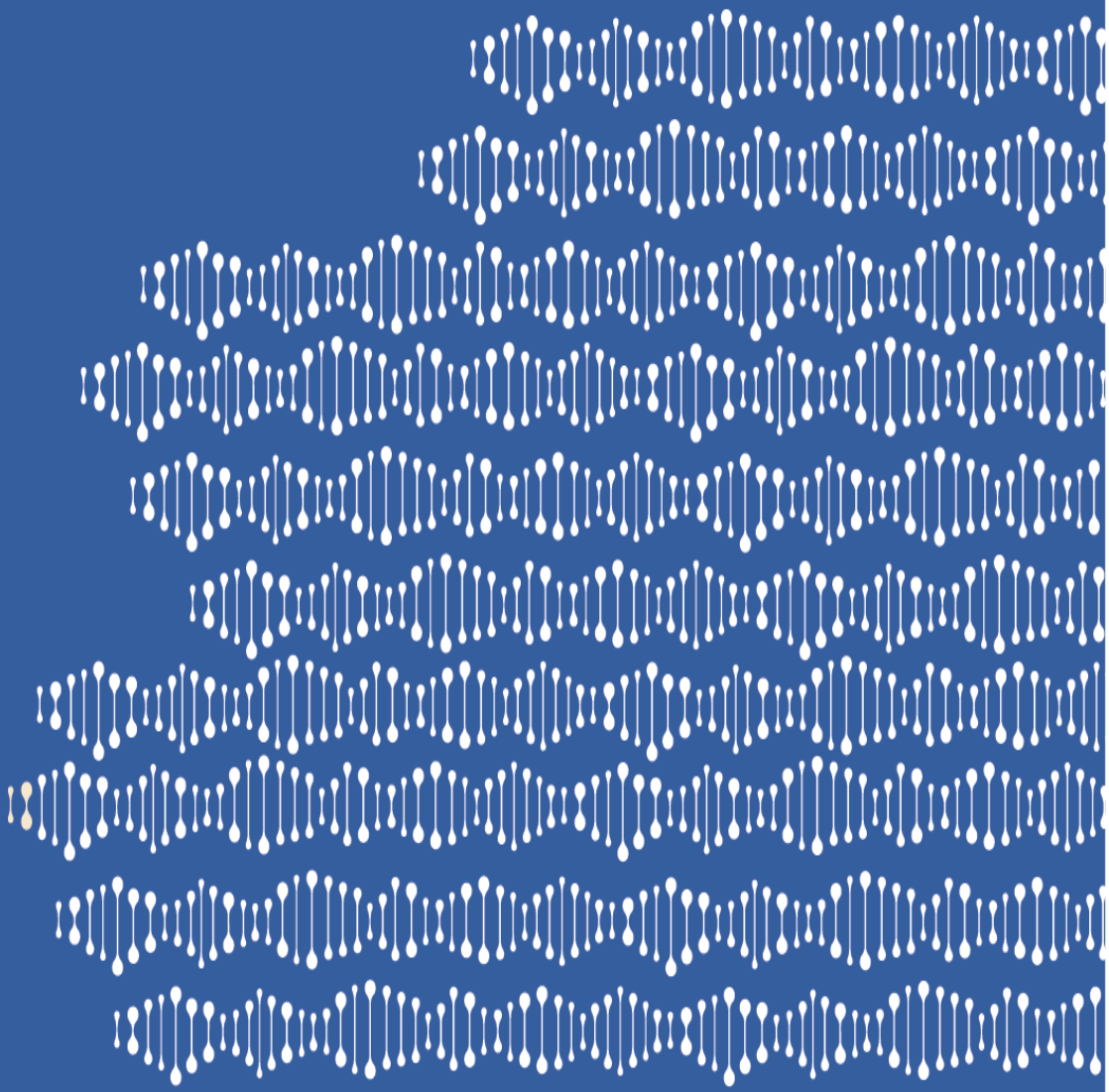
CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Oversight Committee Meeting

August 21, 2024



Summary Overview of the August 21, 2024, Oversight Committee Meeting

This summary provides an overview of major agenda items and background on key issues for Committee consideration at the August 21, 2024, Oversight Committee meeting.

CEO Report
Kristen Doyle will present the CEO's report and address issues including FY 2024 grant funds available and other topics.

Chief Compliance Officer Report
Vince Burgess will report on the status of required grantee reports, financial status report reviews, desk reviews, site visits, annual compliance attestation, audit tracking, and training. He will also certify that the proposed awards for the Academic Research Program complied with statutory and administrative rule requirements.

Chief Scientific Officer Report and Grant Award Recommendations
Dr. Michelle Le Beau will provide an update on the Academic Research Program and present the Program Integration Committee's (PIC) academic research and recruitment award recommendations. She will also present FY 2025 requests for applications (RFAs) for approval. Ms. Doyle and Dr. Le Beau will seek approval for the recommendation to increase the grant award budget for RP210043.

CPRIT does not publicly disclose information related to the academic research grant applications recommended for funding until the Oversight Committee meeting. The information is available to board members through a secure electronic portal.

Chief Prevention Officer Report
Ramona Magid will update the Oversight Committee on the Prevention Program.

Chief Product Development Officer Report
Dr. Ken Smith will provide an update on the Product Development Research Program.

Appointments - Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee
Ms. Doyle has provisionally appointed 28 new members to CPRIT's Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committees. CPRIT's statute requires the Oversight Committee to finalize the appointments with votes of approval. CPRIT has provided the appointees' biographical sketches for the Oversight Committee's consideration.

FY 2025 Honoraria Policy
Ms. Doyle will present CPRIT's FY 2025 honoraria policy for peer reviewers.

Advisory Committee Presentations
The Clinical Trials Advisory Committee and Product Development Advisory Committee will present their annual reports.

Health & Safety Code § 102.1062 Waivers
Ms. Doyle will present five conflict of interest waivers pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code 102.1062. The FY 2025 waivers are for CPRIT staff Donald Brandy, Dr. Michelle Leeuwon, and Carlton Allen, and review council members.

Amendment to 25 TAC Chapter 701
Cameron Eckel will present the final order approving a change to Chapter 701 administrative rules for the Oversight Committee's consideration. The Oversight Committee provisionally approved the change at its May meeting.

Chief Operating Officer Report
Heidi McConnell will discuss the operating budget, performance measures, and debt issuance history for the third quarter of FY 2024.

Contract Approval
Ms. McConnell will seek approval for the FY 2025 contract renewals for: economic assessment of the cost of cancer in Texas, due diligence services, internal audit services, outside counsel contracts, IP database, and peer review monitoring (contract extension).

Legislative Appropriations Request for the 2026 – 2027 Biennium
Ms. McConnell will present CPRIT's Legislative Appropriations Request for the 2026 – 2027 biennium.

Internal Auditor Report
Weaver and Tidwell, CPRIT's internal auditor, will present an internal audit update and the following internal audit reports:

- Internal Audit Follow-Up Procedures Report over Communications
- Internal Audit Follow-Up Procedures Report over Information Technology General Controls
- Internal Audit Report over Oversight Committee Compliance
- Internal Audit Advisory Report over Records Management
- FY 2025 Internal Audit Plan
- FY 2024 Annual Internal Audit Report

Communications Update
Mark Loeffler will update the Oversight Committee on CPRIT's communication efforts, including coverage of the agency and grantees in earned media, digital media, and social media.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Oversight Committee Meeting Agenda

August 21, 2024
8:30 a.m.

The Barbara Jordan Building
1601 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701
Room 2.035A

The Oversight Committee may discuss or act on any item on this agenda, and as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551.001 et seq., may meet in closed session concerning any purpose permitted by the Act. If the Oversight Committee meets in closed session, it will do so in the Barbara Jordan Building, Room 2.027.

Also as authorized by Texas Government Code § 551.127, one or more Oversight Committee members may participate remotely in the meeting by videoconference. The Oversight Committee member presiding over the meeting will be physically present at the above-listed location, which will be open to the public.

Anyone wishing to offer public comments must notify the Chief Executive Officer in writing prior to the start of the meeting. The Committee may limit the time a member of the public may speak.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call/Excused Absences
3. Oath of Office – Thomas A. Taylor
4. Adoption of Minutes from the May 15, 2024, meeting — Tab 1
5. Public Comment
6. Chief Executive Officer Report — Tab 2
7. Chief Compliance Officer Report and Compliance Certification of Grant Award Process — Tab 3
8. Chief Scientific Officer Report — Tab 4
   - Grant Award Recommendations
   - Recommendation to Increase Award Budget for RP210043
   - FY 2025 Requests for Applications
9. Chief Prevention Officer Report — Tab 5
10. Chief Product Development Officer Report — Tab 6
11. Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee — Tab 7
    - Appointments
    - FY 2025 Honoraria Policy
12. Advisory Committees — Tab 8
    - Clinical Trial Advisory Committee Presentation
    - Product Development Advisory Committee Presentation
    - Schedule for FY 2025 Advisory Committee Annual Report Presentations

13. Health & Safety Code Section 102.1062 Waivers Tab 9
14. Amendment to 25 T.A.C. Chapter 701 Tab 10
    - Final Order Approving Amendment to Chapter 701
15. Chief Operating Officer Report Tab 11
16. Contract Approvals Tab 12
    - Economic Assessment of the Cost of Cancer in Texas (contract renewal)
    - Due Diligence Services (contract renewal)
    - Internal Audit Services (contract renewal)
    - Outside Counsel Contracts (contract renewals)
    - Intellectual Property Database (contract renewal)
    - Peer Review Monitoring (contract extension)
17. Legislative Appropriations Request for the 2026 - 2027 Biennium Tab 13
18. Internal Auditor Report Tab 14
    - Internal Audit Follow-Up Procedures Report over Communications
    - Internal Audit Follow-Up Procedures Report over Information Technology General Controls
    - Internal Audit Report over Oversight Committee Compliance
    - Internal Audit Advisory Report over Records Management
    - FY 2025 Internal Audit Plan
    - FY 2024 Annual Internal Audit Report
19. Communications Program Update Tab 15
20. Subcommittee Business Tab 16
    - Appointments
21. Compliance Investigation Pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 102.2631
22. Consultation with General Counsel
23. Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items Tab 17
24. Adjourn

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2024

NOTE: Unless the information is confidential, the reports, presentations, and grant award information referenced in the minutes are available at http://ocmeetings.cprit.texas.gov in the "Oversight Committee Board Packet" section for the corresponding meeting date.

Due to an anticipated fire alarm scheduled to occur during the meeting, the Oversight Committee considered several agenda items out of agenda order to minimize disruption to presentations. The minutes reflect the order that the Oversight Committee discussed the agenda items.

Call to Order – Agenda Item 1

Presiding Officer Dr. David Cummings announced a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Roll Call/Excused Absences – Agenda Item 2

Committee Members Present
David Cummings, M.D.
Donald (Dee) Margo
Will Montgomery
Mahendra Patel, M.D., P.A.
Cindy Barberio Payne
Bill Rice, M.D.
Craig Rosenfeld, M.D.

Committee Members Absent
Ambrosio Hernandez, M.D.

Dr. Cummings noted that Dr. Hernandez was not able to attend today's meeting because of business in his city.

MOTION:
On a motion made by Mr. Margo and seconded by Dr. Rice, the Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve Dr. Hernandez's absence.

Adoption of Minutes from the February 21 and March 8, 2024, Meetings – Agenda Item 3, Tab 1

MOTION:
On a motion by Mr. Rice and seconded by Dr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 21 and March 8 Oversight Committee meeting as presented.

Public Comment – Agenda Item 4

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings noted for the record that no member of the public asked to provide comments.

Chief Executive Officer Report – Agenda Item 5, Tab 2

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized Chief Executive Officer Wayne Roberts to present his report. Mr. Roberts presented his report addressing issues including FY 2024 grant funds available, CPRIT Dashboard, new personnel, and other topics.

Following Mr. Roberts' report, Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings informed the Oversight Committee that a scheduled fire drill for the Barbara Jordan Building would likely interrupt the meeting for an unknown period. To ensure that the Oversight Committee would address all action items and to minimize disruption, he would call agenda items out of order.

Chief Compliance Officer Report and Compliance Certification for the Proposed Grant Awards – Agenda Item 6, Tab 3

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized Chief Compliance Officer Vince Burgess to present the Compliance Report. Mr. Burgess presented the Compliance Report for the past quarter's activities. He also informed the Oversight Committee that CPRIT and the grantees have resolved the delinquency issue mentioned at the February meeting and the number of delinquent grantee reports is well below the self-imposed threshold.

Following his presentation, an Oversight Committee member asked for examples of expenses that CPRIT considered unallowable match expenses. Mr. Burgess responded that many of the unallowable match expenses were unallowable because the grantee had previously claimed the expenses on grantee financial status reports. He also gave an example of office renovation expenses as unallowable for the purpose of matching funds. Mr. Burgess indicated that the compliance team provides training to grantees on allowable and unallowable match expenditures and that has also helped grantees minimize disallowances. Another Oversight Committee member noted that more than 99% of match expenditures were compliant in the match expense review, so the training was working.

An Oversight Committee member congratulated the compliance team on the clean audit that the Oversight Committee will discuss later in the agenda.

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

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized Prevention Program Manager Carlton Allen to provide the Prevention program update and the Texas Cancer Plan Update.

Mr. Allen presented an overview of the RFAs for FY 2025 Review Cycle 1 and updated the Oversight Committee members on the Texas Cancer Plan (TCP) timeline. He noted that CPRIT established the timeline for the TCP to include time for continued feedback as well as internal and external review. CPRIT will share the TCP with the Oversight Committee in November and release it to the public in December 2024.

There were no questions for Mr. Allen.

Amendments to 25 T.A.C. Chapters 701 and 703 – Agenda Item 13, Tab 10

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized assistant general counsel Cameron Eckel to present the proposed administrative rule changes. Ms. Eckel presented a final order approving rule changes to Chapters 701 and 703 that the Oversight Committee preliminarily approved at the February meeting and the proposed Chapter 701 rule change for approval to publish in the *Texas Register*.

There were no questions for Ms. Eckel.

MOTION:
On a motion by Dr. Rosenfeld and seconded by Dr. Hernandez, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve the final orders adopting the rule changes to the Texas Administrative Code Chapters 701 and 703.

MOTION:
On a motion by Dr. Rosenfeld and seconded by Dr. Hernandez, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve the publication of the proposed changes to Chapter 701 in the *Texas Register*.

Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee Appointments - Agenda Item 11, Tab 8

Mr. Roberts presented his 39 appointments to the Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committees:

<u>Appointments (5) to the Scientific Review Council</u>
- Gene Yeo, Ph.D., MBA (ad hoc reviewer)
- Simon Powell, M.D., Ph.D. (ad hoc reviewer)
- James Manley, Ph.D. (ad hoc reviewer)
- Michael Hollingsworth, Ph.D. (ad hoc reviewer)
- Philip Hinds, Ph.D. (ad hoc reviewer)

<u>Appointments (25) to Academic Research Peer Review Panels</u>
- Anthony Alberg, Ph.D., MPH (ad hoc reviewer)

- Joseph Mancias, M.D., Ph.D.
- Sheila Stewart, Ph.D.
- Piro Lito, M.D., Ph.D.
- Mandip Sachdeva, Ph.D.
- Christopher Scharer, Ph.D.
- Karen Sfanos, Ph.D.
- Jian-Ting Zhang, Ph.D.
- Michael Holtz, M.S. (advocate reviewer)
- Robert Riter, M.P.H (advocate reviewer)
- Joshua Brody, M.D.
- Haitao Ji, Ph.D.
- Christian Jobin, Ph.D.
- Song Li, M.D., Ph.D.
- Jalal Ahmed, M.D., Ph.D.
- Joshua Campbell, Ph.D.
- Beatriz Carreno, Ph.D.
- Ryan Cassaday, M.D.
- Chrystal Paulos, Ph.D.
- Mark Rubinstein, Ph.D.
- Jens Wrammert, Ph.D.
- Samuel Armato, Ph.D.
- Jun Deng, Ph.D.
- Issam El Naqa, Ph.D.
- Anant Madabhushi, Ph.D.

Appointments (3) to Prevention Peer Review Panels
- Rick Bangs, MBA, PMP
- Thelma Perry Brown
- Debbie A. Denardi

Appointments (6) to Product Development Peer Review Panels
- Pamela A. Bush, Ph.D., MBA
- Annette T. Byrne, Ph.D.
- Mingji Dai, Ph.D.
- Gaurav Mehta, MBA
- Benjamin Naovarat, M.D.
- Yhenneko Jallah Taylor, Ph.D.

MOTION:
On a motion by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve the CEO's 39 appointments to the Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committees.

Chief Operating Officer Report – Agenda Item 14, Tab 11

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized Chief Operating Officer Heidi McConnell to present her report. Ms. McConnell reported on FY 2024 Quarter 2 information for the operating budget, performance measures, and debt issuance history.

There were no questions for Ms. McConnell.

Fiscal Year 2025 Bond Issuance Resolution – Agenda Item 15, Tab 12

Ms. McConnell moved on to the FY 2025 Bond Issuance Resolution presentation.

There were no questions for Ms. McConnell following her presentation.

> **MOTION:**
> On a motion made by Mr. Margo, and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve the resolution requesting financing for $300 million in bond proceeds by the Texas Public Finance Authority in fiscal year 2025.

Biennium Legislative Appropriations Request - Agenda Item 16, Tab 13

Ms. McConnell reviewed CPRIT's legislative appropriations request (LAR) for the 2026-2027 biennium. She explained the exceptional items requested by CPRIT, including 10 additional full-time employees (FTEs) and a 10% increase in the salaries for the exempt positions of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Scientific Officer. She will present the final LAR to the audit subcommittee.

An Oversight Committee member inquired about overhead. Ms. McConnell responded that it was approximately 7%.

An Oversight Committee member inquired about the increase in FTEs requested in the LAR. Ms. McConnell explained that as CPRIT matures, there is an increased need for staff to manage growing documentation while ensuring adequate level of monitoring $1.6 billion in active grants. She also noted the increasing number of IT security threats driving the need for additional IT FTEs.

> **MOTION:**
> On a motion made by Mr. Margo, and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve the Legislative Appropriations Request for the FY 2026 – 2027 biennium.

Contract Approvals – Agenda Item 17, Tab 14

Ms. McConnell presented the proposed FY 2025 contract renewal for the grant management support services contract with General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT) for $10.9 million.

In response to an Oversight Committee member's question, Ms. McConnell confirmed that GDIT is the sole provider of these services.

MOTION:
On a motion by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Patel, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve the contract with GDIT for an amount not to exceed $10,892,677 in FY 2025.

Communication Report – Agenda Item 18, Tab 15

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized Communications Director Mark Loeffler to present his report. Mr. Loeffler updated the committee members on communications activities.

There were no questions for Mr. Loeffler.

An Oversight Committee member thanked the communications team for the daily emails.

Chief Scientific Officer Report and Grant Recommendations – Agenda Item 7, Tab 4

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized Dr. Le Beau to provide the Academic Research Program update and introduce the Program Integration Committee's Grant Award recommendations.

During Dr. Le Beau's presentation the building's fire alarm sounded at approximately 9:09 a.m. Building personnel directed all meeting participants and attendees to leave the premises immediately. Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings temporarily recessed the meeting. Building personnel discontinued the alarm at approximately 9:18 a.m. and Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings reconvened the Oversight Committee meeting at 9:21 a.m. with all members present except Dr. Hernandez.

Dr. Le Beau directed Oversight Committee members to Table 1 on page 4 of the Proposed Grant Awards Book which displayed the Scientific Review Council (SRC) and Program Integration Committee (PIC) recommendations for the FY2024 Recruitment cycles 24.6, 24.7, 24.8 and 24.9, which includes three slates comprised of 10 recommended awards totaling $31,998,639 as displayed in Table 1. Dr. Le Beau provided an overview of the recommended awards.

Recruitment cycles 24.6, 24.7, 24.8 and 24.9

Rank	ID	Award	Score	PI	Grantee	Budget
1	RR240017	REI	1.0	Thomas Milner, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$6,000,000
2	RR240060	RFTFM	1.0	Isaac Fianu, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000

3	RR240024	REI	1.0	Radek Skoda, M.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	$6,000,000
4	RR240035	RRS	1.1	Susan Bullman, Ph.D.	The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center	$4,000,000
5	RR240042	RFTFM	1.4	Maria Falzone, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	$2,000,000
6	RR240063	RFTFM	1.7	Lauren Hagler, Ph.D.	Texas A&M University	$1,998,639
7	RR240037	RRS	1.7	Oren Rom, Ph.D.	The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center	$4,000,000
8	RR240051	RFTFM	2.0	Claudia Yun Wei, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000
9	RR240057	RFTFM	2.0	Andrew Weems, Ph.D.	The University of Texas at Austin	$2,000,000
10	RR240039	RFTFM	2.0	Richard Voit, M.D., Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	$2,000,000

IIRA - Individual Investigator Research Awards
IIRACCA - Individual Investigator Research Awards for Cancer in Children and Adolescents
IIRACSBC - Individual Investigator Research Awards for Computational Systems Biology of Cancer
IIRACT - Individual Investigator Research Awards for Clinical Translation
IIRAP - Individual Investigator Research Awards for Prevention and Early Detection
REI - Recruitment of Established Investigators
RRS - Recruitment of Rising Stars
RFTFM - Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members

Dr. Cummings and the Oversight Committee members thanked Dr. Le Beau for the updates.

An Oversight Committee member inquired about the two recruits that withdrew their applications. Dr. Le Beau responded that the candidates accepted positions at other institutions likely due to family and/or monetary reasons.

An Oversight Committee member remarked on the extraordinary nature of the recruits. He commented on the large amount of data that CPRIT-funded researchers have already generated and inquired about whether CPRIT was considering opportunities to mine the data. Dr. Le Beau agreed and stated CPRIT hopes to be able to recruit a data scientist to do.

Approval Process - Academic Research Awards

Compliance Certification and Conflict of Interest Notification

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings reminded members that Mr. Burgess previously certified compliance of the academic research awards process. He confirmed that no members reported a conflict with the 10 award recommendations presented for consideration.

MOTION:
On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve the PIC's recommendations for the 10 recruitment awards.

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

Academic Research Proposed FY 2025 RFAs Approval (FY25.1)

Dr. Le Beau provided an overview of the Proposed Academic Research Fiscal Year 2025 Cycle 1 Recruitment RFAs. She stated that the award amounts would remain the same for each award.

MOTION:
On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve the three proposed FY2025 RFAs.

Proposal to Allow Supplemental Funds for Research Training Award Grantees

Dr. Le Beau presented a Mr. Roberts' recommendation to increase the approved budgets for six Research Training Award grantees by a total of $1,164,382 to remain competitive at recruiting and retaining the best candidates.

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings noted for the record that CPRIT confirmed that no member previously reported conflicts of interest for any of the approved grants proposed for supplemental funding.

MOTION:
On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve Mr. Roberts' recommendation to increase the budgets for following Academic Research grants by the amounts included in his recommendation: RP210027, RP210028, RP210046, RP210041, RP210042, and RP210045.

Chief Product Development Officer Report and Grant Recommendations – Agenda Item 9, Tab 6

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings recognized Chief Product Development Officer Dr. Ken Smith to provide the product development program update and present the Program Integration Committee's grant award recommendations.

Dr. Smith update members on the product development program activities, presented the six recommended awards totaling $19.77 million, and provided an overview of the recommended awards.

Rank	ID	Award	Score	Application Title	PI	Grantee	Budget
1	DP240240	SEED	2.0	CBB-120, a next-generation dual-payload antibody-drug conjugate for the treatment of TROP-2+ solid tumors	Torres, Michael J	Crossbridge Bio, Inc.	$2,575,275
2	DP240248	SEED	2.1	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
3	DP240244	TTC	2.3	7HP935, an integrin agonist, to augment hematopoietic stem cell transplant for the treatment of hematologic malignancies	Lewis, Lionel	7 Hills Pharma Inc.	$4,700,000
4	DP240243	TTC	2.5	Phase 1 Trial of Highly Potent Allogeneic G-NK Cells for Treatment of Multiple Myeloma and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	Frohlich, Mark	Indapta Therapeutics	$4,500,000
5	DP240239	SEED	3.0	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
6	DP240245	SEED	3.3	Development of the Ultimate Surgical Sensing System for Intraoperative Tissue Sensing and Surgical Guidance	Wiseman, Justin	MS Pen Technologies, Inc.	$2,690,800

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

An Oversight Committee member asked if relocation grant requests have decreased overall. Dr. Smith responded that he while did not know the exact number, there is a growing number of biotech companies interested in relocating to Texas as well as an increase in the Texas-based companies applying for grants. He thought that one factor for the elevated level of interest is the ongoing promotion of CPRIT's Product Development Research program.

MOTION:
On a motion made by Mr. Margo and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld, the Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve the PIC's six grant recommendations for the

following Product Development Research grant applications: DP240240, DP240248, DP240244, DP240243, DP240239, and DP240245.

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

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings reminded members that Mr. Roberts notified the Oversight Committee on May 9, 2024, that he seeks authority to disburse grant funds in advance to the six companies the board approved for awards.

MOTION:
On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee, pursuant to the General Appropriations Act, Article IX, Section 4.02(a), voted unanimously to approve the disbursement of grant funds via advance payments upon execution of the award contract and the successful completion of tranches to the six companies approved for awards.

Advisory Committees – Item 12, Tab 9

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings asked Mr. Roberts to present the Presiding Officer's new appointments to the Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancer and the Prevention Advisory Committee. Mr. Roberts presented Amir Mian, M.D., MBA, as the proposed appointment to the Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancer and Ashley Dedmon, MPH, CHES, as the proposed appointment to the Prevention Advisory Committee.

There were no questions for Mr. Roberts.

MOTION:
On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve the two Advisory Committee appointments.

<u>Advisory Committee Annual Report presentation</u>

Dr. Le Beau introduced Dr. Carlos Arteaga, director of The University of Texas Southwestern Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center and professor of medicine, to present the University Advisory Committee (UAC) Annual Report.

Following Dr. Arteaga's presentation, an Oversight Committee member thanked him for his work and in reference to the number of patents shown on one of the slides, the Oversight Committee member commented on the idea of developing a portfolio of all researchers, to identify areas of constructive collaboration.

Another Oversight Committee member appreciated the presentation and highlighted the return on investment data, which shows magnificent work by all investigators. The member asked

whether a grantee or CPRIT employee may present the data to AACR or other venues to let others know about CPRIT-funded work in Texas. The member also inquired whether there could there be a mechanism by which there was a standard approval mechanism for clinical trials, some type of statewide approval of a study to move things along faster. Dr. Arteaga responded with the example of the clinical trial network award that has mechanisms built in to make things more efficient, including Single IRB approval and uniform SOPs. This could potentially be expanded to other areas of the state.

An Oversight Committee member thanked Dr. Arteaga and asked whether he was referring to the number of patents filed or granted. Dr. Le Beau confirmed that it was applications filed.

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings thanked Dr. Arteaga and the University Advisory Committee for the presentation and the work that they do on behalf of CPRIT.

Internal Audit Report – Agenda Item 10, Tab 7

Daniel Graves is a partner with Weaver and Tidwell, CPRIT's internal audit contractor. He provided a status update and presented the Internal Audit Follow-Up Procedures Report over Purchasing Compliance and the Internal Audit Report over Internal Compliance.

> **MOTION:**
> On a motion by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve the two internal audit reports.

Personnel – Chief Executive Officer – Agenda Item 19

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings commented that this is Mr. Roberts' last meeting as Chief Executive Officer. "He has been a remarkable advocate for CPRIT's mission. I know that I speak for my colleagues on the board and for CPRIT staff that we will miss him and his tremendous work on behalf of Texans."
Before going into closed session, CPRIT played a video recognizing Mr. Roberts' service. Following the video, Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings presented Mr. Roberts with Governor Abbott's proclamation acknowledging Mr. Roberts' 50 years of government service. Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings then read the following Oversight Committee resolution into the record:

WHEREAS, Wayne R. Roberts has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas since December 21, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roberts worked selflessly for and on behalf of CPRIT, giving his time, reputation, wisdom, expertise, and energy to extend lives and improve the health of Texans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roberts earned the respect and admiration of the Oversight Committee, his CPRIT colleagues, and the greater cancer research and prevention community through his dedication to expanding the life science industry in Texas, fostering innovations for medical breakthroughs in cancer prevention and cures, and championing cancer research in Texas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roberts was instrumental in restoring the Texas Legislature's confidence in the agency and ensuring passage of Proposition 6 in November 2019, which provided an additional $3 billion to accelerate the momentum in the state's historic fight against cancer through the next decade; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roberts provided steadfast and unerring leadership in carrying out CPRIT's mission, following his oft-repeated mantra that the agency will adhere to the Texas Constitution and state law; document that adherence; and do so as transparently as possible; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Roberts' guidance, CPRIT awarded 1,364 academic research, product development research and prevention grants totaling $2.85 billion to more than 100 institutions, companies, and community organizations throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roberts faithfully performed the duties of his position with equanimity, persistence, integrity, and good humor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT the Oversight Committee of CPRIT hereby recognizes Wayne R. Roberts for his distinguished service to the citizens of the State of Texas, and expresses its gratitude for his many and lasting contributions to CPRIT; and be it further

RESOLVED, THAT an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Mr. Roberts as an expression of high regard by Oversight Committee members and CPRIT staff.

On a motion by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee unanimously approved the honorary resolution.

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings announced the committee would go into closed session at 10:51 a.m. pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.074 to discuss personnel action related to the Chief Executive Officer. He requested that Mr. Roberts and Ms. Lisa Nelson to join the members in closed session.

The Board reconvened in open session at 11:22 a.m.

MOTION:
On a motion by Mr. Montgomery, seconded by Mr. Margo, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve Kristen Doyle as the new CEO.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items – Agenda Item 23

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings announced that the board will not discuss standing agenda items 20, 21 or 22. With regard to agenda item 23, he reminded members that the next regular Oversight Committee meeting will occur August 21, 2024.

Adjournment – Agenda Item 24

MOTION:
There being no further business, the Oversight Committee voted unanimously to approve Presiding Chair Dr. Cummings's motion to adjourn, which Dr. Hernandez seconded.

Presiding Officer Dr. Cummings adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

_____ _____

Signature Date

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	KRISTEN DOYLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT
DATE:	AUGUST 13, 2024

The Chief Executive Officer Report presented at the August 21 Oversight Committee meeting will include a brief update on grant funds available and personnel. I may add other items as warranted. For your reference, I have included copies of the May/June 2024 and July 2024 CPRIT Activity Updates behind this memo.

FY 2024 Grant Awards Funds Available and CPRIT Dashboard (Attachments 1 and 2)

As shown in Attachment 1, if the Oversight Committee approves the Academic Research awards at the Program Integration Committee's recommended level of $ $60.6 million, we will have $3.2 million unawarded in FY 2024. This balance remains with the agency for use in later fiscal years through legislative appropriation

Attachment 2 is CPRIT's dashboard of metrics that we track on a regular basis.

Personnel

CPRIT has filled 48 full-time equivalent positions. We are actively working to fill the General Counsel and Chief Financial Officer positions.

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CPRIT has awarded **1,982** grants totaling **$3.59 billion.**

- 303 prevention awards totaling $380.7 million
- 1,679 academic research and product development research awards totaling $3.21 billion

Of the $3.21 billion in academic research and product development research awards,

- 32.2% of the funding ($1.03 billion) supports clinical research projects
- 23.3% of the funding ($748.7 million) supports translational research projects
- 29.7% of funding ($955.4 million) supports recruitment awards
- 12.0% of the funding ($384.2 million) supports discovery stage research projects
- 2.8% of funding ($90.4 million) supports training programs.

