous document for a medical device, in vitro diagnostic, or service that projects a clear path to full commercialization.

The PP provides a statement of the *overall intent* of the product development program and gives information about the product *at a particular time* in development. Usually, the PP is organized according to the key sections in the product package insert for a drug or biologic (but not medical device or diagnostic labeling, which must be developed by the applicant in an analogous fashion) and links development activities to specific concepts intended for inclusion in the product labeling.

CPRIT recognizes that many applications are early in the development process and that not all elements of the PP will be known at the time of application. Consequently, not only does the PP serve as a snapshot in time of the development status of the program, but it additionally serves as an aspirational target upon eventual commercialization.

The PP should include the parameters below; the questions are intended to guide the thinking process and may include, but are not limited to, the examples provided.

a. Identification of a target that is applicable to human cancer treatment. Is intervention with this target likely to lead to a therapeutic, medical device, diagnostic, or service that could be useful in the treatment or prevention of cancer?
b. Selection of a lead compound, assay, or device technology based on the target. Is the identification of potential developmental candidates based on a set of in vitro tests followed by selection of a lead candidate based on considerations (as appropriate for the candidate) of PD parameters and the results of preclinical, in vivo, proof-of-principle studies in relevant animal models of disease?
c. Description of a high-level clinical development plan detailing each of the clinical studies supporting marketing approval (phase 1, 2, and 3) the preclinical work is meant to

support. Designing the preclinical program requires an understanding of the duration of the clinical studies required by regulatory authorities. Consequently, a brief outline of each of the phase 1, phase 2, and phase 3 studies necessary to obtain regulatory approval and reimbursement funding must be sketched out prior to deciding which toxicology studies would be required.

d. If the company has developed a regulatory plan or has a strategy for interactions with regulatory bodies, provide a summary and a timeline of the planned interactions with regulatory authorities.

Applicants developing cancer therapeutics are encouraged to become familiar with FDA guidance documents for submission of applications related to new product development. These documents provide a standard framework for new drug submissions and biologic license applications to the FDA. Utilizing this framework helps ensure that the submission to CPRIT contains all relevant elements and is optimally organized.

If the company has initiated communications with regulatory authorities regarding the product that is the subject of the CPRIT application, copies of any meeting minutes, communications between the company and regulatory agencies, and summaries of interactions with regulatory authorities (eg, FDA, EMA, NMPA, CDSCO) **must be uploaded separately in CARS as a standalone document (see IFA section 13.2.10)**. This is a continuing obligation that extends over the course of the review process. If the applicant receives meeting minutes after submitting the application but before CPRIT has made a final decision on the application, the applicant should contact the CPRIT Helpdesk (see section 10.1) for assistance on filing the additional information.

Applicants developing a cancer therapeutics project should include the following:

Optimization of the lead compound to ensure desired characteristics, including, but not limited to, the following studies:

a. Indication of the threshold of both the safety and efficacy necessary to be a competitive product when the product is introduced
b. ADME, including, but not limited to, relevant studies based on route of administration
c. Safety (studies as mandated by ICH guidelines)
d. Biomarkers (assays) that potentially target specific patient populations for clinical trials

e. Biomarkers (assays) that can serve as potential PD markers of clinical activity during early clinical trials designed to demonstrate POC
f. Proposed current good manufacturing practice (including estimated costs) that can be scalable from phase 1 through phase 2. Include information on whether there are plans for possible formulation.

References for the Development Plan section should be provided as a standalone document that will be separately uploaded into CARS. In the interests of brevity include only the most pertinent and current literature. While references will not count toward the Development Plan section page limit, it is essential to be concise and to select only those references relevant to the development plan. Do not use the references to circumvent Development Plan section page limits by including data analysis or other nonbibliographic material.

The development plan submitted must be of sufficient depth and quality to pass rigorous scrutiny by a highly qualified panel of reviewers. To the extent possible, the development plan should be driven by data. In the past, applications that have been scored poorly have been criticized for assuming that assertions could be taken on faith. Convincing data are much preferred. Please avoid redundancy!

CPRIT recognizes much, if not most, of this information is not available at this stage of development. However, we encourage applicants to be as complete as possible in describing their current stage of development. Applicants developing diagnostics, devices, or cancer-specific services should provide analogous information relevant to their product and project.

8.9. Business Plan

CPRIT can only provide a portion of the funds required to successfully develop a novel product or service. Companies must raise substantial funds from other sources to fully fund development. Investors seek financial returns on their investment. An applicant should convince CPRIT that this project has investment return potential based on its risk profile sufficient to raise external capital.

CPRIT review typically focuses on size of market opportunity, development path, and key risk issues. The reviewers will evaluate company applicants based not only on the status of the components of the business plan but also on whether the company acknowledges current weaknesses and gaps and outlines a plan to address them.

The business plan consists of the business rationale overview and summaries of the following key development issues listed below. The Business Plan section may request some of the information that the applicant has included in the development plan. To the extent possible, avoid duplication, redundancy or references to the development plan in favor of summarizing the information in the business plan.

CPRIT recognizes much of this information is not available at this stage of development. However, we encourage applicants to be as complete as possible in describing their current stage of development.

8.9.1. Business Rationale (maximum 1 page)

Provide a succinct explanation of why this program is an appropriate investment of CPRIT and private funds.

8.9.2. Product and Market (maximum 1 page)

Provide an overview of the envisioned product and how the product will be administered to patients. Describe the initial market that will be targeted and how the envisioned product will fit within the SOC, ie, primary therapy, second-line therapy, adjunctive to current therapies, etc. Information on patient populations and market segments is helpful.

8.9.3. Competition and Value Proposition (maximum 1 page)

Provide an overview of the competitive environment (current and future) and how the envisioned product will compete in the marketplace.

8.9.4. Clinical and Regulatory Plans (maximum 1 page)

Provide an overview of plans for clinical activities and the regulatory pathway for major markets. Please describe how this is driven by interactions with the FDA, if possible. The regulatory plan should include regulatory communications (including all interactions to date with the FDA) and strategy, with clarity provided on regulatory matters and current regulatory strategies.

8.9.5. Commercial Strategy (maximum 1 page)

Provide an overview of your anticipated commercial market with a brief assessment of current competition.

8.9.6. Risk Analysis (maximum 1 page)

Describe the specific risks inherent to the product plan and how they would be mitigated. Key risk issues typically include efficacy versus competitors, toxicity, clinical trials, FDA approval, dosage and delivery, CMC synthesis, changing competitive environment, etc.

8.9.7. Funding to Date (This section may exceed 1 page, if necessary)

Provide an overview of the funding received, including a list of funding sources and a comprehensive capitalization table that should comprise all parties who have investments, stock, or rights in the company. A template exemplifying an appropriate capitalization table is provided among the application materials and MUST be used when completing your application. The identities of all parties must be listed. It is not appropriate to list any funding source as anonymous. NOTE: This may exceed a 1-page limit if necessary.

8.9.8. Company Financial Overview (maximum 1 page)

Please describe the company's financial condition including cash on hand, runway, burn rate, expenses, debt, working capital and any other metric that would provide insight into the company's finances.

8.9.9. Intellectual Property (IP) (maximum 1 page)

Provide a concise discussion of the IP issues related to the project. List any relevant issued patents and patent applications. Please include the titles and dates the patents were issued/filed/published. List any licensing agreements that the company has signed that are relevant to this application.

8.9.10. Management Team and Key Personnel (maximum 1 page)

The applicant's management team should be composed of individuals who have the appropriate level of experience in developing and commercializing products.

For each member of the senior management and scientific team, provide a paragraph summarizing his or her present title and position, prior industry experience, education, and any other information considered essential for evaluation of qualifications. Also indicate the percentage of the person's time devoted to the project. The time indicated by the company is an obligatory commitment, regardless of whether they request salaries or compensation. "Zero

percent" effort or "TBD" or "as needed" are not acceptable levels of involvement for those designated as key personnel.

Provide the same information for other key personnel who contribute to the development or the execution of the project in a substantive, measurable way. ("Substantive" means they have a critical role in the overall success of the project and that their absence from the project would have a significant impact on executing the approved scope of the project. "Measurable" means that they devote a specified percentage of time to the project.) NOTE: While the applicant should identify all participants who meet these criteria as "key personnel," CPRIT expects that the applicant will keep to a minimum the number individuals designated as key personnel.

8.10. Biographical Sketches of Key Scientific Personnel (maximum 8 pages)

Provide a biographical sketch for up to 4 key scientific personnel describing their education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, and publications relevant to cancer research. Each biographical sketch must not exceed 2 pages. CPRIT provides an optional "Product Development Research Programs: Biographical Sketch" template for the applicant's use. The NIH biographical sketch format is also appropriate.

8.11. Commitment to Texas (maximum 1 page)

Describe the company's commitment to locating in Texas and maintaining its business presence in the state. Please identify the criteria specified in section 4.1 "Award Recipients Must Be Texas-Based" that the company will fulfill if it receives a CPRIT award.

8.12. Budget

This is a 3-year funding program, with an opportunity to extend the duration of contract to fully expend awarded funds. The maximum budget award amount the applicant may request is $3 million. All requested funds must be well justified; CPRIT will award financial support based upon the breadth and nature of the project proposed, the transparency of the budget, and the extent to which the company will spend funds in Texas. The total budget included in the full application must not vary significantly from the anticipated budget request included in the applicant's preliminary application. For purposes of this section, "vary significantly" means that the total budget in the full application must not exceed the anticipated budget request in the preliminary application by more than 5%.

The budget must align with the proposed G&Os. CPRIT will disburse funds in tranches tied to the company's achievement of the contractual G&Os.

When preparing the requested budget, applicants should consider the following:

a. Identify the specific equipment that the company proposes to purchase with grant funds. Items that the company includes in the "equipment" budget line should have a useful life of more than 1 year and an acquisition cost of $5,000 or more per unit.
b. Texas Health & Safety Code Section 102.203(d) law limits the amount of grant funds that companies may spend on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs). CPRIT's Administrative Rules provide guidance regarding indirect cost recovery.
c. The total amount of CPRIT funds allowed for an individual's FY 2024 annual salary is $200,000. An individual may request salary proportional to the percent effort up to a maximum of $200,000. Companies may pay salary amounts exceeding this limit from matching funds. The salary amount does not include fringe benefits. Additionally, CPRIT permits annual salary adjustments of up to a 3% increase for Years 2 and 3, up to the cap of $200,000. CPRIT may revise the FY 2024 salary cap and future salary caps at its discretion.

The Budget section is composed of 4 subtabs:

a. **Budget for All Project Personnel:** Provide the name, role, appointment type, percent effort, salary requested, and fringe benefits for all personnel participating on this project. If the company requests funding for a role that the company has not yet filled at the time of submission, the applicant should note "new hire" as name.
b. **Detailed Budget for Year 1:** Provide the amount requested from CPRIT for direct costs in the first year of the project. Direct cost categories include Travel, Equipment, Supplies, Contractual (Subaward/Services Contracts), or Other. This section should include only the amount requested from CPRIT. DO NOT include the amount of the matching funds or the budget for the entire proposed period of performance.
c. **Budget for Entire Proposed Period of Performance:** Provide the amount requested from CPRIT for direct costs for all subsequent years. CARS will automatically populate the amounts for *Budget Year 1* based on the information provided in the previous subtabs.

This section should include only the amount requested from CPRIT. DO NOT include the amount of the matching funds.

d. **Budget Justification:** The budget should align with the proposed G&Os. Provide a compelling justification for the budget for each line item of the entire proposed period of support, including salaries and benefits, supplies, equipment, patient care costs, animal care costs, and other expenses. If travel costs will include out-of-state or international travel, make that clear here. This section should include CPRIT-requested funds and other amounts that will comprise the total budget for the project, including the use of matching funds.

9. AWARD CONTRACTS

9.1. Overview

Texas law requires that CPRIT award grant funds via a contract between the company and CPRIT. Contract negotiation commences after the CPRIT Oversight Committee votes to approve an application for a grant award. Texas law specifies several contract terms that CPRIT must include in the executed agreement, including terms relating to revenue sharing and IP rights, matching funds, and required reporting for fiscal, progress, and compliance.

CPRIT recommends that applicants review CPRIT's Administrative Rules and its related Policies & Procedures Guide (available at www.cprit.texas.gov) for information describing contractual requirements, fiscal and program progress reporting, and limitations on the use of CPRIT grant funds. This RFA highlights information regarding revenue sharing and matching funds below.

9.2. Revenue-Sharing Terms

The contract will include a revenue-sharing agreement. CPRIT publishes its standard revenue-sharing terms on its website at https://cprit.texas.gov/our-programs/product-development-research. CPRIT will include these standard revenue-sharing terms in the award contract unless parties negotiate different revenue-sharing terms that are in the interest of the state and the company.

9.3. Matching Funds

CPRIT requires a company receiving a CPRIT Product Development Research Award to pay a portion of the overall project expenses using money under the company's control. The company's expenditure of these "matching funds" must take place at the same time the company is drawing down CPRIT funds; there is no credit toward the CPRIT matching funds requirement for in-kind expenses or expenditures made prior to the CPRIT award. The company may fulfill its matching funds commitment on a year-by-year basis.

The company demonstrates that it has available matching funds when CPRIT disburses funds pursuant to an executed award contract, not when the company submits the CPRIT application.

CPRIT sets the amount of matching funds the company must contribute toward the project based on the total amount of CPRIT funds committed to the company:

- For companies receiving $20 million or less from CPRIT (inclusive of previous CPRIT awards), the company must dedicate to the project at least $1 of funds under the company's control for every $2 of CPRIT grant award funds.
- A company approved for 1 or more CPRIT product development grants that together total a commitment of more than $20 million must increase their matching fund obligation to at least $1 for every $1 contributed by CPRIT.
  The increased matching fund obligation applies to the grant award that caused the grantee to exceed the $20 million threshold. For example, a company receives 3 product development grant awards of $3 million, $15 million, and $8 million (in that order) over the course of several years. Under CPRIT's matching funds policy, the company must dedicate at least $8 million in matching funds to the $8 million project (a dollar-for-dollar match obligation) because that project caused it to exceed the $20 million threshold.
- A company approved for 1 or more CPRIT product development grants that together total a commitment of more than $30 million must contribute at least $2 for every $1 provided by CPRIT. The increased matching fund obligation applies to the grant award that caused the grantee to exceed the $30 million threshold.

10. CONTACT INFORMATION

10.1. Helpdesk

The Helpdesk will answer queries submitted via email within 1 business day. Helpdesk support is available for questions regarding user registration and online submission of applications; Helpdesk staff cannot answer questions regarding scientific and product development aspects of applications. Before contacting the Helpdesk, please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants* document, which provides a step-by-step guide on using CARS. For "Frequently Asked Technical Questions," please go here.

Hours of operation:	Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM central time
Tel:	866-941-7146 (toll free in the United States only - international applicants should use the email address below)
Email:	Help@CPRITGrants.org

10.2. Programmatic Questions

The CPRIT Product Development Program Manager will answer questions regarding CPRIT's Product Development Program Awards and review process, including questions regarding the scientific, product development, and business aspects of applications. For "Frequently Asked Programmatic Questions," please go here.

Tel:	512-305-7676
Email:	proddev@cprit.texas.gov
Website:	www.cprit.texas.gov

11. APPENDIX

11.1. Primary Review Criteria - Therapeutics (Scored)

The following criteria will be used by the Reviewer Panel to assess and score applications. Due to the early-stage nature of SEED projects, CPRIT reviewers are aware that not all criteria listed below will be relevant to a particular SEED application, as some development milestones will remain to be completed.

11.1.1. Unmet Medical Need

a. Assuming successful accomplishment of development objectives, will the intended product significantly address an unmet medical need in the diagnosis, treatment (including supportive care), prognosis, or prevention of cancer?
b. In terms of incidence/prevalence of the patient populations or subpopulations intended to be targeted by the development of this product, what is the extent of the unmet need?

11.1.2. Target Validation

a. If this is a "targeted" agent, to what extent has the target been validated, eg, through knockdown studies and/or pharmacological intervention?
b. Has engagement of the target with the agent been demonstrated by biochemical assay? What is the potency of the agent?
c. Are there validated downstream PD markers of target modulation? How extensive is the in vitro evidence for expected PD effects? Has the agent shown biologically significant modulation of the target in vivo, especially in tumor tissue?
d. Is the target uniquely or substantially overexpressed by tumor versus normal cells?
e. Does the target represent an activating mutation? If so, has binding of the agent to the target and other activating mutations been characterized?
f. Has the company's demonstration of target validation been externally/independently confirmed?
g. Are there known mechanisms of resistance to the modulation of this target? If so, has the company proposed possible mitigation/preemptive approaches, such as combination therapies?

11.1.3. Preclinical Characterization: Pharmacodynamic (PD) Proof of Concept

a. Considering in vivo preclinical PD characterization and the patient populations or subpopulation(s) representing the initial clinical indication(s) for the drug, what is the clinical relevance of the preclinical models? To elaborate, were in vivo/xenograft studies carried out in cell line-based models or PDX-derived models? In how many such models have studies been carried out? To what extent do these models reflect SOC for refractory versus drug-naive tumors? At the time of treatment initiation, were tumors established and measurable, or was treatment initiated shortly after tumor inoculation?
b. Was antitumor activity predominantly growth inhibition or tumor regression? Were sustained complete remissions or "cures" achieved in the majority of animals and models? Were comparisons with optimally dosed SOC agents made? Where the agent is intended to be added to the SOC, is there compelling evidence of in vitro/in vivo synergy with SOC agents?
c. Have results of preclinical PD studies carried out by the company been externally/independently confirmed?
d. Overall, considering clinical relevance and study results, how strong is the preclinical efficacy profile of the agent?
e. How strongly does the preclinical PD profile support the clinical efficacy expectations reflected in the TPP?

11.1.4. Preclinical Characterization: Safety

a. How extensive is the in vitro and in vivo preclinical safety characterization carried out so far?
b. Considering potency and target selectivity, what is the potential both for off-target and pharmacologically on-target deleterious effects?
c. Overall, are results of safety characterization carried out so far such that the agent can be considered reasonably derisked from a safety perspective, or are there red flags? Alternatively, is the extent of preclinical safety characterization carried out so far insufficient to address this question?

11.1.5. Pharmaceutical Properties/Chemistry and Pharmacy

a. In the case of agents intended for oral absorption, are there any issues with water solubility? Do formulation studies indicate the feasibility of oral administration?
b. Were Lipinski-type criteria applied during the lead optimization process such that the lead compound has demonstrated properties that make it likely to be an orally active drug in humans?
c. Have stability studies been initiated?
d. Is there scope for further lead optimization through structure-activity studies?
e. In the case of biologicals, have efforts to develop a high-quality cell line been initiated? Any data on yields and scalability?
f. Have analytical method development been initiated?
g. Have studies to characterize the (lead) protein begun? Any stability data?

11.1.6. Development Plan/Regulatory Aspects

a. At a high level, are development proposals scientifically rational and sufficiently comprehensive considering development efforts and results to date?
b. Does the applicant demonstrate adequate familiarity with pertaining regulatory guidelines in major jurisdictions (United States/European Union)? Do development proposals reflect specific regulatory authority input, eg, from pre-IND interactions?
c. Considering target indication prevalence, will the agent qualify for orphan drug designation? If so, does the applicant intend to apply for this?
d. Will the proposed programs advance development of the agent to commercially significant milestone(s), such as might attract either partner interest or the raising of further development funding?
e. Are development milestones clear and adequately described? Is the overall project timeline realistic?

11.1.7. Competitive Analysis

a. Has the applicant identified likely competitive products on the market and in development?

11.1.8. Intellectual Property (IP)/Freedom to Operate

a. Considering patent type (Composition of Matter/Formulation/Manufacturing Process/Use) and duration of patent life, how strong is the IP?
b. Are there opportunities for meaningful patent life extension?
c. Has the applicant secured appropriate licenses conferring freedom to operate?

11.1.9. Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls (CMC)

a. How advanced is CMC and manufacturing development?
b. Are there any sourcing issues?
c. Has the applicant demonstrated the likelihood that the product can be manufactured at commercial scale and with a reasonable cost of goods?
d. Do any members of the company have this expertise, or are outside consultants being exclusively relied upon?

11.1.10. Business/Commercial Aspects

a. Does the applicant need to raise further funds for the CPRIT matching requirement? In this case, how realistic are the applicant's assumptions about a successful fundraising campaign?
b. Does the applicant have a track record of success in raising development funding?

11.1.11. Management Team

a. Does the management team have the appropriate level of experience and track record of relevant accomplishments to execute the development and commercialization strategy?
b. Does the company have experienced and appropriately accomplished in-house personnel in such key areas as translational research, clinical development, regulatory affairs, and CMC/manufacturing? If not, are there plans to address such deficiencies?
c. Has the applicant demonstrated appropriate engagement of outside development expertise through, for example, a scientific advisory board, individual consultantships, and regulatory authority interactions?

11.2. Secondary Review Criteria (Unscored) Budget and Duration of Support

a. Are the budget and duration of support appropriate for the program of studies described in the application?

b. Is there sufficient clarity in the budget proposal as to how funds will be expended?
c. Is there sufficient clarity in the budget proposal as to the spending of funds in Texas?
d. Do plans reflect a substantial commitment to Texas? Is it clear that no CPRIT funds will be sent out of Texas to a corporate headquarters?

11.3. Primary Review Criteria for Medical Devices and Diagnostics (Scored)

The following criteria will be used by the Reviewer Panel to assess and score applications. Due to the early-stage nature of SEED projects, CPRIT reviewers are aware that not all criteria listed below will be relevant to a particular SEED application, as some development milestones will remain to be completed.

11.3.1. Unmet Medical Need

a. Assuming successful accomplishment of development objectives, will the intended product significantly address an unmet medical need in the diagnosis, treatment (including supportive care), prognosis, or prevention of cancer?
b. In terms of incidence/prevalence of the patient populations or subpopulations intended to be targeted by the development of this product, what is the extent of the unmet need?

11.3.2. Product Validation

a. Technical Validation: Has the product or technology been successfully validated, ie, prototyped, built, and tested in ex vivo, animal, or clinical setting?
b. Have biological proof of principle and product mechanism of action been demonstrated?
c. Have efficacy and safety in an accepted in vitro or animal model been demonstrated?
d. Clinical validation: Are clinical trials required to demonstrate product performance? If so, have they been planned?
e. Biological risk: What are the risks to the patients, eg, toxicology, biological, interactions with other therapies?

11.3.3. Production/Manufacturing

a. Has the applicant demonstrated the likelihood that the product can be manufactured at commercial scale and with a reasonable cost of goods?
b. How advanced is manufacturing development?
c. Are there any sourcing issues?

11.3.4. Intellectual Property (IP)/Freedom to Operate

a. Have barriers to entry been identified? Has a route to patentability been mapped out, eg, independent patent, first-mover advantage, unique knowhow, etc?
b. Considering patent type (Composition of Matter/Formulation/Manufacturing Process/Use), and duration of patent life, how strong is the IP?
c. Are there opportunities for meaningful patent life extension?
d. Has applicant secured appropriate licenses conferring freedom to operate, if required?

11.3.5. Market Opportunity

a. Does product address a clearly defined unmet need: lack of available therapy, poor efficacy, side effects, lack of available diagnostic, safety problems, cost reduction, enhanced convenience?
b. Are target indication and market clearly defined?
c. Does the company understand the clinical pathway that leads to utilizing the product?
d. How does product fit with the existing "ecosystem;" ie, are the benefits provided worth the time and cost of implementing the new approach?

11.3.6. Competition

a. Is this a "Whole Product," ie, a complete product or service sold to a defined customer that provides a defined value proposition?
b. Has the applicant identified likely competitive products on the market and in development?

11.3.7. Development Plan/Regulatory Aspects

a. At a high level, are development proposals scientifically rational and sufficiently comprehensive considering development efforts and results to date?
b. Has determination of FDA-defined device classification been completed? Is the clinical and regulatory pathway well understood and feasible?

11.3.8. Management Team

a. Does the management team have the appropriate level of experience and track record of relevant accomplishments to execute the development and commercialization strategy?

b. Does the company have experienced and appropriately accomplished in-house personnel in such key areas as product engineering, clinical development, regulatory affairs, manufacturing, etc? If not, are there plans to address such deficiencies?
c. Has applicant demonstrated appropriate engagement of outside development expertise through, eg, a scientific advisory board, individual consultantships, and regulatory authority interactions?

11.3.9. Business/Commercial Aspects

a. Does the applicant need to raise further funds for the CPRIT matching requirement? In this case, how realistic are assumptions about a successful fundraising campaign? Does the applicant have a track record of success in raising development funding?
b. Has the company anticipated a pricing strategy and reimbursement environment?