CPRIT has three open Requests for Applications (RFAs)

- 3 Academic Research Recruitment

FY 2024 GRANT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE

General Obligation Bond Proceeds

	Prevention	Academic / Product Development Research	1% Grant Funding Buffer	Operating Budget	Total Appropriations
Available Appropriated Funds	$ 27,478,429	$ 251,369,432		$ 21,152,139	$ 300,000,000
Adjustment to Operating Budget		$ -		$ 305,000	
Appropriations Transfer to DSHS		$ (3,118,032)		$ 3,118,032	
Adjusted Appropriations	$ 27,478,429	$ 247,946,400		$ 24,575,171	$ 300,000,000
Total Available for All Grants			$ 275,729,829		
1% of Total Available Grant Funding			$ 2,757,298		
Adjusted Grant Award Funding	27,478,429	$ 245,494,102			$ 272,972,531

	Prevention Grants	Academic Research Grants	PD Research Grants			
Total Available for Grant Awards (Total GO Bond Proceeds Less Operating Budget)	$ 27,478,429	$ 173,775,980	$ 74,475,420			$ 275,729,829
Total Available for Grant Awards Incorporating 1% Grant Funding Buffer	$ 27,478,429	$ 171,845,871	$ 73,648,231			$ 272,972,531
Announced Grant Awards						
11/15/23 ACR Recruitment Awards (2)	$ -	$ 7,990,000	$ -			
11/15/23 PDR Company Grant Awards (6)	$ -	$ -	$ 55,206,634			
2/21/24 ACR Recruitment Awards (7)	$ -	$ 26,000,000	$ -			
2/21/24 ACR IIR Awards (Multi-Category, 39)	$ -	$ 46,689,675	$ -			
2/21/24 Prevention Grant Awards (12)	$ 25,902,480	$ -	$ -			
5/15/24 ACR Recruitment Awards (10)	$ -	$ 31,998,639	$ -			
5/15/24 ACR Supplements to FY21 Research Training Awards (6)	$ -	$ 1,164,382	$ -			
5/15/24 PDR Company Grant Awards (6)	$ -	$ -	$ 19,765,655			
Announced Grant Award Subtotal	$ 25,902,480	$ 113,842,696	$ 74,972,289	$ -		$ 214,717,465
Grant Award Adjustments						
3/6/24 Declined IIRA (UTMDA-Kopetz)	$ -	$ (1,043,909)	$ -			$ (1,043,909)
7/12/24 Declined Recruitment (UTSW-Fianu)	$ -	$ (2,000,000)	$ -			$ (2,000,000)
7/25/24 ACR IIRA Reduction (UTMDA-Ludwig)	$ -	$ (33,681)	$ -			$ (33,681)
						$ -
Revised Grant Award Subtotal	$ 25,902,480	$ 110,765,106	$ 74,972,289			$ 211,639,875
Available Funds as of July 30, 2024	$ 1,575,949	$ 61,080,765	$ (1,324,058)			$ 61,332,656
Pending Grant Awards-PIC Recommendations						
ACR Recruitment Awards (4)	$ -	$ 8,000,000	$ -			
ACR Clinical Investigator Awards (6)	$ -	$ 6,624,889	$ -			
ACR Core Facility Awards (9)	$ -	$ 20,595,792	$ -			
ACR High-Impact/High-Risk Awards (12)	$ -	$ 2,998,030	$ -			
ACR Multi-Investigator Research Awards (5)	$ -	$ 22,359,211	$ -			
ACR Supplement to FY21 Research Training Awards (1)	$ -	$ 49,157	$ -			
Pending Award Subtotal	$ -	$ 60,627,079	$ -			$ 60,627,079
Rebudget of PRV Funds to PDR and Operations	$ (1,575,949)	$ -	$ 1,270,949			
Rebudget of ACR Funds to Operations	$ -	$ (53,109)	$ 53,109			
Adjusted Available Funds as of July 30, 2024	$ -	$ 400,577	$ (0)			$ 400,577
1% Grant Funding Buffer	$ -	$ 1,930,109	$ 827,189			$ 2,757,298
Total Remaining Funds	$ -	$ 2,330,686	$ 827,189			$ 3,157,875

Operating Budget Detail		
Indirect Administration	$ 5,095,893	
Grant Review & Award Operations	$ 16,178,895	
Salary Adjustment	$ 182,351	
Subtotal, CPRIT Operating Costs	$ 21,457,139	7%
Cancer Registry Operating Cost Transfer	$ 3,118,032	
Total, Operating Costs	24,575,171	8%

CPRIT MANAGEMENT DASHBOARD
FISCAL YEAR 2024

	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	CUMULATIVE (ANNUAL)	CUMULATIVE (TO DATE)
ACCOUNTABILITY														
Announced Grant Awards	0		8			46			17				71	
New Grant Contracts Signed	7	11	3	3	3	1	7	33	10	8	9		95	
New Grant Contracts In Negotiation			12			26			12				50	
Grant Reimbursements Processed (#)	158	169	150	180	151	155	175	163	173	195	176		1845	
Grant Reimbursements Processed ($)	$ 21,014,507	$ 20,145,254	$ 12,238,992	$ 21,326,886	$ 24,511,438	$ 17,776,613	$ 20,891,726	$ 29,758,929	$ 13,836,090	$ 30,261,680	$ 27,737,710		$ 239,499,824	
Revenue Sharing Payments Received	$ 3,250	$ 33,193	$ 104,746	$ 4,991	$ 9,041	$ 139,291	$ 107,094	$ 17,331	$ 157,027	$ 2,000	$ 1,250		$ 579,213	$ 10,227,809
Grants Awarded (#)/ Applications Rec'd	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%			
Grantee Compliance Trainings	2	3	1	5	0	3	3	3	2	3	5		30	
Grantee Compliance Monitoring Visits	0	0	3	3	4	3	4	4	5	4	5		35	
Awards with Delinquent Reimbursement Submission (FSR)			0			5			2					
Awards with Delinquent Matching Funds Verification			1			9			3					
Awards with Delinquent Progress Report Submission			4			1			2					
MISSION														
Open RFAs	3	7	7	11	11	7	13	14	15	14	7			
Prevention Applications Received	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0		24	1,041
Product Development Preliminary Applications Received	0	0	0	63	0	0	0	0	94	0	0		157	293
Product Development Full Applications Received	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	22		37	712
Academic Research Applications	4	5	4	5	3	4	17	0	0	357	0		399	9,455
Help Desk Calls/Emails	122	67	105	201	124	135	127	172	225	135	141		1,554	
Number of Research Grants Announced (Annual)	0		2			46			11				59	
Recruited Scientists Contracted														310
Number of Product Development Grants Announced (Annual)	0		6			0			6				12	
Life Science Companies Recruited (in TX)														17
Number of Product Development Jobs Created & Maintained														1,482
Number of Prevention Grants Announced (Annual)			0			12			0				12	
Total Number of Education, Navigation and Training Services			147,203			156,011			172,412				475,626	
Total Number of Clinical Services			48,417			47,192			56,425				152,034	
Published Articles on CPRIT-Funded Projects (#)														
Clinical Studies (#)														273
Number of Patent Applications														
Number of Patents Resulting from Research														
TRANSPARENCY														
Total Website Hits (Sessions)	14,201	11,483	12,185	8,573	10,662	17,242	11,718	14,675	14,504	9,888	9,099			
Total Unique Visitors to Website (Users)	10,307	7,533	7,892	5,470	6,913	11,373	7,562	9,061	8,796	6,218	6,041			

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MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	WAYNE R. ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT:	CPRIT ACTIVITIES UPDATE FOR MAY AND JUNE 2024
DATE:	JUNE 29, 2024

Topics in this memo address CPRIT activities in May and June, recent milestones in our fight against cancer, a staffing summary, outreach efforts, the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services' interim charge, and updates from Compliance, Programs, and Operations.

This report is my last as CPRIT's Chief Executive Officer. Kristen Doyle will resume these monthly activities reports as your new CEO in July.

Recent Milestones in the Fight Against Cancer

CPRIT Grantees in the News

- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) announced on May 1 the election of CPRIT grantee Sharon Dent, Ph.D., professor, Department of Epigenetics and Molecular Carcinogenesis, and dean of the MD Anderson UTHealth Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Dent is a global leader in the field of chromatin research, whose foundational work has helped define the role of chromatin in cancer growth and development.

  Dr. Dent is one of 144 members elected this year in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. The NAS, established in 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln, is a private, nonprofit society of distinguished scholars engaged in scientific and engineering research. With her election, Dr. Dent joins eight previously elected MD Anderson scientists in the NAS.

  Dr. Dent's work is in the field of epigenetics, which studies how human behaviors and the environment cause changes that affect genes and lead to inherited traits without changing the DNA sequence. Most of the work in the Dent laboratory focuses on understanding the role of chromatin and chromatin-modifying proteins in regulating gene expression, genome integrity and other essential cellular processes. Chromatin is a mixture of DNA and histone proteins that form our chromosomes. Unlike genetic mutations, epigenetic changes are reversible, and therapies that modify epigenetic changes are effective in some forms of cancer, particularly blood cancers.

CPRIT awarded MD Anderson and Dr. Dent four Academic Research awards (RP101230, RP100429, RP110471-AC, RP110471-P1) totaling $4.8 million since 2010.

- Researchers from The University of Texas at Austin, including Michael Pignone, M.D., MPH, affiliate faculty member in the Department of Population Health, and Navkiran K. Shokar, M.D., MPH, professor and chair, Department of Population Health, and program lead, Cancer Prevention & Control Research Program, published the results of their work on modeling the costs and potential effect of implementing a state-wide mailed FIT screening program for colorectal cancer at federally qualified health centers in Texas in the CDC's *Preventing Chronic Disease* on May 2. Results show that practitioners can implement a state-wide program at reasonable cost that increases colorectal cancer screening outcomes.

  CPRIT awarded UT Austin and Dr. Pignone two prevention grants (PP170082, PP210045) totaling $2.6 million in 2017 and 2021.

- On May 2, Dallas Innovates, the Dallas Regional Chamber, and Dallas AI released the inaugural "AI 75" list honoring the most significant people in artificial intelligence (AI) in Dallas-Fort Worth. The list named Guanghua Xiao, Ph.D., a professor in the Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health, Biomedical Engineering, and the Lyda Hill Department of Bioinformatics at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, as an honoree in the "Biomedical Bard" category.

  Dr. Xiao has made significant contributions to the field of medical AI, particularly in the application of AI to advanced image analysis and digital pathology, and the development of bioinformatics tools and AI models that enhance cancer understanding and treatment. His key contributions have included developing an AI model called Ceograph, for analyzing cells in tissue samples to predict cancer outcomes and helping develop the ConvPath software tool.

  CPRIT awarded UT Southwestern and Dr. Xiao an $885,000 CPRIT individual Investigator in Research Award in Computation Biology (RP190107) in 2019 to support this project, which uses AI to identify cancer cells from lung cancer pathology images. UT Southwestern and Dr. Xiao also received a $1.3 million CPRIT Individual Investigator Award in Childhood and Adolescent Cancers (RP230330) in 2023 for a project that uses AI to integrate data from histological images and genomic sequencing data to study rhabdosarcomas in children.

- In a study reported in *Vaccines* on May 8, Ross Shegog, Ph.D., professor, Center for Health Promotion and Prevention Research at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and colleagues demonstrated that their Adolescent Vaccination Program (AVP), a clinic-based, multi-level, multi-component intervention program, effectively increased HPV vaccination initiation in a five-clinic pediatric network in Bexar County.

  CPRIT awarded UT Health Houston and Dr. Shegog three prevention grants (PP180089, PP190041, PP240041) totaling $3.4 million since 2018 to expand the AVP program. UT

Health Houston previously received two CPRIT grants (PP1401183, RP150014) totaling $3.2 million to create and extend the AVP program in 2014 and 2015.

- On May 9, Perimeter Medical Imaging, Inc., a commercial-stage medical technology company, announced key milestones for the first quarter 2024. They reported placements of its flagship Perimeter S-Series OCT system at three new hospital sites, including two additional follow-on placements in North Texas within a leading national healthcare system. Perimeter exceeded their patient enrollment goal for its ongoing pivotal clinical trial to evaluate their AI technology during breast-conserving surgeries.

  CPRIT awarded the Dallas and Toronto-based company a $7.4 million product development research grant (DP190087) in 2019 to develop a high-resolution imaging device that works with AI algorithms to allow surgeons to determine clean margins quickly and accurately during breast conserving surgery.

- A study published in the May issue of the *Journal of Cancer Education* explored whether a specially designed video could effectively communicate the importance of colorectal cancer (CRC) screenings to people living along the U.S.-Mexico border and motivate them to get screened. According to the study's findings, after watching the video participants had a greater appreciation for their risk for CRC, felt more confident about accessing CRC screenings, and perceived more benefits for doing so. At the same time, their concerns and sense of hopelessness about CRC decreased. Jennifer Molokwu, M.D., Department of Family and Community Medicine at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, and Navkiran Shokar, M.D., MPH, chair of the Department of Population Health at The University of Texas at Austin, led this study.

  CPRIT awarded Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso and Dr. Shokar a $3.7 million Prevention grant (PP170068) in support of the Southwest Coalition for Colorectal Cancer Screening (SuCCCeS) program, and a $2.5 million Expansion of Cancer Prevention Services to Rural and Medically Underserved Populations grant (PP210005) in 2021.

- Hummingbird Bioscience presented new preclinical data highlighting their next-generation antibody-drug conjugate capabilities at the 20th Annual PEGS Boston Summit May 13-17. Data from the presentations demonstrated the ability to direct antibodies and antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) to challenging disease-associated proteins and provided details on the novel dual-payload ADC approach.

  CPRIT awarded a $13 million product development research award to Houston and Singapore-based Hummingbird Bioscience in 2019 (DP190027) to develop a first-in-class anti-VISTA monoclonal antibody to treat MDSC-mediated suppression of anti-tumor immunity in solid tumors and lymphomas.

- The May 17 issue of *Chemical & Engineering News* featured CPRIT Scholar Julian West, Ph.D., in its "2024 Talented 12" list highlighting rising stars across all chemistry research disciplines. Dr. West, an assistant professor and the Norman Hackerman-Welch Young Investigator in the Department of Chemistry at Rice University, is a synthetic chemist whose

lab designs novel chemical reactions. Drawing inspiration from biology, Dr. West's research group has found ways to simplify the production of entire libraries of feedstock chemicals for drug and chemical manufacturers. Not only are his methods more sustainable than the mainstay reactions chemical makers have relied on for decades, but they also use catalysts that are far cheaper than the gold, palladium, rhodium, and other rare-metal industry standards.

Rice University recruited Dr. West from the California Institute of Technology in 2019 with the support of a $2 million CPRIT Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members award (RR190025).

- The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) recognized researchers, patient advocates, philanthropists, teachers, and global oncology leaders who have reshaped cancer care around the world with its highest honors at the 2024 ASCO Annual Meeting held May 31-June 4. The 2024 Special Award Recipients included CPRIT grantee Sharon H. Giordano, M.D., MPH, who received the Hologic, Inc. Endowed "Women Who Conquer Cancer Mentorship Award" in recognition for her dedicated leadership and mentorship to support the development of oncology professionals.

  Dr. Giordano is a professor of medicine in the Department of Breast Medical Oncology, chair of the Department of Health Services Research, and the Colin Powell Chair for Cancer Research at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Giordano is an international leader regarding research into late and long-term effects of breast cancer treatment. She was the first to show the occurrence of late cardiac toxicity in older breast cancer patients following anthracycline chemotherapy treatment. Her research interests also include healthcare disparities and breast cancer in male patients.

  CPRIT awarded MD Anderson and Dr. Giordano two CPRIT Multi-Investigator Research awards (RP101207-P2, RP140020-P2) in 2010 and 2014 totaling $1.45 million.

- *OncLive*, the nation's leading multimedia resource for oncology professionals, named the inductees of its 12th Annual "Giants of Cancer Care" recognition program on May 30. The Giants of Cancer Care program honors the accomplishments of leading researchers and educators whose discoveries have propelled oncology research and clinical practice and set the groundwork for future advancements.

  This year's inductees include CPRIT grantee Guillermo Garcia-Manero, M.D., a professor and chief, Section of Myelodysplastic Syndromes in the Department of Leukemia, Division of Cancer Medicine at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Garcia-Manero's work focuses on developing and validating new drugs to treat myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) and acute myeloid leukemia. He currently leads one of the largest MDS programs in the world and directs the MDS/AML Moon Shot program at MD Anderson.

  CPRIT awarded MD Anderson and Dr. Garcia-Manero two Individual Investigator Research Awards totaling $1.67 million (RP100202, RP140500) in 2010 and 2014 to support his MDS research.

- The American-Italian Cancer Foundation (AICF) announced June 1 that CPRIT grantee Giulio F. Draetta, M.D., Ph.D., will receive the 2024 Prize for Scientific Excellence in Medicine in the Basic Science Category. The AICF awards recognize the year's most important discoveries in cancer biology, prevention, diagnosis, and/or treatment. Dr. Draetta is senior vice president and chief scientific officer at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and holds appointments as professor of Genomic Medicine and the Sewell Family Distinguished University Chair. Dr. Draetta investigates the molecular mechanisms that support cancer maintenance and tumor progression in pancreatic and brain cancers.

  CPRIT awarded MD Anderson and Dr. Draetta two grants totaling $1.1 million (RP160471, RP170722) in 2016 and 2017. Dr. Draetta also serves as the faculty mentor for the $1.5 million CPRIT Early Clinical Investigator Award to MD Anderson and Dr. Christopher Alvarez-Breckenridge (RP220544).

- On June 3, Molecular Templates, Inc., reported promising single-agent activity from their product MT-6402 (PD-L1-targeting ETB) in patients who previously progressed and patients with head and neck squamous cell carcinoma enrolled in their Phase 1 dose escalation. To date, MT-6402 appears to be generally well-tolerated, with no drug-related adverse events exceeding grade 3.

  Engineered Toxin Bodies (ETBs) are a type of biopharmaceutical designed to target and kill cancer cells. Scientists create ETBs by fusing a targeting component, often an antibody or antibody fragment, with a bacterial toxin. This combination allows ETBs to specifically recognize and bind to cancer cells, delivering the toxin directly to these cells and killing them. ETBs improve the effectiveness of cancer therapies while minimizing damage to healthy tissues. CPRIT awarded Austin-based Molecular Templates two CPRIT Product Development awards totaling $28.8 million (CC121020, DP160071) in 2012 and 2016 to develop ETB drug candidates.

- The National Academy of Inventors released its annual "Top 100 U.S. Universities List" on June 17 that ranked several CPRIT grantee institutions among the most innovative universities. The annual ranking recognizes U.S. universities that play a significant role in advancing innovation and invention in the United States. The UT System ranked third on the list, with 235 U.S. utility patents granted in the 2023 calendar year, 10 more than in 2022. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) grants utility patents for inventing a new or improved and useful process, product, or machine. These patents are important for work completed at universities because they lay the groundwork for scientific advancement.

  Other CPRIT grantee institutions recognized for their innovation included Texas A&M University System (30th, 66 utility patents), the University of Houston System (64th, 27 utility patents), Texas Tech University System (75th, 20 utility patents,) Baylor University (81st, 17 utility patents), the University of North Texas (91st, 15 utility patents), and Rice University (94th, 14 utility patents). The University of California system ranked first with 546 patents and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology ranked second with 365 patents.

- Rice University and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center announced June 27 the creation of the Cancer Bioengineering Collaborative to develop innovative technologies and bioengineering approaches to improve cancer research, diagnosis and treatment. Led by CPRIT Scholar Gang Bao, Ph.D., (Rice University) and Jeffrey Molldrem, M.D., (MD Anderson), the initiative will foster collaboration between the two institutions on fundamental and translational cancer research to develop new technologies for cancer detection and therapy and to secure external funding for further research and training.

  Envisioned as a hub for accelerating the journey from laboratory research to clinical application, the Cancer Bioengineering Collaborative leverages the two institutions' complementary strengths to drive discovery and innovation in five key research areas:

  - Cell therapies: Developing more effective cell-based immunotherapies, including chimeric antigen receptor- and T cell receptor-based approaches.
  - Nanotechnologies: Using nanoparticles for targeted cancer detection and therapy.
  - Cancer vaccines: Incorporating advanced biomaterials, synthetic biology and nanoparticle delivery systems to develop therapeutic cancer vaccines.
  - Artificial intelligence: Leveraging advanced computing tools for high-precision analysis of samples to identify new targets and inform therapeutic design.
  - Molecular imaging: Deploying advanced molecular imaging techniques to enhance diagnostic and therapeutic tools.

  Rice University recruited Dr. Bao from Georgia Institute of Technology & Emory University in 2014 (RR140081) with a $6 million Established Investigator Recruitment grant. CPRIT has subsequently awarded Rice and Dr. Bao three grants (RP170721, RP210116, RP220518) totaling $5.2 million since 2017.

Notable CPRIT-Supported Research and Prevention Accomplishments

- **ChatGPT May Facilitate Cancer Research**. According to a new study conducted by researchers at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, ChatGPT, the artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot designed to assist with language-based tasks, effectively extracts data from physicians' clinical notes for research purposes. Their findings, published on May 1 in *NPJ Digital Medicine*, could significantly accelerate clinical research and lead to new innovations in computerized clinical decision-making aids and, ultimately, enhance patient outcomes.

  Led by Yang Xie, Ph.D., professor in the Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health and the Lyda Hill Department of Bioinformatics, associate dean of Data Sciences, and director of the Quantitative Biomedical Research Center, the research team developed a large language model-based workflow, leveraging OpenAI's application programming interface for batch querying ChatGPT. Using a dataset of more than 1,000 lung cancer pathology reports and a dataset of 191 pediatric osteosarcoma pathology reports, they compared the output from ChatGPT-3.5 with structured data curated by medical experts to analyze how ChatGPT reads and interprets clinical notes, and why it makes mistakes in some cases. The results showed

that ChatGPT-3.5 extracted pathological classifications with an overall accuracy of 89% in the lung cancer dataset. This accuracy was significantly better than other traditional natural language processing methods. The researchers also documented that most of the misclassifications made by ChatGPT were due to the lack of highly specialized pathology terminology and erroneous interpretation of tumor size-lymph nodes-metastasis staging rules. In the pediatric osteosarcoma dataset, ChatGPT-3.5 performed even better - classifying grades and margin status with accuracy rates of 98.6% and 100%, respectively.

This study demonstrates the feasibility of using ChatGPT or other large language models to extract structured data from clinical notes, which will aid decision making and expedite clinical research, as well as facilitate clinical trial enrollment by matching patients' information to clinical trial protocols.

CPRIT awarded UT Southwestern and Dr. Xie a $5.4 million grant (RP180805) in 2018 to establish the Pediatric Cancer Data Core, and a $750,000 Multi-Investigator Research Award grant (RP120732-C2) for the Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, and Database Core in 2012.

- **Hope for Improving Smoking Cessation Rates After Previous Unsuccessful Attempts.** Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death and disease in the U.S., with 480,000 Americans dying from tobacco-related illnesses every year. National surveys suggest that nearly 70% of people who smoke want to quit smoking, and 55% report having made serious attempts to quit. However, less than 8% succeed and most require multiple quit attempts to achieve long-term success. Clinicians currently lack evidence for successful treatment strategies for people who have tried and failed to quit smoking multiple times.

  A study published on May 2 in *JAMA* addresses this issue, showing that smokers who failed to quit initially with varenicline (a drug that acts as a nicotine receptor agonist and reduces cravings and withdrawal symptoms) were seven times more likely to quit on subsequent attempts if their doctors increased their varenicline doses. The study also showed a nearly two-fold increase in those who successfully quit if they switched from a combined nicotine replacement therapy (CNRT) regimen to varenicline. Compared to the near zero chance of abstinence seen in patients who switched from varenicline to CNRT, these favorable results are significant.

  Led by Paul Cinciripini, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Behavioral Science, and the Margaret and Ben Love Chair in Clinical Cancer Care at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, the double-blind, placebo-controlled, sequential multiple assignment randomized trial enrolled 490 volunteers who smoked an average of 20 cigarettes per day. The researchers randomly assigned participants to receive six weeks of varenicline or CNRT (via nicotine patch and lozenge). After six weeks, the researchers randomly reassigned individuals who continued to smoke to one of three groups for a second six-week interval: 1.) those who stayed with their initial therapies on the original dosage levels, 2.) those who switched between varenicline and CNRT, or 3.) those who increased their original dosage levels for varenicline or CNRT nicotine patch and lozenges. All participants received weekly counseling.

For individuals who smoked but did not quit after initial treatment with varenicline, the researchers showed that increasing the dosage raised the likelihood of quitting versus continuing with the original lower dose. Similarly, study participants initially treated with CNRT who increased their dosage or switched to varenicline improved their chances of quitting. This study provides clinicians with guidance on the best rescue strategies for people who cannot stop smoking following an initial quit attempt. In a larger ongoing trial, the researchers are evaluating several different medication combinations as an alternative for those unable to quit on their initial doses of varenicline or CNRT.

CPRIT awarded MD Anderson and Dr. Cinciripini a $1.5 million Individual Investigator Research Award in Prevention and Early Detection grant (RP150228) in 2015 to support this trial.

- **Expediting Cancer Drug Discovery Through Optimization of Natural Products via Synthetic Chemistry.** Synthetic chemistry, which creates new chemical compounds through controlled chemical reactions, involves designing and constructing complex molecules from simpler ones, often mimicking or modifying natural compounds to develop new substances with desired properties. A study by CPRIT Scholar Hans Renata, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Chemistry, and his team at Rice University has made significant progress in speeding up cancer drug discovery by improving the way scientists create natural products using synthetic chemistry. The research, published on May 6 in *Nature Chemistry*, introduces a new method that combines organic chemistry with enzyme reactions to create a group of natural compounds produced by fungi on almond and peach trees called fusicoccanes. These compounds are important because they can interact within cells, which is crucial for processes like cell signaling in both normal and cancer cells.

  Using their new method, the team successfully synthesized 10 different fusicoccanes in as few as eight to thirteen steps. They also used additional enzyme strategies to create other variations of these compounds. Although they faced challenges with unstable enzymes causing unwanted side products, the research team addressed this issue by developing more enzymes specifically for their process that were more predictable.

  Dr. Renata's breakthrough method is a major advancement in chemical synthesis, combining modern chemistry and engineered enzymes. The newly created compounds could lead to new cancer drugs and help scientists better understand biological processes. Rice University recruited Dr. Renata from the Scripps Research Institute in 2022 with the support of a $4 million CPRIT Recruitment of Rising Stars award (RR220087).

- **Too Much of a Good Thing**. A ketogenic diet (KD), also known as a keto-friendly diet, has gained popularity over the past two decades for managing both weight loss and other health conditions. The KD is a high-fat, low-carbohydrate diet that causes the body to generate ketones, a type of chemical produced by the liver when it breaks down fats. The body uses ketones as an alternate energy source.
  While a KD is effective in treating epilepsy and may help prevent cancer and neurodegenerative diseases, it can also cause inflammation and increase the risk of heart and kidney damage. A new study led by CPRIT Scholar David Gius, M.D., Ph.D., assistant dean

of research and professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and associate cancer director for translational research at the Mays Cancer Center, identifies a biological mechanism for long-term negative effects of a KD and suggests alternative approaches to optimize its benefits.

As reported in *Science Advances* on May 17, Dr. Gius and his colleagues found that following a strict, long-term KD causes normal tissues to age prematurely, affecting heart and kidney function. Researchers linked this aging process observed in the mouse models and also seen in humans to a chain reaction in the body involving specific proteins and enzymes. However, an intermittent KD, with regular breaks, did not show these negative effects.

Interestingly, the study discovered that using a type of drug called senolytics, which targets and removes aging cells, addresses the premature aging issue in mice. Taking regular breaks from the KD also prevented the aging effects. These findings suggest that while the KD has benefits, following it with planned breaks may avoid potential long-term organ damage. This approach optimizes the diet's positive effects while minimizing risks.

UT Health San Antonio recruited Dr. Gius in 2020 with the support of a $6 million CPRIT Recruitment of Established Investigators award (RR200112).

- **A New Study Offers Hope For Children With Aggressive Brain Cancers .** Diffuse midline glioma (DMG) and other recurrent high-grade central nervous system (CNS) tumors are aggressive brain cancers found most often in children. CAR-T cell therapy, an immunotherapy that modifies a patient's own T cells to better attack cancer cells, has shown success in other cancers. However, CAR-T cell therapy has been of limited use in treating DMG and CNS tumors.

  Led by senior author Bilal Omer, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics, Department of Hematology and Oncology at Baylor College of Medicine, researchers at the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy at Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children's Hospital and Houston Methodist Hospital developed an enhanced CAR-T cell therapy targeting a protein called GD2 that DMG and CNS tumors contain in elevated amounts. Their research, published on May 21 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, shows promising results from their Phase I trial.

  The enhanced therapy, called C7R-GD2.CAR-T, includes a receptor for interleukin-7 to boost T cell activity. The trial involved patients aged 1-21 who had DMG or other recurrent GD2-expressing CNS tumors and had already undergone standard treatments like radiation or chemotherapy. The first group received the original GD2.CAR-T therapy, while later groups received the enhanced version at different doses. Researchers gave both treatments intravenously, with the enhanced therapy showing temporary improvements in neurological symptoms and increased protein levels.

  These findings suggest that C7R-GD2.CAR-T therapy is a novel approach worth exploring further for these difficult-to-treat brain cancers. The next arm of the study will look at

whether delivering the therapy directly into the spinal fluid instead of intravenously improves outcomes. Researchers will also investigate why some patients respond better to treatment and how to extend the treatment's effectiveness for all patients.

CPRIT awarded Baylor College of Medicine and Dr. Cliona Rooney a $1.5 million Individual Investigator Research Award for Clinical Trials (RP190067), and a $1.5 million Core Facility Support Grant (RP180785) to Baylor College of Medicine and Dr. Adrian Gee for the generation of cellular therapies for children and adolescents with cancer, which advanced this research.

- **What Happens When the "Guardian of the Genome" Fails.** The TP53 gene encodes the p53 protein, which plays a crucial role in regulating the cell cycle, DNA repair, and apoptosis (programmed cell death). In recognition of its role in maintaining genomic stability, scientists consider TP53 as the "guardian of the genome." The MDM2 gene produces a protein that regulates the p53 tumor suppressor protein produced by the TP53 gene, maintaining a balance that is crucial for preventing uncontrolled cell growth and cancer. Because MDM2 inhibits p53, overexpression or amplification of the MDM2 gene can lead to reduced p53 activity, allowing cells with DNA damage to survive and proliferate, which can contribute to cancer development.

  Mutations involving the TP53 gene are among the most frequent abnormalities in cancer, occurring in more than half of cancer cases. Scientists observe TP53 abnormalities in 5%–10% of myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and acute myeloid leukemia (AML) patients, but the frequency increases up to 40% in older patients or those with therapy-related myeloid malignancies. Scientists do not have a complete understanding for how TP53 mutations lead to the development of AML.

  A new study, led by senior author Michael Andreeff, M.D., Ph.D., professor of Medicine, Department of Leukemia at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, reported in *Cell Reports Medicine* on May 21, offers new insights into AML pathogenesis and potential treatment strategies. The research team engineered mice with altered Trp53 and MDM2 genes. (Trp53 is the name used for the mouse version of the TP53 gene. The functions and importance of Trp53 in mice are similar to those of TP53 in humans.) They found that reducing MDM2's ability to regulate Trp53 led to an imbalance in blood cell production, with more myeloid cells (a type of white blood cell) and fewer lymphoid cells. This imbalance contributed to the development of AML when combined with Trp53 mutations.

  The researchers also created a second mouse model to mimic a condition called clonal hematopoiesis of indeterminate potential (CHIP) that often occurs as people age and can predispose them to blood cancers. They found that the timing of the Trp53 mutation influences whether AML or lymphoma develops.

  Additionally, they discovered that blocking MDM2's activity in a specific metabolic pathway helps cells mature into myeloid cells, which are important for the immune system. These

findings provide a valuable model for understanding how TP53 mutations lead to AML and highlight potential pathways for developing new treatments for TP53-mutant AML.

CPRIT awarded MD Anderson and Dr. Andreeff a $6 million Multi-Investigator Research Awards grant (RP160693) in 2016, and a $1.2 million CPRIT Shared Instrumentation Award (RP121010) to MD Anderson's Flow Cytometry and Cellular Imaging Core facility in 2012.

- **Crowdsourcing Advances Cancer Research.** A new study co-led by CPRIT Scholar Peter Van Loo, Ph.D., sheds light on how tumors evolve from normal cells by gradually acquiring genetic changes that give them a growth advantage. Over years or decades, these changes result in a population of cancerous cells, or clones, with shared mutations. Within these clones, subclones can develop, each with their own additional mutations. Scientists link this genetic diversity within tumors, known as heterogeneity, to poorer outcomes and resistance to treatments. Understanding the specific mutations and their timing can help scientists predict the best treatments for a patient's tumor.

  Researchers have created many computer algorithms to map out the evolutionary family tree of cancer cells using DNA sequencing data. However, the various algorithms often produce divergent results. To find the most accurate algorithms, Dr. Van Loo, professor in the Department of Genetics at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and co-senior author Dr. Paul Boutros led an international effort involving experts from around the world. They formed the ICGC–TCGA DREAM Challenge, a seven-year project that used cloud computing to assess 31 algorithms on 51 simulated tumors.

  The challenge evaluated each algorithm's ability to analyze cancer cell evolution across seven different tasks, totaling over 12,000 tests. The research team found that the performance varied greatly depending on the algorithm used and the quality of the DNA sequencing data. No single algorithm was best for all seven tasks, and combining algorithms did not outperform the best individual ones, highlighting a key research gap.

  The results, published in *Nature Biotechnology* on June 11, emphasize the need for cost-effective and accurate algorithms to help doctors understand tumor evolution and make better treatment decisions. The data and findings from this challenge are now available to researchers to improve these algorithms, ultimately helping to identify small groups of cells with new mutations that may resist treatment.

  MD Anderson recruited Dr. Van Loo from the Francis Crick Institute in London in 2021 with a $6 million CPRIT Recruitment of Established Investigators award (RR210006).

- **CPRIT Early Clinical Investigator Leads Novel Clinical Trial of Combination Therapy for Hepatocellular Carcinoma.** Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the fourth leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide and is a growing concern in Texas. Doctors often diagnose HCC at an advanced stage, making effective treatments crucial. For many years doctors have used tyrosine kinase inhibitors, such as sorafenib, to treat HCC by slowing the

growth of blood vessels that feed the tumor. Recently, immune checkpoint inhibitor combinations have shown better results in treating advanced HCC, but only some patients respond to these drugs when used alone.

David Hsieh, M.D., assistant professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology and Oncology, and a member of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, explored a novel approach targeting a molecule called phosphatidylserine, which prevents immune cells from attacking tumors. He tested an antibody drug called bavituximab that neutralizes phosphatidylserine in combination with an immunotherapy drug called pembrolizumab. Researchers have never evaluated this combination before.

In a phase 2 clinical trial (NCT03519997), researchers treated 28 patients with advanced HCC receiving care at UT Southwestern and Parkland Health with the combination of bavituximab and pembrolizumab. After an average follow-up of 28.5 months, 32% of the patients responded to the treatment, with two patients showing no evidence of disease by the end of the trial. The therapy also stopped cancer progression in another 32% of the patients. Among those who responded, the tumors continued to shrink for an average of 13.3 months, with four patients still responding at the end of the trial.

The combination therapy did not increase side effects compared to pembrolizumab alone, suggesting the drug combination is safe. Researchers also observed biomarkers associated with a positive response to the treatment, including specific changes in immune cells and tumor characteristics. These findings indicate that adding bavituximab to immunotherapy could improve treatment outcomes for HCC and potentially other cancers by enhancing the immune system's ability to fight tumors.

CPRIT awarded UT Southwestern and Dr. Hsieh a $1.5 million Early Clinical Investigator award (RP200549) in 2020.

Personnel

CPRIT has filled 48 full-time equivalent positions and has several positions in progress, including a general counsel position and grant compliance specialist positions.

CPRIT Outreach

Staff outreach activities during May and June include:

- Deputy Executive Officer and General Counsel Kristen Doyle and I met with consultants hired by Lyda Hill Philanthropies on May 8 to provide information and insight regarding the Texas life science ecosystem for a report they are developing for potential future legislative and policy priorities.

- Prevention Program Manager Carlton Allen attended the Cancer Alliance of Texas May 9 meeting. He presented the updated "Goals at a Glance" for the 2024 Texas Cancer Plan.

- On May 15, Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Michelle Le Beau participated virtually in the second quarter Board Meeting of the American Cancer Society focusing on a review of the organization's fiscal landscape, Capital Campaign, and progress in advancing its mission of discovery, patient services, and advocacy.

- Academic Research Program Manager Dr. Myriam Casillas attended the CURE Distinguished Scholars May 16 webinar, "Molecular Disparities in Familial and Sporadic Gastrointestinal Cancer: A Model for a Physician-Scientist Career."

- On May 17, Dr. Le Beau, Director of Research Dr. Patty Moore, and Dr. Casillas attended the Clinical Trials Network of Texas symposium. The sponsors of the symposium, David Gerber, M.D., from The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, and Michael Overman, M.D., from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, are the principal investigators for two CPRIT Clinical Trials Network Awards. The investigators provided an overview of the UT Southwestern clinical trials network, consisting of Baylor, Scott & White at Temple and John Peter Smith Hospital, and the MD Anderson network, which includes LBJ Hospital, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Baylor, Scott & White at Round Rock, and The University of Texas at Tyler. They also presented an annual update of patient enrollment and clinical research opportunities. Symposium participants included collaborators from community health care facilities, cancer centers, and pharmaceutical companies.

- Ms. Doyle and I met with representatives of ICON, a contract research organization, on May 20 about CPRIT's award programs and opportunities to work with our research grantees. ICON contacted us because CPRIT is a "spoke" for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health's Customer Experience hub headquartered at Pegasus Park in Dallas.

- Ms. Doyle, Chief Operating Officer Heidi McConnell, and I met on May 21 with representatives of several organizations that form the Texas Cancer Coalition, a group that advocates for continued legislative support for CPRIT as well as various cancer and medically related research priorities. We provided an update on CPRIT activities.

- Ms. Doyle, Ms. McConnell, Dr. Le Beau, Chief Product Development Officer Dr. Ken Smith, and I met with Dr. David Wiseman on May 21. Dr. Wiseman is the founder and president of Synechion, Inc., a consulting and development company specializing in products for preventing postsurgical adhesions. He also established a support society for patients with surgical adhesions. In his testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services on May 14, Dr. Wiseman presented early conclusions drawn from various sources that link Covid 19 vaccines with cancer development. We discussed his presentation with him and provided information on research funding opportunities at CPRIT and CPRIT's review process.

- Ms. Doyle, Ms. McConnell, and I provided a CPRIT overview to new staff of the Senate Committee on Finance on May 28. We provided a similar overview to new staff of the Governor's Office of Budget and Policy in a separate meeting later that day.

- Ms. Doyle, Ms. McConnell, and I met with Senator Tan Parker and his legislative director on May 29 about CPRIT's programs. We also provided an update on the status of the Texas Clinical Trial Participation Award (TCTPA) grants. Senator Parker authored the legislation (HB 3147) in 2019 that authorizes CPRIT to use state funds for expenses necessary for the first of its kind TCTPA grant program. During the meeting, CPRIT discussed reimbursement and documentation issues unique to the TCTPA grants. CPRIT is working with the TCTPA grantees to reduce the administrative burden associated with patient reimbursements while maintaining appropriate fiduciary oversight of grant funds.

- On June 3-6, Ms. McConnell, Chief Product Development Officer Dr. Ken Smith, and Senior Program Manager for Product Development Dr. Abria Magee attended the BIO International Convention in San Diego. The conference connects Biotech companies with investment and funding entities to establish collaborations and strategic alliances.

- Ms. Doyle and I met with the Speaker's staff on June 4 to discuss CPRIT's planned requests for the 89th Legislature and CPRIT management changes.

- On June 6, Ms. Doyle and I attended the Texas Public Finance Authority (TPFA) board meeting. The TPFA board considered and approved CPRIT's FY 2025 bond financing request.

- Mr. Allen attended the 8th Annual Southeastern Colorectal Cancer Consortium Conference, June 8-11, which brought together a diverse group of individuals and organizations from 13 Southeast states and Puerto Rico who are working on colorectal cancer issues, including raising screening rates. He also moderated a session focused on barriers to screening.

- On June 12, Dr. Le Beau attended the National Cancer Institute Joint Meeting of the Board of Scientific Advisors and the National Cancer Advisory Board. The meeting participants reviewed the current NCI budget and initiatives and new and reissued Request for Applications and provided advice on NCI priorities. Participants also discussed initiatives to restructure the national clinical trials program and expand community-based clinical trials.

- Ms. Doyle and Ms. McConnell met with Danielle Leach and Jenny Ligon from ARPA-H on June 17. Ms. Leach is Cancer Moonshot Program Analyst and Ms. Ligon is the ARPA-H Customer Experience Hub Ecosystem Liaison. They discussed opportunities for collaboration.

- On June 20, Dr. Magee moderated the panel discussion "Leveraging Partnerships in Texas: From Fundraising to Product Development," at Lonza Biologics' inaugural "Cell and Gene Founders & Funders Event" held at Levit Green in Houston. The panel included Product Development Advisory Committee members Ann Tanabe of BioHouston and Dan Hargrove

of Texas Biotech Ventures, as well as Henri Bayle of NKILT Therapeutics, Inc., Samar Mohanty of Nanoscope Therapeutics Inc., and Serkan Eroglu of Lonza Biologics.

- CPRIT's Academic Research Program and the CPRIT Geographic Diversity Advisory Program sponsored the inaugural symposium on June 21 for TREC-eligible institutions: "Fostering Opportunities for Collaboration in Cancer Research." The day-long virtual symposium featured presentations from six TREC-eligible institutions regarding their cancer research programs, core resources and technologies, and collaborative opportunities, as well as presentations from selected junior cancer research faculty. Two keynote guest speakers from The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley made presentations. John Blangero, Ph.D., addressed genetic and environmental risk factors for liver cancer in Mexican Americans. John VandeBerg, Ph.D., presented a new experimental model for cancer research - the laboratory opossum. The conference was a valuable forum for exploring the resources and support available at TREC-eligible institutions, as well as fostering communications and collaborations among the group.

- Ms. McConnell attended the Texas State Agency Business Administrators' Association (TSABAA) Summer Conference "Innovations and Solutions for the Future" in Southlake on June 24 – 26.

- Ms. Doyle attended a dinner and networking event for life science executives in the Austin area on June 25 hosted by RSM. She discussed CPRIT's company portfolio and the Texas life science ecosystem.

- Between June 13 and June 27, Dr. Magee met with representatives from several companies to discuss CPRIT's product development research program award mechanisms and the application process. Companies included JLabs in Houston, a life-science incubator; Scorpius, a contract development and manufacturing organization advancing microbial biologic programs to the clinic; AccelQ, a cloud-based test automation platform; and Exo Biologics, a Belgium based biotech company focused on delivering cell-free and exosome therapies.

Senate Committee Interim Charge

Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick released interim study charges in April to the various Texas Senate committees. These interim charges may signal upcoming legislative priorities for the Lieutenant Governor and Senate members for the 89th Texas Legislature that convenes in January 2025.

One charge to the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services directly affects CPRIT:

> *Cancer Prevention*: Identify and recommend ways to address the growing impact of cancer on Texans by evaluating state investments in cancer prevention and screenings including, but not limited to, "CT," "MRI," and "PET" scans. Study

and make recommendations on funding adequacy for prevention efforts at the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT).

Ms. Doyle presented testimony on behalf of CPRIT as part of an invited panel on cancer prevention convened by the Senate Health & Human Services Committee on May 14. Her testimony included an overview of CPRIT, with a focus on prevention activities in both our Academic Research and Prevention programs.

Committee members asked for additional information about two issues: products brought to market that incorporate CPRIT-funded academic research and product development research results and the rise in early onset cancers. We will provide a written response on these items to the committee, as well as information responding to issues raised by other witness testimony and filed comments. Also in July, Ms. Doyle, Ms. McConnell, and Dr. Le Beau will meet with Senator Bob Hall, a member of the Health & Human Services committee to discuss the interim charge.

Compliance Program Update

Submission Status of Required Grant Recipient Reports

As of June 24, nine entities had not filed 21 academic research reports, two prevention reports, and one product development report. CPRIT's grant accountants and compliance specialists review and process incoming reports and reach out to grantees to resolve filing issues. In most cases, CPRIT does not disburse grant funds until the grantee files the required reports. In some instances, grantee institutions may be ineligible to receive a future award if the grantee does not submit required reports.

Financial Status Report Reviews

CPRIT's compliance specialists performed 333 second-level reviews of grantee Financial Status Reports (FSRs) in May and June. Fifty-eight FSRs (17%) needed resubmission due to insufficient or inaccurate documentation sent by the grantee. CPRIT's grant accounting staff completes the first review of the FSRs and supporting documentation before routing them to the compliance specialists for final review and disposition.

Desk Reviews

Compliance specialists performed four enhanced desk-based financial monitoring reviews in April. Desk reviews confirm financial, administrative, and programmatic compliance using data from CGMS/CARS with additional focus on an organization's internal controls, current and previous fiscal audits, and grantee report submission timeliness. Desk reviews also aid in the identification of potential problems and technical assistance issues for follow-up during an onsite visit, as well as areas of non-compliance and grantee performance issues. Compliance specialists have cleared all desk review findings.

Onsite Reviews

CPRIT completed nine onsite reviews in May and June. Onsite reviews are the most extensive monitoring activity conducted by CPRIT and include virtual or field visits led by compliance grant monitoring staff. CPRIT monitors the grantee's financial and administrative operations, subcontract monitoring, procurement and contracting procedures, inventory procedures, personnel policies and procedures, payroll and timesheet policies, travel policies and records, and compliance with single audits during onsite reviews. Onsite monitoring enables CPRIT compliance staff to assess a grantees' capability, performance, and compliance with applicable laws, rules, and policies. Compliance specialists are collaborating with two grantees to address onsite review findings.

Single Audit Tracking

Compliance specialists track the submission of grantees' independent audit reports and the resolution of issues named in these reports. Grantees spending $750,000 or more in state awards in the grantee's fiscal year must undertake a single independent audit, a program specific audit, or an agreed upon procedures engagement. The grantee sends the independent audit report with findings to CPRIT within 30 days of receipt, but no later than nine months after the grantee's fiscal year end.

Currently, four grantees have not submitted the required audit. Grantees are unable to receive reimbursements or advances if they are delinquent in filing the required audit and corrective action plan unless the grantee requested more time by the due date of the required audit and CPRIT's CEO approves the request. Compliance specialists are working with the grantees.

Match Expenditures Review

CPRIT requires academic research and product development research grantees to show that they have available unused funds equal to at least one-half of the CPRIT grant award that the grantee will spend on the CPRIT-funded project. This obligation, often referred to as "CPRIT's matching funds requirement," requires the grantee to first certify that it has available matching funds, and then at the end of the grant year, to verify that the grantee spent the matching funds on the project. CPRIT's statute allows an institution of higher education to use its federal indirect cost rate as a credit toward the required 50% match.

Product development grantees, as well as those academic research grantees whose indirect cost rate credit does not fully offset the required match must supply a detailed match expenditure report that includes the amount and date paid, vendor, description, and budget category. Compliance staff review grantees' match expenditures for appropriateness and allowability and work with CPRIT's grant accountants and the grantee to address any deficiencies. Compliance staff performed two annual match expenditure reviews in May and June. The total amount of match expenses reviewed by compliance staff for FY 2024 is $26,587,236.90. The unallowable match expenses for FY 2024 total $225,369.74.

Training and Support

CPRIT staff conducted two new Authorized Signing Official (ASO) training webinars in May for The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler and The University of Texas at El Paso. The ASO training covers grant reporting requirements, administrative rule changes, grant closeout, and an overview of the compliance program including fraud, waste, and abuse reporting. Pursuant to Texas Administrative Code §703.22, CPRIT requires new ASOs to complete compliance training within 60 days.

CPRIT staff conducted a series of Annual Compliance Training webinars on June 20 and June 27 for 90 grantee staff. Training is specific to each program area (Academic Research, Product Development Research, and Prevention) and allows for an interactive experience and opportunity to focus on topics relevant to each program. The trainings cover grant reporting requirements, administrative rule changes, grant closeout, and an overview of the compliance program including fraud, waste, and abuse reporting. This was the second training series offered this year for the annual compliance training requirement which requires the ASO and at least one other employee from each grantee organization to attend an annual compliance training by December 31 of each year.

Academic Research Program Update

Recruitment FY 2024 Review Cycle 12

CPRIT accepted recruitment applications May 15 - June 20 for the twelfth and final recruitment cycle of FY 2024. The Scientific Review Council (SRC) will review these applications on July 11 and Dr. Le Beau will present the recommended applications to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in August.

Academic Research FY 2024 Review Cycle 2

On September 14, 2023, CPRIT released several RFAs for the second cycle of FY 2024 and accepted applications October 17, 2023 - January 16, 2024. Peer review panels met in late April. Dr. Le Beau will present the SRC's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in August.

FY 24 Cycle 2 Mechanism	Received	Funds Requested
Clinical Investigator Award	6	$6,624,889
Core Facility Support Awards	22	$58,593,485
High-Impact/High-Risk Research Awards	101	$25,065,092
Multi-Investigator Research Awards	18	$77,774,808
TOTAL	**147**	**$168,058,274**

Academic Research FY 2025 Cycle 1

CPRIT released several RFAs February 22 for the first review cycle of FY 2025 and accepted applications March 19 - June 11. Peer Review panels will meet in September. Dr. Le Beau will present the SRC's recommendations for FY 25.1 awards to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in February 2025.

FY 25 Cycle 1 Mechanism	Received	Funds Requested
Individual Investigator Research Award (IIRA)	220	$196,400,895
IIRA for Computational Systems Biology of Cancer	29	$29,833,203
IIRA for Cancer in Children and Adolescents	36	$42,160,677
IIRA for Prevention and Early Detection	21	$24,022,601
IIRA for Clinical Translation	26	$41,025,711
IIRA for Early Onset Cancers	13	$11,379,861
CAP: CAC	1	$3,000,000
TOTAL	**346**	**$347,822,948**

Product Development Research Program Update

Product Development Research FY 2025 Review Cycle 1 (25.1)

CPRIT released four FY 2025 Product Development Research RFAs on April 15 and opened the portal for preliminary applications April 22 – May 1. CPRIT received 90 preliminary applications by the May 1 deadline. This is a record number of preliminary applications.

CPRIT assigned the preliminary applications to several review panels in May for individual evaluation and scoring. The review panels met to rank and score their assigned preliminary applications in late June. In early July, CPRIT will issue 24 invitations to submit full applications to companies receiving the best preliminary application scores. The 24 companies will submit their full applications to CPRIT by July 25 and present their proposals to the individual review panels in September. Based upon the application scores and presentations to the panels, some companies will move forward to due diligence in October. The Product Development Review Council (PDRC) will meet in November to vote on its final recommendations. Dr. Smith will present the PDRC's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in November.

FY 2025 Cycle 1 Mechanism	Prelim Apps	Total Request	Full Apps	Total Request
Texas Therapeutic Company	20	$236.6 M	9	$114.4 M
Texas Device/Diagnostic Company	13	$109.6 M	5	$43.0 M
Texas New Tech Company	13	$98.4 M	2	$ 7.5 M
Seed Company	44	$149.2 M	8	$23.3.0 M
TOTAL	**90**	**$593.8 M**	**24**	**$188.2 M**

Prevention Program Update

Prevention FY2025 Review Cycle 1 (25.1)

The prevention program released three RFAs on February 9 to kick off the first review cycle of FY 2025: Primary Prevention of Cancer, Cancer Screening and Early Detection, and Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions. CPRIT received 24 applications by the June 6 deadline. Peer review panels will meet September 10 and 11. Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid will present the Prevention Review Council's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in November.

Cycle 25.1 Mechanism	Apps	Funds Requested
Primary Prevention of Cancer	7	$6,827,098
Cancer Screening and Early Detection	16	$29,771,943
Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions	1	$449,929
TOTAL	**24**	**$37,048,970**

Advisory Committees

- The Clinical Trials Advisory Committee Working Group met June 7.
- The Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancers met May 30 and June 24.
- The Product Development Advisory Committee will meet July 11.

Operations and Finance Update

CPRIT submitted the Agency Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2025 - 2029 to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and Office of the Governor on May 31.

The LBB and Office of the Governor have not released the budget instructions for CPRIT to input the agency's Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) for the 2026-27 Biennium in the state budget system. We anticipate the release of the LAR instructions in July.
Ms. McConnell will schedule a special meeting of the Audit Subcommittee in late July to verify that the prepared budget aligns with the preliminary budget for the 2026-27 biennium, which the Oversight Committee approved at its May 15 meeting. We will schedule the subcommittee meeting prior to the submission deadline for CPRIT's LAR, which will likely be early August.

Upcoming Subcommittee Meetings

I have listed below the subcommittee meetings that CPRIT will hold in advance of the August 21 Oversight Committee meeting. We will send instructions for signing onto the Microsoft Teams platform along with the subcommittee agenda and meeting materials one week prior to each meeting.

Board Governance	August 8 at 10:00 a.m.
Audit	August 12 at 10:00 a.m.
Prevention	August 13 at 12:00 p.m.
Academic Research	August 14 at 12:00 p.m.
Product Development	August 15 at 10:00 a.m.

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CPRIT has awarded **1,982** grants totaling **$3.59 billion:**

- 303 prevention awards totaling $380.7 million
- 1,679 academic research and product development research awards totaling $3.21 billion

Of the $3.21 billion in academic research and product development research awards,

- 32.2% of the funding ($1.03 billion) supports clinical research projects.
- 23.3% of the funding ($748.7 million) supports translational research projects.
- 29.7% of funding ($955.4 million) supports recruitment awards.
- 12.0% of the funding ($384.2 million) supports discovery stage research projects.
- 2.8% of funding ($90.4 million) supports training programs.

CPRIT has three open Requests for Applications (RFAs)

- 3 Recruitment

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	KRISTEN DOYLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT:	CPRIT ACTIVITIES UPDATE FOR JULY 2024
DATE:	AUGUST 5, 2024

Topics in this memo address CPRIT activities in July, including preparations for the August 21 Oversight Committee meeting, recent milestones in our fight against cancer, a staffing update, outreach and legislative efforts, and updates from Compliance, Programs, and Operations. I have included a new section on upcoming CPRIT-related events that may be of interest to Oversight Committee members. This new section appears on page 11. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Oversight Committee meeting.

Planning for the August 21 Oversight Committee Meeting

The Oversight Committee will meet in person on Wednesday, August 21, in the Barbara Jordan Building. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. We will have a full agenda with 36 grant award recommendations, annual reports from the Clinical Trial Advisory Committee and the Product Development Advisory Committee, several internal audit reports, and a closed session. Please notify me as soon as possible if you are unable to attend the August 21 meeting or have schedule constraints that require you to arrive after 8:30 a.m. or leave before 12:30 p.m.

You will receive an email from CPRIT by August 9 to access the Program Integration Committee's award recommendations via Govenda. The award portal available through the Govenda app has a summary of the award slates, as well as supporting documentation for each proposed award, including the application, CEO affidavit, summary statement, and grant pedigree. Please allow time to complete the individual conflict of interest checks and review the supporting material. If you have any issues accessing the Govenda app or navigating through the grant award recommendations, please contact Darren Castle (dcastle@cprit.texas.gov) or me.

I have attached a draft meeting agenda. CPRIT will post the final agenda for the Oversight Committee meeting by August 13. Oversight Committee members can access an electronic copy of the meeting packet through the Govenda app by August 14. CPRIT will have hard copies of the meeting packet and proposed award packet for you at the meeting.

Recent Milestones in the Fight Against Cancer

CPRIT Grantees in the News

- The *Nature Index* ranked two CPRIT-grantee institutions to its list of 25 top rising institutions in North America for their growth in research published in the world's leading science journals. The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston ranked sixth and seventh, respectively. The *Nature Index* 2023 Rising Stars list highlights universities, health systems, nonprofits, and other research organizations that have posted the greatest increases—from 2015 to 2022—in authored or co-authored papers appearing in leading journals chosen by an independent group of scientists. CPRIT has awarded The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio 88 research awards totaling $143.5 million, including 19 CPRIT Scholar recruitment awards. The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston has received 33 CPRIT research awards totaling $44.5 million, including four CPRIT Scholar recruitment awards.

- The June 25 edition of *Community Impact* featured CPRIT grantee Navkiran Shokar, M.D., MPH, professor and chair, Department of Population Health at Dell Medical School, discussing the need for routine care to intercept colon cancer before it starts. Dr. Shokar leads the CPRIT-funded Coordinating Center for Colorectal Cancer Screening across Texas (CONNECT). CONNECT is a stakeholder network to develop and implement a statewide colorectal cancer screening strategic plan and leverage infrastructure and resources to support the expansion of colorectal screening across the state, particularly in medically underserved populations. The University of Texas at Austin and Dr. Shokar received a $3 million CPRIT Prevention grant (PP230060) in 2023 to create CONNECT.

- The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) welcomed CPRIT-grantee Robert Chapkin, Ph.D., Allen Endowed Chair in Nutrition and Chronic Disease Prevention at Texas A&M, into the ASN Class of 2024 Fellows on June 28. Induction as a ASN Fellow is the highest accolade bestowed by ASN and honors individuals for their significant contributions and outstanding lifetime achievements in the field of nutrition. Dr. Chapkin's lab evaluates dietary and microbial modulation for the prevention of cancer and chronic inflammatory diseases using preclinical models and human subjects. Texas Agrilife Research and Dr. Chapkin have received four CPRIT research grants totaling $1.5 million since 2010 (RP100473, RP120028, RP160589, RP200604).

- On June 27 the Friar Society awarded the 2024 Friar Centennial Teaching Fellowship to CPRIT Scholar Tom Yankeelov, Ph.D., professor of biomedical engineering and core faculty member at the Oden Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences at The University of Texas at Austin. The Friar Society, established in 1911, is the oldest and one of the most distinguished multi-disciplinary honor societies at UT Austin. The Centennial Teaching Fellowship recognizes faculty members who have attained distinction in teaching undergraduates and embody the Friar ideal by making a significant contribution to the university beyond the duties of his or her calling. UT Austin recruited Dr. Yankeelov in 2015

from Vanderbilt University with the support of a $6 million CPRIT Recruitment of Established Investigators grant (RR160005).

- The Rice Global Paris Center hosted the BioElectronic Therapeutics conference and workshop June 27-28, the first formal event dedicated to the field of bioelectronics held at Rice University's Paris campus. Rice bioengineers CPRIT Scholar Omid Veiseh, Ph.D., and Jacob Robinson, Ph.D., along with Northwestern University's Johnathan Rivnay, Ph.D., organized the event that brought together a diverse group of leaders from academia, industry, venture capital, foundations, and government to discuss the rapidly evolving field of bioelectronics and accelerating technological advancements to improve patient care. Bioelectronics is an interdisciplinary field that combines principles of biology and electronics to develop devices and systems for monitoring, interacting with, and manipulating biological processes and functions. Rice recruited Dr. Veiseh from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2016 with the support of a $2 million CPRIT Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members award (RR160047). Rice and Dr. Veiseh also received a $250,000 CPRIT High Impact/High Risk research award (RP210205) in 2021.

- The Lung Cancer Research Foundation (LCRF) announced the appointment of CPRIT Scholar Kathryn O'Donnell, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Molecular Biology at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, as its new Scientific Advisory Board chair, effective July 1. LCRF's mission is to improve lung cancer outcomes by funding research for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cure of lung cancer. UT Southwestern recruited Dr. O'Donnell from Johns Hopkins University in 2010 with the support of a $2 million CPRIT Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members grant (R1101). UT Southwestern and Dr. O'Donnell received three additional CPRIT grants (RP150676, RP190610, and RP200327) totaling $3.1 million to support her research.

- The July 6 edition of the *Fort Worth Report* featured CPRIT grantee Keith E. Argenbright, M.D., director of the Moncrief Cancer Institute and professor at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, in article addressing the increase in colon cancer diagnoses among young adults. UT Southwestern and Dr. Argenbright have received six CPRIT colorectal cancer screening grants since 2015 (PP240019, PP220034, PP200009, PP180065, PP150061, PP120229), totaling $11.7 million.

- Earlier this year, CPRIT-funded company Rapamycin Holdings, Inc. (doing business as Emtora Biosciences) granted an exclusive license to develop eRapa for the treatment of familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) to Biodexa Pharmaceuticals. In early July, Biodexa announced new Phase 2 data for eRapa. Researchers conducted the phase 2 open-label study of 30 adults with FAP in seven U.S. centers of excellence. Primary endpoints were safety and tolerability of eRapa and percentage change from baseline in polyp burden at six months. Patients received treatment and monitoring for 12 months, leading to the new data. Emtora continues to develop other indications for eRapa, including bladder and prostate cancers. CPRIT awarded San Antonio-based Emtora two product development research awards totaling $20 million (DP190069, DP220053) in 2019 and 2022 for clinical trials of eRapa.

- Texas placed third overall in CNBC's America's Top States for Business 2024 rankings, released on July 11, and earned the top spot in two of the 10 categories. CNBC scored all 50 states on 128 metrics in 10 broad categories of competitiveness. Texas ranked first in the "Workforce" category based on the percentage of STEM workers in the state, percentages of employees with college and associate degrees and industry-recognized certificates, success in attracting talent of all levels, and the net migration of educated workers to the state. Texas also received the top score in the "Technology & Innovation" category based on issued patents per capita, health, science and agriculture research grants, its role in advancing AI, and participation in the Tech Hubs program through the Biden Administration's CHIPS and Science Act. Texas moved up from its 8th place finish in 2023.

- The *U.S. News & World Report* announced their 2024-25 "Best Hospitals" survey results on July 16. Several CPRIT grantee institutions performed well in the rankings. Now in its 35th year, the Best Hospitals survey evaluates nearly 5,000 hospitals in more than 30 medical and surgical services.

  The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center ranked first in the nation for cancer care. MD Anderson has maintained the top position for the past 10 years and has consistently been one of the top two hospitals in the nation for cancer care since the survey's inception in 1990.

  Houston Methodist Hospital ranked as the No. 1 hospital in Texas. Houston Methodist ranked in more specialties than any other hospital in Houston, including cancer, cardiology, heart and vascular surgery, diabetes and endocrinology, gastroenterology/GI surgery, geriatrics, neurology/neurosurgery, obstetrics and gynecology, orthopedics, pulmonology and lung surgery, and urology. Houston Methodist also landed on the Best Hospitals "Honor Roll," the list of 20 hospitals with exceptional breadth and depth of excellence.

  The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center ranked first among hospitals in Dallas-Fort Worth and the No. 2 hospital in Texas. UT Southwestern ranked among the nation's top 50 hospitals in 11 specialties, the most of any hospital in Texas, and achieved top 25 rankings in cancer, cardiology, heart and vascular surgery, rehabilitation, diabetes and endocrinology, neurology and neurosurgery, and pulmonology and lung surgery.

- On July 17, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center named its ninth cohort of Andrew Sabin Family Fellows - a distinguished group of 10 rising faculty members whose innovative research encompasses a variety of fields, including immunology, radiation oncology, and biostatistics. Five CPRIT grantees, including four CPRIT Scholars, are 2024 Sabin Family Fellows. The fellowship, created by the Andrew Sabin Family Foundation, provides a dedicated source of funding ($100,000 over two years) for junior faculty and emerging clinicians to support groundbreaking research that advances the institution's mission to end cancer.