11.4. Secondary Review Criteria Budget and Duration of Support (Unscored)

a. Are the budget and duration of support appropriate for the program of studies described in the application?
b. Is there sufficient clarity in the budget proposal as to how funds will be expended?
c. Is there sufficient clarity in the budget proposal as to the spending of funds in Texas?
d. Do plans reflect a substantial commitment to Texas? Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of the Texas spending requirement for CPRIT funds?

Third Party Observer Reports

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) 24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-3 (24.2_PDR-P3) Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-18 24.2_PDR-P3
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-3 (24.2 _PDR-P3)
Panel Date:	January 18, 2024
Report Date:	January 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-3 (24.2_PDR-P3) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Bo Saxburg and conducted via videoconference on January 18, 2024.

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: Six (6) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, two (2) expert reviewers.
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Three (3)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

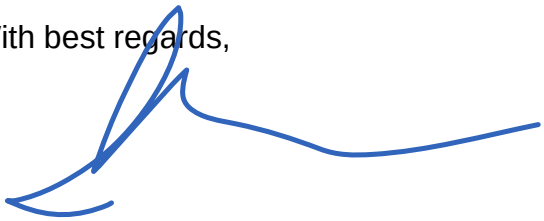
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) 24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-4 (24.2_PDR-P4) Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-18 24.2_PDR-P4
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-4 (24.2 _PDR-P4)
Panel Date:	January 18, 2024
Report Date:	January 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-4 (24.2_PDR-P4) meeting. The meeting was chaired by David Shoemaker and conducted via videoconference on January 18, 2024.

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: Eight (8) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, three (3) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

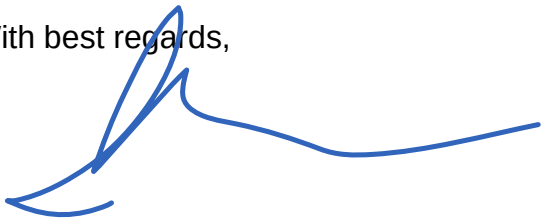
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-7 (24.2_PDR-P7)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-18 24.2_PDR-P7
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-7 (24.2 _PDR-P7)
Panel Date:	January 18, 2024
Report Date:	January 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-7 (24.2_PDR-P7) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Roy Cosan and conducted via videoconference on January 18, 2024.

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: Ten (10) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, three (3) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

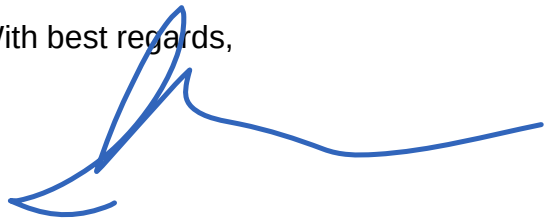
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-5 (24.2_PDR-P5)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-19 24.2_PDR-P5
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-5 (24.2 _PDR-P5)
Panel Date:	January 19, 2024
Report Date:	January 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-5 (24.2_PDR-P5) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Jack Geltosky and conducted via videoconference on January 19, 2024.

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: Eight (8) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, three (3) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

There was one (1) Conflict of Interest (COI) identified prior to and/or during the meeting. The COI was excluded from discussions concerning application for which there was a conflict.

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

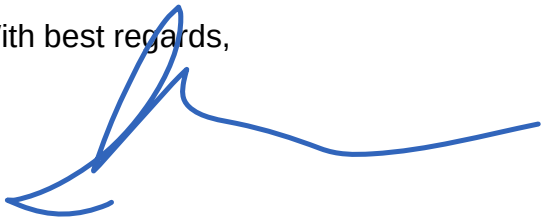
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-6 (24.2_PDR-P6)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-19 24.2_PDR-P6
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-6 (24.2 _PDR-P6)
Panel Date:	January 19, 2024
Report Date:	January 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-6 (24.2_PDR-P6) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Jim Jordan and conducted via videoconference on January 19, 2024.

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: Seven (7) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, three (3) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-8 (24.2_PDR-P8)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-19 24.2_PDR-P8
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-8 (24.2 _PDR-P8)
Panel Date:	January 19, 2024
Report Date:	January 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-8 (24.2_PDR-P8) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Steve Weinstein and conducted via videoconference on January 19, 2024.

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: Seven (7) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, three (3) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

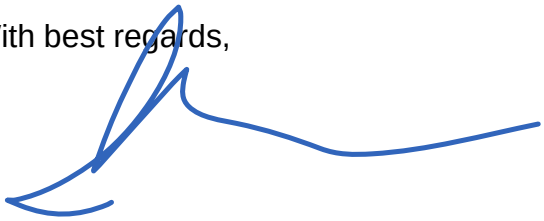
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 PDR_P-2 Product Development Review Prelim-2 (24.2 PDR_P-2)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-22 24.2 PDR_P-2
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 PDR_P-2 Product Development Review Prelim-2 (24.2 PDR_P-2)
Panel Date:	January 22, 2024
Report Date:	January 24, 2024

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 24.2 PDR_P-2 Product Development Review Prelim-2 (24.2 PDR_P-2) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Kristine Swiderek and conducted via videoconference on January 22, 2024.

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: Seven (7) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, three (3) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

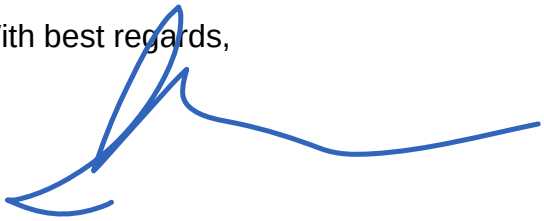
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-1 (24.2PDR-P1)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-22 24.2PDR_P1
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-1 (24.2PDR_P1)
Panel Date:	January 22, 2024
Report Date:	January 24, 2024

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 24.2Product Development Review Prelim-1 (24.2PDR_P1) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Colin Turnbull and conducted via videoconference on January 22, 2024.

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: Seven (7) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, three (3) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Five (5)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

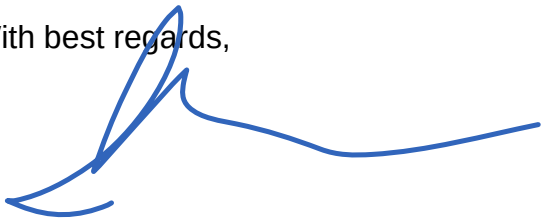
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) 24.2 Product Development Research Review Council Preliminary Application Ranking (24.2_PDRC-Prelim) Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-23 24.2_PDRC-Prelim
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Research Review Council Preliminary Application Ranking (24.2 _PDRC-Prelim)
Panel Date:	January 23, 2024
Report Date:	January 26, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Research Review Council Preliminary Application Ranking (24.2_PDRC-Prelim) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Jack Geltosky and conducted via videoconference on January 23, 2024.

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: Sixteen (16) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, eleven (11) 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: Five (5)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

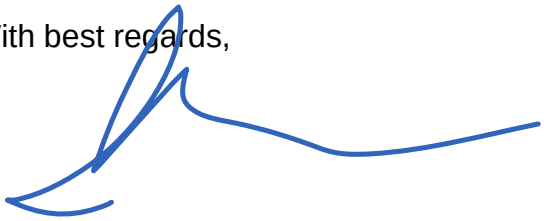
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-2 (24.2 PDP-2)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-15 24.2_PDP-2
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-2 (24.2 _PDP-2)
Panel Date:	March 15, 2024
Report Date:	March 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-2 (24.2_PDP-2) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Jim Jordan and conducted via videoconference on March 15, 2024.

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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- 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 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-7 (24.2 PDP-7)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-15 24.2_PDP-7
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-7 (24.2 _PDP-7)
Panel Date:	March 15, 2024
Report Date:	March 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-7 (24.2_PDP-7) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Elaine Jones and conducted via videoconference on March 15, 2024.

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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Five (5)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Five (5)
- 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 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-3 (24.2 PDP-3)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-18 24.2_PDP-3
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-3 (24.2 _PDP-3)
Panel Date:	March 18, 2024
Report Date:	March 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-3 (24.2_PDP-3) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Steve Weinstein and conducted via videoconference on March 18, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Five (5)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- 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 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.

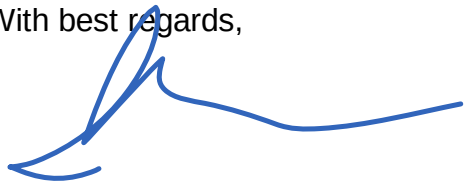
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-4 (24.2 PDP-4)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-18 24.2_PDP-4
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-4 (24.2 _PDP-4)
Panel Date:	March 18, 2024
Report Date:	March 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-4 (24.2_PDP-4) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Colin Turnbull and conducted via videoconference on March 18, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- 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 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-5 (24.2 PDP-5)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-19 24.2_PDP-5
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-5 (24.2 PDP-5)
Panel Date:	March 19, 2024
Report Date:	March 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-5 (24.2_PDP-5) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Renzo Canetta and conducted via videoconference on March 19, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Five (5)
- 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 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-1 (24.2 PDP-1)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-20 24.2_PDP-1
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-1 (24.2 _PDP-1)
Panel Date:	March 20, 2024
Report Date:	March 25, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-1 (24.2_PDP-1) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Roy Cosan and conducted via videoconference on March 20, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- 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 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-8 (24.2 PDP-8)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-20 24.2_PDP-8
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-8 (24.2 _PDP-8)
Panel Date:	March 20, 2024
Report Date:	March 25, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-8 (24.2_PDP-8) meeting. The meeting was chaired by David Shoemaker and conducted via videoconference on March 20, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, four (4) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- 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 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,

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

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

BFS STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-10 (24.2 PDP-10)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-22 24.2_PDP-10
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-10 (24.2 _PDP-10)
Panel Date:	March 22, 2024
Report Date:	March 28, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-10 (24.2_PDP-10) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Jack Geltosky and conducted via videoconference on March 22, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Five (5)
- 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 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-11 (24.2_PDP-11)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-25 24.2_PDP-11
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-11 (24.2 _PDP-11)
Panel Date:	March 25, 2024
Report Date:	March 27, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-11 (24.2_PDP-11) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Renzo Canetta and conducted via videoconference on March 25, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- 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 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-12 (24.2_PDP-12)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-25 24.2_PDP-12
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-12 (24.2 _PDP-12)
Panel Date:	March 25, 2024
Report Date:	March 27, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-12 (24.2_PDP-12) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Ginette Serrero and conducted via videoconference on March 25, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- 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 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-13 (24.2_PDP-13)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-26 24.2_PDP-13
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-13 (24.2 _PDP-13)
Panel Date:	March 26, 2024
Report Date:	March 31, 2024

BACKGROUND

As part of CPRIT's ongoing emphasis on continuous improvement in its grants eview/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 24.2 Product Development Panel-13 (24.2_PDP-13) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Steve Weinstein and conducted via videoconference on March 26, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, six (6) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-14 (24.2_PDP-14)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-26 24.2_PDP-14
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-14 (24.2 _PDP-14)
Panel Date:	March 26, 2024
Report Date:	March 31, 2024

BACKGROUND

As part of CPRIT's ongoing emphasis on continuous improvement in its grants eview/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 24.2 Product Development Panel-14 (24.2_PDP-14) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Colin Turnbull and conducted via videoconference on March 26, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-15 (24.2_PDP-15)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-27 24.2_PDP-15
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-15 (24.2 _PDP-15)
Panel Date:	March 27, 2024
Report Date:	March 31, 2024

BACKGROUND

As part of CPRIT's ongoing emphasis on continuous improvement in its grants eview/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 24.2 Product Development Panel-15 (24.2_PDP-15) meeting. The meeting was chaired by David Shoemaker and conducted via videoconference on March 27, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-16 (24.2_PDP-16)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-27 24.2_PDP-16
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-16 (24.2 _PDP-16)
Panel Date:	March 27, 2024
Report Date:	March 31, 2024

BACKGROUND

As part of CPRIT's ongoing emphasis on continuous improvement in its grants eview/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 24.2 Product Development Panel-16 (24.2_PDP-16) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Kristine Swiderek and conducted via videoconference on March 27, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

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With best regards,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-1 Due Diligence (24.2_PDP-1 DD)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-04-09 24.2_PDP-1 DD
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-1 Due Diligence (24.2 _PDP-1 DD)
Panel Date:	April 9, 2024
Report Date:	April 11, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-1 Due Diligence (24.2_PDP-1 DD) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Roy Cosan and conducted via videoconference on April 9, 2024.

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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Three (3)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions
- Boyds Consultant staff employees: One (1)
- Boyds Consultant staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting
- Norton Rose Fulbright Law Firm staff employees: Two (2)
- Norton Rose Fulbright Law Firm staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) 24.2 Product Development Panel-15 DD (24.2_PDP-15 DD) Observation Report

Report No.	2024-04-15 24.2_PDP-15 DD
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-15 DD (24.2 _PDP-15 DD)
Panel Date:	April 15, 2024
Report Date:	April 23, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-15 DD (24.2_PDP-15 DD) meeting. The meeting was chaired by David Shoemaker and conducted via videoconference on April 15, 2024.

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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Five (5)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions
- Boyds Consultant staff employees: One (1)
- Boyds Consultant staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting

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 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-8 Due Diligence (24.2_PDP-8 DD)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-04-16 24.2_PDP-8 DD
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-8 Due Diligence (24.2 _PDP-8 DD)
Panel Date:	April 16, 2024
Report Date:	April 23, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-8 Due Diligence (24.2_PDP-8 DD) meeting. The meeting was chaired by David Shoemaker and conducted via videoconference on April 16, 2024.

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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, four (4) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Five (5)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions
- Boyds Consultant staff employees: One (1)
- Boyds Consultant staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting
- Norton Rose Fulbright Law Firm staff employees: One (1)
- Norton Rose Fulbright Law Firm staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-11 Due Diligence
(24.2_PDP- 11 DD)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-04-17 24.2_PDP-11 DD
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-11 Due Diligence (24.2 _PDP-11 DD)
Panel Date:	April 17, 2024
Report Date:	April 23, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-11 Due Diligence (24.2_PDP-11 DD) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Renzo Canetta and conducted via videoconference on April 17, 2024.

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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Five (5)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions
- Boyds Consultant staff employees: One (1)
- Boyds Consultant staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

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With best regards,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-14 Due Diligence
(24.2_PDP- 14 DD)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-04-17 24.2_PDP-14 DD
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-14 Due Diligence (24.2 _PDP-14 DD)
Panel Date:	April 17, 2024
Report Date:	April 23, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-14 Due Diligence (24.2_PDP-14 DD) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Colin Turnbull and conducted via videoconference on April 17, 2024.

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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Five (5)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions
- Boyds Consultant staff employees: One (1)
- Boyds Consultant staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting

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 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.

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With best regards,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-12 Due Diligence
(24.2_PDP-12 DD)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-04-19 24.2_PDP-12 DD
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-12 Due Diligence (24.2 _PDP-12 DD)
Panel Date:	April 19, 2024
Report Date:	April 23, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-12 Due Diligence (24.2_PDP-12 DD) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Ginette Serrero and conducted via videoconference on April 19, 2024.

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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, four (4) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions
- Boyds Consultant staff employees: One (1)
- Boyds Consultant staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting
- Norton Rose Fulbright Law Firm staff employees: One (1)
- Norton Rose Fulbright Law Firm staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting

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 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.

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With best regards,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Review Council Meeting (24.2 PDRC)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-04-22 24.2_PDRC
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Review Council Meeting (24.2 _PDRC)
Panel Date:	April 22, 2024
Report Date:	April 29, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Review Council Meeting (24.2_PDRC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Jack Geltosky and vice-chaired by David Shoemaker and conducted via videoconference on April 22, 2024.

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: Six (6) applications presented
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, one (1) vice chair, and ten (10) 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: Five (5)
- 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 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,

Mara Ash, CIA, CGAP, CGFM, CRMA, 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 Product Development Research Cycle 24.2
Awards Announced at the May 15, 2024, Oversight Committee Meeting

The following table 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 Product Development Research Cycle 24.2 include *SEED Awards for Product Development Research; Texas Therapeutic Company Awards for Product Development Research; Texas New Technologies Company Awards for Product Development Research;* and *Texas Diagnostic and Devices Company Preliminary Applications for Product Development Research.*

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:			
DP240171	Casey Cunningham	Iterion Therapeutics, Inc.	Renzo Canetta

T.A.C. Section 702.19 Waiver

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	WAYNE ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT:	T.A.C. § 702.19 WAIVER
DATE:	APRIL 26, 2024

Summary

This is to notify the Oversight Committee that pursuant to the authority provided to the Chief Executive Officer in T.A.C. § 702.19(e), I have granted Chief Product Development Officer Dr. Ken Smith a waiver from the general prohibition against communicating with a grant applicant while CPRIT is accepting and reviewing applications. The waiver applies to communication with the six companies that the Product Development Review Council has recommended to the Program Integration Committee during the second cycle in FY 2024. Doing so promotes CPRIT's objectives and does not give one or more applicants an unfair advantage. No Oversight Committee action related to this waiver is necessary.

Discussion

The Chief Product Development Officer is a statutorily mandated member of the Program Integration Committee (PIC). Texas Administrative Code § 702.19 prohibits substantive communication between the grant applicant and a member of the peer review panel, the PIC, or the Oversight Committee while the application is pending a final decision. The communication restriction is one way that we prevent even the appearance of unequal treatment in the grant review process. However, the rule provides a process for the CEO to waive the communication restriction in specific circumstances if doing so is in the interest of CPRIT's process and does not give any applicant an unfair advantage.

Approving this waiver allows Dr. Smith to negotiate reductions in proposed budgets with each company. Cumulatively, the budgets of the six recommended companies exceed the amount of funds designated for product development awards during this cycle. If negotiations are successful, CPRIT will be able to fund all six companies if they are approved by the Oversight Committee. Granting the waiver will not favor any applicant or provide an unfair advantage.

The Oversight Committee does not need to take any action regarding this waiver. Dr. Smith's waiver will be part of the grant record for the FY 2024 product development awards.

High Level Summary of Due Diligence

SEED

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Seed Company Award for Product Development Research:

Aakha Biologics for $2,999,880.

No Contingencies

The Product Development Review Council (PDRC), upon its review of the independent business and intellectual property due diligence performed on this application, has recommended to the Program Integration Committee that this application is suitable for CPRIT funding.

Aakha Biologics is a Frisco-based company which is developing AHA-1031 which engages two strong activating receptors (NKG2D/MICA andCD16/engineered Fc) in the tumor microenvironment for the treatment of advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC).

Advanced metastatic lung cancer is the deadliest form of cancer but is difficult to treat because many tumors lack immune cells that are critical for fighting cancer. Despite the discovery and advancement of newer therapies that target specific cancers, the patient's overall 5-year survival rate is only 9%. Aakha Biologics is developing a novel antibody drug that potentially attracts immune cells to the tumor and activates them to kill the tumor. This antibody binds to an a newly validated cancer target on tumor surfaces and specifically recruits killer cells to destroy the tumor. Aakha's novel antibody will have a major impact on the care of lung cancer patients by treating tumors that are not responding to the standard of care treatments.

Select Reviewer Comments

MICA/B is a good, broad tumor target. Improved Fc binding is distinguished from products currently on market. This product, once developed and tested, has the potential to significantly address the treatment of many cancer types, including lung and ovarian cancers.

There is a well-validated target and approach. They have improved upon efficacy compared to first-generation molecules in the clinic now.

There is a strong management team, including consultants, in key areas relevant to the development stage of the project.

SEED

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Seed Company Award for Product Development Research:

MS Pen Biologics Inc. for $3,000,000.

Contingencies

1. Execute license agreement with UTA for patent rights.
2. Execute supply and license agreement with Thermo Fisher.
3. CPRIT should be provided full visibility of the agreement with Thermo Fisher.

The Product Development Review Council (PDRC), upon its review of the independent business and intellectual property due diligence performed on this application, has recommended to the Program Integration Committee that this application is suitable for CPRIT funding.

MS Pen Technologies Inc. is a Houston-based company developing an ultimate surgical sensing system for intraoperative tissue sensing and surgical guidance. CPRIT has previously awarded three academic research grants totaling $1.4 million for the research underlying this technology.

Incomplete surgical resection of cancer tissues is a critical problem in the care for cancer patients, leading to consequences such as recurrence, increased treatment costs, and post-operative complications. Current methods for intraoperative tissue identification and surgical margin evaluation are unreliable, time consuming, and require expert on-call pathologists for interpretation. Additionally, no current methods enable label-free, real-time margin evaluation and cancer detection in vivo to guide surgical decision making. MS Pen Technologies is developing the ultimate tissue sensing system (Ultiss MD), a platform for tissue sensing and surgical guidance that combines the simplicity of the MasSpec Pen, the performance of mass spectrometry, and the power of AI/ML software. Ultiss exploits the fundamentals of tumor biology to detect cancer on a molecular level in vivo to guide surgical decision making in real-time. Our initial focus is lung cancer, where curative resection is highly dependent on intraoperative decision making.

Select Reviewer Comments

Ultiss is a molecular-based cancer diagnosis and margin analysis tool with high accuracy, rapid cancer detection and classification, and much reduced risk for complication and tissue damage. The applicant has assembled an excellent team with complementary expertise and skill needed to develop a successful product.

This is very impressive technology, nondestructive and compatible with rapid intraoperative evaluations.

There is an excellent development team, with scientists involved not only in the company but continuing to work in their laboratories to advance the science and engineering.

TTC

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Therapeutics Company Award for Product Development Research:

7 Hills Pharma LLC for $4,999,618.

No Contingencies

The Product Development Review Council (PDRC), upon its review of the independent business and intellectual property due diligence performed on this application, has recommended to the Program Integration Committee that this application is suitable for CPRIT funding.

7 Hills Pharma LLC is a Houston-based company that is developing 7HP935, an integrin agonist, to augment hematopoietic stem cell transplant for the treatment of hematologic malignancies. CPRIT previously awarded 7 Hills Pharma a $13.4 million Texas Therapeutics Company Award for Product Development Research.

7 Hills Pharma is developing 7HP935, which could benefit patients with leukemia who require stem cell transplant. The curative potential of transplant is limited by timely access to a suitable donor and an elevated risk of infection, particularly in Hispanic/Latino and Black patients, who comprise 51.8% of the Texas population. Umbilical cord blood (UCB) is a readily available, FDA approved stem cell source that has been shown to have curative potential but is limited by slow stem cell engraftment, resulting in high infection rates and extended hospital stays. 7HP935 given in combination with a UCB stem cell transplant, could ameliorate these limitations and, importantly, decrease racial disparities and increase access to curative therapy. If successful, these studies may represent a new treatment paradigm for patients with leukemia that could deliver the curative promise of stem cell transplant.

Select Reviewer Comments

The company and inventors have a long history of developing alpha4beta1 agonists/antagonists and demonstrate that they can develop such molecules in the clinic.

A novel small-molecule-based strategy to increase engraftment (that is not cell based) represents a key advancement in the field of hematopoietic stem cell transplanation.

TTC

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Therapeutics Company Award for Product Development Research:

Indapta Therapeutics for $5,000,000.

No Contingencies

The Product Development Review Council (PDRC), upon its review of the independent business and intellectual property due diligence performed on this application, has recommended to the Program Integration Committee that this application is suitable for CPRIT funding.

Indapta Therapeutics is a Houston-based company that is developing highly potent allogeneic G-NK cells for treatment of multiple myeloma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Indapta has identified a highly potent subset of natural killer (NK) cells, g-NK cells, which can be expanded from healthy donors. Indapta's g-NK product, IDP-023, has the potential to be a significant medical breakthrough in treating patients with advanced non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) and multiple myeloma (MM) who have few therapeutic options and are not candidates for autologous cellular therapy. Recently approved treatments (CAR-T, T cell engagers) have limitations: lack of durability, significant toxicities, and manufacturing delays. IDP-023 is an "off-the-shelf" cryopreserved product that is expected to have few side effects so that it can be easily administered in an outpatient setting. In mice, g-NK cells can cure cancer, killing tumors more effectively than conventional NKs. Indapta will conduct a Phase 1 trial of IDP-023 in combination with approved monoclonal antibodies, as a safe, highly effective therapy for patients with advanced NHL or MM.

Select Reviewer Comments

This is an innovative, exciting product. NK cell therapy has a lot of potential that has yet to be realized, and Indapta uses a novel approach with larger ability to extend to other cancer types if successful.

If successful, this project will result in the development of a novel off-the-shelf NK cell therapy that will be easily administered and with decreased toxicity compared to T-cell therapies. It will meet an unmet need for treatment of NHL and MM and can feasibly be extended to other cancers with available antibodies for antibody-dependent cellular toxicity

SEED

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Seed Company Award for Product Development Research:

Crossbridge Bio Inc. for $2,972,447.

No Contingencies

The Product Development Review Council (PDRC), upon its review of the independent business and intellectual property due diligence performed on this application, has recommended to the Program Integration Committee that this application is suitable for CPRIT funding.

Crossbridge Bio Inc. is a Houston-based company that is developing advanced antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) targeting various cancers such as breast, lung, ovarian, and bladder.

Current-generation ADCs, while revolutionary, face challenges like premature payload loss and resistance by cancer cells. CrossBridge Bio's solution, leveraging technology from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, includes a proprietary linker that provides greater stability and the ability to attach multiple payloads. This innovation decreases the ability of cancer cells to develop resistance, as evidenced by early preclinical data in cancer cell and animal models. The company's project focuses on targeting TROP-2, a protein prevalent in several cancers. The project will compare Crossbridge's lead asset, CBB-120, to Trodelvy, an existing TROP-2 targeting drug to demonstrate its product's superiority. Success in TROP-2 cancers could lead to the effective treatment of other cancer targets.

Select Reviewer Comments

The target product profile is well described. There are potential advantages relative to TRODELVY in safety profile based on unique antibody epitope, proprietary linker design, and payload delivered.

The EGCit and EVCit linkers display improved stability in plasma (human, monkey, mouse) relative to VCit linkers used in other ADCs. In vivo studies in mice show no hepatic toxicity.

The pharmaceutical properties of CBB-120 should be very similar to other ADCs with which the team is very familiar and for which FDA-approved precedent is available.

SEED

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Seed Company Award for Product Development Research:

Bectas Therapeutics Inc. for $3,000,000

No Contingencies

The Product Development Review Council (PDRC), upon its review of the independent business and intellectual property due diligence performed on this application, has recommended to the Program Integration Committee that this application is suitable for CPRIT funding.

Bectas Therapeutics Inc. is a Houston-based company that is developing LILRB4 antibodies and companion precision biomarkers for patient selection to overcome myeloid-dependent resistance to T cell checkpoint therapy.

75% - 85% of patients are not cured by existing immune-based therapies. Limited progress has been made in addressing the lack of response in these patients due to a lack of understanding of the patients that will benefit from additional therapy. Bectas has identified myeloid cell surface receptors, including the LILRB4 protein, that suppress the immune system and drive resistance to existing therapy in 25% of patients. Bectas has also identified a biomarker that enables precise identification of patients who will benefit from LILRB4 inhibition. The company has generated

an antibody that blocks LILRB4 activity, inhibits solid tumor growth and improves survival in pre-clinical cancer models. Bectas will manufacture this antibody to further pre-clinical pharmacology and safety studies to support an Investigational New Drug application. The clinical trials will test the LILRB4 antibody in a biomarker selected patient population to assess the benefit of LILRB4 inhibition in biomarker positive patients.

Select Reviewer Comments

The scientific and leadership team is excellent. Dr Allison, a leader in the LILRB4 field, is a major advantage. Biomarker assay is a key distinguishing feature of this proposal compared to competitors.

The development of a blood-based biomarker to screen for patients who would benefit from the new treatment is a practical and necessary step.

There is a selection biomarker panel to enable a faster go/no-go decision on the anti-LILRB4 antibody.

De-Identified Overall Evaluation Scores

SEED Awards for Product Development Research

Product Development Research Cycle 24.2

Full Application Review

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
DP240248*	2.0
DP240240*	2.2
DP240239*	2.7
DP240245*	2.9
Ca	4.1
Cb	5.3
Cc	5.9

* Recommended for funding.

SEED Awards for Product Development Research

Product Development Research Cycle 24.2

Final Scores for Preliminary Application Review

CPRIT uses a preliminary application review process to quickly provide an applicant with feedback about whether the proposed project is compatible with the CPRIT portfolio and mission. A panel of experts individually reviewed and scored preliminary applications using the criteria listed in the Request for Applications (RFA). These are the final overall evaluation scores for preliminary applications that were not invited to submit full applications. The review process ends after preliminary review for those applicants not invited to submit a full application.

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
Ba	2.0
Bb	2.0
Bc	2.0
Bd	2.0
Be	2.0
Bf	2.0
Bg	2.3
Bh	2.3
Bi	2.3
Bj	2.5
Bk	2.5
Bl	2.8
Bm	3.0
Bn	3.0
Bo	3.0
Bp	3.3
Bq	3.3
Br	3.3
Bs	3.3
Bt	3.5
Bu	3.5
Bv	4.0
Bw	4.0
Bx	4.0

Final Overall Evaluation Scores and Rank Order Scores

April 22, 2024

Dr. David Cummings
CPRIT Oversight Committee Chair
Via email to dcummingsmd@yahoo.com

Mr. Wayne R. Roberts
CPRIT Program Integration Committee Chair
Via email to wroberts@cprit.texas.gov

Dr. Cummings and Mr. Roberts,

On behalf of the Product Development Review Council (PDRC), I am pleased to provide the PDRC's recommendation for CPRIT's Product Development Research 24.2 grant award cycle. The PDRC convened on October 24, 2023, and recommends that the Program Integration Committee and the Oversight Committee approve Product Development Research grant awards for the following applicants: Crossbridge, Inc., Aakha Biologics, 7 Hills Pharma LLC, Indapta Therapeutics, Bectas Therapeutics and MS Pen Technologies, Inc. The attached table reflects the ranked award recommendation for the six (6) grant applications.

Two (2) recommendations included contingencies associated with intellectual property (IP) ownership and licensing agreements, which CPRIT should address with the companies during contract negotiations. The IP due diligence report for both DP240240 (Crossbridge Bio, Inc.) and DP240245 (MS Pen Technologies, Inc.) reflects the recommended contingencies. In addition, for DP240239 (Bectas Therapeutics Inc.), the PDRC suggested CPRIT address milestone payments by Bectas to a parent company, dose planning and a hiring plan for key staff. Dr. Smith will address the proposed contingencies with the PIC and the Oversight Committee.

Each of the companies included in the PDRC's recommendation reflets 50+ hours of individual review panel discussion of the applicants' proposals as well as the PDRC's review of the due diligence reports. Our recommendations are consistent with one or more of the priorities set by the Oversight Committee for product development grant award funding. These standards include the potential of these companies to (1) bring important products to market; (2) promote the translation of research at Texas institutions into new companies able to compete in the marketplace; and (3) develop tools and technologies of special relevance to cancer research, treatment, and prevention.

Sincerely,

Jack Geltosky, PhD
Chair, CPRIT Product Development Review Council

CPRIT 24.2 Product Development Research
Review Council Recommendations

Ranking	ID	Mechanism	Type	PI Last Name	Application Title	Organization	Final Overall Score	Recommended Budget
1	DP240240	SEED	New	Torres, M.	CBB-120, a next-generation dual-payload antibody-drug conjugate for the treatment of TROP-2+ solid tumors	Crossbridge Bio, Inc.	2.0	$ 2,972,447
2	DP240248	SEED	Resubmission	Baruah, H.	AHA-1031 engages two strong activating receptors (NKG2D/MICA and CD16/engineered Fc) in the tumor microenviroment for the treatment of advanced NSCLC	Aakha Biologics	2.1	$ 2,999,880
3	DP240244	TTC	New	Lewis, L.	7HP935, an integrin agonist, to augment hematopoietic stem cell transplant for the treatment of hematologic malignancies	7 Hills Pharma Inc.	2.3	$ 4,999,618
4	DP240243	TTC	New	Frohlich, M.	Phase 1 Trial of Highly Potent Allogeneic G-NK Cells for Treatment of Multiple Myeloma and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	Indapta Therapeutics	2.5	$ 5,000,000
5	DP240239	SEED	New	O'Hagan, R.	Development of LILRB4 antibodies and companion precision biomarkers for patient selection to overcome myeloid-dependent resistance to T cell checkpoint therapy	Bectas Therapeutics Inc.	3.0	$ 3,000,000
6	DP240245	SEED	Resubmission	Wiseman, J.	Development of the Ultimate Surgical Sensing System for Intraoperative Tissue Sensing and Surgical Guidance	MS Pen Technologies, Inc.	3.3	$ 3,000,000

Cancer Prevention & Research
Institute of Texas

CEO Affidavit
Supporting Information

Product Development Research
FY 2024—Cycle 2
Texas Therapeutic Company Awards for Product Development Research

Request for Applications

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
RFA 24.2-TTC

Texas Therapeutics Company Awards for Product Development Research

Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document, which CPRIT will post December 1, 2023

Preliminary Application Deadline: December 11, 2023

Full Application Invitation Issued: January 24, 2024

Full Application Deadline: February 13, 2024

FY 2024

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2023-August 31, 2024

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RFA VERSION HISTORY

Rev	11/29/2023	RFA release

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Texas created the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) to identify and financially support innovative projects related to the prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer. CPRIT's mission includes investing in Texas-based startup and early-stage oncology companies to narrow the funding gap (sometimes referred to as the "valley of death") between discovery and commercial development.

Texas-based companies and those companies willing to relocate to Texas may submit a preliminary application by the preliminary application deadline, which a panel of experts will review and score for scientific merit and consistency with CPRIT's portfolio. CPRIT will invite the best-scoring companies to submit a full application for review.

A company invited to submit a full application will present the proposed project to a panel of experts. If the panel recommends the company for potential CPRIT investment, the company will undergo due diligence before CPRIT makes a final award decision.

CPRIT has limited funds for company investment in this cycle (approximately $20 million) and has **instituted a maximum award budget cap of $5 million**. Regardless of the amount requested, CPRIT will analyze and negotiate final budgets with grantees in an effort to fund as many worthy projects as possible.

CPRIT provides funding via an award contract between CPRIT and the company. The contract includes a negotiated budget tied to agreed goals and objectives (G&Os) and project timeline, as well as revenue-sharing terms and regular reporting requirements on the use of CPRIT funds and project progress. CPRIT also requires companies receiving a Product Development Award to contribute the company's own funds toward the project contemporaneous with CPRIT's investment.

Please note that this RFA will use the terms "grant," "award," and "investment" interchangeably to denote the contractual commitment of CPRIT funds to support a company project recommended by an expert review panel and approved by CPRIT's Oversight Committee.

Commitment to Locating in Texas and Maintaining Business Presence in the State

Applying to this RFA indicates that the company will operate in Texas for the foreseeable future should it receive CPRIT funding. Do not apply if this is not your intention.

Texas taxpayer-supported general obligation bonds fund all Product Development Awards. Accordingly, in addition to scientific progress, CPRIT expects every company it funds to appreciably strengthen the Texas life science ecosystem through its presence in the state. A company receiving CPRIT funds must meaningfully commit to locating in Texas and maintaining its business presence within the state.

While CPRIT will work in partnership with your company to advance development of innovative treatments for cancer, we take your obligation to Texas seriously. Fraud, deception, or other actions taken in bad faith to evade the obligation to establish and maintain your status as a Texas company will result in termination, repayment, and any other remedy available by law or contract.

CPRIT developed criteria that CPRIT-funded companies should use to signal the company's commitment to Texas and to developing the state's life science ecosystem. Prior to submitting an application, applicants should familiarize themselves with the criteria specified in section 4.1 "Award Recipients Must Be Texas-Based." If the company receives a CPRIT award, it must attest at least annually to fulfilling CPRIT's Texas location criteria.

2. ABOUT CPRIT

A statewide vote of Texans in 2007 created CPRIT and constitutionally authorized the state to issue $3 billion in taxpayer-backed general obligation bonds to fund cancer prevention and the research and development of innovative methods to prevent, detect, treat, and cure cancer. A second statewide vote in 2019 reauthorized CPRIT and increased the total general obligation bond issuance by another $3 billion, for a total of $6 billion.

2.1. CPRIT's Statutory Mission

The Texas Legislature has charged CPRIT with the following:

- Create and expedite innovation in cancer research and product or service development, thereby enhancing the potential for a medical or scientific breakthrough in the prevention, treatment, and possible 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.
- Continue to develop and implement the Texas Cancer Plan by promoting the development and coordination of effective and efficient statewide public and private policies, programs, and services related to cancer and by encouraging cooperative, comprehensive, and complementary planning among the public, private, and volunteer sectors involved in cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and research.

2.2. CPRIT's Product Development Research Program Priorities

In addition to overarching principles that include scientific excellence, impact on cancer, and increasing the state's life science infrastructure, CPRIT's Oversight Committee establishes annual priorities for each of its 3 programs. The priorities guide CPRIT in the development of RFAs and the evaluation of applications considered for awards.

The Product Development Research Program's priorities for FY 2024 are as follows:

- Funding novel projects that offer therapeutic or diagnostic benefits; ie, disruptive technologies
- Funding projects addressing large or challenging unmet medical needs
- Investing in early-stage projects when private capital is least available
- Stimulating commercialization of technologies developed at Texas entities
- Supporting new company formation in Texas or attracting promising companies to Texas that will recruit staff with life science expertise, especially experienced C-level staff
- Providing appropriate return on Texas taxpayer investment

Information about CPRIT's program priorities is available at http://priorities.cprit.texas.gov/.

3. FUNDING INFORMATION AND MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT

3.1. Overview

CPRIT provides project funding via a 3-year contract, with the opportunity to extend the contract

duration based upon project progress. Funding is milestone driven, meaning that the company must fulfill the contractual G&Os associated with one funding tranche before receiving the next disbursement of funds.

3.2. Funding Stage for Texas Therapeutic Company Awards

Generally, at the time that an applicant applies to CPRIT pursuant to this RFA, the company has identified and characterized a lead compound; demonstrated efficacy in multiple translationally relevant animal models; completed pilot/dose-ranging toxicology studies; determined the feasibility of a scalable, GMP-compliant manufacturing process, including release assays; and identified a prototype formulation suitable for further development. The applicant is typically within 1 year from filing an IND or already in phase 1. Potential applicants that are not at or near this stage of product development should consider applying for a Texas Seed Company Award.

With appropriate justification, companies may use CPRIT funds to support the following:

- Studies that establish preclinical proof of safety and efficacy
- Chemistry, manufacturing, and controls (CMC)/manufacturing development
- GLP safety studies to support INDs
- Phase 1 studies in humans to establish safety and a recommended dose for phase 2
- Phase 2 studies to determine safety and efficacy in initial targeted patient population

CPRIT typically does not fund efforts outside of these parameters. Companies that have clinically demonstrated safety and efficacy should be able to acquire necessary capital via other sources; any request for later clinical trials must explicitly justify why CPRIT funding is appropriate. However, by exception, CPRIT may consider later-stage clinical trials projects where exceptional circumstances warrant investment.

3.3. Allowable Expenses

Companies may use CPRIT funds for expenses associated only with activities directly related to the specific project that CPRIT is funding. Allowable expenses include the following:

- Salary and fringe benefits
- Research supplies
- Equipment

- Clinical trial expenses
- Intellectual property (IP) acquisition and protection
- External consultants and service providers
- Travel in support of the project
- Other appropriate research and development costs, subject to certain limitations set forth by Texas law

Texas Health & Safety Code Section 102.203 limits the amount of awarded funds that a company may spend on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs).

CPRIT's strong preference is to fund research and development rather than construction or facility renovation. Applicants intending to use any CPRIT funds for construction or facility renovation must offer extremely compelling circumstances justifying the request, ie, critical facilities that do not already exist in the state.

3.4. Required Matching Funds

CPRIT requires each company receiving a CPRIT Product Development Research Award to contribute funds under the company's control toward the overall project expenses. The company's expenditure of these "matching funds" must take place at the same time the company is drawing down CPRIT funds; there is no credit toward the matching funds requirement for in-kind expenses or expenditures made prior to the CPRIT award. The amount that the company will contribute toward the project is dependent on the total amount of CPRIT funds committed to the company.

The company must demonstrate that it has available matching funds at the time CPRIT disburses funds under the contract, not when the company submits the CPRIT application.

See section 9.3 for more information about CPRIT's matching funds requirement.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND RESUBMISSION POLICY

4.1. Award Recipients Must Be Texas-based

CPRIT considers a company to be Texas-based if it fulfills at least 4 of the following criteria:

1. The US headquarters are physically located in Texas.
2. The chief executive officer resides in Texas.
3. A majority of the company's personnel, including at least 2 other C-level employees (or equivalent), reside in Texas.
4. Manufacturing activities take place in Texas.
5. At least 90% of grant award funds are paid to individuals and entities in Texas, including salaries and personnel costs for employees and contractors.
6. At least 1 clinical trial site is in Texas.
7. The company collaborates with a medical research organization in Texas, including a public or private institution of higher education.

If appropriate, the applicant may propose 1 or more alternative location requirements, which the Oversight Committee may approve by a majority vote in an open meeting.

A company headquartered outside of Texas is eligible to apply for a CPRIT award, but the company must fulfill all location requirements identified in the application within 1 year of receiving the initial disbursement of CPRIT funds. Failure to maintain compliance with the location criteria will result in consequences ranging from suspension of grant funding to early termination of the grant contract and repayment of grant funds.

4.2. Contributors to CPRIT Ineligible to Receive CPRIT Awards

An applicant is eligible to receive a grant award only if the applicant certifies that the company, including the company representative, any senior member or key personnel listed on the application, or any company officer or director (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.

4.3. Relatives of Oversight Committee Members Ineligible to Receive CPRIT Awards

An applicant is ineligible to receive CPRIT funding if the company representative, any senior member or key personnel listed on the application, or any company officer or director is related to a CPRIT Oversight Committee member.

4.4. Debarment/Termination of a Federal Grant May Affect Eligibility to Receive CPRIT Awards

The applicant must report whether the company, company representative, or any other individual who contributes to the execution of the proposed project in a substantive, measurable way, regardless of whether the individual receives salary or compensation under the grant award, is ineligible to receive federal grant funds or has had a grant terminated for cause within 5 years prior to the submission date of the grant application. If the applicant or any other individual is ineligible to receive federal grant funds or has had a grant terminated for cause, CPRIT will contact the applicant to provide more information to determine eligibility for CPRIT awards.

4.5. Resubmission Policy

A preliminary application previously submitted to CPRIT on or after August 24, 2022, but not recommended for funding, may be resubmitted once and must follow all resubmission guidelines. CPRIT will not count against the resubmission limit an application previously submitted in the FY 2023 or FY 2024 review cycle if CPRIT administratively withdrew the preliminary or full application without review.

CPRIT considers an application to be a resubmission if the proposed project is substantially the same project as presented in the original submission. A change in the identity of the applicant or company representative for a project or a change of title of the project that the company previously submitted to CPRIT does not constitute a new preliminary application for the purposes of CPRIT's resubmission policy. A change in the type of RFA such as changing from a Texas Therapeutic Company application to a Seed application may constitute a resubmission depending on the number and degree of changes from one application to the other. In such cases, the applicant should contact the program office prior to initiating the subsequent application (see section 10.2). CPRIT does not characterize an application as "submitted" for purposes of the resubmission policy if the applicant or CPRIT administratively withdrew the application prior to review.

5. APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA

5.1. Overview

CPRIT uses a 3-step process to review company projects proposed for funding. The steps include (1) preliminary application, (2) full application and interview, and (3) due diligence review. An integrated panel of individuals with expertise in a wide variety of scientific fields including oncology as well as experts with experience in bringing products to market and those familiar with regulatory approval processes will review the applications. Cancer patient advocates also participate in the review of full applications.

Initially, applicants must submit a preliminary application. Based primarily upon a review of the scientific merit of the project as described in the preliminary application, CPRIT may invite a company to submit a full application and interview. The review of full applications will consider the quality of the research project and management team, commercial viability, product feasibility, scientific merit, project budget, timeline and goals, the potential suggested by preclinical results, and the opportunity to address unmet medical need. If the review panel is favorably inclined to recommend the full application for funding after the interview, the application will undergo a due diligence review by the panel as well as by third-party reviewers, such as IP counsel. The due diligence review is intended to identify red flags that may negatively impact the panel's final recommendation regarding funding.

CPRIT conducts all stages of the review in confidence to protect the applicant's technological, scientific, and proprietary information. Individuals involved in the review process operate under strict conflict-of-interest prohibitions and nondisclosure agreements. Applicants must not contact or discuss a pending application with anyone involved in making a final decision on the application unless specifically invited by CPRIT to provide information on the proposed project.

CPRIT makes funding decisions via the review process and review criteria described below. CPRIT's Administrative Rules, Chapter 703, Sections 703.6 to 703.8 delineate the review process in more detail.

5.2. Review Process – Preliminary Applications

CPRIT uses a preliminary review process to quickly provide an applicant with feedback about whether the proposed project is compatible with the CPRIT portfolio and mission.

Preliminary applications must be submitted by December 11, 2023, 4 PM central time. A panel of experts will individually review and score the preliminary application using the criteria listed below. The panel reviewers may meet collectively to discuss the final decision regarding the preliminary application and will decide whether to invite the applicant to submit a full application for award consideration. In January 2024, CPRIT will issue invitations to submit full applications to companies with the best-ranking preliminary application scores. The review process ends after preliminary review for those applicants not invited to submit a full application.

5.3. Review Criteria – Preliminary Applications

The review panel will evaluate the preliminary applications based on the scientific merit of the technology underlying the proposed project and whether the company presents a compelling idea for CPRIT investment.

5.4. Review Process – Full Applications

5.4.1. Product Development and Scientific Review

CPRIT assigns full applications to individual CPRIT product development review panel members for evaluation using the criteria listed in section 5.5. In addition to reviewing the written application, the review panel will provide questions to the company that the company will address during a meeting convened virtually for the applicant to present the application in person. Importantly, the applicant should provide CPRIT with any correspondence that the company has conducted with regulatory agencies (eg, the FDA) in section 8.8.10 of the application and also promptly submit any new correspondence that occurs at any time during the course of the review.

5.4.2. Due Diligence Review

Following the in-person presentations, a subset of applications that the review panel judges to be most meritorious will move forward for additional in-depth due diligence, including, but not limited to, IP, management team strength, regulatory considerations, manufacturability, and market assessments.

After the due diligence review, the review panel will determine whether to recommend the application for a CPRIT award. The Product Development Review Council will create a final

ranked list of applications recommended for funding by the review panels. The Product Development Review Council's ranking will be based on scores and programmatic priorities.

5.4.3. Program Integration Committee (PIC) Review

The CPRIT Program Integration Committee (PIC) meets to review the Product Development Review Council's final list of applications recommended for funding. The PIC will consider factors including program priorities set by the Oversight Committee, portfolio balance across programs, and available funding when creating its comprehensive list of award recommendations for the Oversight Committee. By law, the PIC's list of recommended Product Development Awards may not include any applications not also recommended by the Product Development Review Council.

5.4.4. Oversight Committee Approval

CPRIT's Chief Product Development Officer will present the PIC's award recommendations at a public meeting of the Oversight Committee for approval by two-thirds of the Oversight Committee members present and eligible to vote. By law, the Oversight Committee may not approve any Product Development Awards to applicants not also recommended by the Product Development Review Council and the PIC.

5.5. Review Criteria – Full Application

Generally, the review panel will assess an application on the scientific merit, the quality of the company and management team, the appropriateness of the proposed project, and the potential clinical impact. A successful applicant's proposal will have no significant weaknesses in any of the following areas:

- Unmet medical need
- Potential clinical impact
- Relevant proof-of-concept studies (including preclinical safety/efficacy studies) and, where relevant, target validity studies supporting expectations of clinical impact
- Proposed Integrated Product Development Plan (IPDP)
- Communications with regulatory agencies
- Present and anticipated competitive landscape, together with justification for assumptions of competitive advantages of product in question

- IP
- Business/commercialization prospects
- Relevant experience and accomplishments of management team and key consultants
- Adequate budget and project timeline paired with realistic G&Os
- Overall commitment to Texas

See the appendix for more information on review criteria.

5.6. Confidential, Conflict-Free Review

CPRIT conducts each stage of application review confidentially and requires all CPRIT Product Development Review Panel members, Product Development Review Council members, PIC members, Oversight Committee members, and CPRIT employees with access to grant application information to sign nondisclosure statements regarding the contents of the applications. State law (Texas Health & Safety Code §102.262[b]) protects all technological and scientific information included in the application from public disclosure.

CPRIT will notify an applicant regarding the peer review panel assigned to review the grant application. CPRIT lists the review panel members on our website. Individuals directly involved with the review process operate under strict conflict-of-interest prohibitions. All CPRIT Product Development Peer Review Panel members and Product Development Review Council members are non-Texas residents.

5.7. Reconsideration of an Application Review Decision Limited to Unreported Conflicts of Interest

CPRIT is committed to providing a fair, unbiased review process conducted by expert reviewers familiar with the science, development stage, and business challenges underlying the project proposed for funding. That said, application review is a subjective process. **By applying, the applicant agrees and accepts that the sole basis for reconsideration of an application is a reviewer's undisclosed conflict of interest as set forth in CPRIT Administrative Rule 703.9.**

5.8. Prohibited Communication Between Applicant and Reviewers During Review

Except as noted below, CPRIT prohibits communication regarding any aspect of a pending preliminary or full application between the applicant or someone on the grant applicant's behalf

and the following individuals: an Oversight Committee member, a PIC member, a Product Development Review Panel member, or a Product Development Review Council member. Intentional, serious, or frequent violations of this rule may result in the disqualification of the grant applicant from further consideration for a grant award.