  CPRIT grantees named as 2024 Sabin Family Fellows include: Lauren Colbert, M.D., (RP240259), CPRIT Scholar Mauro Di Pilato, Ph.D., (RR210017), CPRIT Scholar Wen Jiang,

M.D., Ph.D., (RR180017, RP220553), CPRIT Scholar Yuan Pan, Ph.D., (RR210085), and John Paul Shen, M.D., (RR180035, RP240392).

- Immatics US, a Houston-based clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing T cell-redirecting cancer immunotherapies, announced on July 18 that researchers will present the first proof-of-concept clinical data for its next-generation, half-life extended TCR Bispecific molecule, TCER IMA401 (MAGEA4/8), during an oral presentation at the European Society for Medical Oncology Congress in the fall of 2024. Immatics received a $19.7 million CPRIT Product Development award (DP150029) in 2015.

- On July 31, CPRIT grantees The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Mongoose Bio, announced that they are initiating a research project along with other collaborators that will send T cells to the International Space Station to study the effects of prolonged microgravity on cell differentiation, activation, memory, and exhaustion. Researchers will analyze the results to uncover signaling pathways and identify potential immune targets that can improve treatment strategies for patients with cancer and other diseases. CPRIT Scholar Cassian Yee, M.D., and CPRIT grantee Kunal Rai, Ph.D., will lead the MD Anderson research team, who will collaborate with Axiom Space, BioServe Space Technologies, Deep Space Biology, and Mongoose Bio.

  Cell therapy is a type of immunotherapy that modifies or expands immune cells so that they are better able to recognize and eliminate cancer cells. Approved cell therapies include chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapies, which are T cells engineered to recognize a specific cancer target. Yet these therapies do not work for all patients, since infused T cells can become exhausted, or the cancer can evolve to escape the immune system. Previous studies both on Earth and in space have shown that microgravity can impact T cell biology by modifying the cytoskeleton, chromatin structure, activation, and other gravity-sensitive elements, leading researchers to believe that it could also affect how these cells differentiate.

  A deeper understanding of immune differentiation pathways could also spur the advancement of other cell therapies developed at MD Anderson, such as endogenous T cell therapies, T cell receptor-based therapies, and CAR natural killer cell therapies. Mongoose Bio, a biopharmaceutical cell therapy company, is leveraging technology licensed from MD Anderson to translate and scale discoveries identified through this collaboration for use in future cell therapy projects and potential novel cancer treatments.

  MD Anderson recruited Dr. Yee from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in 2012 with a $3 million CPRIT Recruitment of Clinical Investigators Award (R1301). MD Anderson and Dr. Yee also received a $2.4 million Individual Investigator Research Award for Clinical Translation in 2019 (RP190360). MD Anderson and Dr. Rai have received three Individual Investigator research grants since 2017 totaling $2.5 million (RP170407, RP200390, RP220410). CPRIT awarded Houston-based Mongoose Bio a $10.6 million Texas New Technologies Company award in 2023. Dr. Yee is the company founder.

- **Overcoming a Major Hurdle in Biomedical Research – Developing a Mouse Model with a Functional Human Immune System.** Humanized mice - mice that scientists have modified to have human-like immune systems – can fail to accurately model human immunity, especially with regards to antibody responses. This is due to significant differences between the immune response genes in mice and humans.

  There is an acute scientific need for a humanized mouse model that better mimics human immune responses. To address this, scientists at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio developed a new type of humanized mouse called "TruHuX" (Truly Human) that has a fully developed and functional human immune system. Using various human cell sources, such as bone marrow and umbilical cord blood, which are especially rich in hematopoietic stem cells, the team created TruHuX mice with human-like lymph nodes, germinal centers, thymus cells, T and B lymphocytes, and plasma cells that produce highly specific antibody and autoantibodies identical to those of humans.

  As published on June 25 in *Nature Immunology*, the new TruHuX mice model overcomes the limitations of earlier models and offers a powerful tool for studying human immune responses in living organisms. These mice are useful for developing vaccines and treatments for immune-related conditions, including managing unwanted antibody responses. This discovery may also eliminate the use of non-human primates in immunological and microbiological biomedical research.

  UT Health San Antonio received three CPRIT Core Facility Support Award grants (RP150600, RP160732, RP210126) totaling $10.5 million; the Core Resources provided essential genome sequencing, cell sorting and imaging flow cytometry, and single cell biopsy and characterization analyses for these studies. The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center received a $3.5 million CPRIT Core Facility Support Award grant (RP190507) in 2019, which produced recombinant antibodies used in the research.

- **"*Tiny Bubbles*" – A Pioneering Design of Gas-Filled Nanostructures May Transform Drug Delivery and Imaging.** Ultrasound - sound waves with frequencies above the range of human hearing - has been one of the most widely used imaging modalities in medicine. In addition to its conventional role of anatomical imaging, researchers are using ultrasound to transiently disrupt cell membranes and blood vessel walls for the delivery of genes and drugs. However, there is limited use for drug delivery applications because the microbubbles created by ultrasound are typically too large (between 1–10 microns in diameter) to move from the blood vessels into tissue.

  CPRIT Scholar Jiaozhi (George) Lu, Ph.D., leads a team of Rice University researchers developing tiny, stable, gas-filled protein nanostructures that could transform ultrasound imaging and drug delivery. Collaborators include CPRIT Scholar Han Xio, Ph.D., and CPRIT grantee Richard Bouchard, Ph.D., at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Their findings, reported in the July issue of *Advanced Materials*, show that these

novel diamond-shaped 50-nanometer gas vesicles (50-NM GVs) are small enough to cross biological barriers, unlike current larger microbubbles. Produced in bacteria and stable for months, these nanostructures can penetrate tissues, including the lymphatic system, and access critical immune cells.

This breakthrough in material design opens new possibilities for imaging and delivering therapies to previously inaccessible cells, and for uses in cancer immunotherapies, cancer prevention, and early diagnosis. The authors anticipate that the 50-NM GVs will substantially broaden the range of cells accessible to current ultrasound technologies and may generate applications beyond biomedicine.

Rice University recruited Dr. Lu (RR190081) in 2019 from Caltech with a $2 million First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members recruitment grant. Rice also recruited Dr. Xiao (RR170014) in 2017 from Stanford University with a $2 million First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members recruitment grant. MD Anderson and Dr. Bouchard received an $895,907 Individual Investigator Award (RP190131) in 2019, which supported this research. Dr. Bouchard received a $1 million Individual Investigator Award (RP240311) earlier this year to develop photoacoustic-ultrasonic imaging to monitor antibody-drug conjugate therapy for ovarian cancer patients.

- **What Can Cancer Cells Teach Us About Stress and Aging?** Human cells have a variety of mechanisms to respond to stress, one of which is cellular senescence. This is an irreversible state where cells stop dividing in response to cancer-causing genes, DNA damage, or exposure to some chemotherapy drugs. Cellular senescence also triggers inflammation, contributing to aging-related conditions such as neurodegeneration, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer.

  A research team led by CPRIT Scholar Joshua Mendell, M.D., Ph.D., professor of molecular biology and member of the Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, has discovered a previously unrecognized regulator of senescence – a noncoding RNA called SNORA13. The findings, published online in July in *Cell* could lead to new interventions for conditions associated with aging, including cancer.

  A series of additional experiments showed that SNORA13 plays another important and unexpected role: slowing down the construction of ribosomes – the cellular machines that synthesize proteins. Cancer cells require an inordinately elevated level of proteins and ramp up the production of ribosomes within the cell to meet this demand. In normal cells, stress-induced senescence stops ribosome production, leading to cell cycle arrest or cell death. In cancer cells, removing SNORA13 prevents this quality control, allowing uncontrolled cell division.

  These discoveries highlight the potential for new treatments targeting senescence. Drugs that induce senescence could treat cancer by stopping cell division, while those that prevent

senescence could slow diseases related to aging like diabetes, neurodegenerative diseases, and cardiovascular disease.

UT Southwestern recruited Dr. Mendell from Johns Hopkins University in 2011 with a $4.5 million CPRIT Rising Stars recruitment award. UT Southwestern and Dr. Mendell received a $1 million CPRIT Individual Investigator grant (RP220309) in 2022 to support this study. He has also received a $1.2 million Individual Investigator Research Award for Cancer in Children and Adolescents (RP160249) in 2015.

- **Mapping the Landscape of Genomic Rearrangements In Cancer**. Cancer develops when multiple genetic mutations accumulate in cells, including changes in DNA sequences, chromosome rearrangements, and changes in the number of chromosomes (aneuploidy). Errors during cell division can cause aneuploidy and the formation of micronuclei, which are abnormal nuclear structures that trap mis-segregated chromosomes. These trapped chromosomes can undergo catastrophic fragmentation, a poorly understood process known as chromothripsis.

  A study reported in the July 4 issue of *Nature Communications* explored how specific DNA repair pathways recognize and process these fragmented chromosomes. Led by Peter Ly, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Pathology at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, the research team used CRISPR-CAS9 gene editing and a technique called CEN-SELECT to create micronuclei containing a marked chromosome and analyze how different DNA repair pathways processed the fragments. They found that the non-homologous end joining (NHEJ) pathway is the primary mechanism for repairing these fragments. When NHEJ is absent, other repair pathways rarely engage, leading to delayed repair, persistent DNA damage, and cell cycle arrest. These findings suggest that targeting NHEJ with drugs, such as inhibitors of the repair protein DNA-PKcs, could be a potential treatment strategy for tumors with chromosomal instability.

  UT Southwestern recruited Dr. Ly in 2018 from the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research and the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine, with the support of a $2 million CPRIT Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members grant (RR180050).

- **A Novel Approach To Treat Group 3 Medulloblastoma.** Medulloblastomas are the most common malignant brain tumors in children and arise in the embryonal hindbrain – the part of the brain that is towards the back and on the floor of the skull. Molecular stratification delineates four transcriptional subgroups of medulloblastoma. Group 3 medulloblastoma (Gr3-MB) is one of the most aggressive forms of brain cancer in children and often leads to metastasis and death. A team of researchers at Baylor College of Medicine, including corresponding author and CPRIT Scholar Michael Taylor, M.D., Ph.D., professor of pediatrics, hematology-oncology, and neurosurgery, targeted the protogenin-expressing cells that sustain tumor growth with CAR T-cell immunotherapy to find an effective therapy.

The researchers compared the genes expressed by Gr3-MB cells from six tumors with those expressed by human fetal hindbrain cells during the first trimester of pregnancy. They found that the rhombic lip, a region in the developing cerebellum, contains cancer stem-like cells. When Gr3-MB tumors develop, they recreate the vascular plexus - a vascular network formed by numerous connections between veins - not found in other types of medulloblastoma.

Dr. Taylor and his team hypothesized that eliminating the small population of cancer stem-like cells that sustains the tumor, rather than attacking the entire tumor, would be therapeutic - analogizing it to triggering the dissolution of an army by removing the leader. The data, published in *Cell* on July 5, showed that eliminating the small population of the cells present in Gr3-MB tumors led to tumor shrinkage. The researchers hope that with additional research, this novel approach will lead to new ways to treat children with Gr3-MB. Baylor College of Medicine recruited Dr. Taylor from the University of Toronto in May 2022 with the support of a $6 million CPRIT Recruitment of Established Investigators grant (RR220051). Dr. Taylor serves as Director of the Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Research Program at Texas Children's Hospital and at Baylor College of Medicine.

- **Getting Along With Your Neighbors. Learning From Density-Dependent Interactions Among Cancer Cells.** Variability in tumor cells, known as tumor heterogeneity, remains a major challenge in treating cancer. Tumor heterogeneity results from both genetic differences and non-genetic factors among cells. While genetic analysis has led to targeted therapies, tumors often become resistant, leading to relapse. Even genetically identical cancer cells can develop resistance due to non-genetic factors like differences in the protein composition or metabolic properties. One key non-genetic factor is the ability of cancer cells to transition between different cellular states, known as the epithelial to mesenchymal (E-M) transition.

  Cancer cells show a range of E-M characteristics, but the causes of these variations over time are unclear. CPRIT Scholar Jason George, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering at Texas A&M University, and his colleagues studied two types of breast cancer cells, PMC42-LA and HCC38, using various mathematical models to understand these processes. They examined factors like growth rates, cell-state switching, and changes in growth or state-transition rates. The research team found that including E-M cell-state transitions was essential to explain the variations in E-M characteristics. They concluded that cell crowding affects growth more than the transition between cell types. Data from other experiments involving treatments that inhibit specific cellular signaling pathways that promote growth supports this conclusion.

  The study, published in the July 19 issue of *iScience*, developed criteria to identify the most informative time points for further experiments, enhancing model accuracy. These results show that heterogeneity in breast cancer cells emerges because of cell-state transitions together with heterogeneous subpopulation growth rates, improving scientists' ability to predict cell behavior and drug-resistance. Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station recruited Dr. George in 2021 from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

with the support of a $2 million CPRIT Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members grant (RR210080).

Personnel

CPRIT has filled 48 full-time equivalent positions and has several positions in progress, including a general counsel position and a chief financial officer position.

CPRIT Outreach

Staff outreach activities during July include:

- On July 7-9, Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Michelle Le Beau participated in the Scientific Advisory Board Meeting of the National Center for Tumor Diseases held at the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg, Germany.

- Prevention Program Manager Carlton Allen presented the 2024 Texas Cancer Plan overview at the Texas Health Improvement Network (THIN) meeting on July 11. Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid also attended the meeting. THIN catalyzes population health improvement and increases health equity in Texas through multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional partnerships. The University of Texas System administers THIN through the Office of Health Affairs.

- On July 15, Academic Research Program Manager Dr. Myriam Casillas attended The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio online seminar, "How to Support Latino Cancer Survivors."

- On July 25, Dr. Le Beau and I presented an overview of CPRIT and its programs to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board at their quarterly board meeting.

- In July, Senior Program Manager for Product Development Dr. Abria Magee met with Opna Bio, a Swiss-based cancer company developing novel therapeutics, and Qana Therapeutics, an Austin-based company pioneering targeted delivery technologies based on the human body's own systems for transporting critical payloads to their destinations. She discussed the current product development award mechanisms and collaboration opportunities.

Legislative Outreach

On July 24, Deputy Executive and Chief Operating Officer Heidi McConnell, Dr. Le Beau, and I met with Senator Bob Hall, a member of the Health & Human Services committee, to discuss the interim charge and provide a CPRIT update. I will meet with Senator César Blanco on August 8.

Upcoming Events

There are several upcoming events related to CPRIT, CPRIT grantees, or cancer that may be of interest to Oversight Committee members. I have noted when CPRIT staff will be making presentations. Please contact me or the appropriate program staff if you would like more information about an event or meeting.

September 6 – 27	Product Development Peer Review Panel Meetings (virtual)
September 10 –11	Prevention Peer Review Panel Meetings (virtual)
September 10 - 11	Rice University's AI in Health Conference (Houston) *Product Development Senior Program Manager Dr. Abria Magee will make a presentation at the conference.*
September 19	The Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus' Childhood Cancer Summit and Golden Toast (Washington D.C.) *I will attend and represent CPRIT.*
September 26	TMCi Accelerator for Cancer Therapeutics (ACT) Summit (Houston) *ACT is a CPRIT-funded program (RP190674). The summit features companies in the ACT 2024 cohort.*
September 26	THBI Fall Policy Summit and Luminary Awards Dinner (Austin)
October 3-4	BioNTx IC3 2024 Life Science Summit (Dallas)
October 10	Product Development Advisory Committee Meeting (virtual, 1:00)
October 10-11	Healthier Texas Summit (Austin) *Prevention Program Manager Carlton Allen will make a presentation and serve as a panel moderator at the summit.*
October 16-25	Academic Research Peer Review Panel Meetings (virtual)
November 6 - 10	Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) Annual Meeting (Houston) *The Product Development Research Program will be part of the Tumor-Infiltrating Lymphocyte Panel on November 6.*
November 10-11	Researchers' Roundup (Dallas)

Compliance Program Update

Submission Status of Required Grant Recipient Reports

As of July 24, 15 entities had not filed 50 academic research grant reports. CPRIT's grant accountants and compliance specialists review and process incoming reports and reach out to grantees to resolve filing issues. In most cases, CPRIT does not disburse grant funds until the grantee files the required reports. In some instances, grantee institutions may be ineligible to receive a future award if the grantee does not submit required reports.

Financial Status Report Reviews

CPRIT's compliance specialists performed 153 second-level reviews of grantee Financial Status Reports (FSRs) in July. Twenty-one FSRs (14%) needed resubmission due to insufficient or

inaccurate documentation sent by the grantee. CPRIT's grant accounting staff completes the first review of the FSRs and supporting documentation before routing them to the compliance specialists for final review and disposition.

Desk Reviews

Compliance specialists performed seven enhanced desk-based financial monitoring reviews in July. Desk reviews confirm financial, administrative, and programmatic compliance using data from CGMS/CARS with additional focus on an organization's internal controls, current and previous fiscal audits, and grantee report submission timeliness. Desk reviews also aid in the identification of potential problems and technical assistance issues for follow-up during an onsite visit, as well as areas of non-compliance and grantee performance issues. Compliance specialists are collaborating with three grantees to address enhanced desk review findings.

Onsite Reviews

CPRIT completed five onsite reviews in July. Onsite reviews are the most extensive monitoring activity conducted by CPRIT and include virtual or field visits led by compliance grant monitoring staff. CPRIT monitors the grantee's financial and administrative operations, subcontract monitoring, procurement and contracting procedures, inventory procedures, personnel policies and procedures, payroll and timesheet policies, travel policies and records, and compliance with single audits during onsite reviews. Onsite monitoring enables CPRIT compliance staff to assess a grantees' capability, performance, and compliance with applicable laws, rules, and policies. Compliance specialists are collaborating with two grantees to address onsite review findings.

Single Audit Tracking

Compliance specialists track the submission of grantees' independent audit reports and the resolution of issues named in these reports. Grantees spending $750,000 or more in state awards in the grantee's fiscal year must undertake a single independent audit, a program specific audit, or an agreed upon procedures engagement. The grantee sends the independent audit report with findings to CPRIT within 30 days of receipt, but no later than nine months after the grantee's fiscal year end.

Currently, two grantees have not submitted the required audit. Grantees are unable to receive reimbursements or advances if they are delinquent in filing the required audit and corrective action plan unless the grantee requested more time by the due date of the required audit and CPRIT's CEO approves the request. Compliance specialists are working with the grantees to submit the required audits.

Match Expenditures Review

CPRIT requires academic research and product development research grantees to show that they have available unused funds equal to at least one-half of the CPRIT grant award that the grantee

will spend on the CPRIT-funded project. This obligation, often referred to as "CPRIT's matching funds requirement," requires the grantee to first certify that it has available matching funds, and then at the end of the grant year, to verify that the grantee spent the matching funds on the project. CPRIT's statute allows an institution of higher education to use its federal indirect cost rate as a credit toward the required 50% match.

Product development grantees, as well as those academic research grantees whose indirect cost rate credit does not fully offset the required match must supply a detailed match expenditure report that includes the amount and date paid, vendor, description, and budget category. Compliance staff review grantees' match expenditures for appropriateness and allowability and work with CPRIT's grant accountants and the grantee to address any deficiencies. Compliance staff performed one annual match expenditure reviews in July. The total amount of match expenses reviewed by compliance staff for FY 2024 is $26,912,456.45. The unallowable match expenses for FY 2024 total $230,649.74. The primary reasons for unallowable match expenses this fiscal year are related to unallowable travel costs, expenses previously requested for reimbursement on a financial status report, and unallowable late fees and interest charges.

Training and Support

CPRIT staff conducted one new Authorized Signing Official (ASO) training webinar in July for Asylia Therapeutics. The training covers grant reporting requirements, administrative rule changes, grant closeout, and an overview of the compliance program including fraud, waste, and abuse reporting. Pursuant to Texas Administrative Code §703.22, CPRIT requires new ASOs to complete compliance training within 60 days.

CPRIT staff conducted four new grantee training webinars in July for Single Cell Biotechnology Inc., Crossbridge Bio, FixNip LTD., and March Biosciences. The training covers grant reporting requirements, administrative rule changes, grant closeout, and an overview of the compliance program including fraud, waste, and abuse reporting. Pursuant to Texas Administrative Code §703.22, CPRIT requires new grantees to complete the initial compliance training program prior to receiving disbursement of grant award funds.

Academic Research Program Update

Recruitment FY 2024 Review Cycle 12

CPRIT's Application Receipt System (CARS) opened May 15 - June 20 for the twelfth cycle of FY 2024 recruitment applications. The Scientific Review Council (SRC) reviewed eight First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Member recruitment applications (total request $16 million) July 11. Dr. Le Beau will present the SRC's recommendations to the Program Integration Committee (PIC) and Oversight Committee in August.

Academic Research FY 2024 Review Cycle 2

On September 14, 2023, CPRIT released four RFAs for the second cycle of FY 2024 and accepted applications October 17, 2023 - January 16, 2024. Peer review panels met in late April. Dr. Le Beau will present the SRC's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in August.

FY 24 Cycle 2 Mechanism	Received	Funds Requested
Clinical Investigator Award	6	$6,624,889
Core Facility Support Awards	22	$58,593,485
High-Impact/High-Risk Research Awards	101	$25,065,092
Multi-Investigator Research Awards	18	$77,774,808
TOTAL	**147**	**$168,058,274**

Academic Research FY 2025 Cycle 1

CPRIT released seven RFAs on February 22 for the first review cycle of FY 2025 and accepted applications March 19 - June 11. Peer Review panels will meet in September. Dr. Le Beau will present the SRC's recommendations for FY 25.1 awards to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in February 2025.

FY 25 Cycle 1 Mechanism	Received	Funds Requested
Individual Investigator Research Award (IIRA)	220	$196,400,895
IIRA for Computational Systems Biology of Cancer	29	$29,833,203
IIRA for Cancer in Children and Adolescents	36	$42,160,677
IIRA for Prevention and Early Detection	21	$24,022,601
IIRA for Clinical Translation	26	$41,025,711
IIRA for Early Onset Cancers	13	$11,379,861
Collaborative Action Program (competitive renewal)	1	$3,000,000
TOTAL	**346**	**$347,822,948**

Product Development Research Program Update

Product Development Research FY 2025 Review Cycle 1 (25.1)

CPRIT released four FY 2025 Product Development Research RFAs on April 15 and opened the portal for preliminary applications April 22 – May 1. CPRIT received 90 preliminary applications by the May 1 deadline. This is a record number of preliminary applications.

CPRIT assigned the preliminary applications to several review panels in May for individual evaluation and scoring. The review panels met to rank and score their assigned preliminary applications in late June. In early July, CPRIT issued 24 invitations to submit full applications to companies receiving the best preliminary application scores. Of the 24 invitations, 22 companies

submitted their full applications to CPRIT by the July 25 deadline. These companies will present their proposals to the individual review panels in September. Based upon the application scores and presentations to the panels, some companies will move forward to due diligence in October. The Product Development Review Council (PDRC) will meet in November to vote on its final recommendations. Dr. Smith will present the PDRC's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in November.

FY 2025 Cycle 1 Mechanism	Prelim Apps	Total Request	Invited Apps	Invited Request	Full Apps	Total Request
Texas Therapeutic Company	20	$236.6 M	9	$114.4 M	9	$113.4 M
Texas Device/Diagnostic Co.	13	$109.6 M	5	$43.0 M	5	$43.0 M
Texas New Tech Company	13	$98.4 M	2	$7.5 M	2	$7.5 M
Seed Company	44	$149.2 M	8	$23.3 M	6	$17.4 M
TOTAL	**90**	**$593.8 M**	**24**	**$188.2 M**	**22**	**$181.3 M**

Prevention Program Update

Prevention FY2025 Review Cycle 1 (25.1)

The prevention program released three RFAs on February 9 for the first review cycle of FY 2025. CPRIT received 24 applications by the June 6 deadline. Peer review panels will meet September 10 and 11. Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid will present the Prevention Review Council's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in November.

Cycle 25.1 Mechanism	Apps	Funds Requested
Primary Prevention of Cancer	7	$6,827,098
Cancer Screening and Early Detection	16	$29,771,943
Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions	1	$449,929
TOTAL	**24**	**$37,048,970**

Advisory Committees

- The Product Development Advisory Committee met July 11.
- The Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancers met on July 22.
- The Clinical Trials Advisory Committee met August 2.

Operations and Finance Update

CPRIT submitted the Agency Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2025 - 2029 to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and Office of the Governor on May 31.

The LBB and Office of the Governor released the state budget instructions on July 25. CPRIT staff, including Dan Limas, Donna Cooper, and Heidi McConnell, have been inputting the agency's Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) for the 2026-27 Biennium in the state budget system. CPRIT's LAR is due on August 23. Due to the extended due date, the Oversight Committee will consider the LAR for approval at the upcoming Oversight Committee meeting.

The finance team is also preparing for the state's fiscal year end. CPRIT will stop making any payments after August 15 in anticipation of the State Treasury shutting down at the end of August to set up agency budgets for the new state fiscal year that begins on September 1. CPRIT anticipates resuming payment processing on September 9.

Upcoming Subcommittee Meetings

I have listed below the subcommittee meetings that CPRIT will hold in advance of the August 21 Oversight Committee meeting. We will send instructions for signing onto the Microsoft Teams platform along with the subcommittee agenda and meeting materials one week prior to each meeting.

Board Governance	August 8 at 10:00 a.m.
Audit	August 12 at 10:00 a.m.
Prevention	August 13 at 12:00 p.m.
Academic Research	August 14 at 12:00 p.m.
Product Development	August 15 at 10:00 a.m.

*****

CPRIT has awarded **1,982** grants totaling **$3.59 billion:**

- 303 prevention awards totaling $380.7 million
- 1,679 academic research and product development research awards totaling $3.21 billion

Of the $3.21 billion in academic research and product development research awards,

- 32.2% of the funding ($1.03 billion) supports clinical research projects.
- 23.3% of the funding ($748.7 million) supports translational research projects.
- 29.7% of funding ($955.4 million) supports recruitment awards.
- 12.0% of the funding ($384.2 million) supports discovery stage research projects.
- 2.8% of funding ($90.4 million) supports training programs.

CPRIT has three open Requests for Applications (RFAs)

- 3 Recruitment

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	VINCE BURGESS, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER
SUBJECT:	COMPLIANCE PROGRAM UPDATE
DATE:	AUGUST 12, 2024

The Chief Compliance Officer is responsible for apprising the Oversight Committee and the Chief Executive Officer of institutional compliance functions and activities and assuring the Oversight Committee that controls are in place to prevent, detect and mitigate compliance risk. The required reporting includes quarterly updates to the Oversight Committee on CPRIT's compliance with applicable laws, rules, and agency policies. In addition, the Compliance Officer is responsible for monitoring the timely submission status of required grant recipient reports and notifying the Oversight Committee and General Counsel of a grant recipient's failure to meaningfully comply with reporting deadlines.

Submission Status of Required Grant Recipient Reports

As of August 1, 12 entities had not filed 37 academic research reports, and one prevention report. CPRIT's grant accountants and compliance specialists review and process incoming reports and reach out to grantees to resolve filing issues. In most cases, CPRIT does not disburse grant funds until the grantee files the required reports. In some instances, grantee institutions may be ineligible to receive a future award if the grantee does not submit required reports.

Financial Status Report Reviews

CPRIT's compliance specialists performed 573 second-level reviews of grantee Financial Status Reports (FSRs) in May, June, and July. Eighty-five FSRs (15%) needed resubmission due to insufficient or inaccurate documentation sent by the grantee. CPRIT's grant accounting staff completes the first review of the FSRs and supporting documentation before routing them to the compliance specialists for final review and disposition.

Single Audit Tracking

Compliance specialists track the submission of grantees' independent audit reports and the resolution of issues named in these reports. Grantees who spend $750,000 or more in state awards in the grantee's fiscal year must undertake a single independent audit, a program specific

audit, or an agreed upon procedures engagement. The grantee sends the independent audit report with findings to CPRIT within 30 days of receipt, but no later than nine months after the grantee's fiscal year end.

Currently, two grantees have not submitted the required audit. Grantees are unable to receive reimbursements or advances if they are delinquent in filing the required audit and corrective action plan unless the grantee requested more time by the due date of the required audit and CPRIT's CEO approves the request. Compliance staff is working with the grantees.

Desk Reviews

CPRIT staff performed 14 enhanced desk-based financial monitoring reviews in May, June, and July. Desk reviews are intended to confirm financial, administrative, and programmatic compliance using data from CGMS/CARS with additional focus on an organization's internal controls, current and previous fiscal audits, and grantee report submission timeliness. Desk reviews also aid in the identification of potential problems and technical assistance issues for follow-up during an onsite visit, as well as areas of non-compliance and grantee performance issues. Compliance specialists are collaborating with three grantees to address enhanced desk review findings.

Onsite Reviews

CPRIT completed 14 onsite reviews in May, June, and July. Onsite reviews are the most extensive monitoring activity conducted by CPRIT and include virtual or field visits led by compliance grant monitoring staff. CPRIT monitors the grantee's financial and administrative operations, subcontract monitoring, procurement and contracting procedures, inventory procedures, personnel policies and procedures, payroll and timesheet policies, travel policies and records, and compliance with single audits during onsite reviews. Onsite monitoring enables CPRIT compliance staff to assess a grantees' capability, performance, and compliance with applicable laws, rules, and policies. Compliance specialists are collaborating with two grantees to address onsite review findings.

Match Expenditures Review

CPRIT requires academic research and product development research grantees to show that they have available unused funds equal to at least one-half of the CPRIT grant award that the grantee will spend on the CPRIT-funded project. This obligation, often referred to as "CPRIT's matching funds requirement," requires the grantee to first certify that it has available matching funds, and then at the end of the grant year, to verify that the grantee spent the matching funds on the project. CPRIT's statute allows an institution of higher education to use its federal indirect cost rate as a credit toward the required 50% match.

Product development grantees, as well as those academic research grantees whose indirect cost rate credit does not fully offset the required match must supply a detailed match expenditure report that includes the amount and date paid, vendor, description, and budget category. Compliance staff review grantees' match expenditures for appropriateness and allowability and work with CPRIT's grant accountants and the grantee to address any deficiencies.

Compliance staff performed four annual match expenditure reviews in May, June, and July. The total amount of match expenses reviewed by compliance staff for FY 2024 is $26,912,456.45. The unallowable match expenses for FY 2024 total $230,649.74. The primary reasons for unallowable match expenses this fiscal year are related to unallowable travel costs, expenses previously requested for reimbursement on a financial status report, and unallowable late fees and interest charges.

Annual Grantee Risk Assessment

At the end of each fiscal year, compliance staff performs an annual risk assessment for grantees with at least one active grant. The risk assessment aids in determining the level of review the grantee will receive, along with identifying any additional training needs for the upcoming fiscal year. In consultation with CPRIT's internal auditor during FY 2023, the grantee risk assessment tool and methodology were revised to account for the maturity level of CPRIT's grant compliance program and monitoring efforts. Although elements of the assessment tool were modified, key factors remain in determining grantee risk: a grantee's experience administering CPRIT grants, prior performance on desk and onsite reviews, the number of grants, and the program type of the grant(s).

The grantee risk assessment has been completed for FY 2025 and the review schedules for enhanced desk and onsite reviews are currently being developed.

Training and Support

CPRIT staff conducted three new Authorized Signing Official (ASO) training webinars in May, June, and July for The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler, The University of Texas at El Paso, and Asylia Therapeutics. The training covers grant reporting requirements, administrative rule changes, grant closeout, and an overview of the compliance program including fraud, waste, and abuse reporting. Pursuant to Texas Administrative Code §703.22, CPRIT requires new ASOs to complete compliance training within 60 days.

CPRIT staff conducted four new grantee training webinars in May, June, and July for Single Cell Biotechnology Inc., Crossbridge Bio, FixNip LTD., and March Biosciences. The training covers grant reporting requirements, administrative rule changes, grant closeout, and an overview of the compliance program including fraud, waste, and abuse reporting. Pursuant to Texas

Administrative Code §703.22, CPRIT requires new grantees to complete the initial compliance training program prior to receiving disbursement of grant award funds.