- The communication prohibition begins at the time the applicant submits the preliminary or full application and extends until it receives notice regarding a final decision on the application. An applicant invited to submit a full application who has questions about the application process or the substance of the application should contact the CPRIT Product Development Program Manager.
- The communication prohibition does not apply when CPRIT staff or reviewers specifically invite the applicant to discuss the pending application for purposes of the review process, such as the in-person presentation or to respond to information requests during due diligence review. CPRIT will document communication between the applicant and CPRIT staff/reviewers, including the reason for the communication, as part of the grant review process records.

NOTE: The following individuals are members of the PIC: the CPRIT Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Scientific Officer, the Chief Prevention Officer, the Chief Product Development Officer, and the Commissioner of State Health Services.

6. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND DEADLINES

By submitting an application, the applicant accepts the terms and conditions of the RFA.

Carefully review information in this section and the *Instructions for Applicants* document to ensure the accurate and complete submission of all components of the application. It is imperative that applicants allow sufficient time to familiarize themselves with the application format and instructions to avoid unexpected issues. CPRIT will administratively withdraw without review any application that lacks 1 or more required components, exceeds the specified page or word limits, or fails to meet the eligibility requirements listed in section 4.

6.1. Online Application Receipt System

Applicants submit preliminary and full applications via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) (https://CPRITGrants.org). **Only applications submitted through this portal are eligible for evaluation.** Applicants must create a CARS user account to generate and submit the application. The *Instructions for Applicants* associated with this RFA provides information about establishing a user account.

6.2. Invitations to Submit Full Applications Valid Only for the FY 2024 Review Process

The invitation to submit a full application is valid only for the FY 2024 review cycle. An applicant who is invited to submit a full application for the FY 2024 review cycle but does not do so must restart the review process in future fiscal years by resubmitting the preliminary application.

6.3. CPRIT Will Honor Invitations to Submit Full Applications for the FY 2024 Review Cycle

Companies that received an invitation to submit a full application in the first cycle of FY 2024 but did not submit the full application before CPRIT closed the review portal on June 30, 2023, may submit a full application for this cycle. However, the maximum award budget limit of $5 million will apply. Companies wishing to submit a full application for this cycle using an invitation issued earlier this fiscal year must notify CPRIT of their intention to do so by January 16, 2024.

6.4. Preliminary and Full Application Submission Deadlines; Other Key Dates

Preliminary Applications: An applicant may submit a preliminary application via CARS by December 11, 2023, 4 PM central time. Following the review and scoring of all preliminary applications, CPRIT will issue a limited number of invitations to submit a full application in January 2024 to the companies with the best-ranking scores.

Full Applications: CPRIT will convene panels for review of full applications submitted by the February 13, 2024, deadline. Key dates for the second FY 2024 review cycle are as follows:

FY 2024 Review Cycle 2

Full Application Deadline	February 13, 2024; 4 PM central time
In-Person Presentation	Mid-March 2024
Due Diligence	March-April 2024
Oversight Committee Meeting	May 15, 2024

6.5. Submission Deadline Extensions

Review cycle schedules are set in advance and do not accommodate receipt of a preliminary or full application days after the deadline. Therefore, potential applicants that are unable to meet the application deadline because of travel, sabbaticals, conferences, prolonged illness, or other leave, etc, should not request additional time to file an application but should instead consider applying in the next review cycle.

In exceptional instances, CPRIT may extend the submission deadline for a preliminary or full application upon a showing of good cause, usually for technology problems related to CARS. In this event, the applicant should submit a request to extend the submission deadline via email to the CPRIT Helpdesk within 8 hours of the submission deadline. If CPRIT approves the applicant's request for extension, then CPRIT will reopen CARS for a 2-hour window to allow an applicant with an unsubmitted application to complete and submit it. CPRIT will document submission deadline extensions, including the reason for the extension, as part of the grant review process records.

CPRIT urges applicants to initiate the registration process in CARS a minimum of 5 business days prior to deadline to ensure enough time to complete and apply. The applicant's failure to adequately review application instructions and plan accordingly to avoid unexpected issues is not sufficient grounds to justify approval for a late submission.

6.6. Product Development Review Fee for Full Applications

All applicants submitting a full application must pay a nonrefundable fee of $1,000 to partially offset the cost of reviewing Product Development Award applications. The application review fee must be postmarked by the full application submission deadline unless CPRIT approves a request to submit the fee after the deadline.

Applicants should make the payment by check or money order payable to "Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas." Indicate the application ID and the name of the submitter on the check. CPRIT will not accept electronic and credit card payments.

Applicants using the US Postal Service to mail the application review fee should send it to CPRIT's PO Box (see address below.) **DO NOT** use CPRIT's physical address when mailing checks via the US Postal Service.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
PO Box 12097
Austin, TX 78711

Contact name: Michelle Huddleston
Phone 1-512-305-8420

For those applicants using a delivery service (eg, FedEx, UPS) to send the application review fee, CPRIT's physical address is as follows:

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Wm B Travis State Office Building
1701 N Congress Ave Ste 6-127
Austin, TX 78701

Contact name: Michelle Huddleston
Phone 1-512-305-8420

7. PRELIMINARY APPLICATION COMPONENTS

CPRIT strongly advises applicants to attend the webinar offered by CPRIT before applying (https://cprit.texas.gov/news-events/webinars/).

7.1. Abstract (maximum 1,500 characters)

Explain the question or problem to be addressed and the approach to its answer or solution. The aims of the application should be obvious from the abstract although they need not be restated verbatim from the research plan. Address how the proposed project, if successful, will have an impact on cancer. Describe the unmet medical need addressed by the proposed project. Briefly explain the product, service, technology, or infrastructure proposed and funding needs.

7.2. Executive Summary (maximum 2 pages)

The Executive Summary should demonstrate the applicant's ability to think strategically and to orchestrate the execution of key operational aspects of cancer drug development. Listed below are some key elements to address in the Executive Summary. CPRIT encourages applicants to provide concise responses in bulleted format.

a. Brief description of asset/technology
b. Target/mechanism of action
c. Initial target indication(s)/patient populations: tumor type(s), stage, extent of prior standard-of-care (SOC) therapy
d. Unmet medical need of initial target indications
e. Target validation, for example, via knockdown studies; pharmacological intervention; clinical/epidemiological target correlations with stage of disease/prognosis; selectivity of target expression: malignant vs normal cells
f. Characteristics of agent/target interaction: potency, reversibility, selectivity, pharmacodynamic (PD) effects
g. In vitro preclinical efficacy characterization (eg, cell lines tested with corresponding EC50s selectivity vs normal cells; potency vs competitive agents)
h. In vivo preclinical efficacy characterization (list animal models tested; potency vs SOC; tumor growth inhibition vs tumor regression; effects on survival; combination studies)
i. In vivo tumor data supporting in vivo proof of concept
j. Absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion (ADME), pharmacokinetics (PK), toxicokinetics (TK) (brief statement addressing status of key studies and results if available)
k. Safety characterization to date
l. Biomarker candidates, if any, for companion diagnostic test development
m. Manufacturing/CMC development status
n. Clinical trial status and plans forward to be covered by the grant
o. Regulatory status and plan (eg, brief summary of agency interactions to date, **including any communications with a regulatory agency, US or foreign,** and planned, likely regulatory paths)

p. High-level overview of work to be done during the grant, including key milestones and budget estimates by year; manufacturing/CMC; safety toxicology; further in vivo efficacy characterization; biomarker exploration; diagnostic test development; clinical plans
q. Potential competitive advantages together with supporting rationale
r. Senior management team accomplishments in cancer drug development
s. Company financial status/fundraising plans

7.3. Slide Presentation (maximum 16 slides)

Provide a slide presentation summarizing the proposed project, scientific support, and management team. The slides should succinctly capture all essential elements of the proposed project and should be sufficiently encompassing to be a standalone document. Submit the presentation in PDF format, with 1 slide filling each landscape-orientated page.

7.4. Proposed Project Aims and Budget (maximum 1 page)

Succinctly describe the aims of the proposed project. Provide an anticipated budget request for the project, linking the aims to expected budget amounts. Should CPRIT invite the applicant to submit a full application, the proposed aims and budget will serve as the basis for the project G&Os and requested budget.

7.5. Resubmission Summary (maximum 1 page)

If the applicant submitted a preliminary or full application to CPRIT in previous fiscal years, upload a brief summary of the revised approach, including a summary of the applicant's response to specific feedback. The Resubmission Summary is distinct from the Executive Summary. Clearly indicate to reviewers how the applicant has improved the proposal in response to the critiques from CPRIT. In the Resubmission Summary, refer to specific sections in the resubmission where the reviewer may find further detail on the questions and feedback to the original application.

Responsiveness to previous critiques is a factor in the review. However, reviewers will assess and score the resubmission as a whole, not solely based on improvement and progress made. The review panel for the resubmission may differ from the previous review panel.

8. FULL APPLICATION COMPONENTS

CPRIT does not require or request letters of commitment and/or memoranda of understanding from community organizations, key faculty, etc. Do not submit letters of support as part of your preliminary or full application package. CPRIT will remove any such information from your application before review. Applicants should minimize repetition among application components to the extent possible and use discretion when cross-referencing sections to maximize the amount of information presented within the page limits.

8.1. Abstract and Significance (maximum 5,000 characters)

Coherently explain the question or problem to be addressed and the approach to its answer or solution. The specific aims of the application must be obvious from the abstract although they need not be restated verbatim from the research plan. Address how the proposed project, if successful, will have a major impact on the care of patients with cancer. Describe how this application provides a path for acquiring proof-of-principle data necessary for next-stage commercial development. Clearly explain the product, service, technology, or infrastructure proposed; competition; market need and size; development or implementation plans; regulatory path; reimbursement strategy; and funding needs. Applicants must clearly describe the existing or proposed company infrastructure and personnel located in Texas for this endeavor.

8.2. Layperson's Summary (maximum 1,500 characters)

Provide an abbreviated summary for a lay audience using clear, nontechnical terms. Describe the overall goals of the work, the type(s) of cancer addressed, the potential significance of the results, and the impact of the work on advancing the fields of diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of cancer. Explain how the proposed project supports CPRIT's statutory mission. For example, will the project fill a needed gap in patient care or in the development of a sustainable oncology industry in Texas? Will it synergize with Texas-based resources? Address how the company's work, if successful, may have a major impact on the care of patients with cancer.

Do not include any proprietary information in this section because CPRIT makes the Layperson's Summary publicly available (eg, posted on CPRIT's public website) if the company receives CPRIT funding.

Advocate reviewers use the Layperson's Summary when evaluating the significance and impact of the proposed work.

The Layperson Summary should describe the following:

a. How the proposed project specifically supports CPRIT's mission
b. The overall goals of the work
c. The type(s) of cancer addressed
d. The potential significance of the results
e. The impact of the work on advancing the fields of diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of cancer
f. How the company's work, if successful, may have a major impact on the care of patients with cancer

8.3. Goals and Objectives (G&Os) (maximum of 1,200 characters each)

List specific G&Os for each year of the project. G&Os should be clearly delineated, realistic, and consistent with the IPDP and timeline to allow for unambiguous measurement of progress. While the G&Os may be more detailed than the proposed project aims included in the applicant's preliminary application, the G&Os should not vary significantly from the proposed project aims.

The G&Os are a fundamental aspect of the application; applicants should carefully consider and justify each proposed G&O. CPRIT will incorporate the G&Os into the award contract and will use the G&Os to evaluate progress of the funded project. Demonstrating the timely and successful achievement of G&Os is necessary before CPRIT will advance the next tranche of funding. While it is laudable to pursue aggressive goals, failure to achieve a goal or objective during the specified time will result in CPRIT withholding funds until the company can show that the company has completed the outstanding issue.

NOTE: CPRIT and the company may negotiate a contractual change to 1 or more G&Os during the funded project as scientific progress and development activities dictate; however, material changes will require substantial justification because the G&Os are part of the foundation of the funding decision by CPRIT.

8.4. Executive Summary (maximum 2 pages)

The Executive Summary should demonstrate the applicant's ability both to think strategically and to orchestrate the execution of key operational aspects of cancer drug development. Listed below are some key elements to address in the Executive Summary. CPRIT encourages applicants to provide concise responses in bulleted format. NOTE: The applicant may submit the same Executive Summary it provided in its preliminary application or may update it, as necessary.

a. Brief description of asset/technology
b. Target/mechanism of action
c. Initial target indication(s)/patient populations: tumor type(s), stage, extent of prior SOC therapy
d. Unmet medical need of initial target indications
e. Target validation, for example, via knockdown studies; pharmacological intervention; clinical/epidemiological target correlations with stage of disease/prognosis; selectivity of target expression: malignant vs normal cells
f. Characteristics of agent/target interaction: potency, reversibility, selectivity, PD effects
g. In vitro preclinical efficacy characterization (eg, cell lines tested with corresponding EC50s selectivity vs normal cells; potency vs competitive agents)
h. In vivo preclinical efficacy characterization (list animal models tested; potency vs SOC; tumor growth inhibition vs tumor regression; effects on survival; combination studies)
i. In vivo tumor data supporting in vivo proof of concept
j. ADME, PK, TK (brief statement addressing status of key studies and results if available)
k. Safety characterization to date
l. Biomarker candidates, if any, for companion diagnostic test development
m. Manufacturing/CMC development status
n. Clinical trial status and plans forward to be covered by the grant
o. Regulatory status and plan (eg, brief summary of agency interactions to date, **including any communications with a regulatory agency, US or foreign,** and planned, likely regulatory paths)

p. High-level overview of work to done during the grant, including key milestones and budget estimates by year; manufacturing/CMC; safety toxicology; further in vivo efficacy characterization; biomarker exploration; diagnostic test development; clinical plans
q. Potential competitive advantages together with supporting rationale
r. Senior management team accomplishments in cancer drug development
s. Company financial status/fundraising plans

8.5. Timeline (maximum 1 page)

Provide a visual depiction of anticipated major milestones tracked in the form of a Gantt chart. Identify time-specific references as follows: Y1Q1, Y1Q2, etc, as opposed to naming specific months and years. CPRIT will include the timeline in the executed contract. An applicant should avoid including information that it considers confidential or proprietary in this section.

If the IPDP (see section 8.8) incorporates or depends on results from parallel studies or development programs that CPRIT is not funding, the Gantt chart/timeline should reference these studies, their timelines, and the contingencies they create or resolve with the studies and G&Os funded by CPRIT.

CPRIT will review timelines for reasonableness. Applicants should provide realistic timelines because the G&Os link directly to the timeline. If CPRIT approves the application for funding, the award contract will include the approved timeline. Adherence to timelines is a criterion for continued support of successful applications.

8.6. Slide Presentation (maximum 10 slides)

Provide a slide presentation summarizing the application. Submit the presentation in PDF format, with 1 slide filling each landscape-orientated page. The slides should succinctly capture all essential elements of the application and should be sufficiently encompassing to be a standalone document.

8.7. Resubmission Summary (maximum 2 pages)

If the applicant submitted a preliminary or full application to CPRIT in previous fiscal years, upload a summary of the revised approach, including a summary of the applicant's response to specific feedback. The Resubmission Summary is distinct from the Executive Summary. Clearly indicate to reviewers how the applicant has improved the proposal in response to the critiques

from CPRIT. In the Resubmission Summary, refer to specific sections in the resubmission where the reviewer may find further detail on the questions and feedback to the original application.

Responsiveness to previous critiques is a factor in the review. However, reviewers will assess and score the resubmission as a whole, not solely based on improvement and progress made. The review panel for the resubmission may differ from the previous review panel.

8.8. Integrated Product Development Plan (IPDP) (maximum 12 pages)

8.8.1. Overview

An IPDP consists of the following:

a. The preclinical development plan describing the studies required to generate safety data to support clinical development
b. The clinical development plan that provides the necessary safety and efficacy data supporting marketing approval
c. The CMC plan to ensure that the company has sufficient investigational product available for both sets of studies
d. The regulatory activities and timelines associated with each plan
e. Copies of all communications with any regulatory agency, US or foreign

The IPDP should be of sufficient depth and quality to pass rigorous scrutiny by a highly qualified panel of reviewers. To the extent possible, data should drive the IPDP.

Applicants may provide references for the IPDP section as a standalone document that the applicant will separately upload into CARS. In the interest of brevity, include only the most pertinent and current literature. While references will not count toward the IPDP section page limit, it is essential to be concise and to select only those references relevant to the IPDP. Do not use the references to circumvent IPDP section page limits by including data analysis or other nonbibliographic material.

This section highlights components of the IPDP that are of fundamental importance during the peer review and scoring process. Please note that this may not be all inclusive. When addressing future work, use the appropriate sections below as guidance. CPRIT recognizes that applications addressing early-stage research may not have information for all sections.

8.8.2. Target Product Profile (TPP)

A target product profile (TPP) that projects a clear path to full commercialization is essential to a solid IPDP. The TPP serves as a summary of the product development program described in terms of a marketed label with supporting data. It includes information on conducted and planned studies and serves to facilitate the company's interactions with regulatory authorities. The comprehensive TPP may also include commercial information, IP positions, and ultimately go/no-go decision criteria to determine whether a product development program should proceed or end.

Because the TPP is an abstract of the IPDP, CPRIT encourages the applicant to complete the TPP prior to drafting the IPDP. The applicant may employ a basic or comprehensive approach to the TPP.

Many companies use the US Prescribing Information format to create the TPP:

https://www.fda.gov/drugs/laws-acts-and-rules/prescription-drug-labeling-resources. The applicant may also use the European Union (EU) Summary of Product Characteristics format:

https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/marketing-authorisation/product-information/how-prepare-review-summary-product-characteristics

CPRIT considers the following topics appropriate for a comprehensive TPP:

a. Therapeutic modality: small molecule, biologic, special formulation (eg, liposome encapsulation), etc.
b. Therapeutic objective: treatment, prevention, supportive care, eg, adverse event (AE) prevention/amelioration
c. Target and target validity
d. Mode of action and how demonstrated in tumor cells: (1) in vitro; (2) in vivo
e. Initial indication(s)/patient population(s), including their selection based upon genomic characteristics (with the potential need for a companion diagnostic device):

    1) Tumor type, stage, line of therapy/resistance to SOC, patients selected by biomarker expression

    2) Preclinical evidence for the intended target being engaged, antitumor effectiveness in translationally relevant models, ie, corresponding to target patient population(s)

f. Potential follow-on indications (as above)

g. Dosage form/drug product: stability; storage conditions; if applicable, reconstitution aspects

h. Administration: Monotherapy

    1) Projected dose

    2) Route

    3) Regimen

    4) Duration: describe preclinical safety studies supporting duration of administration

    5) Food effect studies, if any

    6) Need, if any, for coadministration of AE prophylactic medications

i. Administration: Combination regimens

    1) Anticipated safety profile

    2) Compatibility of administration schedule with that of combination agent(s)

j. Target clinical efficacy:

    1) Specify efficacy end points, target effect sizes, and if applicable, duration of effect. In the case of overall survival/progression-free survival end points, specify target hazard ratios and type of control.

    2) Describe clinical trial designs intended to demonstrate these effects: single arm/randomized, trial end points, sample size/statistical aspects.

k. Target safety profile

    1) Adverse events anticipated from preclinical safety studies

    2) Preclinical safety studies ruling out certain AEs (eg, CEREP screening, CYP isoform studies, hERG; cardiac, renal, liver AEs; immunogenicity).

    3) Anticipated contraindications if any

    4) PK properties

    5) ADME features

l. Features of the product providing a competitive advantage to relevant SOC (specify)

m. IP protection

    1) Type of claims (composition of matter, formulation, methods, use)

    2) Patent expiry in major jurisdictions

    3) Freedom to operate

n. Target cost of goods (COGs)

8.8.3. Target Validation

If this is a targeted agent, describe the extent to which the company has validated the target (eg, through knockdown studies and/or pharmacological intervention), including, but not limited to, the following:

a. Demonstration of engagement of the target with the agent by biochemical assay including the potency of the agent, binding characteristics, affinity vs natural ligand, reversibility.
b. In vitro evidence showing downstream PD markers of target modulation.
c. Demonstration that the agent has biologically significant modulation of the target in vivo.
d. In vivo studies exploring PK/PD in the periphery and in tumor tissue, together with demonstration of target engagement/target exposure and modulation in tumor tissue.
e. Describe whether the target is uniquely or substantially overexpressed by tumor versus normal cells and its frequency, by tumor expression level, in target patient population(s). If available, describe the prognostic significance/clinical outcome correlates of target expression in patients with cancer.
f. If the target represents an activating mutation, characterize binding of the agent to the target and other activating mutations.
g. If available, describe any externally/independently confirmed demonstration of the company's target validation studies.
h. Describe any known mechanisms of resistance to the modulation of this target and possible mitigation/preemptive approaches, such as combination therapies.

8.8.4. Lead Optimization

For small molecules:

a. Is there scope for further lead optimization through structure-activity studies?
b. Describe lead optimization criteria, process, and lead characteristics/properties.
c. Were Lipinski-type criteria applied during the lead optimization process such that the lead compound has demonstrated properties that make it likely to be an orally active drug in humans?

d. In the case of agents intended for oral absorption, are there any issues with water solubility? Do formulation and stability studies indicate the feasibility of oral administration?
e. Summarize formulation development efforts to date, including for parenteral administration if relevant.
f. Outline synthesis and process development work to date. Yields? Commercial feasibility? Identify essential vendors and backup plans in case of supply chain challenges.
g. Describe stability characteristics of the drug substance and the drug product.

For biologics:

a. Describe the status of cell line/master cell bank development and characterization.
b. Describe the purification process and likely scalability.
c. Describe status of manufacturing upstream and downstream scaleup and any special scaleup challenges anticipated that would significantly impact COG.
d. Describe results of physical and biological stability studies carried out on the lead protein.
e. If applicable, describe status of formulation (drug product) development and status of stability studies. Has the absence of aggregation been demonstrated with (1) the drug substance and (2) the drug product?
f. Overall status of assay development/manufacturing including bioanalytical processes for product release and for stability studies
g. Identify essential vendors and backup plans in case of supply chain challenges.

8.8.5. Preclinical Characterization: Safety

Any pharmaceutical product must undergo a thorough safety evaluation prior to commencing human studies, including non-GLP and GLP animal safety and toxicology studies. CPRIT strongly advises the applicant to seek input directly from regulatory guidelines (eg, FDA, EMA (EU), TGA (AU), etc) for safety studies for small molecules and biologicals and to seek PK/PD and toxicology expertise by hire, contract, or consulting agreement with subject matter experts with demonstrated and successful track records in this field.

When providing information for the safety section, consider the following guidelines and prompts listed below. The extent and type of information provided in the safety section is largely

dependent on the type and the stage of the intended product (ie, pre-IND stage, IND enabling, IND filing).

NOTE: As set forth in section 8.8.10, the applicant must provide any meeting minutes, communications between the company and regulatory agencies, and summaries of interactions with regulatory authorities (such as FDA, EMA, NMPA, CDSCO) related to the product that is the subject of the CPRIT application.

a. Overall, defend the results of safety characterization suggesting that the agent is reasonably derisked from a safety perspective. If the extent of preclinical safety characterization is insufficient to address this question now, explain the planned safety studies that will address this issue.
b. Describe, considering potency and target selectivity, what the potential is for both off-target and pharmacologically on-target deleterious effects.
c. Justify selection of drug concentrations and confirm that exposures are associated with substantial antitumor efficacy/PD effects and can be achieved safely in vivo. Also ensure that an appropriate drug concentration range is included for repeat-dose toxicology studies. Ultimately, the goal is to establish a therapeutic index and give guidance to the determination of a first-in-human dose.
d. Indicate the form of the product used in the toxicology studies or how the study will be carried out (eg, research form, manufacturing process completed, drug substance, formulated drug product).
e. Summarize findings from general toxicology studies (non-GLP and GLP if available). When providing the results, include the species tested and explain the rationale for their use; the numbers of animals/group; the route(s) of administration; dose schedules, etc. If there is concern for safety involving a particular organ system, report the histopathology results if complete.
f. Describe methodology/results of PK and TK studies. Are there safety concerns related to (lack of) dose proportionality, interanimal variability/outliers/accumulation? Are there any issues with the distribution or metabolism of the agent?
   For small molecules, the applicant should include the following information under a separate subheading:
   - ADME characterization

- Genotoxicity studies
  - Mutagenicity: Evaluation of DNA damage by subjecting the drug to several bacterial strains.
  - Clastogenicity: Evaluation of chromosomal damage
- Data from CEREP type screening, CYP 450, and hERG/ion channel interactions

For biologics, the applicant should include the following information under a separate subheading and describe the methodology underpinning these studies:

- General toxicology in monkeys or relevant nonhuman primate
- Immunogenicity testing for monoclonal antibodies

g. If safety is conditional on multimodal response in a combined therapy (eg, synergies between separate immune system modulation and direct tumor cell effects), indicate the rationale for the in vitro and in vivo studies and the performance criteria selected to be predictive of the safety in humans.

8.8.6. Preclinical Characterization: Efficacy

For applications with projects at the preclinical stage, this section is the most critical element for reviewers to assess the robustness of preclinical efficacy characterization and the justification for the applicant's expectations for clinical efficacy.

In vitro studies

a. List tumor cell lines, describing study methodology and results (EC50s); feasibility of safely achieving in vivo/systemic concentrations associated with antitumor activity in vitro.
b. If the applicant intends to use the agent as part of a combination regimen for initial target indications, describe methodology/results of combination studies seeking to demonstrate additivity/synergy.

In vivo studies

a. Describe tumor models and their translational relevance to initial indications/patient populations (extent of disease, prior exposure/resistance to SOC agents); patient-derived xenograft (PDX) models are strongly preferred and if not used, provide justification why they cannot be used. Investigational agent should be dosed preferably via the intended clinical route of administration.

b. Describe study designs/methodology. This may include, but is not limited to, sample size per arm; comparisons, if any, with optimally dosed SOC agents; extent (for example tumor volume in mm^3) to which tumors were established at the time of treatment initiation, duration of follow-up.
c. When describing results, include if applicable, in vivo drug tumor concentrations, achieved tumor PD effects/evidence for target modulation/inhibition of target in tumor tissue, effects on tumor progression, tumor growth inhibition vs tumor regression, rate and duration of complete tumor regressions, effects on overall survival vs inactive/active controls, as applicable.
d. If the applicant intends to use the agent in combination therapy for initial target indications, describe methodology/results of combination studies seeking to demonstrate additivity/synergy; briefly indicate whether the applicant plans additional in vivo efficacy characterization for inclusion in the IND. It is also advisable to determine potential toxic effects of the combination, including SOC. If such efficacy is conditional on multimodal response (eg, synergies between separate immune system modulation and direct tumor cell effects), define how the applicant will choose in vitro and in vivo studies and the performance criteria selected to be predictive of efficacy of such synergy in humans.
e. Is there independent confirmation of critical antitumor proof-of-concept studies?

8.8.7. Clinical Study Development Plan

If the company proposes to carry out clinical studies with CPRIT funds, indicate the study phase (eg, phase 1a, phase 1b/2, phase 2) and the primary and secondary objectives including any key safety assessments/end points and additional assessments (eg, PKs, PDs, other, as applicable).

NOTE: As set forth in section 8.8.10, the applicant must provide any meeting minutes, communications between the company and regulatory agencies, and summaries of interactions with regulatory authorities (such as FDA, EMA, NMPA, CDSCO) related to the product that is the subject of the CPRIT application.

Describe the study design, including the following information:

a. Patient population, including the case and control groups (if applicable). The applicant should document the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the trial, explain the

appropriateness of patient populations from a safety perspective, and justify the generalizability of results to target product profile patient population.

b. Randomization scheme and/or comparator/control arm. In the case of controls, justify the choice of control.
c. Justification for clinical trial sample size including statistical considerations.
d. Justification of target efficacy effect size if applicable, eg, if the company intends the study to support accelerated approval, general approval, or inform go/no-go decision-making.
e. Discuss clinical relevance of target effect size.
f. Adaptive study designs (Bayesian or frequentist) should be clear on design criteria and clinical rationale. For sequential designs with interim analyses, define the impact on design criteria and power. Also define relevant stopping rules and related justification of expected clinical performance criteria.
g. Drug administration information that details the route, frequency, and duration of treatment, and whether the agent will be given as a monotherapy or combination. If combination, discuss acquisition costs/access to combination agent.
h. Study implementation information describing the number of investigational sites and the estimated patients enrolled per site. Explain whether the site has competing study protocols and how this will impact accrual. Describe the incidence/numbers of patients meeting patient population description per site. Discuss initiatives the company plans to address recruitment challenges. Detail the study activities that the company will contract out vs activities it will manage internally. Demonstrate that relevant clinical operations experience is present within the study team.
i. Study timeline, including key startup activities (see below).
j. Study budget broken down by major cost/driver areas and a fully inclusive figure representing the total study budget.
k. Describe the extent of contract research organization (CRO) input into budget preparation and include any quotations/estimates from any CROs or other third parties providing clinical trial services in the Budget Justification (see section 8.12).

8.8.8. Pharmaceutical Properties/Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls (CMC)

The quality of drug substance and drug product is determined by their design, development, in-process controls, GMP controls, process validation, and specifications applied to them throughout development and manufacture. An applicant should ensure that they have sufficient expertise and resources to address these activities in the preparation of the documentation required for their IND submission and eventually their NDA/BLA.

CPRIT advises applicants to seek expert input for the performance of the CMC-related activities and for the preparation of the CMC section of their proposals to appropriately project cost, efforts, and timelines for the manufacture of the investigational product for all stages of clinical and nonclinical development. The applicant should refer to the International Conference on Harmonization Quality Guidelines located at https://www.ich.org/page/quality-guidelines.

NOTE: As set forth in section 8.8.10, the applicant must provide any meeting minutes, communications between the company and regulatory agencies, and summaries of interactions with regulatory authorities (such as FDA, EMA, NMPA, CDSCO) related to the product that is the subject of the CPRIT application.

8.8.9. Regulatory Plan

Regulatory input on the company's TPP is critical to finalize the IND-enabling, clinical, nonclinical, and CMC activities that define the IPDP. While companies may plan an exit strategy prior to bringing a product to late-stage clinical development (P2 and or P3) or to the market, the development and adherence to a logical, expeditious, and fully integrated regulatory plan is advisable to maximize value for any potential purchaser.

Accordingly, the Regulatory Plan is an important part of the CPRIT application and an opportunity for the successful applicant to demonstrate proficiency and expertise. In detailing the proposed regulatory plan, the applicant should address the considerations and topics listed below.

a. Identify the point of contact with regulatory authorities. The individual communicating with the FDA should have experience and a successful track record interacting with regulatory authorities, preferably having brought products to the market. If you have not already done so, CPRIT recommends consulting the FDA Guidance for conducting

formal meetings between the FDA and sponsors or applicants of PDUFA Products (available here: https://www.fda.gov/media/109951/download).

b. The timing of development meetings with regulatory authorities.
c. The possibility of a Priority Review by the FDA.
d. Whether to pursue an accelerated approval pathway.

   NOTE: The company should make this decision at the pre-IND stage since it severely truncates the timeline for all activities and will impact the time required for CMC development.

e. Whether the applicant is planning to apply for "Breakthrough Therapy Designation" and/or "Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy Designation" in the first trial assessing clinical efficacy. This decision impacts the data generated to pursue these potential paths.
f. Whether the applicant is pursuing "Orphan Drug Designation" if the intended marketed patient population (as defined by the TPP) has a prevalence of less than 200,000 patients in the US, less than 50,000 patients in Japan, or a prevalence of not more than 5 in 10,000 in the EU.

   NOTE: Combination US/EU applications may be prepared and submitted simultaneously to FDA and EMA.

g. Whether the applicant has prepared a Pediatric Development Plan.

   NOTE: The company should consider this prior to conducting the end of phase 2 (EOP2) meeting with FDA. The company must submit the initial Pediatric Study Plan to FDA within 60 calendar days of completing the EOP2 meeting, or the EOP1 meeting if the product is developed using the Accelerated Approval Pathway.

8.8.10. Regulatory Correspondence Documentation (no page limit)

Applicants must upload as a standalone document copies of any meeting minutes, communications between the company and regulatory agencies, and summaries of interactions with regulatory authorities (eg, FDA, EMA, NMPA, CDSCO) related to the product that is the subject of the CPRIT application. This is a continuing obligation that extends over the course of the review process. If the applicant receives meeting minutes after submitting the application but

before CPRIT has made a final decision on the application, the applicant should contact the CPRIT Helpdesk (see section 10.1) for assistance on filing the additional information.

8.9. Business Plan

CPRIT can only provide a portion of the funds required to successfully develop a novel product or service. Companies must raise substantial funds from other sources to fully fund development. Investors seek financial returns on their investment. An applicant should convince CPRIT that this project has investment return potential based on its risk profile sufficient to raise external capital.

CPRIT review typically focuses on size of market opportunity, development path, and key risk issues. The reviewers will evaluate company applicants based not only on the status of the components of the business plan but also on whether the company acknowledges current weaknesses and gaps and outlines a plan to address them.

The business plan consists of the business rationale overview and summaries of the following key development issues listed below. The business plan section may request some of the information that the applicant has included in the IPDP. To the extent possible, avoid duplication, redundancy, or references to the IPDP in favor of summarizing the information in the business plan.

8.9.1. Business Rationale (maximum 2 pages)

Provide the business rationale for investing in this project. Successful applicants will provide a thoughtful, careful, and succinct business justification explaining why this program is an appropriate investment of CPRIT and private funds.

8.9.2. Product and Market (maximum 1 page)

While the applicant will also provide information on the product and potential market when creating the IPDP required pursuant to section 8.8, including an overview of the product and method of delivery, describing the unmet medical need, and explaining the potential market in this section provide context for rest of the business plan.

a. Explain the unmet medical need with particular focus on patient populations contemplated for initial target indication(s): incidence/prevalence, life

expectancy/survival, morbidity, annual mortality figures. Assuming the successful achievement of development objectives, describe how the intended product significantly addresses an unmet medical need in the treatment (including supportive care) and prognosis or prevention of cancer.

b. Describe the initial target market and how the product fits within the SOC, ie, primary therapy, second-line therapy, adjunctive to current therapies. Patient populations should be broadly comparable to those included in the pivotal trials. Define patient population sizes by market segments.

8.9.3. Competition and Value Proposition (maximum 1 page)

Provide an overview of the competitive environment (current and anticipated) and how the envisioned product will compete in the marketplace. Detail how the clinical utility (efficacy, safety, cost, etc) of this therapy compares with current SOC and forecast for potential future therapies. A clear delineation of competitive advantages, including supporting summary data, is important.

8.9.4. Clinical and Regulatory Plans (maximum 1 page)

Provide an overview of the regulatory strategy, including preclinical and clinical activities and the regulatory pathway for major markets.

a. Include summary descriptions of regulatory communications (including all interactions to date with the FDA) and a description of how the company incorporated feedback from regulatory authorities.

b. If the application includes clinical research, present a plan to achieve realistic accrual rates of patients that meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria within the proposed timeline.

8.9.5. Pricing and Reimbursement (maximum 1 page)

Provide an overview of the projected product cost and anticipated revenue. Cost, price, and reimbursement references from similar products are helpful. An overview of how the company plans to obtain CMS and private insurance reimbursement approval is also helpful.

8.9.6. Commercial Strategy (maximum 1 page)

Provide an overview of the company's financial projections and how the company plans to

generate a return on this investment.

a. Describe how the company plans to bring the product to market. Information on targeted physicians, sales channels, etc, is helpful.
b. Alternatively, if the company's plan includes acquisition by a larger pharmaceutical company, provide an overview of similar transactions.

8.9.7. Risk Analysis (maximum 1 page)

Describe the specific risks inherent to the product plan and how the company plans to mitigate those risks. Key risk issues typically include efficacy versus competitors, toxicity, clinical trial implementation and conduct, FDA approval, dosage and delivery, CMC/synthesis, changing competitive environment, etc.

8.9.8. Funding to Date (This section may exceed 1 page, if necessary)

Provide an overview of the funding received by the company, including a list of funding sources and a comprehensive capitalization table that comprises all parties with investments, stock, or rights in the company. CPRIT provides a template for a capitalization table in the application materials that the applicant **must** use when completing the application. The applicant must list identities of all parties and may exceed the 1-page limit if necessary to fully capture all funding sources. It is not appropriate to list any funding source as anonymous.

8.9.9. Company Financial Overview (maximum 1 page)

Please describe the company's financial condition including cash on hand, runway, burn rate, expenses, debt, working capital and any other metric that would provide insight into the company's finances.

8.9.10. Intellectual Property (IP)/Freedom to Operate (maximum 1 page)

a. List patents/patent applications together with jurisdictions, ownership/licensing aspects, status, and filing and expiration dates.
b. Indicate by patent/patent application the nature of key claims, viz, COM, methods, uses, formulation based, and what specifically would such claims prevent a competitor from doing. In this respect, include a discussion of the ease of workaround by a potential competitor.

c. For future/anticipated patent filings, indicate whether such filings will be continuation in part as opposed to divisional or novel/standalone patents.
d. Discuss potential for exclusivity as well as the potential contribution of trade secrets to protection from competition.
e. Describe freedom to operate, licensing status/plans.

8.9.11. Management Team and Key Personnel (maximum 1 page)

The applicant's management team should be composed of individuals who have the appropriate level of experience in developing and commercializing products. The team should include appropriate disciplinary experts in product engineering, clinical development, nonclinical development, product design, manufacturing, regulatory strategy, commercialization, and fundraising. An experienced program manager who has coordinated product development activities to product approval is desired. Team members, either consultants or company employees, must have sufficient time to devote to development activities allocated in the application.

For each member of the senior management and scientific team, provide a paragraph summarizing his or her present title and position, prior industry experience, education, and any other information considered essential for evaluation of qualifications. Also indicate the percentage of the person's time devoted to the project. The time indicated by the company is an obligatory commitment, regardless of whether they request salaries or compensation. "Zero percent" effort or "TBD" or "as needed" are not acceptable levels of involvement for those designated as key personnel.

Provide the same information for other key personnel who contribute to the development or the execution of the project in a substantive, measurable way. ("Substantive" means they have a critical role in the overall success of the project and that their absence from the project would have a significant impact on executing the approved scope of the project. "Measurable" means that they devote a specified percentage of time to the project.) NOTE: While the applicant should identify all participants who meet these criteria as "key personnel," CPRIT expects that the applicant will keep to a minimum the number individuals designated as key personnel.

8.10. Biographical Sketches of Key Scientific Personnel (maximum 8 pages)

Provide a biographical sketch for up to 4 key scientific personnel describing their education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, and publications relevant to cancer research. Each biographical sketch must not exceed 2 pages. CPRIT provides an optional "Product Development Research Programs: Biographical Sketch" template for the applicant's use. The NIH biographical sketch format is also appropriate.

8.11. Commitment to Texas (maximum 1 page)

Describe the company's commitment to locating in Texas and maintaining its business presence in the state. Please identify the criteria specified in section 4.1 "Award Recipients Must Be Texas-Based" that the company will fulfill if it receives a CPRIT award.

If the applicant is not currently Texas based, provide a timetable with key dates indicating the applicant's plan and commitment to relocate the company to Texas. In addition, describe which personnel and management will be headquartered in Texas.

8.12. Budget

Due to the limited amount of remaining FY 2024 award funds available for Product Development Research Program awards, CPRIT is capping the total amount of award funds that may be requested by the applicant at $5 million.

This is a 3-year funding program, with an opportunity to extend the duration of contract to fully expend awarded funds. All requested funds must be well justified; CPRIT will award financial support based upon the breadth and nature of the project proposed, the transparency of the budget, and the extent to which the company will spend funds in Texas. The total budget included in the full application must not vary significantly from the anticipated budget request included in the applicant's preliminary application. For purposes of this section, "vary significantly" means that the total budget in the full application must not exceed the anticipated budget request in the preliminary application by more than 5%.

The budget must align with the proposed G&Os. CPRIT will disburse funds in tranches tied to the company's achievement of the contractual G&Os.

When preparing the requested budget, applicants should consider the following:

a. Identify the specific equipment that the company proposes to purchase with grant funds. Items that the company includes in the "equipment" budget line should have a useful life of more than 1 year and an acquisition cost of $5,000 or more per unit.
b. Texas Health & Safety Code Section 102.203(d) law limits the amount of grant funds that companies may spend on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs). CPRIT's Administrative Rules provide guidance regarding indirect cost recovery.
c. The total amount of CPRIT funds allowed for an individual's FY 2024 annual salary is $200,000. An individual may request salary proportional to the percent effort up to a maximum of $200,000. Companies may pay salary amounts exceeding this limit from matching funds. The salary amount does not include fringe benefits. Additionally, CPRIT permits annual salary adjustments of up to a 3% increase for Years 2 and 3, up to the cap of $200,000. CPRIT may revise the FY 2024 salary cap and future salary caps at its discretion.

The Budget section is composed of 4 subtabs:

a. **Budget for All Project Personnel:** Provide the name, role, appointment type, percent effort, salary requested, and fringe benefits for all personnel participating on this project. If the company requests funding for a role that the company has not yet filled at the time of submission, the applicant should note "new hire" as name.
b. **Detailed Budget for Year 1:** Provide the amount requested from CPRIT for direct costs in the first year of the project. Direct cost categories include Travel, Equipment, Supplies, Contractual (Subaward/Services Contracts), or Other. This section should include only the amount requested from CPRIT. DO NOT include the amount of the matching funds or the budget for the entire proposed period of performance.
c. **Budget for Entire Proposed Period of Performance:** Provide the amount requested from CPRIT for direct costs for all subsequent years. CARS will automatically populate the amounts for *Budget Year 1* based on the information provided in the previous subtabs. This section should include only the amount requested from CPRIT. DO NOT include the amount of the matching funds.
d. **Budget Justification:** The budget should align with the proposed G&Os. Provide a compelling justification for the budget for each line item of the entire proposed period of

support, including salaries and benefits, supplies, equipment, patient care costs, animal care costs, and other expenses. For projects that involve CROs or other third parties providing clinical trial services, include quotations/estimates from the CRO/other third parties. If travel costs will include out-of-state or international travel, make that clear here. This section should include CPRIT-requested funds and other amounts that will comprise the total budget for the project, including the use of matching funds.

9. AWARD CONTRACTS

9.1. Overview

Texas law requires that CPRIT award grant funds via a contract between the company and CPRIT. Contract negotiation commences after the CPRIT Oversight Committee votes to approve an application for a grant award. Texas law specifies several contract terms that CPRIT must include in the executed agreement, including terms relating to revenue sharing and IP rights, matching funds, and required reporting for fiscal, progress, and compliance.

CPRIT recommends that applicants review CPRIT's Administrative Rules and its related Policies & Procedures Guide (available at www.cprit.texas.gov) for information describing contractual requirements, fiscal and program progress reporting, and limitations on the use of CPRIT grant funds. This RFA highlights information regarding revenue sharing and matching funds below.

9.2. Revenue-Sharing Terms

The contract will include a revenue-sharing agreement. CPRIT publishes its standard revenue-sharing terms on its website at https://cprit.texas.gov/our-programs/product-development-research. CPRIT will include these standard revenue-sharing terms in the award contract unless parties negotiate different revenue-sharing terms that are in the interest of the state and the company.

9.3. Matching Funds

CPRIT requires a company receiving a CPRIT Product Development Research Award to pay a portion of the overall project expenses using money under the company's control. The company's expenditure of these "matching funds" must take place at the same time the company

is drawing down CPRIT funds; there is no credit toward the CPRIT matching funds requirement for in-kind expenses or expenditures made prior to the CPRIT award. The company may fulfill its matching funds commitment on a year-by-year basis.

The company demonstrates that it has available matching funds at the time CPRIT disburses funds pursuant to an executed award contract, not when the company submits the CPRIT application.

CPRIT sets the amount of matching funds the company must contribute toward the project based on the total amount of CPRIT funds committed to the company:

- For companies receiving $20 million or less from CPRIT (inclusive of previous CPRIT awards), the company must dedicate to the project at least $1 of funds under the company's control for every $2 of CPRIT grant award funds.
- A company approved for 1 or more CPRIT product development grants that together total a commitment of more than $20 million must increase their matching fund obligation to at least $1 for every $1 contributed by CPRIT.
  The increased matching fund obligation applies to the grant award that caused the grantee to exceed the $20 million threshold. For example, a company receives 3 product development grant awards of $3 million, $15 million, and $8 million (in that order) over the course of several years. Under CPRIT's matching funds policy, the company must dedicate at least $8 million in matching funds to the $8 million project (a dollar-for-dollar match obligation) because that project caused it to exceed the $20 million threshold.
- A company approved for 1 or more CPRIT product development grants that together total a commitment of more than $30 million must contribute at least $2 for every $1 provided by CPRIT. The increased matching fund obligation applies to the grant award that caused the grantee to exceed the $30 million threshold.

10. CONTACT INFORMATION

10.1. Helpdesk

The Helpdesk will answer queries submitted via email within 1 business day. Helpdesk support is available for questions regarding user registration and online submission of applications. Helpdesk staff cannot answer questions regarding scientific and product development aspects of applications. Before contacting the Helpdesk, please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants* document, which provides a step-by-step guide on using CARS. For "Frequently Asked Technical Questions," please go here.

Hours of operation:	Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM central time
Tel:	866-941-7146 (toll free in the United States only – international applicants should use the email address below)
Email:	Help@CPRITGrants.org

10.2. Programmatic Questions

The CPRIT Product Development Program Manager will answer questions regarding CPRIT's Product Development Program awards and review process, including questions regarding the scientific, product development, and business aspects of applications. For "Frequently Asked Programmatic Questions," please go here.

Tel:	512-305-7676
Email:	proddev@cprit.texas.gov
Website:	www.cprit.texas.gov

11. APPENDIX – REVIEWER EVALUATION GUIDELINES

11.1. Primary Review Criteria (Scored)

11.1.1. Unmet Medical Need: Target Product Profile (TPP)

a. Assuming successful accomplishment of development objectives, as reflected in the TPP, will the intended product significantly address an unmet medical need in the diagnosis, treatment (including supportive care), prognosis, or prevention of cancer?

b. In terms of incidence/prevalence of the patient populations or subpopulations intended to be targeted by the development of this product, what is the extent of the unmet need?

11.1.2. Target Validation

a. If this is a "targeted" agent, to what extent has the target been validated, eg, through knockdown studies and/or pharmacological intervention?
b. Has engagement of the target with the agent been demonstrated by biochemical assay?
c. What is the potency of the agent?
d. Are there validated downstream PD markers of target modulation?
e. How extensive is the in vitro evidence for expected PD effects? Has the agent shown biologically significant modulation of the target in vivo, especially in tumor tissue?
f. Is the target uniquely or substantially overexpressed by tumor versus normal cells?
g. Does the target represent an activating mutation? If so, has binding of the agent to the target and other activating mutations been characterized?
h. Has the company's demonstration of target validation been externally/independently confirmed?
i. Are there known mechanisms of resistance to the modulation of this target? If so, has the company proposed possible mitigation/preemptive approaches, such as combination chemotherapy?

11.1.3. Preclinical Characterization: Pharmacodynamic (PD) Proof of Concept

a. Considering in vivo preclinical PD characterization and the patient populations or subpopulation(s) representing the initial clinical indication(s) for the drug, what is the clinical relevance of the preclinical models? To elaborate, were in vivo/xenograft studies carried out in cell line-based models or PDX-derived models? In how many such models have studies been carried out? To what extent do these models reflect SOC for refractory versus drug-naïve tumors? At the time of treatment initiation, were tumors established and measurable, or was treatment initiated shortly after tumor inoculation?
b. Was antitumor activity predominantly growth inhibition or tumor regression? Were sustained complete remissions or "cures" achieved in the majority of animals and models? Were comparisons with optimally dosed SOC agents made? Where the agent is

intended to be added to the SOC, is there compelling evidence of in vitro/in vivo synergy with SOC agents?

c. Have results of preclinical efficacy studies carried out by the company been externally/independently confirmed?
d. Overall, considering clinical relevance and study results, how strong is the preclinical efficacy profile of the agent?
e. How strongly does the preclinical PD profile support the clinical efficacy expectations reflected in the TPP?

11.1.4. Preclinical Characterization: Safety

a. How extensive is the in vitro and in vivo preclinical safety characterization carried out so far?
b. Has the agent undergone CEREP-type screening for interactions with targets with known safety liabilities, eg, CYP 450, hERG?
c. Considering potency and target selectivity, what is the potential both for off-target and pharmacologically on-target deleterious effects?
d. Can exposures associated with substantial antitumor efficacy/PD effects be achieved safely and in vivo?
e. Do preclinical PK studies indicate potential for clinical safety issues, eg, accumulation, variability, lack of dose proportionality?
f. Have PK/PD issues been investigated with alternate dosing schedules in order to optimize the therapeutic index of the agent?
g. Are there any issues with the distribution or metabolism of the agent?
h. Overall, are results of safety characterization carried out so far such that the agent can be considered reasonably derisked from a safety perspective, or are there red flags? Alternatively, is the extent of preclinical safety characterization carried out so far insufficient to address this question?