CPRIT staff conducted a series of Annual Compliance Training webinars on June 20 and June 27 for 120 grantee staff. Training is specific to each program area (Academic Research, Product Development Research, and Prevention) and allows for an interactive experience and opportunity to focus on topics relevant to each program. The training covers grant reporting requirements, administrative rule changes, grant closeout, and an overview of the compliance program including fraud, waste, and abuse reporting. This was the second training series offered this year for the annual compliance training requirement, which requires the Authorized Signing Official (ASO) and at least one other employee from each grantee organization to attend an annual compliance training by December 31 of each year.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	MICHELLE LE BEAU, PH.D., CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER
SUBJECT:	ACADEMIC RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE
DATE:	AUGUST 21, 2024

ACTION ITEM #1: Proposed 25.2 RFAs

Core Facility Support Awards (R-25.2 CFSA)
Supports applications that facilitate the development or improvement of core facilities that will provide valuable services to support and enhance scientifically meritorious cancer research projects. Funds may be requested to develop a new facility or to enhance the capabilities of an existing facility that will directly support and impact cancer research programs at the institution and in the region. CPRIT will look with special favor on applications that propose a facility that will serve cancer researchers at multiple Texas research institutions, in particular TREC-eligible institutions.
Award: The maximum duration for this award mechanism is 5 years. Applicants may request up to a maximum of $3,000,000 in total costs.

High-Impact/High-Risk Research Awards (R-25.2 HIHR)
Supports applications that explore the feasibility of high-risk projects that, if successful, would contribute major new insights into the etiology, diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of cancers. Using this mechanism, CPRIT intends to support innovative, developmental projects that focus on exceptionally promising topics that are not yet sufficiently mature to compete successfully for more conventional funding. The HIHR Research Awards are expected to provide the foundation for individual or multiple investigator peer-reviewed awards upon completion. The goal of this award mechanism is to fund uncommonly great ideas that merit the opportunity to acquire preliminary data.
Award: Applicants may request a total of $250,000 for a period of up to 24 months.

Early Clinical Investigator Awards (R-25.2 ECI)
Solicits applications from institutions to provide cancer physicians early in their academic career the opportunity to develop clinical research skills and to gain experience in advanced methods and experimental approaches needed to become clinical investigators; to provide an opportunity to establish a partnership with a laboratory-based collaborator in order to design and conduct correlative studies needed to interpret the outcome of an interventional trial; to provide the protected time from clinical responsibilities required to develop and conduct investigator

initiated clinical trials; and to increase the pool of clinical investigators at Texas academic institutions who are conducting patient-oriented studies, capitalizing on basic discoveries and translating them through conduct of innovative clinical trials involving cancer patients or individuals at risk for cancer.
Award: Up to $1,000,000 (total costs) Maximum duration: 5 years

TREC: Core Facility Support Awards (R-25.2 TREC: CFSA)
Supports applications that facilitate the development or improvement of core facilities that will provide valuable services to support and enhance scientifically meritorious cancer research projects at TREC eligible institutions. Funds may be requested to develop a new facility or to enhance the capabilities of an existing facility that will directly support and impact cancer research programs at the institution and in the region. CPRIT will look with special favor on applications that propose a facility that will serve cancer researchers at multiple Texas research institutions, in particular TREC-eligible institutions.
Award: The maximum duration for this award mechanism is 5 years. Applicants may request up to a maximum of $2,000,000 in total costs.

TREC: Advancing Innovative Individual Research Awards at TREC-Eligible Institutions (R-25.2 TREC: AIIRA)
Supports research projects addressing critically important questions, that will significantly advance knowledge of the causes, prevention, and/or treatment of cancer. This award allows experienced or early-career-stage cancer researchers the opportunity to explore new methods and approaches for investigating a question of importance that has been inadequately addressed or for which there may be an absence of an established paradigm or technical framework.
Award: Applicants may request up to a maximum of $750,000 in total costs. Duration: 3 years.

TREC Pilot Study Award (RFA R-25.2 TREC-PSA):
Provides short-term funding to explore the feasibility of cancer research projects at TREC-eligible institutions that, if successful, would contribute new insights into the etiology, diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of cancers forming the basis for applications for peer-reviewed funding from CPRIT or other organizations.
Award: Total of $200,000 over a period of 2 years.

Action Item #2: Institutional supplemental funds requested (Research Training Awards)

CPRIT has gathered information regarding the impact of postdoctoral salary increases on current Research Training Awards (RTA) to determine if supplemental funds will be needed to meet RTA commitments. Below is the information submitted by a current grantee.

Table 1. Institutional supplemental funds requested

Institution	Grant ID	Original Total Budget	Remaining Funds	TOTAL Supplemental Funds Requested (Direct + Indirect)
Texas A&M University, Cancer Therapeutics Training Program (CTTP)	RP210043	$2,580,759	$873,261	$49,157
			TOTAL	**$49,157**

Fiscal Year 2025 Cycle 1 (FY25.1) RFAs

The following FY25.1 RFAs were posted on February 22, 2024. CPRIT's Application Receipt System (CARS) opened for applications on March 19, 2024, and closed on June 11, 2024. Virtual Peer Review will be conducted in September 2024. Dr. Le Beau will present the Scientific Review Council's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in February 2025.

Individual Investigator Research Awards (IIRA)
Supports applications for innovative research projects addressing critically important questions that will significantly advance knowledge of the causes, prevention, and/or treatment of cancer. Areas of interest include laboratory research, translational studies, and/or clinical investigations. Award: Up to $300,000 per year. Exceptions permitted if extremely well justified; maximum duration: 3 years.

Individual Investigator Research Awards for Computational Systems Biology of Cancer (IIRACSBC)
Supports applications for innovative mathematical and/or computational research projects addressing questions that will advance current knowledge in the (a) mechanisms that tie altered gene expression and downstream molecular mechanisms to functional cancer phenotypes and/or (b) mechanisms that tie tumor morphology to functional cancer phenotypes and/or mechanisms that tie treatment sequence and combination to evolving functional cancer phenotypes (that emerge as a result of treatment selection).
Award: Up to $350,000 in total costs per year for up to 3 years. Exceptions permitted if extremely well justified.

Individual Investigator Research Awards for Cancer in Children and Adolescents (IIRACCA)
Supports applications for innovative research projects addressing questions that will advance knowledge of the causes, prevention, progression, detection, or treatment of cancer in children and adolescents. Laboratory, clinical, or population-based studies are all acceptable. CPRIT expects the outcome of the research to reduce the incidence, morbidity, or mortality from

cancer in children and/or adolescents in the near- or long-term.
Award: Up to $300,000 per year. Exceptions permitted if extremely well justified; maximum duration: 4 years.

Individual Investigator Research Awards for Prevention and Early Detection (IIRAP)
Supports applications which propose clinical and population-based projects designed to develop effective prevention and early detection interventions to reduce cancer risk, mortality, and morbidity among Texans. Projects that propose such research collaborations with existing CPRIT Prevention Program awardees including the CPRIT funded *Texas Collaborative Center for Hepatocellular Cancer* (https://www.bcm.edu/research/labs-and-centers/research-centers/texas-collaborative-center-for-hepatocellular-cancer) are strongly encouraged.
Award: Up to $300,000 per year. Exceptions permitted if extremely well justified; maximum duration: 4 years.

Individual Investigator Research Awards for Clinical Trials (IIRACT)
Supports applications that propose innovative cancer clinical studies in adults or children and adolescents that are hypothesis driven and involve patients enrolled prospectively on a clinical trial. Areas of interest include clinical studies of new or repurposed drugs, hormonal therapies, immune therapies, surgery, radiation therapy, stem cell transplantation, combinations of interventions, or therapeutic devices. Clinical trial must be planned to begin when the contract is awarded.
Award: Up to $400,000 per year. Maximum duration: 4 years. Exceptions permitted if extremely well justified.

Individual Investigator Research Awards for Early-Onset Cancers (IIRAEOC)
Supports innovative research projects that will significantly advance the knowledge of etiology, prevention, cancer biology, and treatment of early-onset cancers.
Award: Up to $300,000 per year for a 3-year period

Collaborative Action Program (CAP) to Reduce Liver Cancer Mortality in Texas: Collaborative Action Center (Competitive Renewal)
Supports a competitive renewal of one single Collaborative Action Center whose function will be to innovatively expand the administrative services, resources, and support to CPRIT funded hepatocellular cancer research projects.
Award: Up to $3,000,000 in total costs for a period of 5 years

Table 2: Application Submission data for FY2025 Cycle 1

Mechanism	Submitted	Total Funding Requested
Individual Investigator Research Award (IIRA)	220	$196,400,895.00
Individual Investigator Research Awards for Computational Systems Biology of Cancer (IIRACSBC)	29	$29,833,203.00
Individual Investigator Research Awards for Cancer in Children and Adolescents (IIRACCA)	36	$42,160,677.00
Individual Investigator Research Awards for Prevention and Early Detection (IIRAP)	21	$24,022,601.00
Individual Investigator Research Awards for Clinical Translation (IIRACT)	26	$41,025,711.00
Individual Investigator Research Awards for Early Onset Cancers (IIRA-EOC)	13	$11,379,861.00
CAP: CAC	1	$3,000,000.00
Total	**346**	**$347,822,948.00**

FY2024 Recruitment

Table 4 displays an overview of the status of CPRIT recruitment applications received for Cycle 12. The Scientific Review Council reviewed applications for Cycle 24.12 on July 11, 2024. Dr. Le Beau will present the Scientific Review Council's award recommendations to the Program Integration Committee and the Oversight Committee in August 2024.

Table 3: Recruitment Application Submission data for Cycle 24.12

Mechanism	Number Received	Funds Requested	# SRC Recommended	SRC Recommended Funds
Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members	8	$16,000,000	4	$8,000,000
TOTAL	**8**	**$16,000,000**	**4**	**$8,000,000**

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	KRISTEN DOYLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT:	RESEARCH TRAINING AWARD GRANT RP210043 - RECOMMENDATION FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS
DATE:	AUGUST 1, 2024

Summary and Recommendation

I recommend that the Oversight Committee vote to approve supplemental grant funds for Research Training Award RP210043 in an amount not to exceed $49,157, and to delegate contract negotiation authority to CPRIT's Chief Executive Officer. Texas A&M University System Health Science Center requests the supplement funds to bridge the gap between recently increased National Institute of Health (NIH) stipends and the amounts applicable to the Research Training Award grants approved by the Oversight Committee in May 2021. Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Michelle Le Beau supports my recommendation. The Oversight Committee considered and approved similar supplemental grant requests for six other Research Training Awards at its meeting in May.

Background

The Oversight Committee approved a $3,136,872 Research Training Award (RP210043) for the Cancer Therapeutics Training Program at Texas A&M University System Health Science Center on May 19, 2021. According to the Research Training Awards RFA, the grant is to, "Support applications for integrated institutional research training programs to support promising individuals who seek specialized training in the area of cancer research. Successful applicant institutions are expected to provide trainees with broad access to research opportunities across disciplinary lines and to maintain high standards for intellectual rigor and creativity."

CPRIT allows applicants to include in their grant budgets stipends for Ph.D. trainees, undergraduate summer internship programs, master's degree-level programs to support research careers as laboratory support, and master's degree-level programs to train clinical investigators. The RFA also specifies maximum stipend amounts that a CPRIT grant applicant may include in their grant project budget.

Need for Supplemental Funding

In April, NIH announced an increase to FY 2024 stipend levels for undergraduate, predoctoral, and postdoctoral trainees and fellows under Kirschstein-NRSA awards in accordance with

recommendations from the *NIH Advisory Committee to the Director Working Group on Re-Envisioning NIH-Supported Training* report. NIH's announced pay increase is the largest year-over-year increase in almost seven years.

Research institutions in Texas typically employ the same stipend levels established by the NIH for research trainees. Given this, the stipend limits applicable to the CPRIT Research Training Awards approved in 2021 will make recruiting and retaining the most qualified post-doctoral fellows more challenging for CPRIT's grantee institutions. At its May meeting, the Oversight Committee approved $1,164,382 in supplemental funds for six Research Training Award grantees to bridge the salary gap.

Texas A&M University System Health Science Center requests $49,157 in supplemental funds to increase the stipend levels paid to trainees for the remaining two years of the RP210043 CPRIT training award. The money necessary to fund this request is available in CPRIT's FY 2024 grant awards budget.

Authority and Process to Supplement Grant Award Funds

The Oversight Committee approved RP210043 in accordance with the appropriate process and the authority provided in Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.252. However, the request to increase the award contract exceeds the amount originally authorized for the grant by the Oversight Committee. To amend the grant contract and increase the total grant funds available for the project, the Oversight Committee must first vote to increase the total amount of the RP210043 award. Because this vote affects the funding authorized for a grant award, two-thirds of the members of the Oversight Committee must approve the action.

The Oversight Committee is authorized to negotiate grant contracts on behalf of the state pursuant to Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.255. The Oversight Committee delegated this authority to the Chief Executive Officer. I use this authority to approve routine changes to the grant contracts, such as no-cost extensions and changes to the primary investigator. Increasing the approved contract amount constitutes a material change. Accordingly, the Oversight Committee must vote to delegate contract negotiation authority to me in relation to any approved supplemental funding.

The Oversight Committee's approval of supplemental funds at this time does not bind the Oversight Committee's future decisions regarding RP210043. If approved, the supplemental grant funds will count against the grant annual award cap for FY 2024 set forth by Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.253.

Recommendation

Dr. Le Beau and I recommend that the Oversight Committee vote to approve supplemental grant funds for RP210043 in an amount not to exceed $49,157. Doing so will assist Texas A&M University System Health Science Center recruit and maintain stellar trainees, the future cancer researchers in Texas.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM: RAMONA MAGID, CHIEF PREVENTION OFFICER

SUBJECT: PREVENTION PROGRAM UPDATE

DATE: AUGUST 21, 2024

FY 2025 Review Cycle 1 (25.1)

The Prevention Program released three RFAs, *Primary Prevention of Cancer, Cancer Screening and Early Detection*, and *Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions* on February 9, 2024, for the first cycle of FY 2025. Peer review will take place on September 10-11, and the Prevention Review Council (PRC) will meet on October 18 to make recommendations to the Program Integration Committee (PIC). Ms. Magid will present the Prevention Review Council's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in November.

Mechanism	Apps Received	Funds Requested
Cancer Screening and Early Detection	16	$29,771,943
Primary Prevention of Cancer	7	$6,827,098
Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions	1	$449,929
TOTAL	**24**	**$37,048,970**

FY 2025 Review Cycle 2 (25.2)

The Prevention Program will release three RFAs, *Primary Prevention of Cancer, Cancer Screening and Early Detection*, and *Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control* Interventions, on August 26, for the second cycle of FY 2025. Peer review will take place in March 2025, and the Prevention Review Council (PRC) will meet in April 2025, to make recommendations to the Program Integration Committee (PIC). Ms. Magid will present the Prevention Review Council's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in May 2025.

Other Activities

Carlton Allen, Program Manager for Prevention, presented the 2024 Texas Cancer Plan overview at the Texas Health Improvement Network (THIN) July 11th meeting. The purpose of THIN is to catalyze population health improvement and increase health equity in Texas through multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional partnerships. THIN is administered by The University of Texas System, through the Office of Health Affairs. Ms. Magid attended the meeting as well.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: KEN SMITH, PH.D., CHIEF PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
SUBJECT: PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATE
DATE: AUGUST 13, 2024

Product Development Review FY 2025 Cycle 1 (25.1)

On April 15, 2024, CPRIT released four FY 2024 Product Development RFAs. The portal for preliminary applications opened April 22 and closed May 1. CPRIT received 90 preliminary applications requesting $593.8M. About one-third of the preliminary applications submitted by companies were from companies currently located outside of Texas. CPRIT assigned the preliminary applications to several review panels in May for individual evaluation and scoring. The review panels met to rank and score their assigned preliminary applications in late June.

In early July, CPRIT issued 24 invitations to submit full applications to companies receiving the best preliminary application scores. CPRIT directed the 24 companies to submit full applications by the July 25 deadline. Twenty-two companies submitted applications by the deadline, requesting $181.1M. Ten applicants are currently located out of state (California, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, and Germany). The companies will present their full applications to review panels September 9 – September 27. Following due diligence review, I will present the PDRC's award recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee at the November 2024 meeting.

25.1 Grant Mechanisms	Prelim Apps	Prelim Apps $ Request	25.1 Invited Apps	Invited App $ Request	Full App	Full App $ Request
Texas Therapeutic Company	20	$236,584,572	9	$114,424,364	9	$113,372,324
Texas Device & Diagnostic Co.	13	$109,574,852	5	$43,035,019	5	$42,715,083
Texas New Technologies Company	13	$98,408,190	2	$7,464,681	2	$7,593,656
Seed Company	44	$149,191,696	8	$23,283,750	6	$17,428,097
TOTAL	**90**	**$593,759,310**	**24**	**$188, 207,814**	**22**	**$181,109,160**

CPRIT Intellectual Property Database

In February 2024, we successfully launched the Intellectual Property (IP) database using Wellspring's Sophia system. This launch included the grantee submission portal and submission forms, which significantly improved the efficiency of the submission process. To improve workflow tracking, we developed SQL queries for each grantee institution, setting up automated reminders. We also met with several grantee institutions to discuss their specific customization

needs for the Sophia system. These meetings resulted in valuable feedback that will help us continue to improve the system to better meet the needs of our research partners.

The successful launch of the Sophia system and the grantee submission portal demonstrates our commitment to providing effective, user-friendly tools for managing CPRIT-funded projects.

Product Development Advisory Committee (PDAC)

The PDAC met July 11 to discuss CPRIT's product development program, including the FY 2025 review cycles and the *Texas Resource Guide*.

PDR Outreach

In July, Senior Program Manager for Product Development Dr. Abria Magee met with Opna Bio, a Swiss-based cancer company developing novel therapeutics, and Qana Therapeutics, an Austin-based company pioneering targeted delivery technologies based on the human body's own systems for transporting critical payloads to their destinations. She discussed the current product development award mechanisms and collaboration opportunities.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	CAMERON ECKEL, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL
SUBJECT:	APPOINTMENTS TO THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
DATE:	AUGUST 12, 2024

Summary and Recommendation

The Chief Executive Officer has appointed 28 experts to CPRIT's Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee. CPRIT's statute requires Oversight Committee approval for the appointments. At their August 8 meeting, the Board Governance subcommittee reviewed the appointees to the Academic Research, Prevention, and Product Development Research peer review panels and recommends approval by the Oversight Committee.

Discussion

Scientific Research and Prevention Programs committee members (also referred to as "peer reviewers") are responsible for reviewing grant applications and recommending grant awards for meritorious projects addressing cancer prevention and research, including product development research. Peer reviewers perform a significant role for the state; all CPRIT grant awards must first be recommended by a Scientific Research and Prevention Programs committee. Individuals appointed to serve as CPRIT's Scientific Research and Prevention Programs committee members must be exceptionally qualified, highly respected, well-established members of the cancer research, product development research, and prevention communities.

Texas Health and Safety Code Section 102.151(a) directs the Chief Executive Officer to appoint members to the Scientific Research and Prevention Programs committees. The CEO's appointments are final once approved by a simple majority of the Oversight Committee. The Board Governance Subcommittee charter assigns the subcommittee with the responsibility "to circulate to Oversight Committee members in advance of a public meeting written notification of the committee's intent to make the nomination, along with such information about the nominee as may be relevant."

The Board Governance Subcommittee reviewed the 28 appointees at its August 8 meeting and recommends their approval by the Oversight Committee.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee ("Peer Reviewer") Appointments
August 2024

Program/ Panel	Name	Organization & Title	Expertise
Academic Research (BCR-1)	Wafik S. El-Deiry, M.D., Ph.D., FACP	American Cancer Society Research Director Director, Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University Associate Dean, Oncologic Sciences, Warren Alpert Medical School, Brown Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Brown University *Providence, RI*	Precision Oncology, Cancer Biology, Novel Therapeutics, Tumor Suppressor Genes, Cell Cycle, p53, TRAIL, Myc, Hypoxia, H3K27M Mutated Cancer, Epigenetic Therapy, Immune Prevention, Colorectal Cancer, Cell Death
Academic Research (BCR-1)	Sergei Grivennikov, Ph.D.	Professor, Research Scientist III Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Comprehensive Cancer Institute Departments of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Inflammation, Immunity and Tissue Microenvironment Lab *Los Angeles, CA*	Immunology, Microbiota, Tumor Microenvironment, Colon and Pancreatic Cancers, Animal Models, Organoids
Academic Research (BCR-1)	Justin Durla Lathia, Ph.D.	Scientific Director & Professor Rose Ella Burkhardt Brain Tumor & Neuro-Oncology Center Cleveland Clinic *Cleveland, OH*	Brain Tumors, Glioblastoma, Cancer Stem Cells, Tumor Microenvironment, Sex Differences, Imaging, Experimental Therapeutic, Cell Adhesion, Cell-Cell Communication, Tumor Cells, Immune System
Academic Research (BCR-1)	Kornelia Polyak, M.D., Ph.D.	Professor of Medicine Harvard Medical School Department of Medical Oncology Dana-Farber Cancer Institute *Boston, MA*	Breast Cancer, Ductal Carcinoma In Situ (DCIS), Tumor Microenvironment, Metastasis, Novel Therapeutic Targets, Immune Escape, Epigenetics, Therapy Resistance, Intratumor Heterogeneity
Academic Research (BCR-2)	Vijaya B. Kolachalama, Ph.D.	Associate Professor Departments of Medicine & Computer Science	Machine Learning, Computer Vision, AI, Multimodal learning, Neurodegeneration, Digital

Program/ Panel	Name	Organization & Title	Expertise
		Boston University *Boston, MA*	pathology, Computing and Data Sciences
Academic Research (BCR-2)	Sanja Vicković, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor Department of Biomedical Engineering and Herbert Irving Institute for Cancer Dynamics Columbia University *New York, NY*	Spatial Transcriptomics, Computational Biology, Machine Learning, Genomics, Cancer Biology, Aging
Academic Research (Cancer Biology)	Erica Bell, Ph.D.	Associate Director Neuroscience Research Institute Associate Professor College of Medicine Neurology The Ohio State University *Columbus, OH*	Gliomas, Brain Tumors, Molecular Biomarkers, Prognostic, Predictive, Genomics, Epigenetics, Transcriptomics, Radiotherapy, Biobanking, Next-Generation Sequencing
Academic Research (Cancer Biology)	Shane Michael Harding Ph.D.	Senior Scientist University Health Network, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre Assistant Professor University of Toronto Departments of Medical Biophysics, Radiation Oncology and Immunology *Toronto, Ontario*	DNA Damage and Repair, Cell Cycle, Radiotherapy, Genome Stabilization, Immunotherapy
Academic Research (Cancer Biology)	Aleksandra Karolak, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor Department of Machine Learning Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute *Tampa, FL*	Machine Learning, AI, Computational Biology, Drug Discovery, DNA, Mutagenesis, and Drug Resistance
Academic Research (Cancer Biology)	Arminja Kettenbach, Ph.D.	Professor Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology *Hanover, NH*	Cell Biology, Cell signaling, Protein phosphatases, Phosphorylation, Proteomics, Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC)
Academic Research (CTCR-1)	Santiago Correa, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor Department of Biomedical Engineering Columbia University	Drug Delivery, Nanomedicine, Hydrogels, Biomaterials, Immunotherapy, Immunoengineering

Program/ Panel	Name	Organization & Title	Expertise
		New York, NY	
Academic Research (CTCR-2)	David Barbie, M.D.	Director, Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School Associate Director, Belfer Center for Applied Cancer Science *Boston, MA*	Immunology, Immune Response, Antitumor Immunity, KRAS, NF-kappaB, Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors
Academic Research (CTCR-2)	Catherine Flores, Ph.D. Associate	Professor Department of Neurosurgery University of Florida *Gainesville, FL*	Immunotherapy, Immunology, Cell-based Immunotherapy, Primary Brain Cancer, Stem Cells, Intracranial Tumors
Academic Research (CTCR-2)	Dalia Haydar, PharmD, Ph.D.	Research Faculty, Cellular Therapy Program Center for Cancer and Immunology Research Children's National Hospital Assistant Professor of Pediatrics The George Washington University *Washington, DC*	Immunotherapy, Immunology, Cell-based Immunotherapy, CAR T cells
Academic Research (CTCR-2)	Gregory B. Lesinski, Ph.D., MPH	John Kauffman Family Professor for Pancreatic Cancer Research Professor and Vice Chair for Basic Research Department of Hematology & Medical Oncology Associate Director for Basic Research and Shared Resources, Co-Leader, Translational GI Malignancy Program Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University *Atlanta, GA*	Immunology, Cancer Immunology, Immunotherapy, Cytokines, Myeloid Derived Suppressor Cells, Interleukin-6, Jak-STAT Signaling, Tumor Microenvironment, Small Molecule Inhibitors, Clinical Trials, Translational Research
Academic Research (CTCR-2)	Rizwan Romee, M.D.	Associate Professor Department of Oncology Harvard Medical School, Dana Farber Cancer Institute Member Researcher	Cancer Immunology, Immunotherapy, CAR-T, CAR-NK, NK cells, Stem Cell Transplantation, Clinical Trials, CRISPR., AML, MDS and MPN

Program/ Panel	Name	Organization & Title	Expertise
		The Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy Dana-Farber Cancer Institute *Boston, MA*	
Prevention	Francisco Cartujano-Barrero, M.D.	Assistant Professor of Public Health Sciences and Community Health and Prevention, University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) *Rochester, NY*	Community-based participatory research to develop and implement culturally accommodated interventions for cancer prevention and control
Prevention	Tracy Onega, Ph.D.	Senior Director of Population Sciences, Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah *Salt Lake City, UT*	Health services research and population science with focus on cancer control, including health information technology, cancer care delivery to rural populations, comparative effectiveness, and precision oncology
Prevention	Cynthia Thomson, Ph.D.	Associate Director Population Sciences, University of Arizona Cancer Center *Tucson, AZ*	Clinical translational science with focus on reducing diet-related chronic disease and improving the health of adults and specifically cancer survivors through effective interventions
Prevention	Tung-Sung Tseng, DrPH	Associate Professor in Behavioral and Community Health Sciences School of Public Health, Louisiana State University (LSU) Health Sciences Center *New Orleans, LA*	Community-based participatory research (CBPR), health promotion interventions and evaluations, genome-wide association (GWA), obesity and cancer prevention
Product Development	Rainer Blaesius, Ph.D.	Consultant, Life Science and Biotechnology Consulting *Durham, NC*	Medical device development and regulation, cancer diagnostics
Product Development	Earle Hager, MBA	Managing Partner/CEO, The Neutrino Donut, LLC *Culver City, CA*	Medical device, technology evaluation, business planning, fundraising, commercialization
Product Development	Zizi Imatorbhebhe,	CEO & Executive Partner, Bios Health Group *Atlanta, GA*	Medical device, product commercialization, business planning, clinical development

Program/ Panel	Name	Organization & Title	Expertise
	MBA, MS, PMP		
Product Development	James Kasuboski, Ph.D.	Partner and Head of Research, The Luma Groups *Evanston, IL*	Molecular cell biology, stem cells
Product Development	Michael Maszy, MS, MBA	Senior Vice President Operations, Shockwave Medical, Inc. *Jacksonville, FL*	Medical device, investment
Product Development	Christalyn S. Rhodes, Ph.D.	Associate Vice President, Genetic Medicine-External Partnerships, Eli Lily *Boston, MA*	RNA-editing, gene therapy, investment
Product Development	David Sans, Ph.D., MBA	Head of Healthcare Banking, EF Hutton *New York, NY*	Biological, cell therapy, investment
Product Development	Jianing Wang, Ph.D.	Director – Oncology/Immuno-oncology, Ambrx Biopharma, Inc. *San Diego, CA*	Antibody-drug conjugate, immune-oncology, biological, chemical biology

Academic Research nominations for Peer Reviewers

Nominees	Panel Assignment	Expertise
Wafik S. El-Deiry, MD, PhD, FACP American Cancer Society Research Director Director, Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University Associate Dean, Oncologic Sciences, Warren Alpert Medical School, Brown Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Brown University Providence, RI	**BCR-1**	Precision Oncology, Cancer Biology, Novel Therapeutics, Tumor Suppressor Genes, Cell Cycle, p53, TRAIL, Myc, Hypoxia, H3K27M Mutated Cancer, Epigenetic Therapy, Immune Prevention, Colorectal Cancer, Cell Death
Sergei Grivennikov, PhD Professor, Research Scientist III Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Comprehensive Cancer Institute Departments of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Inflammation, Immunity and Tissue Microenvironment Lab Los Angeles, CA	**BCR-1**	Immunology, Microbiota, Tumor Microenvironment, Colon and Pancreatic Cancers, Animal Models, Organoids
Justin Durla Lathia, PhD Scientific Director & Professor Rose Ella Burkhardt Brain Tumor & Neuro-Oncology Center Cleveland Clinic Cleveland, OH	**BCR-1**	Brain Tumors, Glioblastoma, Cancer Stem Cells, Tumor Microenvironment, Sex Differences, Imaging, Experimental Therapeutic, Cell Adhesion, Cell-Cell Communication, Tumor Cells, Immune System
Kornelia Polyak, MD, PhD Professor of Medicine Harvard Medical School Department of Medical Oncology Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Boston, MA	**BCR-1**	Breast Cancer, Ductal Carcinoma In Situ (DCIS), Tumor Microenvironment, Metastasis, Novel Therapeutic Targets, Immune Escape, Epigenetics, Therapy Resistance, Intratumor Heterogeneity
Vijaya B. Kolachalama, PhD Associate Professor Departments of Medicine & Computer Science Boston University Boston, MA	**BCR-2**	Machine Learning, Computer Vision, AI, Multimodal learning, Neurodegeneration, Digital pathology, Computing and Data Sciences
Sanja Vicković, PhD Assistant Professor Department of Biomedical Engineering and Herbert Irving Institute for Cancer Dynamics Columbia University	**BCR-2**	Spatial Transcriptomics, Computational Biology, Machine Learning, Genomics, Cancer Biology, Aging

New York, NY		
Erica Bell, PhD Associate Director Neuroscience Research Institute Associate Professor College of Medicine Neurology The Ohio State University Columbus, OH	**Cancer Biology**	Gliomas, Brain Tumors, Molecular Biomarkers, Prognostic, Predictive, Genomics, Epigenetics, Transcriptomics, Radiotherapy, Biobanking, Next-Generation Sequencing
Shane Michael Harding PhD Senior Scientist University Health Network, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre Assistant Professor University of Toronto Departments of Medical Biophysics, Radiation Oncology and Immunology Toronto, Ontario	**Cancer Biology**	DNA Damage and Repair, Cell Cycle, Radiotherapy, Genome Stabilization, Immunotherapy
Aleksandra Karolak, PhD Assistant Professor Department of Machine Learning Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute Tampa, FL	**Cancer Biology**	Machine Learning, AI, Computational Biology, Drug Discovery, DNA, Mutagenesis, and Drug Resistance
Arminja Kettenbach, PhD Professor Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology Hanover, NH	**Cancer Biology**	Cell Biology, Cell signaling, Protein phosphatases, Phosphorylation, Proteomics, Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC)
Santiago Correa, PhD Assistant Professor Department of Biomedical Engineering Columbia University New York, NY	**CTCR-1**	Drug Delivery, Nanomedicine, Hydrogels, Biomaterials, Immunotherapy, Immunoengineering
David Barbie, M.D. Director, Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School Associate Director, Belfer Center for Applied Cancer Science Boston, MA	**CTCR-2**	Immunology, Immune Response, Antitumor Immunity, KRAS, NF-kappaB, Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors

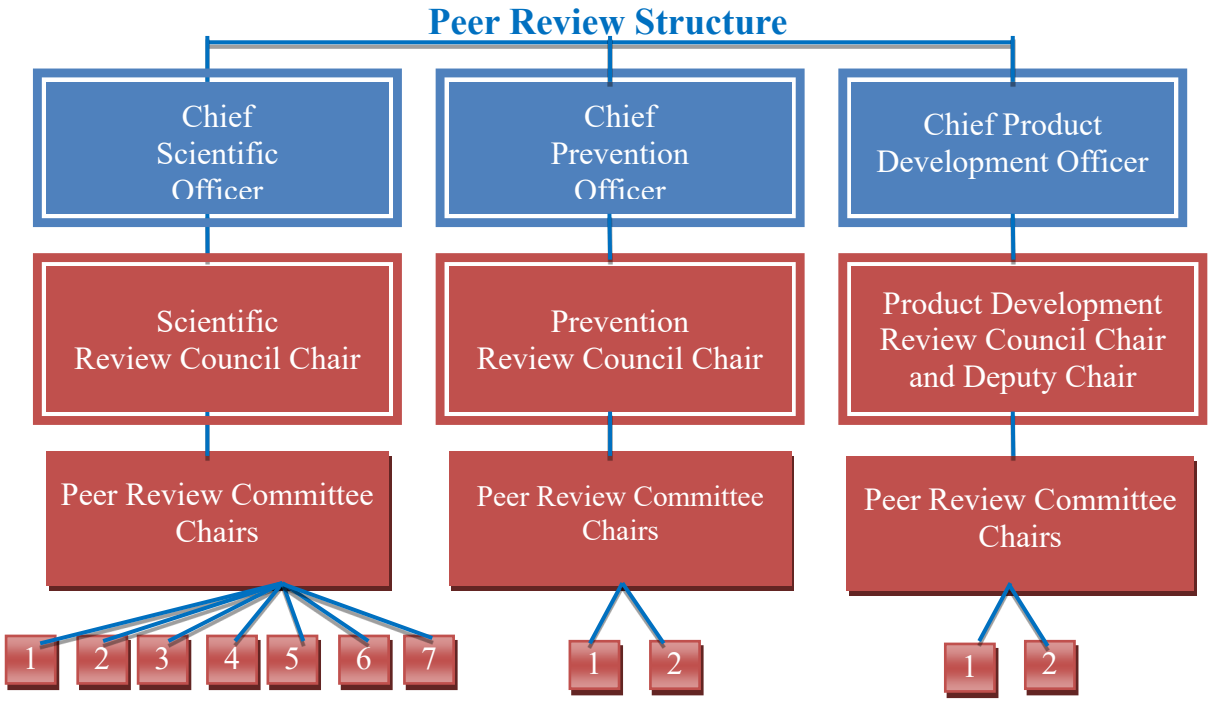
Academic Research nominations for Peer Reviewers

Catherine Flores, PhD Associate Professor Department of Neurosurgery University of Florida Gainesville, FL	**CTCR-2**	Immunotherapy, Immunology, Cell-based Immunotherapy, Primary Brain Cancer, Stem Cells, Intracranial Tumors
Dalia Haydar, PharmD, PhD Research Faculty, Cellular Therapy Program Center for Cancer and Immunology Research Children's National Hospital Assistant Professor of Pediatrics The George Washington University Washington, DC	**CTCR-2**	Immunotherapy, Immunology, Cell-based Immunotherapy, CAR T cells
Gregory B. Lesinski, Ph.D., MPH John Kauffman Family Professor For Pancreatic Cancer Research Professor and Vice Chair for Basic Research Department of Hematology & Medical Oncology Associate Director for Basic Research and Shared Resources, Co-Leader, Translational GI Malignancy Program Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University Atlanta, GA	**CTCR-2**	Immunology, Cancer Immunology, Immunotherapy, Cytokines, Myeloid Derived Suppressor Cells, Interleukin-6, Jak-STAT Signaling, Tumor Microenvironment, Small Molecule Inhibitors, Clinical Trials, Translational Research
Rizwan Romee, MD Associate Professor Department of Oncology Harvard Medical School, Dana Farber Cancer Institute Member Researcher The Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Boston, MA	**CTCR-2**	Cancer Immunology, Immunotherapy, CAR-T, CAR-NK, NK cells, Stem Cell Transplantation, Clinical Trials, CRISPR., AML, MDS and MPN

**Biosketches uploaded into Box.com*

CPRIT PEER REVIEW FY 2025 HONORARIA POLICY[1]

Peer review of prevention and research applications is the evaluation process conducted by qualified experts for feasibility, significance, and potential for impact. Like many funding agencies, CPRIT has implemented a tiered peer review process designed to identify the best projects based on excellence, program-specific objectives, and organizational priorities.[2] Maximizing the success of CPRIT's academic research, product development, and prevention programs is dependent upon the quality of the peer reviewers CPRIT recruits. Therefore, the peer reviewers must be exceptionally qualified, highly respected, well-established members of the cancer research, product development, and prevention communities.