11.1.5. Pharmaceutical Properties/Chemistry and Pharmacy

a. In the case of agents intended for oral absorption, are there any issues with water solubility? Do formulation studies indicate the feasibility of oral administration?

b. Were Lipinski-type criteria applied during the lead optimization process such that the lead compound has demonstrated properties that make it likely to be an orally active drug in humans?
c. Are there any issues with the stability of the drug substance or the drug product?
d. Is there scope for further lead optimization through structure-activity studies?
e. In the case of biologicals, has a high-quality cell line been developed yet? Are yields acceptable? Does the purification process appear reasonable and scalable?
f. Have analytical methods been adequately developed?
g. Has the (lead) protein been adequately characterized biochemically, immunogenetically, and biophysically? Has absence of aggregate formation been demonstrated in stability studies?

11.1.6. Development Plan/Regulatory Aspects

a. Are development proposals scientifically rational and sufficiently comprehensive considering development efforts and results to date?
b. Does the applicant demonstrate adequate familiarity with pertaining regulatory guidelines in major jurisdictions (US/EU)? Do development proposals reflect specific regulatory authority input; eg, from pre-IND interactions? Alternatively, has regulatory authority interaction been insufficient so far?
c. In the case of clinical studies, are patient populations adequately described and consistent with those representing the initial target indication(s)?
d. Are efficacy end points appropriate for study designs? Is the sample size statistically adequately justified in terms of the target effect size?
e. In the case of potentially pivotal clinical trials, moreover, are the proposed primary efficacy end points and target effect sizes consistent with regulatory precedence?
f. Considering target indication prevalence, will the agent qualify for orphan drug designation? If so, does the applicant intend to apply for this?
g. Has the applicant demonstrated reasonable diligence in researching patient availability, competitive clinical trial activity, and recruitment issues such that patient enrollment projections can be considered realistic?

h. Will the proposed programs advance development of the agent to commercially significant milestone(s), such as might attract either partner interest or the raising of further development funding?
i. Are development milestones clear and adequately described? Is the overall project timeline realistic?

11.1.7. Competitive Analysis

a. Has the applicant carried out a comprehensive and realistic analysis of the likely strengths and weaknesses of the agent compared to clinically relevant competitive products, including potentially competitive agents in development?
b. Are the applicant's assumptions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the agent relative to likely competitors reasonable, considering the preclinical efficacy and safety data on the agent generated so far?

11.1.8. Intellectual Property (IP)/Freedom to Operate

a. Have IP and freedom-to-operate aspects been addressed in the application?
b. Considering patent type (Composition of Matter/Formulation/Manufacturing Process/Use) and duration of patent life, how strong is the IP?
c. Are there opportunities for meaningful patent life extension?
d. Has the applicant secured appropriate licenses conferring freedom to operate?

11.1.9. Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls (CMC)

a. How advanced is CMC and manufacturing development?
b. Are there any sourcing issues?
c. Has the applicant demonstrated the likelihood that the product can be manufactured at commercial scale and with a reasonable cost of goods?
d. Are there significant technical difficulties within CMC/manufacturing scaleup still to be addressed?

11.1.10. Business/Commercial Aspects

a. Does the applicant need to raise further funds for the CPRIT matching requirement? In this case, how realistic are the applicant's assumptions about a successful fundraising

campaign? Does the applicant have a track record of success in raising development funding?

b. Does the applicant indicate intentions for attracting a development partner or for outright acquisition? Do the development milestones and assumed results of the research program of studies reasonably support such expectations?
c. Considering the initial clinical indications for the product, its competitive strengths and weaknesses, and pricing/reimbursement objectives, are market/segment penetration and sales and profitability projections reasonable?
d. Has the applicant articulated a coherent plan for using results on clinical end points in pivotal trials as a basis for cost-effectiveness analyses to support pricing and reimbursement?

11.1.11. Management Team

a. Does the management team have the appropriate level of experience and track record of relevant accomplishments to execute the development and commercialization strategy?
b. Does the company have experienced and appropriately accomplished in-house personnel in such key areas as translational research, clinical development, regulatory affairs, and CMC/manufacturing? If not, are there plans to address such deficiencies?
c. Has the applicant demonstrated appropriate engagement of outside development expertise through, for example, a scientific advisory board, individual consultantships, and regulatory authority interactions?

11.2. Secondary Review Criteria (Unscored) Budget and Duration of Support

a. Are the budget and duration of support appropriate for the program of studies described in the application?
b. Is there sufficient clarity in the budget proposal as to how funds will be expended?
c. Is there sufficient clarity in the budget proposal as to the spending of funds in Texas?
d. Do plans reflect a substantial commitment to Texas? Is it clear that no CPRIT funds will be sent out of Texas to a corporate headquarters?

Third Party Observer Reports

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) 24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-3 (24.2_PDR-P3) Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-18 24.2_PDR-P3
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-3 (24.2 _PDR-P3)
Panel Date:	January 18, 2024
Report Date:	January 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-3 (24.2_PDR-P3) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Bo Saxburg and conducted via videoconference on January 18, 2024.

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: Six (6) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, two (2) expert reviewers.
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Three (3)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

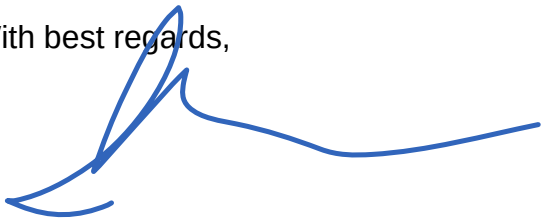
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) 24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-4 (24.2_PDR-P4) Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-18 24.2_PDR-P4
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-4 (24.2 _PDR-P4)
Panel Date:	January 18, 2024
Report Date:	January 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-4 (24.2_PDR-P4) meeting. The meeting was chaired by David Shoemaker and conducted via videoconference on January 18, 2024.

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: Eight (8) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, three (3) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

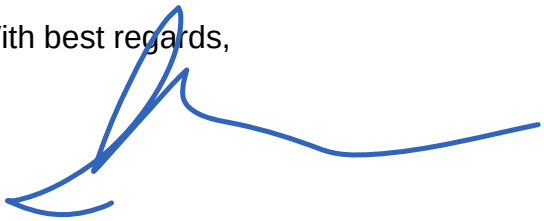
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-7 (24.2_PDR-P7)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-18 24.2_PDR-P7
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-7 (24.2 _PDR-P7)
Panel Date:	January 18, 2024
Report Date:	January 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-7 (24.2_PDR-P7) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Roy Cosan and conducted via videoconference on January 18, 2024.

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: Ten (10) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, three (3) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

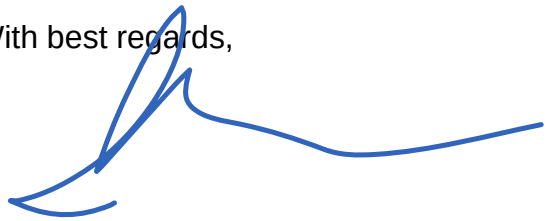
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-5 (24.2_PDR-P5)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-19 24.2_PDR-P5
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-5 (24.2 _PDR-P5)
Panel Date:	January 19, 2024
Report Date:	January 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-5 (24.2_PDR-P5) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Jack Geltosky and conducted via videoconference on January 19, 2024.

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: Eight (8) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, three (3) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

There was one (1) Conflict of Interest (COI) identified prior to and/or during the meeting. The COI was excluded from discussions concerning application for which there was a conflict.

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

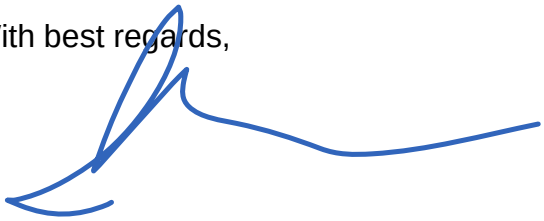
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-6 (24.2_PDR-P6)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-19 24.2_PDR-P6
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-6 (24.2 _PDR-P6)
Panel Date:	January 19, 2024
Report Date:	January 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-6 (24.2_PDR-P6) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Jim Jordan and conducted via videoconference on January 19, 2024.

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: Seven (7) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, three (3) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-8 (24.2_PDR-P8)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-19 24.2_PDR-P8
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-8 (24.2 _PDR-P8)
Panel Date:	January 19, 2024
Report Date:	January 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Research Prelim-8 (24.2_PDR-P8) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Steve Weinstein and conducted via videoconference on January 19, 2024.

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: Seven (7) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, three (3) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

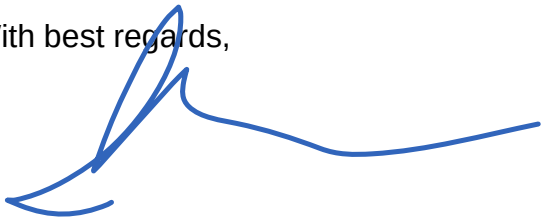
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 PDR_P-2 Product Development Review Prelim-2 (24.2 PDR_P-2)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-22 24.2 PDR_P-2
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 PDR_P-2 Product Development Review Prelim-2 (24.2 PDR_P-2)
Panel Date:	January 22, 2024
Report Date:	January 24, 2024

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 24.2 PDR_P-2 Product Development Review Prelim-2 (24.2 PDR_P-2) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Kristine Swiderek and conducted via videoconference on January 22, 2024.

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: Seven (7) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, three (3) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

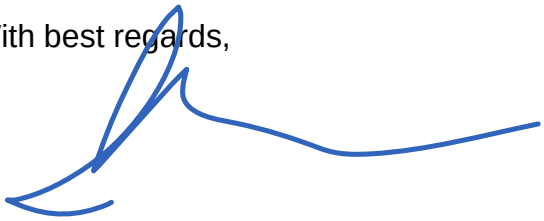
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-1 (24.2PDR-P1)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-22 24.2PDR_P1
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Review Prelim-1 (24.2PDR_P1)
Panel Date:	January 22, 2024
Report Date:	January 24, 2024

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 24.2Product Development Review Prelim-1 (24.2PDR_P1) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Colin Turnbull and conducted via videoconference on January 22, 2024.

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: Seven (7) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, three (3) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Five (5)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

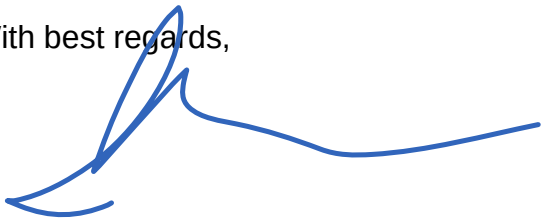
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) 24.2 Product Development Research Review Council Preliminary Application Ranking (24.2_PDRC-Prelim) Observation Report

Report No.	2024-01-23 24.2_PDRC-Prelim
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Research Review Council Preliminary Application Ranking (24.2 _PDRC-Prelim)
Panel Date:	January 23, 2024
Report Date:	January 26, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Research Review Council Preliminary Application Ranking (24.2_PDRC-Prelim) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Jack Geltosky and conducted via videoconference on January 23, 2024.

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: Sixteen (16) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, eleven (11) 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: Five (5)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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.

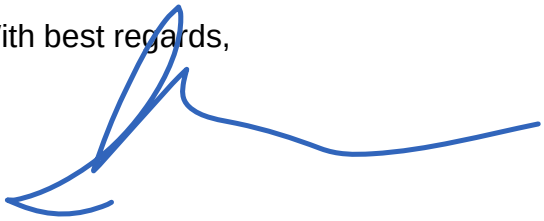
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-2 (24.2 PDP-2)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-15 24.2_PDP-2
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-2 (24.2 _PDP-2)
Panel Date:	March 15, 2024
Report Date:	March 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-2 (24.2_PDP-2) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Jim Jordan and conducted via videoconference on March 15, 2024.

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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- 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 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-7 (24.2 PDP-7)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-15 24.2_PDP-7
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-7 (24.2 _PDP-7)
Panel Date:	March 15, 2024
Report Date:	March 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-7 (24.2_PDP-7) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Elaine Jones and conducted via videoconference on March 15, 2024.

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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Five (5)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Five (5)
- 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 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-3 (24.2 PDP-3)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-18 24.2_PDP-3
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-3 (24.2 _PDP-3)
Panel Date:	March 18, 2024
Report Date:	March 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-3 (24.2_PDP-3) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Steve Weinstein and conducted via videoconference on March 18, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Five (5)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- 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 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.

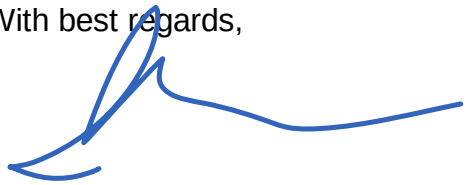
CONCLUSION

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,



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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-4 (24.2 PDP-4)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-18 24.2_PDP-4
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-4 (24.2 _PDP-4)
Panel Date:	March 18, 2024
Report Date:	March 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-4 (24.2_PDP-4) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Colin Turnbull and conducted via videoconference on March 18, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- 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 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-5 (24.2 PDP-5)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-19 24.2_PDP-5
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-5 (24.2 PDP-5)
Panel Date:	March 19, 2024
Report Date:	March 22, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-5 (24.2_PDP-5) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Renzo Canetta and conducted via videoconference on March 19, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Five (5)
- 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 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.

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With best regards,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-1 (24.2 PDP-1)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-20 24.2_PDP-1
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-1 (24.2 _PDP-1)
Panel Date:	March 20, 2024
Report Date:	March 25, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-1 (24.2_PDP-1) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Roy Cosan and conducted via videoconference on March 20, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- 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 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.

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With best regards,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-8 (24.2 PDP-8)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-20 24.2_PDP-8
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-8 (24.2 _PDP-8)
Panel Date:	March 20, 2024
Report Date:	March 25, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-8 (24.2_PDP-8) meeting. The meeting was chaired by David Shoemaker and conducted via videoconference on March 20, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, four (4) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- 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 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.

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With best regards,

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

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

BFS STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-10 (24.2 PDP-10)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-22 24.2_PDP-10
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-10 (24.2 _PDP-10)
Panel Date:	March 22, 2024
Report Date:	March 28, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-10 (24.2_PDP-10) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Jack Geltosky and conducted via videoconference on March 22, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Five (5)
- 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 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.

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With best regards,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-11 (24.2_PDP-11)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-25 24.2_PDP-11
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-11 (24.2 _PDP-11)
Panel Date:	March 25, 2024
Report Date:	March 27, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-11 (24.2_PDP-11) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Renzo Canetta and conducted via videoconference on March 25, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- 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 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-12 (24.2_PDP-12)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-25 24.2_PDP-12
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-12 (24.2 _PDP-12)
Panel Date:	March 25, 2024
Report Date:	March 27, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-12 (24.2_PDP-12) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Ginette Serrero and conducted via videoconference on March 25, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- 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 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-13 (24.2_PDP-13)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-26 24.2_PDP-13
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-13 (24.2 _PDP-13)
Panel Date:	March 26, 2024
Report Date:	March 31, 2024

BACKGROUND

As part of CPRIT's ongoing emphasis on continuous improvement in its grants eview/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 24.2 Product Development Panel-13 (24.2_PDP-13) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Steve Weinstein and conducted via videoconference on March 26, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, six (6) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-14 (24.2_PDP-14)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-26 24.2_PDP-14
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-14 (24.2 _PDP-14)
Panel Date:	March 26, 2024
Report Date:	March 31, 2024

BACKGROUND

As part of CPRIT's ongoing emphasis on continuous improvement in its grants eview/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 24.2 Product Development Panel-14 (24.2_PDP-14) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Colin Turnbull and conducted via videoconference on March 26, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-15 (24.2_PDP-15)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-27 24.2_PDP-15
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-15 (24.2 _PDP-15)
Panel Date:	March 27, 2024
Report Date:	March 31, 2024

BACKGROUND

As part of CPRIT's ongoing emphasis on continuous improvement in its grants eview/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 24.2 Product Development Panel-15 (24.2_PDP-15) meeting. The meeting was chaired by David Shoemaker and conducted via videoconference on March 27, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-16 (24.2_PDP-16)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-03-27 24.2_PDP-16
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-16 (24.2 _PDP-16)
Panel Date:	March 27, 2024
Report Date:	March 31, 2024

BACKGROUND

As part of CPRIT's ongoing emphasis on continuous improvement in its grants eview/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 24.2 Product Development Panel-16 (24.2_PDP-16) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Kristine Swiderek and conducted via videoconference on March 27, 2024.

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

Three (3) 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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-1 Due Diligence (24.2_PDP-1 DD)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-04-09 24.2_PDP-1 DD
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-1 Due Diligence (24.2 _PDP-1 DD)
Panel Date:	April 9, 2024
Report Date:	April 11, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-1 Due Diligence (24.2_PDP-1 DD) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Roy Cosan and conducted via videoconference on April 9, 2024.

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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Three (3)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions
- Boyds Consultant staff employees: One (1)
- Boyds Consultant staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting
- Norton Rose Fulbright Law Firm staff employees: Two (2)
- Norton Rose Fulbright Law Firm staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) 24.2 Product Development Panel-15 DD (24.2_PDP-15 DD) Observation Report

Report No.	2024-04-15 24.2_PDP-15 DD
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-15 DD (24.2 _PDP-15 DD)
Panel Date:	April 15, 2024
Report Date:	April 23, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-15 DD (24.2_PDP-15 DD) meeting. The meeting was chaired by David Shoemaker and conducted via videoconference on April 15, 2024.

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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Five (5)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions
- Boyds Consultant staff employees: One (1)
- Boyds Consultant staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting

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 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-8 Due Diligence (24.2_PDP-8 DD)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-04-16 24.2_PDP-8 DD
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-8 Due Diligence (24.2 _PDP-8 DD)
Panel Date:	April 16, 2024
Report Date:	April 23, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-8 Due Diligence (24.2_PDP-8 DD) meeting. The meeting was chaired by David Shoemaker and conducted via videoconference on April 16, 2024.

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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, four (4) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Five (5)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions
- Boyds Consultant staff employees: One (1)
- Boyds Consultant staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting
- Norton Rose Fulbright Law Firm staff employees: One (1)
- Norton Rose Fulbright Law Firm staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-11 Due Diligence
(24.2_PDP- 11 DD)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-04-17 24.2_PDP-11 DD
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-11 Due Diligence (24.2 _PDP-11 DD)
Panel Date:	April 17, 2024
Report Date:	April 23, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-11 Due Diligence (24.2_PDP-11 DD) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Renzo Canetta and conducted via videoconference on April 17, 2024.

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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Five (5)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions
- Boyds Consultant staff employees: One (1)
- Boyds Consultant staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting

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

A list of all attendees, a sign-in log and informational materials were provided by GDIT 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-14 Due Diligence
(24.2_PDP- 14 DD)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-04-17 24.2_PDP-14 DD
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-14 Due Diligence (24.2 _PDP-14 DD)
Panel Date:	April 17, 2024
Report Date:	April 23, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-14 Due Diligence (24.2_PDP-14 DD) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Colin Turnbull and conducted via videoconference on April 17, 2024.

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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, five (5) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Five (5)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions
- Boyds Consultant staff employees: One (1)
- Boyds Consultant staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting

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 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Panel-12 Due Diligence
(24.2_PDP-12 DD)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-04-19 24.2_PDP-12 DD
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Panel-12 Due Diligence (24.2 _PDP-12 DD)
Panel Date:	April 19, 2024
Report Date:	April 23, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Panel-12 Due Diligence (24.2_PDP-12 DD) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Ginette Serrero and conducted via videoconference on April 19, 2024.

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: One (1) application was discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, four (4) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewer
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions
- Boyds Consultant staff employees: One (1)
- Boyds Consultant staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting
- Norton Rose Fulbright Law Firm staff employees: One (1)
- Norton Rose Fulbright Law Firm staff were placed in the waiting room and did not participate in the meeting

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 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,

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

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

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
24.2 Product Development Review Council Meeting (24.2 PDRC)
Observation Report

Report No.	2024-04-22 24.2_PDRC
Program Name:	Product Development Research
Panel Name:	24.2 Product Development Review Council Meeting (24.2 _PDRC)
Panel Date:	April 22, 2024
Report Date:	April 29, 2024

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 24.2 Product Development Review Council Meeting (24.2_PDRC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Jack Geltosky and vice-chaired by David Shoemaker and conducted via videoconference on April 22, 2024.

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: Six (6) applications presented
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, one (1) vice chair, and ten (10) 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: Five (5)
- 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 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.

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With best regards,

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

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

T.A.C. Section 702.19 Waiver

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	WAYNE ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT:	T.A.C. § 702.19 WAIVER
DATE:	APRIL 26, 2024

Summary

This is to notify the Oversight Committee that pursuant to the authority provided to the Chief Executive Officer in T.A.C. § 702.19(e), I have granted Chief Product Development Officer Dr. Ken Smith a waiver from the general prohibition against communicating with a grant applicant while CPRIT is accepting and reviewing applications. The waiver applies to communication with the six companies that the Product Development Review Council has recommended to the Program Integration Committee during the second cycle in FY 2024. Doing so promotes CPRIT's objectives and does not give one or more applicants an unfair advantage. No Oversight Committee action related to this waiver is necessary.

Discussion

The Chief Product Development Officer is a statutorily mandated member of the Program Integration Committee (PIC). Texas Administrative Code § 702.19 prohibits substantive communication between the grant applicant and a member of the peer review panel, the PIC, or the Oversight Committee while the application is pending a final decision. The communication restriction is one way that we prevent even the appearance of unequal treatment in the grant review process. However, the rule provides a process for the CEO to waive the communication restriction in specific circumstances if doing so is in the interest of CPRIT's process and does not give any applicant an unfair advantage.

Approving this waiver allows Dr. Smith to negotiate reductions in proposed budgets with each company. Cumulatively, the budgets of the six recommended companies exceed the amount of funds designated for product development awards during this cycle. If negotiations are successful, CPRIT will be able to fund all six companies if they are approved by the Oversight Committee. Granting the waiver will not favor any applicant or provide an unfair advantage.

The Oversight Committee does not need to take any action regarding this waiver. Dr. Smith's waiver will be part of the grant record for the FY 2024 product development awards.

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

CPRIT Product Development Research Cycle 24.2
Awards Announced at the May 15, 2024, Oversight Committee Meeting

The following table 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 Product Development Research Cycle 24.2 include *SEED Awards for Product Development Research; Texas Therapeutic Company Awards for Product Development Research; Texas New Technologies Company Awards for Product Development Research;* and *Texas Diagnostic and Devices Company Preliminary Applications for Product Development Research.*

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:			
DP240171	Casey Cunningham	Iterion Therapeutics, Inc.	Renzo Canetta

High Level Summary of Due Diligence

SEED

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Seed Company Award for Product Development Research:

Aakha Biologics for $2,999,880.

No Contingencies

The Product Development Review Council (PDRC), upon its review of the independent business and intellectual property due diligence performed on this application, has recommended to the Program Integration Committee that this application is suitable for CPRIT funding.

Aakha Biologics is a Frisco-based company which is developing AHA-1031 which engages two strong activating receptors (NKG2D/MICA andCD16/engineered Fc) in the tumor microenvironment for the treatment of advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC).

Advanced metastatic lung cancer is the deadliest form of cancer but is difficult to treat because many tumors lack immune cells that are critical for fighting cancer. Despite the discovery and advancement of newer therapies that target specific cancers, the patient's overall 5-year survival rate is only 9%. Aakha Biologics is developing a novel antibody drug that potentially attracts immune cells to the tumor and activates them to kill the tumor. This antibody binds to an a newly validated cancer target on tumor surfaces and specifically recruits killer cells to destroy the tumor. Aakha's novel antibody will have a major impact on the care of lung cancer patients by treating tumors that are not responding to the standard of care treatments.

Select Reviewer Comments

MICA/B is a good, broad tumor target. Improved Fc binding is distinguished from products currently on market. This product, once developed and tested, has the potential to significantly address the treatment of many cancer types, including lung and ovarian cancers.

There is a well-validated target and approach. They have improved upon efficacy compared to first-generation molecules in the clinic now.

There is a strong management team, including consultants, in key areas relevant to the development stage of the project.

SEED

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Seed Company Award for Product Development Research:

MS Pen Biologics Inc. for $3,000,000.

Contingencies

1. Execute license agreement with UTA for patent rights.
2. Execute supply and license agreement with Thermo Fisher.
3. CPRIT should be provided full visibility of the agreement with Thermo Fisher.

The Product Development Review Council (PDRC), upon its review of the independent business and intellectual property due diligence performed on this application, has recommended to the Program Integration Committee that this application is suitable for CPRIT funding.