CPRIT relies upon a pool of more than 200 expert peer reviewers to evaluate, score and rank grant applications based upon significance and merit. As reflected above, the general peer review structure is the same for CPRIT's three grant programs. CPRIT assigns reviewers to peer review committees based upon their expertise and background. The evaluations conducted by the peer review committees inform the list of grant applications recommended for CPRIT grant awards.[3]

CPRIT's expert peer reviewers live and work outside Texas, which is an uncommon requirement among grant-making organizations. CPRIT implemented this peer reviewer qualification to

[1] Adopted pursuant to TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE Section 102.151(e).
[2] The National Academies of Sciences recommends a tiered approach to peer review.
[3] For more information about the grant review process undertaken by the peer review committees, please see CPRIT's administrative rules, 25 T.A.C. Part 11, Sections 703.6 and 703.7.

ensure an impartial review, minimize conflicts of interest, and provide the opportunity to select the best projects without regard for self-interest.

Honoraria

In recognition of the work undertaken by CPRIT peer reviewers, state law authorizes CPRIT to pay honoraria to its peer reviewers.[4] CPRIT's ability to pay honoraria is essential to retaining individuals with the expertise and experience to carry out the complex review process required by statute and CPRIT's administrative rules.

CPRIT recruits world-renowned experts who live and work outside of the state to be peer reviewers. CPRIT's residency policy is important to maintaining a review process that minimizes the potential for political and other outside influences, but it means that the CPRIT review process, by design, lacks non-monetary incentives common to other grant review processes that may otherwise justify the time commitment required of CPRIT peer reviewers in addition to their full-time jobs.

Specifically, CPRIT reviewers are not eligible to compete for CPRIT grants. This is different from other cancer grant-making organizations such as National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Defense, American Cancer Society, and Susan G. Komen for the Cure. For example, NIH reviewers may review grant applications as well as compete for NIH grants. Familiarity with the NIH review process gained by serving as an NIH peer reviewer provides the individual a significant non-monetary benefit since that understanding better positions the reviewer to compete for and secure NIH grant funds as an applicant. This benefit is not available to CPRIT's reviewers.

A second nonmonetary benefit from serving on a review panel is that such service is an indication of external recognition in one's field, which is essential for academic and industry promotions. Using individuals already well established in their careers means that this is not an incentive for CPRIT peer reviewers to participate.

The Chairs of CPRIT review committees are all highly distinguished in their respective fields and bring enormous stature to the peer review process. Unlike chairs of other review processes, CPRIT's chairs are responsible for recruiting peer reviewers for their panel. In addition, they serve as strategic advisors for CPRIT's grant programs. These responsibilities are unique to CPRIT review committee chairs and require more effort and expertise than simply chairing a committee. Having committee chairs of this caliber distinguishes CPRIT's peer review process from all others.

Honoraria Payment Process and Documentation

Review Council and Committee Chairs receive quarterly honoraria payments directly from CPRIT. The honoraria payment process for Review Council chairs and Committee chairs is as follows:

[4] TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE Section 102.151(d)

1. At the end of the fiscal quarter, the Review Council chairs and the Committee chairs submit to CPRIT a written confirmation of the work performed and an estimate of hours[5] spent related to CPRIT's peer review activities for the quarter.

2. The CPRIT Program Staff reviews the confirmations and approves payment of quarterly honoraria to the Review Council chair and Committee chairs.

3. CPRIT's financial staff authorizes payment of the honoraria and retains the documentation supporting the honoraria payment.

4. The Chief Compliance Officer and Internal Auditor may also review the confirmations submitted.

CPRIT's third party grant administrator pays peer reviewers for each review cycle in which they participate. To document the work performed by a peer review committee member for the review cycle, CPRIT's third party grant administrator confirms that the reviewer attended the peer review meeting and submitted written comments and scores for the grants assigned to the reviewer for evaluation.

CPRIT also reimburses travel expenses and pays the Texas state per diem when peer reviewers, Review Council chairs, and Committee chairs travel to attend peer review meetings. CPRIT relies upon standard travel documentation for travel reimbursements.

In the event a Review Council chair, Committee chair, or peer reviewer is not able to complete a full review cycle due to unforeseen circumstances, the CPRIT Program Officer may approve, in his or her discretion, a partial payment of the honorarium. The Program Officer should explain in writing the basis for approving a change to the reviewer's honorarium; CPRIT will retain such explanation as part of the grant review records. Nothing herein prevents the Program Officer from approving full payment even if the reviewer is unable to participate in every aspect of the review cycle so long as the reason is well justified.

Peer Review Responsibilities

All CPRIT programs plan standard multi-cycle grant review activities to fully award all available grant funds allocated for FY 2025. CPRIT will continue to convene peer review meetings via videoconference for FY 2025. CPRIT first used videoconference meetings for all peer review activities held after March 2020 and the process has worked well.

[5] CPRIT pays honorarium for the annual service of the Review Council chair or Committee chair. The payment does not use an hourly wage structure; the estimated number of hours devoted to CPRIT activities by a Review Council or Committee chair may vary by quarter depending upon the timing of review cycle activities. CPRIT uses the hourly estimate at the end of the year to set honoraria payment structures for the next fiscal year.

Review Council Chairs

The Council Chair works directly with the CPRIT Program Officer to coordinate the peer review activities for each CPRIT program. The CPRIT model for peer review is unique. Other grant-making programs typically use committee chairs only to preside at committee meetings; however, CPRIT engages preeminent experts in their field for the Council Chair and Committee Chair positions to advise CPRIT on program aspects, including the short-term and long-term direction of the program, the review process itself, and the award portfolio composition. The chair's does this work in addition to the administrative tasks associated with chairing Review Council meetings. Many of the Council Chair responsibilities are similar across the three CPRIT programs, including:

- advising on the selection of committee chairs
- recruiting specialized peer reviewers and assisting with peer reviewer selection
- reviewing all abstracts of projects discussed at Prevention, Scientific, and Product Development Review Council meetings
- chairing Review Council meetings
- chairing a peer review panel meeting if a chair has an unexpected conflict[6]
- finalizing grant award recommendations submitted to the Chief Executive Officer
- providing ongoing advice to CPRIT staff on programs, review processes, and future funding opportunities

Estimated Annual Time Commitment: CPRIT expects Council Chairs to commit approximately 300 hours to CPRIT-related activities in FY 2025. This equates to 14.4% of a standard 2080-hour work year. **Table 1** provides a detailed analysis of the activities, hours, and units used to project the Council Chair workload. The information in Table 1 reflects 2018 – 2024 review cycle information and the projected workload for FY 2025.

NOTE: Due to changes in the Product Development Program review process that CPRIT instituted in FY 2023, CPRIT will continue to use a bifurcated honoraria policy for the Product Development Review Council (PDRC) Chair and Deputy Chair:

- As reflected on Table 1, the PDRC Chair and Deputy Chair[7] will receive a base honoraria that reflects their work advising CPRIT on the review process and RFAs, monitoring the preliminary application review implementation, advising CPRIT on review panel assignments as well as activities coordinating the review of annual progress reports and milestone funding decisions and providing expert advice and assistance related to CPRIT's product development portfolio and substantive grant contract amendment requests.

- In addition to the base honoraria, if the PDRC Chair or Deputy Chair participate in the review of preliminary applications and/or the review of full applications, they will receive honoraria for participation in those review activities as set forth on Table 4.

[6] The Product Development Committee Chair regularly chairs review committee meetings.
[7] In FY 2016, CPRIT created the PDRC Deputy Chair position. This position is equivalent to the PDRC Chair position except that the Deputy Chair will not prepare slate recommendation for the Chief Executive Officer.

Hourly Rate Proxy: CPRIT pays honorarium for the annual service of the Review Council chair and is not based on an hourly wage structure. However, for comparison, the honoraria paid to Review Council chairs equate to a $250/hour rate. This is in line with hourly rates paid for skilled professional services in other industries and less than the $500+/hour rate paid for medical experts in malpractice cases.[8] The hourly rate used by CPRIT is also likely to be less than rates used to calculate consultant fees for physicians and scientists who advise pharmaceutical companies. Although there is no standard rate for consulting fees, one Texas institution of higher education limits the amount of consulting fees a professor may accept to 25% of their base salary. The capped amount is greater than the $72,000 - $83,400 honoraria paid to CPRIT Review Council Chairs.

Review Committee Chairs

A Committee Chair leads each peer review committee. The CPRIT model for peer review is unique. Other grant-making programs typically use committee chairs only to preside at committee meetings; CPRIT engages preeminent experts in their field for the Committee Chair positions to advise CPRIT on program aspects, including the short-term and long-term direction of the program, the review process itself, and the award portfolio composition. The Committee Chair does this work in addition to the administrative tasks associated with chairing peer review committee meetings. Committee Chairs are also members of the Review Council for the program. Duties of the committee chair include:

- recruiting reviewers for their review panels
- assigning applications to their panel members
- becoming familiar with the abstracts and applications assigned to their panel
- determining order of review for applications for panel discussion
- chairing panel discussions; capturing key discussion points
- reviewing full applications to participate in programmatic review meetings
- evaluating CPRIT Scholar recruitment grants (Scientific Review Committee chairs)
- assessing due diligence and intellectual property reports for product development applications (Product Development Review Committee chairs)
- ranking grant applications and developing a list of recommended grant awards and supporting information for consideration by the CPRIT Program Integration Committee
- reviewing annual progress reports and milestone funding decisions (Product Development Program)
- participating in meetings with CPRIT staff to provide advice on future program directions, processes, evaluation criteria, and other related issues

Estimated Annual Time Commitment: The amount of time spent on committee chair activities varies depending on the program. CPRIT expects Review Committee chairs to commit between 190 and 250 hours to CPRIT-related activities in FY 2025. **Table 2** provides a detailed analysis

[8] Data from *National Medical Consultants, P.C.*, a physician owned and operated company representing a panel of over 2700 medical experts who are distinguished specialists in all areas of medicine.

of the activities, hours, and units used to project the committee chair workload. The information in Table 2 reflects 2009 – 2024 review cycle information and the projected workload for FY 2025. For the purposes of the honoraria policy, CPRIT refers to Product Development Review Council members as "committee chairs" and they perform all activities listed in Table 2.

NOTE: Due to changes in the Product Development Program review process that CPRIT instituted in FY 2023, CPRIT will continue to use a bifurcated honoraria policy a bifurcated honoraria policy for the PDRC Committee Chairs:

- As reflected on Table 2, the PDRC Committee Chairs will receive a base honorarium that reflects their work advising CPRIT on the review process and RFAs, as well as activities coordinating the review of annual progress reports and milestone funding decisions and providing expert advice and assistance related to CPRIT's product development portfolio and substantive grant contract amendment requests.

- In addition to the base honoraria, the PDRC Committee Chairs participating in the review of preliminary applications and/or the review of full applications will receive honoraria for their participation in those review activities as set forth on Table 4.

Hourly Rate Proxy: CPRIT pays honorarium for the annual service of the Review Committee chair and is not based on an hourly wage structure. However, for comparison, the honoraria paid to Committee chairs equates to a $200/hour fee. This is in line with hourly rates paid for skilled professional services in other industries and less than the $500+/hour rate paid for medical experts in malpractice cases.[9] The hourly rate used by CPRIT is also likely to be less than rates used to calculate consultant fees for physicians and scientists who advise pharmaceutical companies. Although there is no standard rate for consulting fees, one Texas institution of higher education limits the amount of consulting fees a professor may accept to 25% of their base salary. The capped amount is more than the $37,000 - $50,000 honoraria paid to CPRIT Review Committee Chairs.

Review Committee Members

The number of peer review committees varies by program based on the volume of grant applications submitted. Peer reviewers are responsible for individually reviewing, scoring and critiquing 6-10 applications per cycle, as well as participating in panel discussions about grant applications assigned to the peer review committee. A reviewer spends 6 – 8 hours for a full review of a single application, but the reviewer may require much more time for complex, highly technical applications. A typical CPRIT grant application averages about 40 pages in length with additional supporting documentation. Applications for multimillion-dollar collaborative research projects and product development projects may be far more extensive.

Estimated Time Commitment per Review Cycle: Peer reviewer activity varies by program and number of applications assigned. CPRIT expects academic research peer reviewers to commit approximately 85 hours per review cycle. Prevention peer reviewers will commit 55-70 hours per cycle. **Table 3** provides a detailed analysis of the activities, hours, and units used to project the

[9] Data from *National Medical Consultants, P.C.*, a physician owned and operated company representing a panel of over 2700 medical experts who are distinguished specialists in all areas of medicine.

peer review workload. The information in Table 3 reflects 2009–2024 review cycle information and the projected workload for FY 2025.

For product development peer reviewers, CPRIT instituted a change in FY 2023 that will continue for FY 2025 in which the agency pays honoraria on an application vs. review cycle basis. This change provides CPRIT more flexibility to use ad hoc reviewers whose expertise aligns with the application's underlying science, product, and development/ regulatory stage. Before FY 2023, the Product Development Program relied upon two review panels populated by 20-24 experts that met two times per year to evaluate all product development applications submitted by a set deadline. For scheduling purposes, the process required CPRIT to create the panels in advance of receiving applications, which decreased CPRIT's ability to add reviewers with specific expertise based upon the applications received. In addition, some potential expert reviewers were unable to participate due to the significant time commitment (at least four full business days of meetings per cycle and 80 – 100 hours for reviewing and scoring applications.) A manageable time commitment for the reviewers is a significant incentive for potential review candidates and is crucial to CPRIT's ability to expand its bench of expert reviewers.

Hourly Rate Proxy: CPRIT pays honorarium to Academic Research and Prevention peer reviewers for a given review cycle, which is not based on an hourly wage structure. However, for comparison, honoraria paid to Academic Research and Prevention peer reviewers equates to a rate of $50/hour. Honoraria paid to Product Development peer reviewers is $65/hour. These reviewers must have both academic research and product development backgrounds and are more difficult to recruit. While the hourly rates are significantly less than those paid to professionals of this caliber, the rate is appropriate given the workload and responsibilities compared to Review Council and Committee chairs.

Comparison to other Grant Making Organizations

Grant-making organizations use various models and methods for compensating peer review committee members. A survey of 21 cancer granting organizations reported wide variation among programs such that an average compensation scheme for panel members was not possible. The disparity among organizations makes it difficult to devise a benchmark compensation method or amount. Reported compensation practices may fail to include intangible benefits available to reviewers in addition to monetary compensation, which further complicates the ability to make a meaningful comparison between CPRIT and other grant-making organizations. As discussed earlier, these non-monetary incentives are unavailable to CPRIT reviewers because of CPRIT's policy to use highly qualified, experienced, out-of-state reviewers.

- International Cancer Research Partners (ICRP) surveyed 31 of its partner organizations and 21 responded. The report found that organizations paid different honoraria depending on the role of the reviewer. Chairs often received more than committee members did, and teleconference or online reviewers typically received less

compensation than those members who participated in-person. The report did not compute an average based on the supplied data.[10]

- CPRIT's third party grant administrator reports that two other clients pay reviewers $1,250 and $2,000 per review meeting.

- NCI's website reports that NCI pays $200 per day of review in addition to travel expenses.

[10] The report did not include a range, but the survey sponsors indicated the range for compensation for panel members was $150-$3,000 per day.

Table 1. Council Chair Activities (See Table 5 for an explanation of the correlation between units and hours.)

Table 1 - Review Council Chair Activities, Hours, Units						
Academic Research Program		**Prevention Program**		**Product Development Program – Base***		
Units	Activity	Units	Activity	Units Chair	Units Deputy	Activity
5	Consult with staff on vision and direction for the program; bi-weekly calls with staff	5	Consult with staff on vision and direction for the program; bi-weekly calls with staff	20	20	Review grantee progress reports, advise staff on grantee activities, overall program direction; semi-monthly conference calls w/ staff
3.5	Help select and recruit Committee Chairs	2	Help select and recruit Committee Chairs	3	3	Select and recruit review council members and expert reviewers
6	Advise on peer review, CPRIT 2.0, Program Priorities, and other processes as needed	2	Advise on peer review and other processes as needed	5	5	Advise on peer review process and RFAs, participate in grant application/review webinars and other programmatic processes as needed
5	Review draft RFAs, propose new ones, etc	4	Review draft RFAs, propose new ones, etc	4.5	4.5	Advise/monitor preliminary review.
3	Communicate with Committee Chairs prior to peer review & programmatic mtg	1	Communicate with Committee Chairs prior to peer review & programmatic mtg	4.5	4.5	Assign full applications to panels, monitor full application review process
2	Prepare for Programmatic meetings; review materials	4	Prepare for Programmatic meetings; review materials	2	2	Advise/monitor due diligence review
2	Lead programmatic review	4	Lead programmatic review	3	2	Lead /participate in slate discussion
2	Prepare slate recommendations for CEO and Oversight Committee Chair	1	Prepare slate recommendations for CEO and Oversight Committee Chair			
24	Review recruitment applications, become familiar with applications for discussion	15	Review abstracts, attend portions of panel meetings, back up for panel Chair			
6	Lead monthly discussion on recruitment awards	4	Collaborate on articles for publication			
4	Analyze data for Research program	4	Analyze data for Prevention program			
		3	Participate in quarterly teleconference			
		6	Review dissemination applications			
		5	Review Annual and Final progress reports			
62.5		60		42	41	
$ 1,200	Unit cost	$1,200	Unit cost		$1,200	Unit cost
$ 250	Hourly rate	$250	Hourly rate		$250	Hourly rate
$75,000	Annual honoraria	**$72,000**	Annual honoraria		**$50,400**	Annual base honoraria Chair
					$49,200	Annual base honoraria Deputy Chair

*The PDRC Chair and Vice Chair may receive honoraria in addition to the base honoraria if they participate in reviewing preliminary or full applications. See Table 4.

Table 2. Committee Chair* Activities (See Table 5 for an explanation of the correlation between units and hours.)

Table 2 - Committee Chair Activities, Hours, Units					
Academic Research Review		**Prevention Review**		**Product Development Review – Base***	
Units	Activity	Units	Activity	Units	Activity
2	Select/recruit committee members	2	Select/recruit committee members	2	Select/recruit committee members
3	Review draft RFAs and provide input (as needed)	2	Review draft RFAs and provide input (as needed)	18	Review grantee progress reports; advise staff on grantee activities; participate in semi-monthly conference calls with staff.
10	Read abstracts; assign grants to reviewers	12	Read abstracts assigned to their committee; review panel assignments	3	Advise on review process, RFAs; participate in grant application/review webinars and other programmatic processes as needed
1	Assist with follow up of delinquent reviewers	1	Assist with follow up of delinquent reviewers	2	Participate in award slate meetings.
4	Chair the assigned committee review process via conference call or in person meeting	6	Chair the assigned committee review process via conference call or in person meeting		
1	Prepare for Programmatic meetings; review materials	2	Prepare for Programmatic meetings; review materials		
1	Participate in Chair's programmatic review meetings	6	Participate in Chair's programmatic review & debriefing meetings		
6	Participate in debriefing sessions, discussion of future direction of program, development of new RFAs, CPRIT 2.0 and Program Priorities	2	Participate in debriefing sessions, discussion of future direction of program, development of new RFAs		
		3	Prepare and participate in quarterly Review Council teleconferences		
24	Review recruitment applications	4	Review dissemination applications		
5	Participate in monthly review of recruitment applications	2	Participate in review of dissemination applications		
57		42		25	
$875	Unit cost	$875	Unit cost	$875	Unit cost
$200	Hourly	$200	Hourly	$200	Hourly
$50,000	**$50,000** Annual honoraria	$36,750	**$37,000** Annual honoraria	$21,875	**$22,000** Annual base honoraria

See Table 5 for an explanation of the correlation between units and hours.

* For the Product Development Program, the members of the Product Development Review Council (PDRC) fulfill the "Committee Chair" activities.

** The PDRC may receive honoraria in addition to the base honoraria if they participate in reviewing preliminary or full applications. See Table 4.

Table 3. Peer Reviewer Activities per Cycle (See Table 5 for an explanation of the correlation between units and hours.)

Prevention Review: ~20 reviewers		Academic Research Review: ~ 130 reviewers	
Units	**Activity**	**Units**	**Activity**
1	Declaration of expertise and conflicts	1	Declaration of expertise and conflicts
8	Preparation of full critiques	7	Preparation of critiques*
1	Premeeting preparation of video conferencing capabilities	1	Premeeting preparation of video conferencing capabilities
4	Participation at meeting	7	Participation at meeting
1	Post-meeting discussion**	1	Post-meeting discussion**
1	Post-meeting survey to provide CPRIT feedback on CPRIT 2.0		
16	$250 Unit cost $50 avg. hourly rate $4,000 per cycle	17	$250 Unit cost $50 avg. hourly rate $4,250 per cycle

* This may be less for reviewers that participate only in the preliminary application review. The grant mechanism specifies when CPRIT uses preliminary reviews. Reviewers who only participate in the preliminary review and provide at least one critique receive $2,000.

** Post-meeting discussion activities may include finalizing funding recommendations, finalizing critiques, clarifying recommendations related to funding or goals/objective changes, de-briefing about the review cycle, and/or other activities specified by the CPRIT Program Officer.

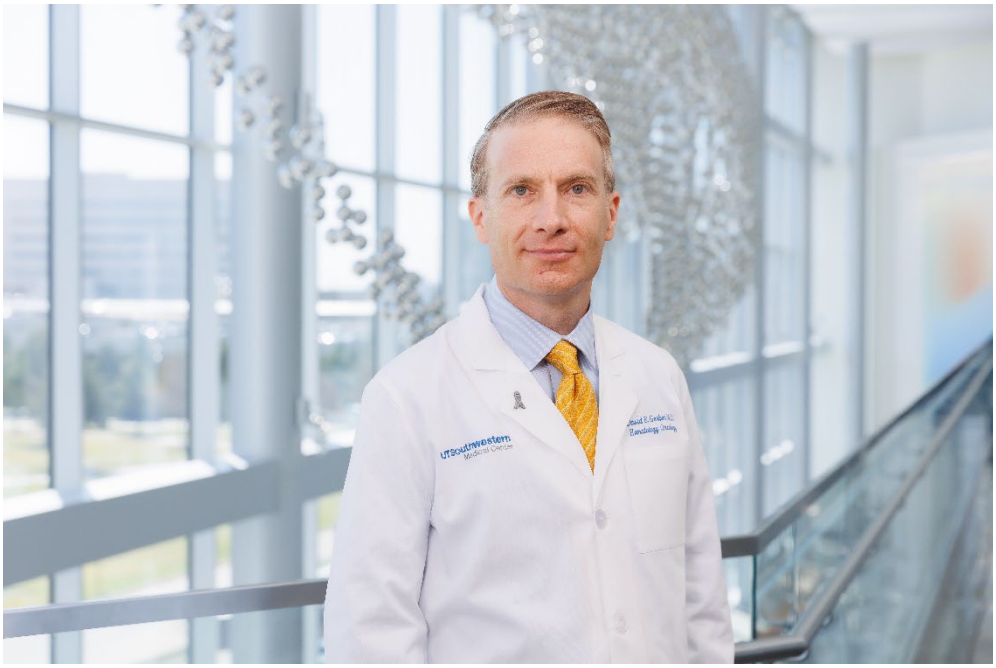
NOTE: CPRIT pays peer reviewers only for activities in which they participate. For example, participation in a post meeting discussion is 1 unit of time and CPRIT values each unit at $250. If the reviewer was unable to attend the post-meeting discussion, then CPRIT subtracts $250 from the honorarium paid to the reviewer. In the event a Review Council chair, Committee chair, or peer reviewer is not able to complete a full review cycle due to unforeseen circumstances, the CPRIT Program Officer may approve, in his or her discretion, a partial payment of the honorarium.

Table 4. Product Development Peer Reviewer Activities per Application (See Table 5 for the correlation between units and hours.)

Preliminary Application Review (PDRC members only) ~ 8 – 12 members	
Units	**Activity**
2	Declaration of conflicts
14	Review, score and critique preliminary applications
4	Participation in preliminary application panel teleconference
20	**Total Units for Preliminary Application Review**
$875	**Unit Cost**
$17,500	**Total**
Full Application Review (per application) ~ 60 reviewers	
Units	**Activity**
.5	Declaration of conflicts and expertise
3.5	Review full application, score and prepare critique
1	Participate in company presentation meeting and peer review panel discussion
2.5*	Participate in due diligence review and meetings, funding recommendation
2**	Lead panel member who manages panel discussion, coordinates critiques and scoring
5 – 9.5	**Total Review Units per Full Application**
$325	**Unit cost**
$1,625 – $3,075	**Total per Full Application**
* Only those applications scoring sufficiently well will proceed to due diligence review; reviewer will only receive this additional honorarium if the application undergoes due diligence review.	
** Each review panel will have one lead member; only the reviewer designated as the lead member receives this additional honorarium.	

Table 5. Hours and Units Calculation

PARTICIPATION (HOURS)	UNITS		Council Chairs (and Vice Chair)	Committee Chairs	Peer reviewers
1-5	1		Unit Cost		
6-10	2		$1200	$875	$250-$325
11-15	3		Average Hourly Rate		
16-20	4		$250	$200	$50-$65
21-25	5		Honoraria		
26-30	6		$65,400 - $83,400 annually	$36,750 - $50,000 annually	$4,250 - $6,500 per cycle
31-35	7				
36-40	8				
41-45	9				
46-50	10				
51-55	11				
56-60	12				
61-65	13				
66-70	14				
71-75	15				



David Gerber, M.D., is a professor in the Department of Internal Medicine (Hematology-Oncology) and the Peter J. O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Within the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UT Southwestern, Dr. Gerber serves as co-director of the Office of Education and Training and previously served as associate director of Clinical Research and as co-leader of the Experimental Therapeutics Program.

Dr. Gerber is an active thoracic medical oncology clinical investigator with more than 230 publications and continuous federal, state, and foundation research funding for more than 15 years. He currently serves as PI of a CPRIT Clinical Trials Network Award and a CPRIT Clinical Trials Participation Program Award and has served as PI for a total of five CPRIT grants (PP230041, RP220542, RP210115, PP190052, RP160030) since 2016.

Dr. Gerber's extensive research on the design, implementation, and conduct of cancer clinical trials has resulted in widespread policy changes at the U.S. FDA and NCI, and has been featured in the *New York Times, Washington Post,* and on National Public Radio. In 2022, he received the NCI Director's Merit Award for his work expanding the role of advanced practice providers in NCI-sponsored clinical trials.

Clinical Trials Advisory Committee

Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report

August 21, 2024

David E. Gerber, MD
Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center
UT Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, Texas

Barriers to Clinical Trials Participation

Less than 5% of cancer patients **can access** potentially live-saving **cancer clinical trials** because of financial toxicity, navigation, and the fear of leaving family and loved one's……..

Eliminating Barriers to Clinical Trials Participation

The 86th Texas Legislature passed HB3147 sponsored by Rep. Parker to increase the number and diversity of patients in cancer clinical trials by removing the nonclinical out of pocket costs as barriers to participation.

CPRIT's Clinical Trials Participation Program Award

- Two CPRIT Awards: *Enhancing Access To and Diversity in Cancer Clinical Trials Through a Financial Reimbursement and Outreach Program* ($1.5 million, RP210115, Dr. David Gerber at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center) and *The Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center Harris Health Clinical Trials Financial Support Project* ($1.5 million, RP210143, Dr. Martha Mims at Baylor College of Medicine).
- Grant Funds Support Patient Costs and Outreach: $1 million of total grant costs must be used to reimburse patients' non-clinical expenses; remaining amount funds community outreach, patient navigation, and administrative costs.
- Reimbursement of Eligible Non-Clinical Expenses: Includes travel costs, lodging, food, parking, tolls, childcare, internet (for telehealth visits) for patient and accompanying caregiver.
- Based on Financial Need: Patients at or below 700% of the federal poverty level are eligible to receive reimbursements.

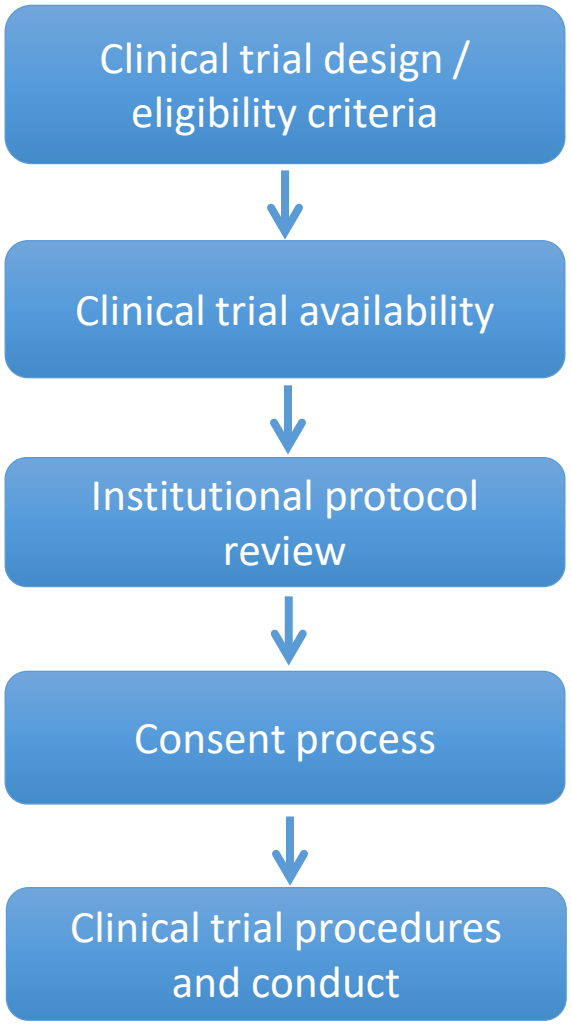
UT Southwestern's "Enhancing Access and Diversity in Cancer Clinical Trials" Project

- Approved August 18, 2021
- 164 patients enrolled; currently enrolling additional patients
- $133,000+ in total patient reimbursement
- Sites: UT Southwestern Comprehensive Cancer Center, Parkland Health and Children's Health Dallas
- Children's Health Dallas is the first pediatric facility in the nation with a reimbursement program for non-clinical costs associated with trial participation
- UT Southwestern is working with the Lazarex Cancer Foundation to manage patient reimbursement

Today I will review the following

- My background
- CTAC members
- CTAC recommendations
- CTAC accomplishments
- Clinical trial activities
- Spotlight
  - CPRIT Early Clinical Investigator grant
  - CPRIT Texas Clinical Trial Participation Award
  - CPRIT Clinical Trial Network Award

I have spent >15 years studying the design, conduct, and reporting of cancer clinical trials



J Natl Compr Canc Netw 2022;20:792-799.
JAMA Oncol 2022;8:1333-1339.
J Natl Cancer Inst 2014;106 (11)
J Natl Cancer Inst 2015;107 (4)
Breast Cancer Res Treat 2021;187:853-65
Lung Cancer 2016;98:106-13
British J Cancer 2017;116:717-25
J Thorac Oncol 2017;12:1489-95
J Comp Effect Res 2014;4:289-91
Clin Lung Cancer 2020;21:21-27
Clin Cancer Res 2021;27:2416-2423
Oncologist 2015;20:674-82
J Natl Compr Cancer Netw 2015;13:409-16
J Oncol Practice 2017;13:982-991.
Oncologist 2009;14:468-75
J Oncol Practice 2012;8:91-96
Cancer 2020;15:1605-13
J Clin Oncol 2019;37:1993-1996
JTO Clin Res Rep 2023;4:100575.
J Oncol Practice 2016;12:1020-1028
J Oncol Practice 2017;13:1021-1029
J Oncol Practice 2020;16:e64-e74
JCO Oncol Pract 2022;18:729-732
Contemp Clin Trials 2022;121:106922
J Clin Oncol 2022 Aug 22.

Funders, the public, and regulatory authorities have responded to this work

Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas

NIH National Cancer Institute

ASCO American Society of Clinical Oncology

Stand Up To Cancer

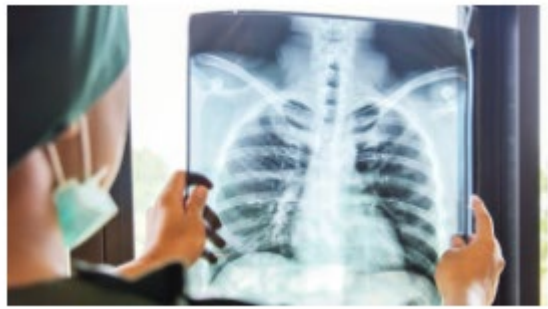
American Cancer Society

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Health & Science

Cancer clinical trials exclude many desperate patients. Should that change?

KERA NEWS



Health & Wellness

FDA and a North Texas doctor seek to ease clinical trial restrictions on treatments for lung cancer

Sam Baker, August 22, 2022

A new report looks at how and why the Food and Drug Administration plans to push pharmaceutical companies to loosen the restrictions. Lead author Dr. David Gerber of UT Southwestern Medical Center and Simmons Cancer Center has long been an advocate for change. He spoke with KERA's Sam Baker.

USA TODAY

One big change is coming to clinical drug trials, and it's 'no longer lip service'

September 30, 2022

Karen Weintraub, USA TODAY

The New York Times

When Cancer Strikes Twice

Personal Health

By JANE E. BRODY DEC. 25, 2017

Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas

Funders, the public, and regulatory authorities have responded to this work

Expanding eligibility

Cancer Clinical Trial Eligibility Criteria: Patients with Organ Dysfunction or Prior or Concurrent Malignancies

Guidance for Industry

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Food and Drug Administration
Oncology Center of Excellence
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER)

July 2020
Clinical/Medical

Cancer Clinical Trial Eligibility Criteria: Laboratory Values

Guidance for Industry, IRBs, and Clinical Investigators

DRAFT GUIDANCE

This guidance document is being distributed for comment purposes only.

Comments and suggestions regarding this draft document should be submitted within 60 days of publication in the *Federal Register* of the notice announcing the availability of the draft guidance. Submit electronic comments to https://www.regulations.gov. Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. All comments should be identified with the docket number listed in the notice of availability that publishes in the *Federal Register*.

For questions regarding this draft document, contact (CDER) Elaine Chang at 202-302-2942 or (CDER) Abhilasha Nair at 301-796-8317 or (CBER) Office of Communication, Outreach and Development at 800-835-4709 or 240-402-8010.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Food and Drug Administration
Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER)

April 2024
Clinical/Medical

Expanding APP roles

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES — Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
National Cancer Institute

9609 Medical Center Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 7, 2021

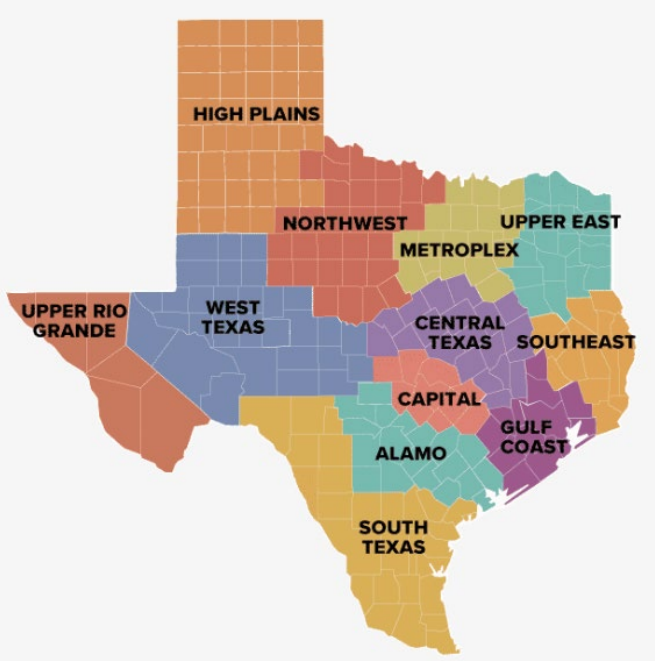
TO: Principal Investigators and Operations/Statistics Offices of NCI CTEP-Supported Clinical Trials Networks & Consortia and DCP-Supported NCI Community OncologyResearch Program (NCORP) Research Bases

FROM: Meg Mooney, MD, Associate Director, CTEP, DCTD, NCI
Worta McCaskill-Stevens, MD, Director, NCORP, DCP, NCI

SUBJECT: Guidance and Update on Advanced Practice Providers Writing Study Agent Orders on Clinical Trials Supported by the NCI Cancer TherapyEvaluation Program and the NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP)

CTAC membership represents diverse expertise and regions

Name	Research	Setting	Region
Carlos Arteaga	Translational	Academic	Metroplex
Ruma Bhagat	Population	Industry	External
Suzanne Cole	Clinical	Community	Metroplex
S. Gail Eckhardt	Clinical	Academic	Gulf Coast
David Gerber	Population	Academic	Metroplex
David Hong	Clinical	Academic	Gulf Coast
Ronan Kelly	Clinical	Community	Metroplex
Martha Mims	Translational	Academic	Gulf Coast
Pavan Reddy	Translational	Academic	Gulf Coast
C. Pat Reynolds	Translational	Academic	West Texas



CTAC recommendations

1. **Broaden representation to other professional groups (APPs, social workers, navigators) and other regions of the state (Upper Rio Grande, South Texas, etc)**

2. **Further refine clinical trial-focused RFAs to ensure diverse access and enrollment**

3. **Consider potential new RFAs**
    1. Community (especially rural) medical oncologists mentored by experienced investigators/sites
    2. Recruitment of clinical trialists in rural areas
    3. Building/expanding clinical trial infrastructure for TREC-eligible institutions

4. **Continue Work Group monthly meetings**

5. **Hold annual in-person CTAC meetings**

Key CTAC accomplishments

1. **Provided guidance to CPRIT on expansion of access to clinical trials in Texas and development of a clinical trialist workforce through focused RFAs**
   - Early Clinical Investigator Award (proposed FY25.2)
   - Clinical Investigator Award (FY24.2)
   - Individual Investigator Research Awards for Clinical Trials (FY25.1)
   - Individual Investigator Research Awards for Clinical Translation (FY24.1)

2. **Expanded CTAC membership to include members of industry, multi-county non-profit hospital systems, community oncologists, and rural clinical trialists**

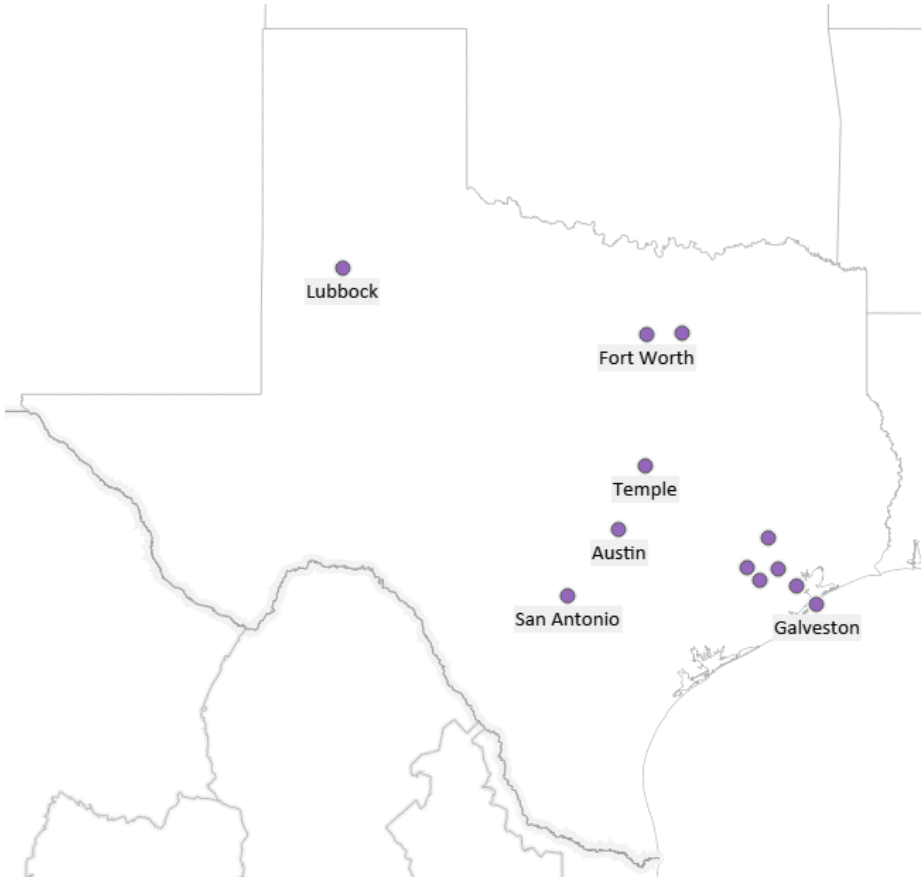
3. **Created an active Work Group to**
   - revisit and revise bench-to-bedside RFAs
   - identify collaborations with NCI and other groups for clinical research best practices
   - examine programs (including third-party vendors) with success in clinical trials for rural populations
   - engage with Texas Oncology and other practices
   - leverage technology to enhance access to trials

CPRIT-supported clinical trial enrollment to date

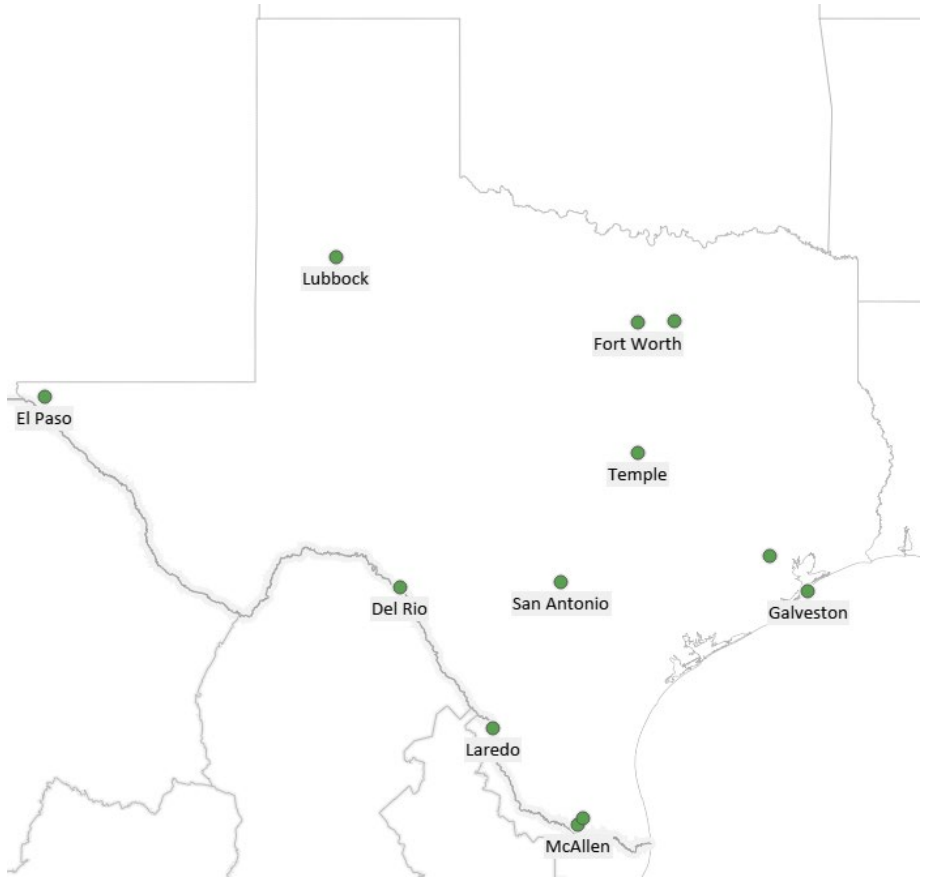
Trial type	Total trials	Active trials	Enrollment
Interventional	214	94	13,450
Observational	93	28	43,886
TOTAL	**307**	**122**	**57,336**

CPRIT-supported active clinical trial locations

Interventional



Observational



Spotlight: CPRIT Early Career Investigator Award

Provides **cancer physicians early in their academic career** the opportunity to

- develop the research skills and experience to become clinical investigators
- establish partnerships with laboratory-based collaborators to design and conduct correlative studies
- provide protected time to develop and conduct investigator-initiated clinical trials
- increase the pool of clinical investigators at Texas academic institutions who
    - conduct patient-oriented studies
    - translate basic discoveries through innovative clinical trials for individuals with or at risk for cancer

Applications solicited from institutions

Award amount: Up to **$1,500,000** (total costs).

Award duration: Up to **5 years.**

Early Career Investigator Award program outcomes*

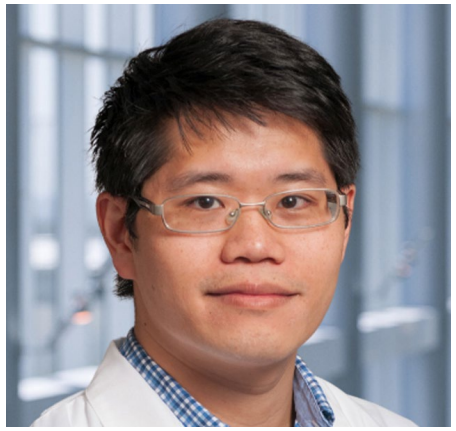
Metric	N or amount
Awards	10 (7 reporting)
Publications	35
Patents	1
Follow-on funding	$570,000

Clinical trial activities

Metric	Observation	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	TOTAL
Studies	1	2	1	1	**5**
Enrollment	13	29	47	2	**78**

*Based on 7/10 returned progress reports available at time of data collection

Impact of CPRIT Early Career Investigator Award recipients



Name	Nicolas Palaskas, MD	David Hsieh, MD
Institution	MD Anderson Cancer Ctr	UT Southwestern Simmons Cancer Ctr
Division	Cardiology	Hematology-Oncology
Project	Retrospective study of immunotherapy-related myocarditis	Clinical trial of novel immunotherapy for liver cancer
Findings	IL-6, TNFα elevations	Synergistic effects of targeting PS and PD-1
Publication	*Diseases* 2024;12:88	*Nat Commun* 2024;15:2178.

Spotlight: CPRIT supports two mechanisms designed to *enhance access to clinical trials*

Texas Clinical Trial Participation Award (CTPA)

- Duncan Cancer Center (Baylor) / Harris Health
- Simmons Cancer Center (UTSW)

Clinical Trial Network Award (CTNA)

- MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Simmons Cancer Center (UTSW)

The Participation Award reimburses non-clinical costs for patients on clinical trials

Eligible costs:

- Travel (airfare, gas, parking, tolls, rideshare, taxi, etc)
- Lodging
- Meals
- Childcare
- Wi-Fi (to have access to virtual visits)

Can cover a caregiver's costs if travel >50 miles to trial site

Limited to individuals who live in Texas

Household income up to 700% Federal Poverty Level (i.e., most of our patients) are eligible

Number in household	Income 0–400%	Income 401%–550%	Income 551% - 700%
1	<$51,040	$51,041 - $70,180	$70,181 - $89,320
2	<$68,960	$68,961 - $94,820	$94,821 - $120,680
3	<$86,880	$86,881 - $119,460	$119,461 - $152,040
4	<$104,800	$104,801- $144,100	$144,101 - $183,400
5	<$122,720	$122,721- $168,740	$168,741 - $214,760
6	<$140,640	$140,641 - $193,380	$193,381 - $246,120
7	<$158,560	$158,561 - $218,020	$218,021 - $277,480
8	<$176,480	$176,481- $242,660	$242,661 - $308,840
REIMBURSEMENT RATE:	100%	75%	50%

Why is this program important?

A cancer diagnosis causes major financial strain

- >3/4 of people with cancer leave the workforce during their treatment
- >1/3 spend their life savings within the first two years after diagnosis

Trials can exacerbate these issues

- Extra visits may lead to more travel and more missed workdays
- Increased demands result in an average of $600 in added non-medical costs per month
- Lower-income individuals travel 3 times further to reach clinical trial sites

As a result . . .

- Individuals with household incomes below $50,000/y are 30% less likely to enroll in cancer clinical trials than those earning more,
- Fewer than 5% of trial enrollees are Medicaid recipients
- 80% of patients feel that assistance with lodging and transportation costs would increase their likelihood of enrollment to trials outside their area

Unger JM et al. JAMA Oncol 2016;2:137-9.
Yabroff KR et al. J Clni Oncol 2016;34:259-67.
Guy GP Jr et al. J Clin Oncol 2013;31:3749-57.

Nipp RD et al. Oncologist 2015;20:572-5.
Borno HT et al. Oncologist 2018;23:1242-49.
Unger JM et al. J Clin Oncol 2013;31:536-42.

The Lazarex Cancer Foundation has led national efforts to cover non-clinical costs to achieve "financial neutrality" for cancer trials

- Multi-year nationwide program to increase cancer clinical trial enrollment, retention, minority participation and equitable access
- Active sites: Univ. Pennsylvania, MD Anderson
- Model for CPRIT CTPA RFA and related Texas legislation

In the Simmons Cancer Center, the CTPA has been implemented across all three clinical sites

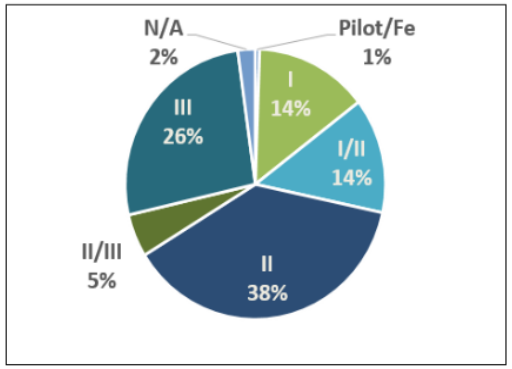
Partnered with Lazarex to administrate expense reimbursement

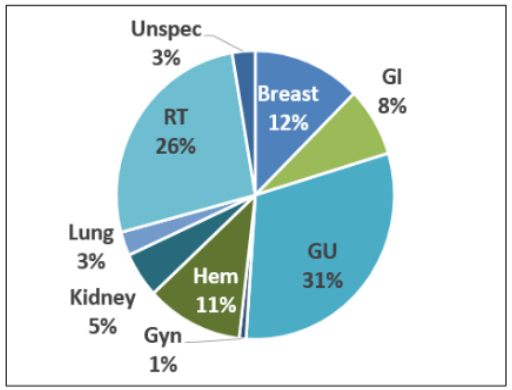
>$170,000 in patient reimbursements provided:

- Transportation (Uber/Lyft, Mileage, Parking, Tolls, Airfare): $69,000
- Meals: $55,000
- Lodging: $30,000
- Wi-Fi: $16,000

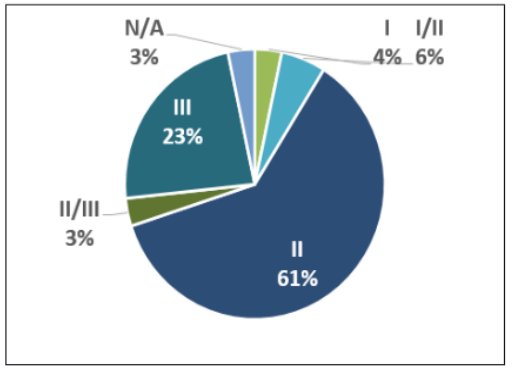
Patients from underrepresented minority groups make up **51%** of financial reimbursement program enrollments.

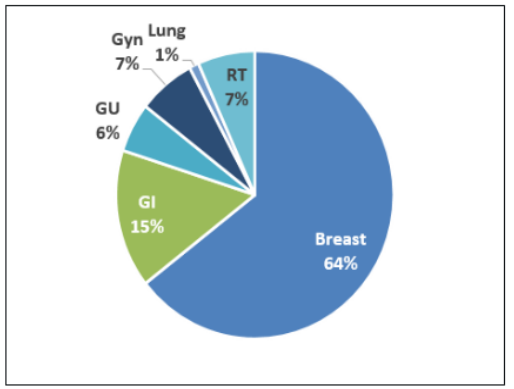
UTSW



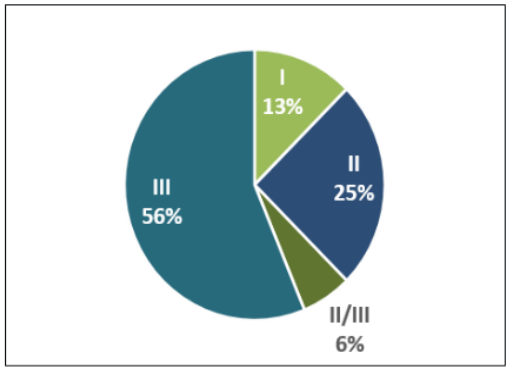


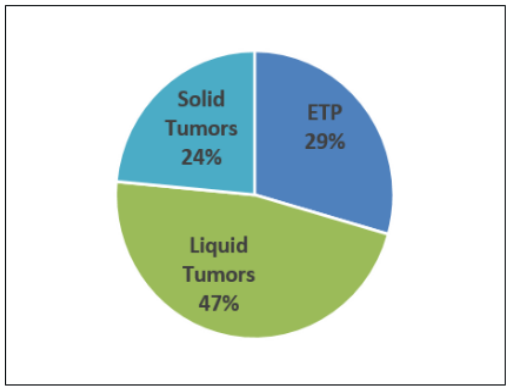
Parkland





Children's





CTPA sites have identified challenges and are addressing them with CPRIT

The enrollment process can be challenging

- Navigators now help all patients complete forms and obtain required income documentation

Expense documentation can be burdensome

- Travel requires map showing locations of home and clinic
- Expenses require receipt from entity with tax ID (e.g., childcare center rather than babysitter)

CTPA sites working with CPRIT to streamline processes

- Developing a list of expense categories with associated reimbursement rates to ease documentation

This topic is gaining national attention

Two related pieces of federal legislation in development

Clinical Trials Modernization Act

Reps. Raul Ruiz (D-Calif.) and Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.)

Harley Jacobsen Clinical Trial Participant Income Exemption Act

Reps. Mike Kelly (R-PA) and Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA)

This topic is gaining national attention

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Harley Jacobsen Clinical Trial Participant Income Exemption Act

Reps. Mike Kelly (R-PA) and Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA)

Yet financial support is waning

Lazarex Cancer Foundation will close its reimbursement program this year

The Texas Clinical Trials Network offers trial sponsors access to diverse settings and populations

Lead institution:

MD Anderson (Houston)

Affiliates:

Lyndon B. Johnson (Houston)*

UT Medical Branch (Galveston)

Baylor- Scott & White (Round Rock) - new

University of Texas (Tyler) - new

Lead institution:

UT Southwestern (Dallas)

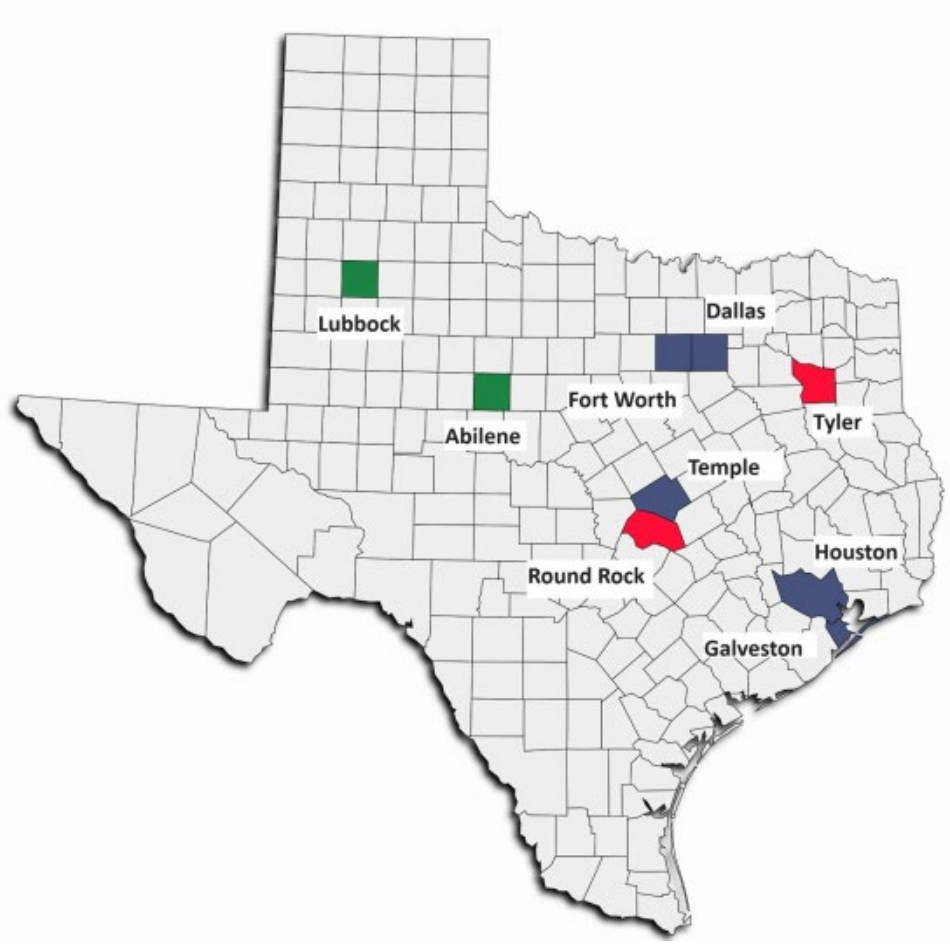
Affiliates:

John Peter Smith (Fort Worth)*

Baylor-Scott & White (Temple)

Hendrick Medical Center (Abilene) - pending

Covenant Health (Lubbock) - pending



The Network is designed to optimize the activation, conduct, and oversight of clinical trials

- CPRIT-supported infrastructure/personnel enhance sites' capabilities
- Critical review of protocols to match sites' populations and needs
- IRB reliance (within regions) to expedite activation
- Shared strategies to enhance awareness of and enrollment to activated trials
- Oversight and education to support protocol management, data collection, and other trial activities

2023-2024 CTNA accomplishments

- May 2024 symposium: >120 attendees representing >60 companies
- Individual meetings with >20 industry sponsors and initiation of 16 master CDAs to establish longitudinal working relationships
- Partner program relationships established with CRO (IQVIA) and industry sponsor (Genentech Advancing Inclusive Research Site Alliance)
- Activation of 20 trials with 11 currently in start-up
- Network Affiliate PIs have joined NCI cooperative group committees
- Lead Institution-Network Affiliate academic collaborations to highlight and understand patient populations
- Geographic expansion to Northeast Texas with pending expansion to West Texas

Encouraging developments at John Peter Smith (JPS)

Kalyani Narra, MD
Site PI

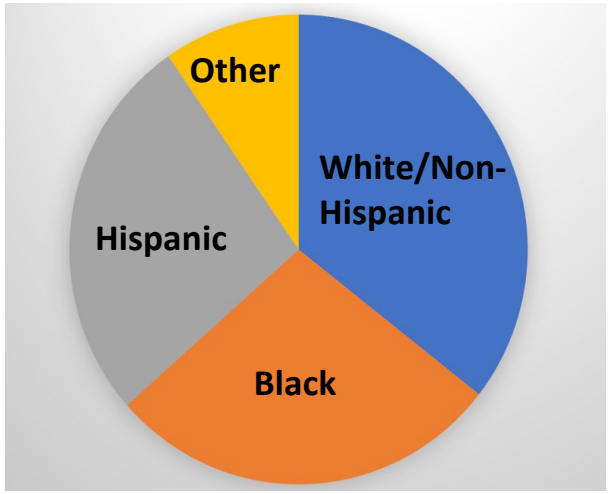
Lindsay Crutcher, CCRC
Site Coordinator

2024

Activated 3 industry-sponsored trials (first ever)
Enrolled 6 patients

Academic collaborations to enhance visibility

1 **Testing patterns of *EGFR* and *ALK* alterations and clinical outcomes for patients with non-**
2 **small cell lung cancer in a safety net hospital system**
3
4 Kalyani Narra[1,2], Bassam Ghabach[1] ,Vivek Athipatla[3], James-Michael Blackwell[4], Jolonda
5 Bullock[1], Anna Diaz[4], David E. Gerber[5,6,7], Mitchell S. von Itzstein[5,6]
6
7 [1]John Peter Smith Oncology and Infusion Center. Fort Worth, Texas, USA.