MS Pen Technologies Inc. is a Houston-based company developing an ultimate surgical sensing system for intraoperative tissue sensing and surgical guidance. CPRIT has previously awarded three academic research grants totaling $1.4 million for the research underlying this technology.

Incomplete surgical resection of cancer tissues is a critical problem in the care for cancer patients, leading to consequences such as recurrence, increased treatment costs, and post-operative complications. Current methods for intraoperative tissue identification and surgical margin evaluation are unreliable, time consuming, and require expert on-call pathologists for interpretation. Additionally, no current methods enable label-free, real-time margin evaluation and cancer detection in vivo to guide surgical decision making. MS Pen Technologies is developing the ultimate tissue sensing system (Ultiss MD), a platform for tissue sensing and surgical guidance that combines the simplicity of the MasSpec Pen, the performance of mass spectrometry, and the power of AI/ML software. Ultiss exploits the fundamentals of tumor biology to detect cancer on a molecular level in vivo to guide surgical decision making in real-time. Our initial focus is lung cancer, where curative resection is highly dependent on intraoperative decision making.

Select Reviewer Comments

Ultiss is a molecular-based cancer diagnosis and margin analysis tool with high accuracy, rapid cancer detection and classification, and much reduced risk for complication and tissue damage. The applicant has assembled an excellent team with complementary expertise and skill needed to develop a successful product.

This is very impressive technology, nondestructive and compatible with rapid intraoperative evaluations.

There is an excellent development team, with scientists involved not only in the company but continuing to work in their laboratories to advance the science and engineering.

TTC

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Therapeutics Company Award for Product Development Research:

7 Hills Pharma LLC for $4,999,618.

No Contingencies

The Product Development Review Council (PDRC), upon its review of the independent business and intellectual property due diligence performed on this application, has recommended to the Program Integration Committee that this application is suitable for CPRIT funding.

7 Hills Pharma LLC is a Houston-based company that is developing 7HP935, an integrin agonist, to augment hematopoietic stem cell transplant for the treatment of hematologic malignancies. CPRIT previously awarded 7 Hills Pharma a $13.4 million Texas Therapeutics Company Award for Product Development Research.

7 Hills Pharma is developing 7HP935, which could benefit patients with leukemia who require stem cell transplant. The curative potential of transplant is limited by timely access to a suitable donor and an elevated risk of infection, particularly in Hispanic/Latino and Black patients, who comprise 51.8% of the Texas population. Umbilical cord blood (UCB) is a readily available, FDA approved stem cell source that has been shown to have curative potential but is limited by slow stem cell engraftment, resulting in high infection rates and extended hospital stays. 7HP935 given in combination with a UCB stem cell transplant, could ameliorate these limitations and, importantly, decrease racial disparities and increase access to curative therapy. If successful, these studies may represent a new treatment paradigm for patients with leukemia that could deliver the curative promise of stem cell transplant.

Select Reviewer Comments

The company and inventors have a long history of developing alpha4beta1 agonists/antagonists and demonstrate that they can develop such molecules in the clinic.

A novel small-molecule-based strategy to increase engraftment (that is not cell based) represents a key advancement in the field of hematopoietic stem cell transplanation.

TTC

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Therapeutics Company Award for Product Development Research:

Indapta Therapeutics for $5,000,000.

No Contingencies

The Product Development Review Council (PDRC), upon its review of the independent business and intellectual property due diligence performed on this application, has recommended to the Program Integration Committee that this application is suitable for CPRIT funding.

Indapta Therapeutics is a Houston-based company that is developing highly potent allogeneic G-NK cells for treatment of multiple myeloma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Indapta has identified a highly potent subset of natural killer (NK) cells, g-NK cells, which can be expanded from healthy donors. Indapta's g-NK product, IDP-023, has the potential to be a significant medical breakthrough in treating patients with advanced non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) and multiple myeloma (MM) who have few therapeutic options and are not candidates for autologous cellular therapy. Recently approved treatments (CAR-T, T cell engagers) have limitations: lack of durability, significant toxicities, and manufacturing delays. IDP-023 is an "off-the-shelf" cryopreserved product that is expected to have few side effects so that it can be easily administered in an outpatient setting. In mice, g-NK cells can cure cancer, killing tumors more effectively than conventional NKs. Indapta will conduct a Phase 1 trial of IDP-023 in combination with approved monoclonal antibodies, as a safe, highly effective therapy for patients with advanced NHL or MM.

Select Reviewer Comments

This is an innovative, exciting product. NK cell therapy has a lot of potential that has yet to be realized, and Indapta uses a novel approach with larger ability to extend to other cancer types if successful.

If successful, this project will result in the development of a novel off-the-shelf NK cell therapy that will be easily administered and with decreased toxicity compared to T-cell therapies. It will meet an unmet need for treatment of NHL and MM and can feasibly be extended to other cancers with available antibodies for antibody-dependent cellular toxicity

SEED

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Seed Company Award for Product Development Research:

Crossbridge Bio Inc. for $2,972,447.

No Contingencies

The Product Development Review Council (PDRC), upon its review of the independent business and intellectual property due diligence performed on this application, has recommended to the Program Integration Committee that this application is suitable for CPRIT funding.

Crossbridge Bio Inc. is a Houston-based company that is developing advanced antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) targeting various cancers such as breast, lung, ovarian, and bladder.

Current-generation ADCs, while revolutionary, face challenges like premature payload loss and resistance by cancer cells. CrossBridge Bio's solution, leveraging technology from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, includes a proprietary linker that provides greater stability and the ability to attach multiple payloads. This innovation decreases the ability of cancer cells to develop resistance, as evidenced by early preclinical data in cancer cell and animal models. The company's project focuses on targeting TROP-2, a protein prevalent in several cancers. The project will compare Crossbridge's lead asset, CBB-120, to Trodelvy, an existing TROP-2 targeting drug to demonstrate its product's superiority. Success in TROP-2 cancers could lead to the effective treatment of other cancer targets.

Select Reviewer Comments

The target product profile is well described. There are potential advantages relative to TRODELVY in safety profile based on unique antibody epitope, proprietary linker design, and payload delivered.

The EGCit and EVCit linkers display improved stability in plasma (human, monkey, mouse) relative to VCit linkers used in other ADCs. In vivo studies in mice show no hepatic toxicity.

The pharmaceutical properties of CBB-120 should be very similar to other ADCs with which the team is very familiar and for which FDA-approved precedent is available.

SEED

The PDRC recommends that the PIC and Oversight Committee approve a Texas Seed Company Award for Product Development Research:

Bectas Therapeutics Inc. for $3,000,000

No Contingencies

The Product Development Review Council (PDRC), upon its review of the independent business and intellectual property due diligence performed on this application, has recommended to the Program Integration Committee that this application is suitable for CPRIT funding.

Bectas Therapeutics Inc. is a Houston-based company that is developing LILRB4 antibodies and companion precision biomarkers for patient selection to overcome myeloid-dependent resistance to T cell checkpoint therapy.

75% - 85% of patients are not cured by existing immune-based therapies. Limited progress has been made in addressing the lack of response in these patients due to a lack of understanding of the patients that will benefit from additional therapy. Bectas has identified myeloid cell surface receptors, including the LILRB4 protein, that suppress the immune system and drive resistance to existing therapy in 25% of patients. Bectas has also identified a biomarker that enables precise identification of patients who will benefit from LILRB4 inhibition. The company has generated

an antibody that blocks LILRB4 activity, inhibits solid tumor growth and improves survival in pre-clinical cancer models. Bectas will manufacture this antibody to further pre-clinical pharmacology and safety studies to support an Investigational New Drug application. The clinical trials will test the LILRB4 antibody in a biomarker selected patient population to assess the benefit of LILRB4 inhibition in biomarker positive patients.

Select Reviewer Comments

The scientific and leadership team is excellent. Dr Allison, a leader in the LILRB4 field, is a major advantage. Biomarker assay is a key distinguishing feature of this proposal compared to competitors.

The development of a blood-based biomarker to screen for patients who would benefit from the new treatment is a practical and necessary step.

There is a selection biomarker panel to enable a faster go/no-go decision on the anti-LILRB4 antibody.

De-Identified Overall Evaluation Scores

Texas Therapeutic Company Awards for Product Development Research

Product Development Research Cycle 24.2

Full Application Review

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
DP240243*	2.5
DP240244*	2.6
Da	3.4
Db	5.1
Dc	5.9

* Recommended for funding.

Texas Therapeutic Company Awards for Product Development Research

Product Development Research Cycle 24.2

Final Scores for Preliminary Application Review

CPRIT uses a preliminary application review process to quickly provide an applicant with feedback about whether the proposed project is compatible with the CPRIT portfolio and mission. A panel of experts individually reviewed and scored preliminary applications using the criteria listed in the Request for Applications (RFA). These are the final overall evaluation scores for preliminary applications that were not invited to submit full applications. The review process ends after preliminary review for those applicants not invited to submit a full application.

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
Aa	2.0
Ab	2.0
Ac	2.0
Ad	2.0
Ae	2.0
Af	2.3
Ag	2.3
Ah	2.5
Ai	2.5
Aj	2.8
Ak	3.0
Al	3.0
Am	3.0
An	3.5

Final Overall Evaluation Scores and Rank Order Scores

April 22, 2024

Dr. David Cummings
CPRIT Oversight Committee Chair
Via email to dcummingsmd@yahoo.com

Mr. Wayne R. Roberts
CPRIT Program Integration Committee Chair
Via email to wroberts@cprit.texas.gov

Dr. Cummings and Mr. Roberts,

On behalf of the Product Development Review Council (PDRC), I am pleased to provide the PDRC's recommendation for CPRIT's Product Development Research 24.2 grant award cycle. The PDRC convened on October 24, 2023, and recommends that the Program Integration Committee and the Oversight Committee approve Product Development Research grant awards for the following applicants: Crossbridge, Inc., Aakha Biologics, 7 Hills Pharma LLC, Indapta Therapeutics, Bectas Therapeutics and MS Pen Technologies, Inc. The attached table reflects the ranked award recommendation for the six (6) grant applications.

Two (2) recommendations included contingencies associated with intellectual property (IP) ownership and licensing agreements, which CPRIT should address with the companies during contract negotiations. The IP due diligence report for both DP240240 (Crossbridge Bio, Inc.) and DP240245 (MS Pen Technologies, Inc.) reflects the recommended contingencies. In addition, for DP240239 (Bectas Therapeutics Inc.), the PDRC suggested CPRIT address milestone payments by Bectas to a parent company, dose planning and a hiring plan for key staff. Dr. Smith will address the proposed contingencies with the PIC and the Oversight Committee.

Each of the companies included in the PDRC's recommendation reflets 50+ hours of individual review panel discussion of the applicants' proposals as well as the PDRC's review of the due diligence reports. Our recommendations are consistent with one or more of the priorities set by the Oversight Committee for product development grant award funding. These standards include the potential of these companies to (1) bring important products to market; (2) promote the translation of research at Texas institutions into new companies able to compete in the marketplace; and (3) develop tools and technologies of special relevance to cancer research, treatment, and prevention.

Sincerely,

Jack Geltosky, PhD
Chair, CPRIT Product Development Review Council

CPRIT 24.2 Product Development Research
Review Council Recommendations

Ranking	ID	Mechanism	Type	PI Last Name	Application Title	Organization	Final Overall Score	Recommended Budget
1	DP240240	SEED	New	Torres, M.	CBB-120, a next-generation dual-payload antibody-drug conjugate for the treatment of TROP-2+ solid tumors	Crossbridge Bio, Inc.	2.0	$ 2,972,447
2	DP240248	SEED	Resubmission	Baruah, H.	AHA-1031 engages two strong activating receptors (NKG2D/MICA and CD16/engineered Fc) in the tumor microenviroment for the treatment of advanced NSCLC	Aakha Biologics	2.1	$ 2,999,880
3	DP240244	TTC	New	Lewis, L.	7HP935, an integrin agonist, to augment hematopoietic stem cell transplant for the treatment of hematologic malignancies	7 Hills Pharma Inc.	2.3	$ 4,999,618
4	DP240243	TTC	New	Frohlich, M.	Phase 1 Trial of Highly Potent Allogeneic G-NK Cells for Treatment of Multiple Myeloma and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	Indapta Therapeutics	2.5	$ 5,000,000
5	DP240239	SEED	New	O'Hagan, R.	Development of LILRB4 antibodies and companion precision biomarkers for patient selection to overcome myeloid-dependent resistance to T cell checkpoint therapy	Bectas Therapeutics Inc.	3.0	$ 3,000,000
6	DP240245	SEED	Resubmission	Wiseman, J.	Development of the Ultimate Surgical Sensing System for Intraoperative Tissue Sensing and Surgical Guidance	MS Pen Technologies, Inc.	3.3	$ 3,000,000

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application DP240239
SEED Awards for Product Development Research

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 the *SEED Awards for Product Development Research* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 32 preliminary applications in response to this RFA during cycle 24.2, including one preliminary application that was withdrawn. The preliminary review panel recommended this application for full application review and CPRIT subsequently assigned the full application to 24.2 Product Development Panel-11. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was 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 applications that did not move past the preliminary evaluation review stage in this cycle that is listed as "Final Scores for Preliminary Evaluations"
- A de-identified list of the final overall evaluation scores for applications submitted for full application review
- 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

On April 27, 2024, I notified Oversight Committee members that I granted the Chief Product Development Officer, Ken Smith, a waiver from the general prohibition against communicating with product development research cycle 24.2 grant applicants, pursuant to Texas Administrative Code § 702.19(e). The waiver allowed Dr. Smith to negotiate a budget reduction with each company that the Product Development Review Council recommended to the PIC. A copy of the waiver is included in the "CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information" packet.

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 2nd day of May, 2024, by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

SANDRA REYES
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires October 21, 2025
Notary ID 12806624-2

Sandra Reyes
Notary Public, State of Texas

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 05/02/2024 02:03 PM CT

FY: 2024
CYCLE: 2
PROGRAM: Product Development
MECHANISM: Seed Full Awards for Product Development Research
APPLICATION ID: DP240239
APPLICATION TITLE: Development of LILRB4 antibodies and companion precision biomarkers for patient selection to overcome myeloid-dependent resistance to T cell checkpoint therapy
APPLICANT NAME: O'Hagan, Ronan
ORGANIZATION: Bectas Therapeutics Inc.
PANEL NAME: 24.2 Product Development Panel-11

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	**RFA approved by CPDO**	**11/28/2023**	04/03/2024
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	**12/01/2023**	04/03/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	**12/01/2023**	04/03/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	**02/13/2024**	04/03/2024
	Date application submitted	**02/13/2024**	04/03/2024
	Method of submission	**CARS**	04/03/2024
	Within receipt period	**YES**	04/03/2024
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	**N/A**	04/03/2024
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	**N/A**	04/03/2024
	Submission of application fee	**YES**	04/05/2024
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	**Administrative review notification**	**N/A**	04/03/2024
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	**NO**	04/03/2024
	Assigned to primary reviewers	**02/19/2024**	04/03/2024
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	**02/15/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	**02/19/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 4 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 5 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 6 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 7 COI signed	**02/13/2024**	04/03/2024
Peer Review Meeting	**Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted**	**03/04/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 critique submitted	**03/04/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	**03/03/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 4 critique submitted	**03/04/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 5 critique submitted	**03/04/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 6 critique submitted	**03/04/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 7 critique submitted	**03/02/2024**	04/03/2024
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	**NONE**	04/03/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/03/2024
	Peer Review Meeting	**03/25/2024**	04/03/2024
	Post review statements signed	**03/25/2024**	04/03/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**03/27/2024**	04/03/2024
	Score report delivered to CPDO	**03/26/2024**	04/03/2024
	Recommended for due diligence and IP review	**YES**	04/03/2024
Due Diligence and IP Review	**Final due diligence review submitted to PDRC**	**04/18/2024**	04/23/2024
	Intellectual Property conflict check	**02/07/2024**	04/23/2024
	Final intellectual property review submitted	**04/10/2024**	04/23/2024
	COI indicated by reviewer	**NONE**	04/22/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/22/2024
	Due Diligence Meeting	**04/17/2024**	04/22/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/23/2024**	04/23/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/22/2024
Final PDRC Recommendation	**COI indicated by PDRC member**	**NONE**	04/23/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/23/2024
	Due Diligence Evaluation Meeting / PDRC Meeting	**N/A**	04/22/2024
	PDRC Meeting	**04/22/2024**	04/23/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/29/2024**	04/30/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/23/2024
	PDRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	**04/22/2024**	04/23/2024
PIC Review	**COI indicated by PIC member**	**None**	05/01/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	05/01/2024
	PIC Review Meeting	**05/01/2024**	05/01/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	05/01/2024
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	**N/A**	
	Authority to advance funds requested	**N/A**	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	**N/A**	

CPRIT retrains the identity of the attesting party.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application DP240240
SEED Awards for Product Development Research

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 the *SEED Awards for Product Development Research* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 32 preliminary applications in response to this RFA during cycle 24.2, including one preliminary application that was withdrawn. The preliminary review panel recommended this application for full application review and CPRIT subsequently assigned the full application to 24.2 Product Development Panel-12. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was 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 applications that did not move past the preliminary evaluation review stage in this cycle that is listed as "Final Scores for Preliminary Evaluations"
- A de-identified list of the final overall evaluation scores for applications submitted for full application review
- 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

On April 27, 2024, I notified Oversight Committee members that I granted the Chief Product Development Officer, Ken Smith, a waiver from the general prohibition against communicating with product development research cycle 24.2 grant applicants, pursuant to Texas Administrative Code § 702.19(e). The waiver allowed Dr. Smith to negotiate a budget reduction with each company that the Product Development Review Council recommended to the PIC. A copy of the waiver is included in the "CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information" packet.

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 2nd day of May, 2024, by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

SANDRA REYES
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires October 21, 2025
Notary ID 12806624-2

Sandra Reyes
Notary Public, State of Texas

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 05/02/2024 02:03 PM CT

FY: 2024
CYCLE: 2
PROGRAM: Product Development
MECHANISM: Seed Full Awards for Product Development Research
APPLICATION ID: DP240240
APPLICATION TITLE: CBB-120, a next-generation dual-payload antibody-drug conjugate for the treatment of TROP-2+ solid tumors
APPLICANT NAME: Torres, Michael J
ORGANIZATION: Crossbridge Bio, Inc.
PANEL NAME: 24.2 Product Development Panel-12

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	**RFA approved by CPDO**	**11/28/2023**	04/03/2024
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	**12/01/2023**	04/03/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	**12/01/2023**	04/03/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	**02/13/2024**	04/03/2024
	Date application submitted	**02/13/2024**	04/04/2024
	Method of submission	**CARS**	04/04/2024
	Within receipt period	**YES**	04/04/2024
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	**N/A**	04/04/2024
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	**N/A**	04/04/2024
	Submission of application fee	**YES**	03/28/2024
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	**Administrative review notification**	**N/A**	04/04/2024
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	**NO**	04/04/2024
	Assigned to primary reviewers	**02/19/2024**	04/04/2024
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	**02/15/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	**02/29/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 4 COI signed	**02/22/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 5 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 6 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 7 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/04/2024
Peer Review Meeting	**Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted**	**03/02/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 critique submitted	**03/03/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	**03/05/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 4 critique submitted	**03/05/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 5 critique submitted	**03/02/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 6 critique submitted	**03/04/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 7 critique submitted	**03/04/2024**	04/04/2024
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	**NONE**	04/04/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/04/2024
	Peer Review Meeting	**03/25/2024**	04/04/2024
	Post review statements signed	**03/25/2024**	04/04/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**03/27/2024**	04/04/2024
	Score report delivered to CPDO	**03/26/2024**	04/04/2024
	Recommended for due diligence and IP review	**YES**	04/04/2024
Due Diligence and IP Review	**Final due diligence review submitted to PDRC**	**04/18/2024**	04/23/2024
	Intellectual Property conflict check	**02/15/2024**	04/23/2024
	Final intellectual property review submitted	**04/12/2024**	04/23/2024
	COI indicated by reviewer	**NONE**	04/23/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/23/2024
	Due Diligence Meeting	**04/19/2024**	04/23/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/23/2024**	04/23/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/23/2024
Final PDRC Recommendation	**COI indicated by PDRC member**	**NONE**	04/23/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/23/2024
	Due Diligence Evaluation Meeting / PDRC Meeting	**N/A**	04/23/2024
	PDRC Meeting	**04/22/2024**	04/23/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/29/2024**	04/30/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/23/2024
	PDRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	**04/22/2024**	04/23/2024
PIC Review	**COI indicated by PIC member**	**None**	05/01/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	05/01/2024
	PIC Review Meeting	**05/01/2024**	05/01/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	05/01/2024
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	**N/A**	
	Authority to advance funds requested	**N/A**	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	**N/A**	

CPRIT retrains the identity of the attesting party.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application DP240245
SEED Awards for Product Development Research

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).

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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:

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- 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 applications that did not move past the preliminary evaluation review stage in this cycle that is listed as "Final Scores for Preliminary Evaluations"
- A de-identified list of the final overall evaluation scores for applications submitted for full application review
- 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

On April 27, 2024, I notified Oversight Committee members that I granted the Chief Product Development Officer, Ken Smith, a waiver from the general prohibition against communicating with product development research cycle 24.2 grant applicants, pursuant to Texas Administrative Code § 702.19(e). The waiver allowed Dr. Smith to negotiate a budget reduction with each company that the Product Development Review Council recommended to the PIC. A copy of the waiver is included in the "CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information" packet.

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 2nd day of May, 2024, by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

SANDRA REYES
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires October 21, 2025
Notary ID 12806624-2

Sandra Reyes
Notary Public, State of Texas

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 05/02/2024 02:03 PM CT

FY: 2024
CYCLE: 2
PROGRAM: Product Development
MECHANISM: Seed Full Awards for Product Development Research
APPLICATION ID: DP240245
APPLICATION TITLE: Development of the Ultimate Surgical Sensing System for Intraoperative Tissue Sensing and Surgical Guidance
APPLICANT NAME: Wiseman, Justin
ORGANIZATION: MS Pen Technologies, Inc.
PANEL NAME: 24.2 Product Development Panel-1

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	**RFA approved by CPDO**	**11/28/2023**	04/03/2024
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	**12/01/2023**	04/03/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	**12/01/2023**	04/03/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	**02/13/2024**	04/03/2024
	Date application submitted	**02/13/2024**	04/03/2024
	Method of submission	**CARS**	04/03/2024
	Within receipt period	**YES**	04/03/2024
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	**N/A**	04/03/2024
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	**N/A**	04/03/2024
	Submission of application fee	**YES**	03/28/2024
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	**Administrative review notification**	**N/A**	04/03/2024
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	**NO**	04/03/2024
	Assigned to primary reviewers	**02/19/2024**	04/03/2024
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	**02/15/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	**02/17/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 COI signed	**02/15/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 4 COI signed	**02/17/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 5 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 6 COI signed	**02/15/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 7 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/03/2024
Peer Review Meeting	**Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted**	**03/03/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 critique submitted	**02/29/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	**03/03/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 4 critique submitted	**03/05/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 5 critique submitted	**03/03/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 6 critique submitted	**03/04/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 7 critique submitted	**02/28/2024**	04/03/2024
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	**NONE**	04/03/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/03/2024
	Peer Review Meeting	**03/20/2024**	04/03/2024
	Post review statements signed	**03/20/2024**	04/03/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**03/25/2024**	04/03/2024
	Score report delivered to CPDO	**03/21/2024**	04/03/2024
	Recommended for due diligence and IP review	**YES**	04/03/2024
Due Diligence and IP Review	**Final due diligence review submitted to PDRC**	**04/18/2024**	04/23/2024
	Intellectual Property conflict check	**02/15/2024**	04/23/2024
	Final intellectual property review submitted	**04/02/2024**	04/23/2024
	COI indicated by reviewer	**NONE**	04/22/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/22/2024
	Due Diligence Meeting	**04/09/2024**	04/22/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/11/2024**	04/23/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/22/2024
Final PDRC Recommendation	**COI indicated by PDRC member**	**NONE**	04/23/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/23/2024
	Due Diligence Evaluation Meeting / PDRC Meeting	**N/A**	04/22/2024
	PDRC Meeting	**04/22/2024**	04/23/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/29/2024**	04/30/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/23/2024
	PDRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	**04/22/2024**	04/23/2024
PIC Review	**COI indicated by PIC member**	**None**	05/01/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	05/01/2024
	PIC Review Meeting	**05/01/2024**	05/01/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	05/01/2024
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	**N/A**	
	Authority to advance funds requested	**N/A**	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	**N/A**	

CPRIT retrains the identity of the attesting party.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application DP240248
SEED Awards for Product Development Research

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 the *SEED Awards for Product Development Research* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 32 preliminary applications in response to this RFA during cycle 24.2, including one preliminary application that was withdrawn. The preliminary review panel recommended this application for full application review and CPRIT subsequently assigned the full application to 24.2 Product Development Panel-14. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was 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 applications that did not move past the preliminary evaluation review stage in this cycle that is listed as "Final Scores for Preliminary Evaluations"
- A de-identified list of the final overall evaluation scores for applications submitted for full application review
- 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

On April 27, 2024, I notified Oversight Committee members that I granted the Chief Product Development Officer, Ken Smith, a waiver from the general prohibition against communicating with product development research cycle 24.2 grant applicants, pursuant to Texas Administrative Code § 702.19(e). The waiver allowed Dr. Smith to negotiate a budget reduction with each company that the Product Development Review Council recommended to the PIC. A copy of the waiver is included in the "CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information" packet.

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 2nd day of May, 2024, by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

SANDRA REYES
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires October 21, 2025
Notary ID 12806624-2

Sandra Reyes
Notary Public, State of Texas

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 05/02/2024 02:03 PM CT

FY: 2024
CYCLE: 2
PROGRAM: Product Development
MECHANISM: Seed Full Awards for Product Development Research
APPLICATION ID: DP240248
APPLICATION TITLE: AHA-1031 engages two strong activating receptors (NKG2D/MICA and CD16/engineered Fc) in the tumor microenviroment for the treatment of advanced NSCLC
APPLICANT NAME: baruah, hemanta
ORGANIZATION: Aakha Biologics
PANEL NAME: 24.2 Product Development Panel-14

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	**RFA approved by CPDO**	**11/28/2023**	04/03/2024
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	**12/01/2023**	04/03/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	**12/01/2023**	04/03/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	**02/13/2024**	04/03/2024
	Date application submitted	**02/13/2024**	04/04/2024
	Method of submission	**CARS**	04/04/2024
	Within receipt period	**YES**	04/04/2024
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	**N/A**	04/04/2024
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	**N/A**	04/04/2024
	Submission of application fee	**YES**	04/04/2024
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	**Administrative review notification**	**N/A**	04/04/2024
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	**NO**	04/04/2024
	Assigned to primary reviewers	**02/19/2024**	04/04/2024
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	**02/15/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	**02/19/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 4 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 5 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 6 COI signed	**02/20/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 7 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/04/2024
Peer Review Meeting	**Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted**	**02/23/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 critique submitted	**03/01/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	**03/04/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 4 critique submitted	**03/04/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 5 critique submitted	**03/04/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 6 critique submitted	**03/03/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 7 critique submitted	**02/28/2024**	04/04/2024
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	**NONE**	04/04/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/04/2024
	Peer Review Meeting	**03/26/2024**	04/04/2024
	Post review statements signed	**03/26/2024**	04/04/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**03/31/2024**	04/09/2024
	Score report delivered to CPDO	**03/27/2024**	04/04/2024
	Recommended for due diligence and IP review	**YES**	04/04/2024
Due Diligence and IP Review	**Final due diligence review submitted to PDRC**	**04/18/2024**	04/23/2024
	Intellectual Property conflict check	**02/07/2024**	04/23/2024
	Final intellectual property review submitted	**04/10/2024**	04/23/2024
	COI indicated by reviewer	**NONE**	04/22/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/22/2024
	Due Diligence Meeting	**04/17/2024**	04/22/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/23/2024**	04/26/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/22/2024
Final PDRC Recommendation	**COI indicated by PDRC member**	**NONE**	04/23/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/23/2024
	Due Diligence Evaluation Meeting / PDRC Meeting	**N/A**	04/22/2024
	PDRC Meeting	**04/22/2024**	04/23/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/29/2024**	04/30/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/23/2024
	PDRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	**04/22/2024**	04/23/2024
PIC Review	**COI indicated by PIC member**	**None**	05/01/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	05/01/2024
	PIC Review Meeting	**05/01/2024**	05/01/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	05/01/2024
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	**N/A**	
	Authority to advance funds requested	**N/A**	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	**N/A**	

CPRIT retrains the identity of the attesting party.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application DP240243
Texas Therapeutic Company Awards for
Product Development Research

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 the *Texas Therapeutic Company Awards for Product Development Research* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 18 preliminary applications in response to this RFA during cycle 24.2, including one preliminary application that was withdrawn. The preliminary review panel recommended this application for full application review and CPRIT subsequently assigned the full application to 24.2 Product Development Panel-8. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was 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 applications that did not move past the preliminary evaluation review stage in this cycle that is listed as "Final Scores for Preliminary Evaluations"
- A de-identified list of the final overall evaluation scores for applications submitted for full application review
- 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

On April 27, 2024, I notified Oversight Committee members that I granted the Chief Product Development Officer, Ken Smith, a waiver from the general prohibition against communicating with product development research cycle 24.2 grant applicants, pursuant to Texas Administrative Code § 702.19(e). The waiver allowed Dr. Smith to negotiate a budget reduction with each company that the Product Development Review Council recommended to the PIC. A copy of the waiver is included in the "CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information" packet.

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 2nd day of May, 2024, by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

SANDRA REYES
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires October 21, 2025
Notary ID 12806624-2

Sandra Reyes
Notary Public, State of Texas

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 05/02/2024 02:03 PM CT

FY: 2024
CYCLE: 2
PROGRAM: Product Development
MECHANISM: Texas Therapeutics Company Full Awards for Product Development Research
APPLICATION ID: DP240243
APPLICATION TITLE: Phase 1 Trial of Highly Potent Allogeneic G-NK Cells for Treatment of Multiple Myeloma and Non- Hodgkin's Lymphoma
APPLICANT NAME: Frohlich, Mark W
ORGANIZATION: Indapta Therapeutics
PANEL NAME: 24.2 Product Development Panel-8

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	**RFA approved by CPDO**	**11/28/2023**	04/03/2024
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	**12/01/2023**	04/03/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	**12/01/2023**	04/03/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	**02/13/2024**	04/03/2024
	Date application submitted	**02/13/2024**	04/03/2024
	Method of submission	**CARS**	04/03/2024
	Within receipt period	**YES**	04/03/2024
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	**N/A**	04/03/2024
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	**N/A**	04/03/2024
	Submission of application fee	**YES**	03/28/2024
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	**Administrative review notification**	**N/A**	04/03/2024
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	**NO**	04/03/2024
	Assigned to primary reviewers	**02/19/2024**	04/03/2024
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	**02/15/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	**02/16/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	**02/16/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 4 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 5 COI signed	**02/15/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 6 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/03/2024
	Primary Reviewer 7 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/03/2024
Peer Review Meeting	**Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted**	**03/04/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 critique submitted	**03/02/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	**03/04/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 4 critique submitted	**N/A**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 5 critique submitted	**02/28/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 6 critique submitted	**03/03/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 7 critique submitted	**03/01/2024**	04/04/2024
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	**NONE**	04/04/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/04/2024
	Peer Review Meeting	**03/20/2024**	04/04/2024
	Post review statements signed	**03/20/2024**	04/03/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**03/25/2024**	04/03/2024
	Score report delivered to CPDO	**03/21/2024**	04/03/2024
	Recommended for due diligence and IP review	**YES**	04/04/2024
Due Diligence and IP Review	**Final due diligence review submitted to PDRC**	**04/18/2024**	04/23/2024
	Intellectual Property conflict check	**02/15/2024**	04/23/2024
	Final intellectual property review submitted	**04/09/2024**	04/23/2024
	COI indicated by reviewer	**NONE**	04/22/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/22/2024
	Due Diligence Meeting	**04/16/2024**	04/22/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/23/2024**	04/23/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/22/2024
Final PDRC Recommendation	**COI indicated by PDRC member**	**NONE**	04/23/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/23/2024
	Due Diligence Evaluation Meeting / PDRC Meeting	**N/A**	04/22/2024
	PDRC Meeting	**04/22/2024**	04/23/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/29/2024**	04/30/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/23/2024
	PDRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	**04/22/2024**	04/23/2024
PIC Review	**COI indicated by PIC member**	**None**	05/01/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	05/01/2024
	PIC Review Meeting	**05/01/2024**	05/01/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	05/01/2024
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	**N/A**	
	Authority to advance funds requested	**N/A**	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	**N/A**	

CPRIT retrains the identity of the attesting party.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

CEO AFFIDAVIT
Application DP240244
Texas Therapeutic Company Awards for
Product Development Research

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).

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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:

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- 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 applications that did not move past the preliminary evaluation review stage in this cycle that is listed as "Final Scores for Preliminary Evaluations"
- A de-identified list of the final overall evaluation scores for applications submitted for full application review
- 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

On April 27, 2024, I notified Oversight Committee members that I granted the Chief Product Development Officer, Ken Smith, a waiver from the general prohibition against communicating with product development research cycle 24.2 grant applicants, pursuant to Texas Administrative Code § 702.19(e). The waiver allowed Dr. Smith to negotiate a budget reduction with each company that the Product Development Review Council recommended to the PIC. A copy of the waiver is included in the "CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information" packet.

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 2nd day of May, 2024, by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

SANDRA REYES
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires October 21, 2025
Notary ID 12806624-2

Sandra Reyes
Notary Public, State of Texas

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 05/02/2024 02:03 PM CT

FY: 2024
CYCLE: 2
PROGRAM: Product Development
MECHANISM: Texas Therapeutics Company Full Awards for Product Development Research
APPLICATION ID: DP240244
APPLICATION TITLE: 7HP935, an integrin agonist, to augment hematopoietic stem cell transplant for the treatment of hematologic malignancies
APPLICANT NAME: Lewis, Lionel D
ORGANIZATION: 7 Hills Pharma Inc.
PANEL NAME: 24.2 Product Development Panel-15

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	**RFA approved by CPDO**	**11/28/2023**	04/03/2024
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	**12/01/2023**	04/03/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	**12/01/2023**	04/03/2024
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	**02/13/2024**	04/03/2024
	Date application submitted	**02/09/2024**	04/04/2024
	Method of submission	**CARS**	04/04/2024
	Within receipt period	**YES**	04/04/2024
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	**N/A**	04/04/2024
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	**N/A**	04/04/2024
	Submission of application fee	**YES**	03/28/2024
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	**Administrative review notification**	**N/A**	04/04/2024
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	**NO**	04/04/2024
	Assigned to primary reviewers	**02/20/2024**	04/04/2024
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	**02/15/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 COI signed	**02/15/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 4 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 5 COI signed	**02/16/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 6 COI signed	**02/22/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 7 COI signed	**02/14/2024**	04/04/2024
Peer Review Meeting	**Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted**	**03/04/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 critique submitted	**03/04/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	**03/03/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 4 critique submitted	**03/02/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 5 critique submitted	**03/04/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 6 critique submitted	**03/04/2024**	04/04/2024
	Primary Reviewer 7 critique submitted	**03/01/2024**	04/04/2024
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	**NONE**	04/04/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/04/2024
	Peer Review Meeting	**03/27/2024**	04/04/2024
	Post review statements signed	**03/27/2024**	04/04/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**03/31/2024**	04/09/2024
	Score report delivered to CPDO	**03/28/2024**	04/04/2024
	Recommended for due diligence and IP review	**YES**	04/04/2024
Due Diligence and IP Review	**Final due diligence review submitted to PDRC**	**04/18/2024**	04/23/2024
	Intellectual Property conflict check	**02/07/2024**	04/23/2024
	Final intellectual property review submitted	**04/08/2024**	04/23/2024
	COI indicated by reviewer	**NONE**	04/22/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/22/2024
	Due Diligence Meeting	**04/15/2024**	04/22/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/23/2024**	04/23/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/22/2024
Final PDRC Recommendation	**COI indicated by PDRC member**	**NONE**	04/23/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	04/23/2024
	Due Diligence Evaluation Meeting / PDRC Meeting	**N/A**	04/22/2024
	PDRC Meeting	**04/22/2024**	04/23/2024
	Third Party Observer Report	**04/29/2024**	04/30/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	04/23/2024
	PDRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	**04/22/2024**	04/23/2024
PIC Review	**COI indicated by PIC member**	**None**	05/01/2024
	COI recused from participation	**N/A**	05/01/2024
	PIC Review Meeting	**05/01/2024**	05/01/2024
	Recommended for grant award	**YES**	05/01/2024
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	**N/A**	
	Authority to advance funds requested	**N/A**	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	**N/A**	

CPRIT retrains the identity of the attesting party.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

May 3, 2024

Dear Oversight Committee Members:

I am pleased to present the Program Integration Committee's (PIC) unanimous recommendation for funding 17 grant applications totaling $53,764,294. The PIC recommendations for 11 academic research and 6 product development research awards are attached.

Dr. Michelle Le Beau, CPRIT's Chief Scientific Officer, and Dr. Ken Smith, CPRIT's Chief Product Development Officer, have prepared overviews of the recommended academic research and product development research slates to assist your evaluation of the recommended awards. The overviews are intended to provide a comprehensive summary with enough detail to understand the substance of the proposal and the reasons endorsing grant funding. In addition to the full overviews, all the information considered by each 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 May 15, 2024. 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, Dr. Le Beau, and Dr. Smith 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 11 academic research grant proposals totaling $33,998,639. The recommended grant proposals were submitted in response to the following grant mechanisms: *Recruitment of Established Investigators*; *Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members*; and *Recruitment of Rising Stars*. The Scientific Review Council (SRC) provided a prioritized list of 12 grant award recommendations to the presiding officers of the PIC and Oversight Committee on April 16, 2024. Prior to the May 1 PIC meeting, one *First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member* application was withdrawn by the applicant; therefore, the PIC considered and recommended 11 recruitment awards to the Oversight Committee.

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 fundamental science in cancer research;
- Ensure a comprehensive coordinated approach to cancer research;
- Are interdisciplinary or interinstitutional;
- Address federal or other major research sponsors' priorities in emerging scientific or technology Fields in the area of cancer prevention or cures for cancer;
- Are matched with funds available by a private or nonprofit entity and institution or institutions of higher education;
- 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 by attracting from outside this state additional researchers and resources; and
- Address the goals of the Texas Cancer Plan.

Academic Research Award Recommendations
Recruitment Cycles 24.6-24.9

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

Rank	App. ID	Mech.	Candidate	Organization	Budget	Final Score
1	RR240017	REI	Thomas Milner, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$6,000,000	1.0
2	RR240060	RFTFM	Isaac Fianu, Ph.D	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000	1.0
3	RR240024	REI	Radek Skoda, M.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$6,000,000	1.0
4	RR240035	RRS	Susan Bullan, Ph.D.	The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center	$4,000,000	1.1
5	RR240042	RFTFM	Maria Falzone, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	$2,000,000	1.4
6	RR240063	RFTFM	Lauren Hagler, Ph.D.	Texas A&M University	$1,998,639	1.7
7	RR240037	RRS	Oren Rom, Ph.D.	The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center	$4,000,000	1.7
8	RR240051	RFTFM	Claudia Yun Wei, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000	2.0
9	RR240055	RFTFM	Katherine Alexander, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$2,000,000	2.0
10	RR240057	RFTFM	Andrew Weems, Ph.D.	The University of Texas at Austin	$2,000,000	2.0
11	RR240039	RFTFM	Richard Voit, M.D., Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000	2.0

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH GRANT AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The PIC unanimously recommends approval of six (6) product development research grant proposals totaling $19,765,655. The recommended grant proposals were submitted in response to the following grant mechanisms: *SEED Awards for Product Development Research* and *Texas Therapeutic Company Awards for Product Development Research*. The Product Development Review Council (PDRC) provided the prioritized list of award recommendations to the presiding officers on April 22, 2024.

On April 27 I notified Oversight Committee members that I granted the Chief Product Development Officer, Ken Smith, a waiver from the general prohibition against communicating with product development research cycle 24.2 grant applicants, pursuant to Texas Administrative Code § 702.19(e). The waiver allowed Dr. Smith to negotiate a budget reduction with each company that the Product Development Review Council recommended to the PIC. A copy of the waiver is included in the "CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information" packet. The PIC approved the six product development award recommendations with the negotiated, reduced budgets.

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 product development 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;
- Are matched with funds available by a private or nonprofit entity and institution or institutions of higher education;
- Have a demonstrable economic development benefit to this state;
- Expedite innovation and commercialization, attract, create, or expand private sector entities that will drive a substantial increase in high-quality jobs, and increase higher education applied science or Technology research capabilities; and
- Address the goals of the Texas Cancer Plan.

Product Development Research Award Recommendations
Cycle 24.2
SEED: SEED Awards for Product Development Research
TTC: Texas Therapeutic Company Awards for Product Development Research

Rank	App. ID	Mech.	Application Title	PI	Company	Budget	Final Score
1	DP240240	SEED	CBB-120, a next-generation dual-payload	Torres, Michael J	Crossbridge Bio, Inc.	$2,575,275	2.0

Product Development Research Award Recommendations Cycle 24.2 *SEED: SEED Awards for Product Development Research* *TTC: Texas Therapeutic Company Awards for Product Development Research*							
Rank	**App. ID**	**Mech.**	**Application Title**	**PI**	**Company**	**Budget**	**Final Score**
			antibody-drug conjugate for the treatment of TROP-2+ solid tumors				
2	DP240248	SEED	AHA-1031 engages two strong activating receptors (NKG2D/MICA and CD16/engineered Fc) in the tumor microenviroment for the treatment of advanced NSCLC	baruah, hemanta	Aakha Biologics	$2,549,580	2.1
3	DP240244	TTC	7HP935, an integrin agonist, to augment hematopoietic stem cell transplant for the treatment of hematologic malignancies	Lewis, Lionel D	7 Hills Pharma Inc.	$4,700,000	2.3
4	DP240243	TTC	Phase 1 Trial of Highly Potent Allogeneic G-NK Cells for Treatment of Multiple Myeloma and Non- Hodgkin's Lymphoma	Frohlich, Mark W	Indapta Therapeutics	$4,500,000	2.5
5	DP240239	SEED	Development of LILRB4 antibodies and companion precision biomarkers for patient selection to overcome myeloid-dependent resistance to T cell checkpoint therapy	O'Hagan, Ronan	Bectas Therapeutics, Inc.	$2,750,000	3.0

Product Development Research Award Recommendations
Cycle 24.2
SEED: SEED Awards for Product Development Research
TTC: Texas Therapeutic Company Awards for Product Development Research

Rank	App. ID	Mech.	Application Title	PI	Company	Budget	Final Score
6	DP240245	SEED	Development of the Ultimate Surgical Sensing System for Intraoperative Tissue Sensing and Surgical Guidance	Wiseman, Justin	MS Pen Technologies, Inc.	$2,690,800	3.3

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	VINCE BURGESS, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER
SUBJECT:	COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION – MAY 2024 AWARDS
DATE:	MAY 2, 2024

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 following mechanisms:

- Recruitment of Established Investigators
- Recruitment of Rising Stars
- Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty Members
- Texas Therapeutics Company Awards for Product Development Research
- SEED Awards for Product Development Research

The *Texas New Technologies Company Awards for Product Development Research* and the *Texas Diagnostics and Devices Company Awards for Product Development Research* mechanisms received applications during this award cycle; however, did not result in recommendations to the Oversight Committee for its May 15, 2024, meeting. I have conferred with staff at CPRIT and General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT), CPRIT's contracted third-party grants administrator, regarding the academic research and product development 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 and product development 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. The RFA specifies a deadline and mandates that only those applications submitted electronically through 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 cycles 24.6-7 and 24.8-9, three applications were received for the Recruitment of Established Investigators RFA, seven applications were received for the Recruitment of Rising Stars, and 19 applications were 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.

Product Development Research:

For Cycle 24.2, 18 preliminary applications were received for the Texas Therapeutics Company Awards for Product Development Research (TTC) RFA, three preliminary applications were received for the Texas Diagnostics and Devices Company Awards for Product Development Research (TDDC) RFA, 10 preliminary applications were received for the Texas New Technologies Company Awards for Product Development Research (TNTC) RFA, and 32 preliminary applications were received for the SEED Awards for Product Development Research (SEED) RFA.

After preliminary review, CPRIT issued invitations to submit full applications to 11 applicants (three TTC applicants, one TNTC applicants, and seven SEED applicants). In addition to the 11 companies submitting preliminary applications in the 24.2 cycle, four companies that were eligible to submit full applications based on their performance in the 24.1 preliminary application review cycle submitted full applications in the 24.2 cycle.

All Product Development Research RFAs were posted on the Texas.gov eGrants website. All preliminary and full applications were submitted through CARS. No applicants requested an extension to submit an application after the deadline.

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 are assigned to the Scientific Review Council (SRC) members for peer review. Product Development Research Award preliminary applications are assigned on a rolling basis to a panel of Product Development Review Council (PDRC) members for peer review. Based upon scores, a subset of applicants is invited to submit full

applications during the fiscal year. The PDRC chair and vice chair assign full applications for Product Development Research Awards to peer review panels. All other academic 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.

Academic Research:

For cycles 24.6-7 and 24.8-9, one application was withdrawn after the SRC meeting but prior to the PIC meeting.

Product Development Research:

For cycle 24.2, three preliminary applications were administratively withdrawn prior to panel assignment. One full application was withdrawn by the applicant after panel assignment but prior to full panel review.

Peer Review:

Primary reviewers (typically three) must submit written critiques for each of their assigned applications prior to the peer review meeting. 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.

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. After the peer review meetings, a final score report from the review committee is delivered to the Review Council for additional review.

Academic Research:

For the Recruitment Awards, the applications are reviewed by the 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. No conflicts of interest were declared by the SRC for recruitment cycles 24.6-7 and 24.8-9.

I reviewed and confirmed that the post review conflict of interest statements were signed by the eight reviewers that attended the Recruitment Review Panel meeting on February 8, 2024 and the 12 reviewers that attended the Recruitment Review Panel meeting on April 11, 2024.

Product Development Research:

An applicant for a Product Development Research award must first submit a preliminary application, which is reviewed by a rotating panel of up to four PDRC members. Based upon the determination of the preliminary application review panel, an application is invited to submit a full application. The review process ends for those companies that submitted a preliminary application but were not invited to submit a full application. Applicants submitting a full application attend in-person review and are evaluated by a panel of peer reviewers. Applicants recommended after the in-person review must then go through business operations and management due diligence review and intellectual property review. Boyds Consultants, a third-party contractor for CPRIT, conducts the business and operations due diligence review while intellectual property review is conducted by CPRIT's outside counsel. Following due diligence review, the review panel submits its final score and informs the PDRC of its funding recommendation. The PDRC recommends awards to the PIC. I have verified from GDIT documentation and the third-party observer reports that those reviewers with conflicts did not participate in review of applications for which they indicated a conflict of interest. All declared COIs left the room or disengaged from the conference call and did not participate in the discussion of relevant applications.

I also reviewed and confirmed that the post review conflict of interest statements were signed by peer review members for each preliminary application panel and full application panel as well as the 12 PDRC members that attended the meeting on April 22, 2024, to determine the final slate of recommended awards.

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.

To the extent that any Review Council member identified a conflict of interest, I reviewed documentation confirming that the review council member did not participate in the discussion or vote on the application(s).

I also reviewed the third-party observer reports for each Review Council meeting. The third-party observer reports document 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.

For the Academic Research and Product Development Research awards, 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.

Academic Research:

The SRC met on February 8, 2024, and April 11, 2024, to consider a total of 29 applications. After review and discussion of these applications, the SRC recommended 12 applications to the PIC for consideration. Because recruitment applications are assigned to the SRC, programmatic and peer review occur simultaneously when applications are reviewed by the SRC.

Product Development Research:

For cycle 24.2, 14 applications went through full peer review. Of these 14 applications, six applications were recommended for a due diligence review. Following an evaluation of the diligence report, the review panels recommended six applications to the PDRC to include in its final slate of proposed awards The PDRC met on April 22, 2024, and after review and discussion recommended all six applications to the PIC for consideration. The applications were submitted in response to the TTC RFA and the SEED RFA.

I note that CPRIT CEO Wayne Roberts notified the Oversight Committee on April 27, 2024, that pursuant to T.A.C. § 702.19(e) he granted Dr. Ken Smith, CPRIT's Chief Product Development Officer and PIC member, a waiver from the general prohibition against communicating with a grant applicant while CPRIT is accepting and reviewing applications. The waiver is applicable to communication with the six companies that were recommended to the PIC during cycle 24.2. The communication waiver allowed Dr. Smith to negotiate reductions in proposed budgets with each company.

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 May 1, 2024, PIC meeting as an observer and confirm that the PIC review process complied with CPRIT's statute and administrative rules. All five PIC members were present for the meeting. No PIC member reported a conflict of interest with any of the grant application recommendations.

The PIC considered 17 applications that were recommended by the Academic Research and Product Development Research Review Councils, 11 recommendations from the SRC and 6 recommendations from the PDRC. The SRC recommended 12 applications to the PIC; however, one Recrutiment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members application was withdrawn by the applicant prior to the May 1 PIC meeting. The PIC voted to recommended 17 applications to the Oversight Committee.

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