2/3 patients are URM

April Bell, MS
Site Manager

Celeste Caliman, MSc
Site Director

Bidirectional learning

JPS developed QR codes to give clinicians rapid access to trial details

Clinical research requires clinical buy-in and support

acclaim
Improving health together
A partner with JPS Health Network

ACCLAIM PHYSICIAN GROUP

DR. KALYANI NARRA

Dr. Narra with OCR staff at JPS RQS 2024

ABOUT DR. NARRA

Kalyani Narra MD joined Acclaim in August 2018 as a full-time hematologist oncologist at John Peter Smith (JPS) Hospital. Her passion for research as well as encouragement from colleagues and rich JPS databases led her to create her large research portfolio.

Questions?

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

2024 Report from the Product Development Advisory Committee

Andrew Strong and
Michele Park

PDAC Presenters

Andrew Strong

Partner, Houston
Hogan Lovells US, LLP
+1 713 899 3930
andrew.strong@hoganlovells.com

Andrew is an experienced and trusted advisor and counsel to public and private life sciences, pharmaceutical, and emerging technology global clients on matters involving corporate formation, public and private financing, M&A, cross-border licensing and joint ventures, employment and executive compensation and intellectual property.

Education

J.D., South Texas College of Law, 1994

B.S., Civil Engineering, Texas A&M University, 1989

Andrew previously served as the general counsel and compliance officer for the Texas A&M University System where he was responsible for, among other things, technology commercialization, business contracting, litigation and Board governance for the system's universities and state agencies.

He has experience starting up and selling a successful biotech company that has grown to 900+ employees, has served and presently serves as the general counsel for several private and publicly traded drug development biotech clients and has served as a board member and in leadership positions for NYSE, Nasdaq, and private corporations.

Michele Park

Partner, Menlo Park
New Enterprise Associates (NEA)
mpark@nea.com

Michele joined NEA in 2021 as an investor on the healthcare team focused on the biopharma space. Prior to NEA, Michele was an investor at life sciences-focused venture capital firm, Clarus Ventures (now Blackstone Life Sciences), where she led the initiative to launch the Clarus Cancer Fund—a novel investment model designed to generate returns and fuel cancer research through donation. Before Clarus, she spent time in biotechnology research analyst roles at Credit Suisse and Piper Jaffray.

Education

Ph.D., Molecular Biology, Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medicine

B.A., Molecular Biology, Princeton University

Michele received her Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences and completed her dissertation at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. She also holds a B.A. in Molecular Biology from Princeton University. Park serves as Co-Chair of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) Product Development Advisory Committee; Board Trustee for the American Friends of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (AFRPO); and is a member of the Council of Korean Americans (CKA) and Private Equity Women Investor Network.

Product Development Advisory Committee (PDAC)

Chair Andrew Strong, JD, Partner, Hogan Lovells, LLP*
Vice Chair Michele Park, PhD, Partner, NEA

David Arthur, CEO, Salarius Pharmaceuticals*
Bruce Butler, PhD, VP, Research and Technology, Director, OTM, UTHSC at Houston
Julie Goonewardene, AVP for Innovation and Strategic Investment, UT System
Gabby Everett, PhD, Site Director, BioLabs Pegasus Park
Victoria Ford, President and CEO, Texas Healthcare & Bioscience Institute
Greg Hartman, COO and SVP for Strategic Partnerships, Texas A&M University, Vice Chancellor at TAMU System
Heather Hanson, President, BioMedSA
Dan Hargrove, JD, Co-founder and President, Trauma Insight, LLC and Cancer Insight, LLC
Paul Lammers, MD, CEO, Triumvira Immunologics, Inc.*
Tom Luby, PhD, Director, Texas Medical Center (TMC) Innovation
Jonathan MacQuitty, PhD, Venture Partner, Lightspeed Venture Partners
Dennis McWilliams, Venture Partner, Sante Ventures*
Jon Mogford, PhD, COO and SVP, Texas A&M University Health Science Center
Emily Reiser, Texas Medical Center (TMC) Innovation
Emma Schwartz, President, Medical Center of the Americas Foundation
Greg Stein, MD, CEO, Curtana Pharmaceuticals*
Ann Tanabe, CEO, BioHouston, Inc.
Harry Bushong, Convergence Ventures

Market Conditions

Michele Park


PDAC Report
Andrew Strong

Product Development Since 2010

FY	# of Cycles	# of Apps	# of Awards Approved	FY Funding Rate	Running Funding Rate	Total Award Amount Approved
2010	1	25	6	24%	16%	$21,523,951
2011	2	18	1	6%	11.60%	$5,680,310
2012	3	78	6	8%	9.10%	$65,444,537
2013	3	49	4	8%	9.40%	$49,157,565
2014	1	41	4	10%	9.50%	$59,579,105
2015	4	43	6	14%	10.60%	$77,072,632
2016	2	57	4	7%	10.00%	$58,896,837
2017	2	39	1	3%	9.10%	$8,998,067
2018	2	38	2	5%	9.00%	$50,587,540
2019	2	65	7	11%	9.50%	$51,183,034
2020	2	68	7	10%	9.60%	$47,649,610
2021	1	35	2	6%	9.40%	$27,565,207
2022	2	46	11	24%	10.60%	$70,866,921
2023	1	11	7	64%	10.36%	$75,236,489
2024	2	30	13	43%	14.16%	$74,972,289
Total	30	643	80	12%		$714,238,327

~30% of Total

Product Development Since 2016

Cycle	Total Prelim Apps	Total Full Apps	Company Awards				Seed Awards			
			Apps	In-Person	Diligence	Rec'd	Apps	In-Person	Diligence	Rec'd
16.1		25	25	12	5	2				
16.2		32	32	13	7	2				
17.1		19	19	8	3	0				
17.2		20	20	6	2	1				
18.1		18	18	4	2	0				
18.2		20	20	10	6	3				
19.1		38	13	6	6	2	25	11	4	3
19.2		27	13	6	2	2	14	5	2	1
20.1		40	24	9	3	1	16	7	4	4
20.2		28	19	8	4	2	9	0	0	0
21.1		35	14	5	4	2	21	3	1	0
22.1		13	7	1	0	0	6	2	2	2
22.2		34	18	8	5	5	16	7	6	5
23.1	60	10	9	5	5	5	1	1	1	1
24.1	79	16	11	11	5	3	5	5	3	3
24.2	63	14	6	6	2	2	8	8	4	4
25.1	90	22	16	16	TBD	TBD	6	6	TBD	TBD
Totals	292	411	284	134	61	32	127	55	27	23
% of Apps			-	47%	21%	11%	-	43%	21%	18%

In the Numbers…

- From 2016 to 2022 (*13 cycles*)
  - Average Full Applications was **27**
  - Seed Awards represent **40%** of total
  - Average # of Awards was **2.8**
  - Average $ per Award was **$9.4 million**
- From 2023 to Present (*4 cycles*)
  - Average Preliminary Applications over 4 cycles was **73**
  - Average Full Applications over 4 cycles was **15**
  - Seed Awards represent **44%** of total
  - Average #of Awards (3 cycles) was **6**
  - Average $ per Award was **$7.5 million**

In the Numbers… (cont.)

- Conversion Rate

Time Period		Company Awards				Seed Awards			
	Cycles	Apps	In-Person	Diligence	Rec'd	Apps	In-Person	Diligence	Rec'd
2019 - 2022	7	108	43	24	14	107	35	19	15
			40%	56%	58%		33%	54%	79%
				22%	33%			18%	43%
					13%				14%
2023 - 2024	3	26	22	12	10	14	14	8	8
			85%*	55%	83%		100%	57%	100%
				46%	45%			57%	57%
					38%				57%

*Note: * if 25.1 is included, this is 90% (<100% because of withdrawals)*

In Summary…

- The Product Development program has made significant progress in attracting high quality applicants, a product of the current market conditions and an overall improved application process
- The Conversion Rate from Full Application to Award for both Company and Seed Awards has dramatically improved
  - Much higher conversion rate from Diligence to Awards
- Seed Awards have slightly increased as per cycle % of awards (40% versus 44%)

Looking Forward – PDAC Thoughts

1. Market conditions continue to challenge fundraising for early stage biotechs
2. CPRIT should maintain a balanced portfolio of awards each year and take note of those leading “first in class” and “best in class” technologies (e.g., ADCs and radiopharmaceuticals)
3. Invest early and continue to support strong performing awardees (e.g., follow-on funding)
4. Continue to support the early ETRA/SEED awardees with particular interest in building the next generation of technologies / entrepreneurs (e.g., Accelerator for Cancer Therapeutics)
5. Provide post-award support to CPRIT awardees

Thank you!

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	KRISTEN P. DOYLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT:	SECTION 102.1062 WAIVER—REVIEW COUNCILS FY 2025
DATE:	AUGUST 12, 2024

Waiver Request and Recommendation

I request that the Oversight Committee approve a fiscal year 2025 conflict of interest waiver for review council members pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 102.1062 "Exceptional Circumstances Requiring Participation." Unlike other conflict of interest waivers that the Oversight Committee has approved previously, CPRIT does not grant this waiver for a specific conflict of interest or person. Instead, CPRIT intends to invoke this waiver as necessary to address the unusual scenario when a review council member has a conflict with a grant application that is part of the larger group of proposals that the review panel or review council must act upon (usually to recommend for awards). The waiver is necessary for a review council member to participate in the overall discussion and vote on the slate of award recommendations. This waiver is the same waiver the Oversight Committee approved for FY 2024.

Although it would be ideal to consider each instance individually before granting the conflict of interest waiver, a prospective waiver is necessary in this scenario given the timing of the review process and scheduled Oversight Committee meetings. It is unlikely that review panel schedules will align with Oversight Committee meeting dates such that CPRIT will be able to secure a conflict of interest waiver in time for the review council member to participate in the review process. However, adequate protections are in place that, together with the waiver's proposed limitations, mitigate the opportunity for factors other than merit and established criteria to influence review council members' decisions regarding the award of grant funds.

Background

Health & Safety Code § 102.1062 directs the Oversight Committee to adopt administrative rules governing the waiver of the conflict of interest requirements of the statute in exceptional circumstances. CPRIT's administrative rule § 702.17(3) authorizes the Oversight Committee to approve a waiver that applies for all activities affected by the conflict during the fiscal year. The rules require that a majority of the Oversight Committee members must vote to approve the waiver. CPRIT must report any approved waiver to the lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, the governor, and the standing committees of each house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over CPRIT matters.

The issue addressed by this waiver results from the role review council members play in the review process. At the review panel level, the review council member chairs the review panel meeting. Occasionally, a review council member will identify a conflict of interest with an application assigned to the member's panel. If CPRIT is unable to reassign the application to a different panel, then the review council member follows the process set forth in CPRIT's conflict of interest rules and recuses himself or herself from any discussion, scoring, deliberation, or vote on the application. The proposed waiver will not change the review council member's responsibility to disclose the conflict or to recuse himself or herself from the review of the application.

The difficulty arises when the review council member must lead the discussion, in his or her role as chair of the review panel, about the group of applications the panel recommends moving forward to the review council. If the application with which the review council member is in conflict advances as part of the group that scored well enough to move forward, the review council member's participation in the discussion of the group violates the member's agreement to not participate in "any discussion" of the conflicted application.

A similar challenge arises at the review council level. If the application that the member is in conflict is part of the group considered by the review council, the conflict of interest rules prohibit the member from participating in the review council's discussion or vote on the group of awards. The review council member is unable to address questions about other applications heard by his or her panel due to his or her recusal from the process, potentially disadvantaging the other applications.

Exceptional Circumstances Requiring the Review Council Member's Participation

To approve a conflict of interest waiver, the Oversight Committee must find that there are exceptional circumstances justifying the conflicted individual's participation in the review process. In this case, exceptional circumstances exist due to the necessity of the review council member's participation in the process to develop the overall award recommendation slates and the Oversight Committee should grant the proposed waiver. The limitations mitigate the potential for bias.

CPRIT's administrative rules require the Chief Compliance Officer to attend or designate an independent third party to attend peer review meetings and review council meetings when the panel discusses grant applications. The third-party observer must document that the reviewers follow CPRIT's grant review process consistently, including observing CPRIT's conflict of interest rules. The third-party observer will document any violation of this waiver in his or her written report, which CPRIT provides to the Oversight Committee prior to the vote on the award recommendations.

Proposed Waiver and Limitations

In granting the conflict of interest waiver, I recommend that CPRIT permit the review council member to continue to perform the following activities and duties associated with CPRIT's review process subject to the stated limitations:

1. The review council member must disclose any conflict in writing pursuant to CPRIT's electronic grant management process.
2. The review council member must recuse himself or herself from participation in the review, discussion, scoring, deliberation, and vote on the specific grant(s) identified as the conflict.
3. When the review panel or review council takes up the grant applications as a group, the review council member may participate in the discussion and vote on the proposed awards, so long as the review council member does not advocate for or against the application that the member has identified as a conflict.
4. Whenever CPRIT invokes this waiver, the Chief Compliance Officer will provide information about the use of the waiver, including the name of the review council member and the identified conflict, in the Chief Compliance Officer's Certification report. I will also include this information in the CEO affidavit I submit for the grant award mechanism.

Due to the nature of the conflict or the type of review process, this conflict of interest waiver will not apply to following:

- When the review council member's conflict of interest is a conflict described by T.A.C. § 702.13(c); or
- When the review council is acting as the only review panel in the review process (e.g., CPRIT recruitment awards and prevention dissemination awards.)

Important Information Regarding this Waiver and the Waiver Process

- The Oversight Committee may amend, revoke, or revise this waiver, including the list of approved activities and duties and the limitations on duties and activities. Approval for any change to the waiver granted shall be by a vote of the Oversight Committee in an open meeting.
- CPRIT limits this waiver to review council members operating under the circumstances specified in this request.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	KRISTEN P. DOYLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT:	SECTION 102.1062 WAIVER—BRANDY FY 2025
DATE:	AUGUST 12, 2024

Waiver Request and Recommendation

I request that the Oversight Committee approve a conflict of interest waiver for FY 2025 for Mr. Donald Brandy, CPRIT's Contract Specialist and HUB Coordinator, pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 102.1062 "Exceptional Circumstances Requiring Participation." The Oversight Committee has approved the same waiver for Mr. Brandy since FY 2015.

Mr. Brandy is not involved in the grant application or reporting process in his official capacity in the procurement of goods and services for the agency. However, the waiver ensures transparency regarding Mr. Brandy's relationship with some universities that receive CPRIT grants. Furthermore, CPRIT's Code of Conduct makes it clear that the agency's conflict of interest provisions apply to any expenditure of CPRIT funds. Although it is unlikely that CPRIT will procure goods and services from a university receiving grant funds from CPRIT, having the conflict of interest waiver in place ensures that Mr. Brandy can perform his duties. Together with the waiver's proposed limitations, adequate protections are in place to mitigate the opportunity for a conflict of interest to unduly influence agency purchases.

Background

Mr. Brandy serves as the agency procurement contract specialist, responsible for planning, organizing, coordinating, and preparing bid specifications and procurement documents to acquire goods and services from vendors and outside contractors used by the agency. The agency procurement contract specialist role requires little, if any, involvement with CPRIT's grant award process because CPRIT's grant award contracts are not vendor or outside service contracts.

At the time CPRIT hired Mr. Brandy, he requested approval to continue his outside employment as a referee for tennis tournaments held in and around Austin. In addition to refereeing for adult and junior-level tournaments, he serves as a referee for NCAA tennis matches held at area universities, including The University of Texas at Austin. The university athletic department pays Mr. Brandy for his services as an independent contractor when he referees collegiate matches.

CPRIT employees may engage in outside employment so long as the employment does not detract from the employee's ability to fulfill his or her responsibilities to CPRIT. Employees

must receive written approval from the CEO to engage in outside employment and I notify the Audit Subcommittee regarding any approvals. I also annually report to the Oversight Committee all approved outside employment. Wayne Roberts notified the Audit Subcommittee regarding his approval for Mr. Brandy's outside employment the December18, 2014, subcommittee meeting.

Exceptional Circumstances Requiring Mr. Brandy's Participation

To approve a conflict of interest waiver, the Oversight Committee must find that there are exceptional circumstances justifying the conflicted individual's participation in the review process or other expenditure of CPRIT funds.[1]

This conflict of interest waiver is different than other waivers I have requested in that it is not seeking a waiver for actions related to CPRIT's grant review or grant monitoring process. As CPRIT's procurement contract specialist, I do not anticipate that Mr. Brandy will play any role in the review process for grant applications or grant reports. The procurement contract specialist deals only with agency procurement matters and has no influence over the grant award processes of the agency. To the extent that his outside employment necessitates involvement with university personnel, it is with collegiate athletic department staff that have no interaction with researchers working on or applying for grants. Nevertheless, if Mr. Brandy must be part of the review process or grant monitoring activities, he will comply with CPRIT's conflict of interest notification and recusal requirements.

However, as part of his official duties there may be circumstances requiring Mr. Brandy to procure goods or services on CPRIT's behalf from a university that has also employed him as a tennis referee. This is unlikely to occur; to date, CPRIT has had only two service contracts (both now closed) with an academic institution, Texas Tech University and The University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs. As CPRIT's lead contact for agency purchases, Mr. Brandy should be able to perform his official duties as fully as possible. Any involvement with university athletic department personnel resulting from his outside employment is unlikely to be the same individuals at the university responsible for contracting with CPRIT.

Proposed Waiver and Limitations

In granting the waiver of the conflict of interest set forth in Health & Safety Code Section 102.106(c)(3), I recommend that the Oversight Committee permit Mr. Brandy to perform all duties assigned as procurement contract specialist, subject to the limitations stated below:

1. Provide the Chief Operating Officer a list of universities that have used his services as referee during the past twelve months;

[1] CPRIT's Code of Conduct Section III.B(2) states that, "The conflict of interest statutory and administrative rule provisions **apply to any decision to commit CPRIT funds**, whether or not the commitment is part of the grant award process or to a Grant Applicant." (emphasis added)

2. Notify the Chief Operating Officer prior to taking any action on a contract or other procurement document that would result in payment of CPRIT funds to a university on the list referenced above; and
3. The Chief Operating Officer, in conjunction with the CEO, Chief Compliance Officer and General Counsel, can review the circumstances and determine whether Mr. Brandy should be recused from involvement in the procurement.

Important Information Regarding this Waiver and the Waiver Process

- The Oversight Committee may amend, revoke, or review this waiver, including but not limited to the list of approved activities and duties and the limitations on duties and activities. Approval of any change to the waiver granted shall be by a vote of the Oversight Committee in an open meeting.
- CPRIT limits this waiver to the conflict of interest specified in this request. To the extent that Mr. Brandy has a conflict of interest not addressed in this waiver, then Mr. Brandy will follow the required notification and recusal process.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	KRISTEN P. DOYLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT:	SECTION 102.1062 WAIVER – CARLTON ALLEN FY 2025
DATE:	AUGUST 12, 2024

Waiver Request and Recommendation

I request that the Oversight Committee approve a FY 2025 conflict of interest waiver for Carlton Allen, CPRIT's program manager for prevention, pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 102.1062 "Exceptional Circumstances Requiring Participation." Mr. Allen's wife, Kristie Allen, is a lecturer of psychology and counseling at The University of Texas at Tyler (UT Tyler). While it is unlikely that Kristie Allen would be part of team applying for a CPRIT grant, this waiver ensures transparency regarding her employment at a grantee institution. I recommend approval because together with the waiver's proposed limitations, adequate protections are in place to mitigate factors other than merit and the established grant criteria affecting the award and management of grant funds. The Oversight Committee approved the same waiver for Mr. Allen in FY 2024.

Background

Mr. Allen's wife, Kristie Allen, is an employee and lecturer within the Department of Psychology and Counseling at UT Tyler, an institution that has applied for CPRIT grants in the past. UT Tyler includes the instructional site of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler (UTHSC Tyler), which is a grant recipient with two active prevention awards (PP220034 and PP220035). In total, UTHSC Tyler has received five CPRIT prevention grant awards and one academic research grant award. Cumulatively, UT Tyler and UTHSC Tyler have submitted approximately 49 CPRIT grant applications with some submitted as recently as FY2024.

Mrs. Allen is not involved in current or past CPRIT grant projects or grant applications. However, Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.106(c)(3) finds a professional conflict of interest exists when a relative within the second degree of affinity or consanguinity of the individual involved in the CPRIT review process is an employee of a grant recipient or grant applicant. As his wife, Mrs. Allen falls within the second degree of affinity to Mr. Allen. CPRIT considers the institution as the grant applicant or recipient, in this case UT Tyler and UTHSC Tyler, rather than the individuals who submit a grant application or receive a grant award.

Furthermore, CPRIT's administrative rule §702.13(c) classifies this type of professional conflict of interest as one that raises the presumption that the existence of the conflict may affect the

impartial review of all other grant applications submitted pursuant to the same grant mechanism in the grant review cycle. A person involved in the review process that holds one of the conflicts included in the § 702.13(c) "super conflict" category must recuse himself or herself from participating in the "review, discussion, scoring, deliberation and vote on all grant applications competing for the same grant mechanism in the entire grant review cycle, unless a waiver has been granted…"

Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.1061 requires a CPRIT employee with this professional conflict of interest to recuse himself from an application that comes before the employee for review or other action and not access information regarding the matter.

Exceptional Circumstances Requiring Participation

To approve a conflict of interest waiver, the Oversight Committee must find that there are exceptional circumstances justifying the conflicted individual's participation in the review process. While CPRIT's enabling statute prohibits CPRIT staff from participating in the grant review process, it is possible that Mr. Allen's role as prevention program manager would require him to field questions from grant applicants, including UT Tyler and UTHSC Tyler. Mr. Allen is the sole prevention program manager, which is especially important during an open grant review cycle because CPRIT's administrative rules prohibit the Chief Prevention Officer, who is a member of the Program Integration Committee, from communicating with a grant applicant regarding the substance of a pending grant application. Mr. Allen is the only CPRIT staff member whose job is to communicate with prevention grant applicants in this way.

Day-to-day activities require Mr. Allen to work closely with prevention grantees and to aid in management and compliance of prevention grantees. Mr. Allen works with the Chief Prevention Officer to monitor the progress of each prevention grantee and ensure that grantees submit reports in a timely manner. A large part of the job for each of CPRIT's program managers is to communicate directly with grantee contacts at the various grantee institutions. Again, Mr. Allen is the only dedicated CPRIT staff to help the Chief Prevention Officer monitor and communicate with prevention grantees.

Proposed Waiver and Limitations

In granting the waiver of the conflict of interest set forth in Health & Safety Code Section 102.106(c)(3), I recommend that the Oversight Committee permit Mr. Allen to perform all duties assigned as prevention program manager subject to the limitations stated below:

1. Mr. Allen may answer questions from grant applicants including applicants from UT Tyler or UTHSC Tyler;
2. Mr. Allen may attend peer review meetings and PIC meetings as an observer, including meetings that include applications from UT Tyler or UTHSC Tyler;
3. Mr. Allen may have access to grant application information, including information related to UT Tyler or UTHSC Tyler, except as noted in item number 5;
4. Mr. Allen will inform the Chief Prevention Officer of any CPRIT grant application that includes his spouse;

5. CPRIT will prevent Mr. Allen from accessing application review data for any applications under review that include his wife as part of the grantee team;
6. In the event that an issue arises that this waiver does not address, the Chief Prevention Officer in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Compliance Officer, and General Counsel, may review the circumstances and determine whether Mr. Allen should recuse himself from involvement in these or other regular job duties as appropriate.

Regarding item number 2, Mr. Allen will continue to follow CPRIT's established policy that prohibits CPRIT employees from actively participating in peer review committee meetings. As part of their CPRIT duties, program managers regularly attend peer review committee meetings as observers but do not participate in substantive discussion of any grant application, do not score any application, and do not vote on any application. CPRIT contracts with an independent third-party observer to document that all participants follow CPRIT's observer policy. The independent third-party observer report is available to the Oversight Committee prior to any action taken related to the grant award recommendations. Following Oversight Committee action, the independent third-party observer report is publicly available.

Important Information Regarding this Waiver and the Waiver Process

- The Oversight Committee may amend, revoke, or revise this waiver, including the list of approved activities and duties and the limitations on duties and activities. Approval for any change to the waiver granted shall be by a vote of the Oversight Committee in an open meeting.
- CPRIT limits this waiver to the conflict of interest specified in this request. To the extent that Mr. Allen has a conflict of interest with an application that is not the conflict identified in Section 102.106(c)(3), then Mr. Allen will follow the required notification and recusal process.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	KRISTEN P. DOYLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT:	SECTION 102.1062 WAIVER—DR. LEEUWON FY 2025
DATE:	AUGUST 12, 2024

Waiver Request and Recommendation

I request that the Oversight Committee approve a conflict of interest waiver for FY 2025 for Dr. W. Michelle Leeuwon, Program Manager for Product Development, pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 102.1062 "Exceptional Circumstances Requiring Participation." Dr. Leeuwon's husband is a professor of chemistry at Texas A&M University and a principal investigator (PI) on two active CPRIT academic research grants.

It is unlikely that Dr. Leeuwon will participate in any activities related to academic research grant applications or grant awards. Although Dr. Leeuwon is not involved in the academic research grant application or reporting process in her capacity as program manager for product development, the waiver ensures transparency regarding her relationship with a PI at a grantee institution. I recommend approval because together with the waiver's proposed limitations, adequate protections are in place to mitigate factors other than merit and the established grant criteria affecting the award and management of grant funds. The Oversight Committee approved the same waiver for Dr. Leeuwon in FY 2024.

Background

Dr. Leeuwon's husband, Dr. Wenshe Liu, is a professor of chemistry at Texas A&M University. In that role, he serves as a PI for two active CPRIT academic research grant awards: RP230345 (approved February 2023) and RP230449 (approved August 2023). He previously served as PI for another CPRIT academic research grant (RP170797) that is no longer active.

Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.106(c)(3) finds a professional conflict of interest exists when a relative within the second degree of affinity or consanguinity of the individual involved in the CPRIT review process is an employee of a grant recipient or grant applicant.[1] Texas A&M University is a current grant recipient and frequent grant applicant.

[1] CPRIT's administrative rule §702.13(c) classifies this type of professional conflict of interest as one that raises the presumption that the existence of the conflict may affect the impartial review of all other grant applications submitted pursuant to the same grant mechanism in the grant review cycle. A person involved in the review process that holds one of the conflicts included in the § 702.13(c) "super conflict" category must recuse himself/herself from participating in the "review, discussion, scoring, deliberation and vote on all grant applications competing for the same grant mechanism in the entire grant review cycle, unless a waiver has been granted…"

Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.1061 requires a CPRIT employee with this professional conflict of interest to recuse herself from an application that comes before the employee for review or other action and not access information regarding the matter. In her role as program manager for product development, Dr. Leeuwon neither participates in the review of any CPRIT grant applications nor does she make grant award decisions. As far as decisions related to Dr. Liu's current grant awards, it is highly unlikely that Dr. Leeuwon would be involved with matters related to her husband's grants because other CPRIT programmatic staff, such as the director of research and the program manager for academic research, are responsible for day-to-day management of academic research grants.

Exceptional Circumstances

To approve a conflict of interest waiver, the Oversight Committee must find that there are exceptional circumstances justifying the conflicted individual's participation in the review process. This conflict of interest waiver is different than most waivers I have requested in that Dr. Leeuwon is not involved in the academic research grant application or reporting process in her capacity as program manager for product development. However, in the unlikely event that the academic research program requires Dr. Leeuwon's assistance with the review process and/or grantee reports in the future, this waiver will ensure her ability to do so consistent with the limitations listed below. The waiver consideration and approval process also promote transparency regarding Dr. Leeuwon's close relationship with a PI at a CPRIT grantee institution.

Proposed Waiver and Limitations

In granting the waiver of the conflict of interest set forth in Health & Safety Code Section 102.106(c)(3), I recommend that the Oversight Committee permit Dr. Leeuwon to perform all duties assigned as program manager for product development subject to the limitations stated below:

1. Dr. Leeuwon will notify the Chief Product Development Officer and/or the Chief Scientific Officer, as appropriate, prior to taking any action that would directly affect a grant award that includes Dr. Wenshe Liu as part of the grantee team;
2. Prevent Dr. Leeuwon from accessing application review data for any applications under review that include Dr. Wenshe Liu as part of the grantee team;
3. The Chief Product Development Officer and/or the Chief Scientific Officer, as appropriate, in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Compliance Officer and General Counsel, can review the circumstances and determine whether Dr. Leeuwon should recuse herself from involvement in regular job duties.

Important Information Regarding this Waiver and the Waiver Process

- The Oversight Committee may amend, revoke, or review this waiver, including, but not limited to the list of approved activities and duties and the limitations on duties and activities. Approval of any change to the waiver granted shall be by a vote of the Oversight Committee in an open meeting.
- CPRIT limits this waiver to the conflict of interest specified in this request. To the extent that Dr. Leeuwon has a conflict of interest not addressed in this waiver, then Dr. Leeuwon will follow the required notification and recusal process.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	KRISTEN PAULING DOYLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER CAMERON L. ECKEL, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL
SUBJECT:	CHAPTER 701 RULE CHANGE PROPOSED FOR FINAL ADOPTION
DATE:	AUGUST 12, 2024

Summary and Recommendation

The Board Governance Subcommittee convened on August 8 to review the final order adopting a rule amendment to Chapter 701. Once the Oversight Committee approves the final order adopting the rule change, CPRIT will submit the amendment to the Secretary of State and the change will be effective 20 days later.

Discussion

State law requires an agency to set policy using a rulemaking process, which includes an opportunity for public comment on proposed rules and rule changes before the agency formally adopts the policy. CPRIT received one public comment after the Secretary of State published the proposed amendment in the May 31, 2024, edition of the *Texas Register*.

The amendment to § 701.11(5) removes the requirement that CPRIT provide a printed copy of the Texas Cancer Plan upon request. One individual submitted a comment noting the importance of "having a limited number of print copies available to the public." While CPRIT appreciates this perspective, the agency considers that the benefits of providing the 2024 Texas Cancer Plan in a web-based format (e.g., interactive content, multimedia integration, accessibility, hyperlinking, shareability, search functionality) outweigh the likelihood that an individual interested in the Texas Cancer Plan will be unable or unwilling to access the content in any format other than as a physical copy. Staff recommends moving forward with the amendment as originally published. CPRIT will maintain the text for the 2024 Texas Cancer Plan as a Microsoft Word document that we could provide to someone who requests a physical copy; however, we will be unable to provide the interactive charts, etc. in a physical copy.

The Board Governance Subcommittee met on August 8 to discuss adoption of the proposed rule change to Chapter 701 with CPRIT staff. The subcommittee voted to recommend that the Oversight Committee approve adoption of the rule change.

Next Steps

After the Oversight Committee adopts the proposed rule change, CPRIT will submit the final order to the Secretary of State. The rule change will become effective 20 days after the date CPRIT files the order with the Secretary of State.

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas ("CPRIT" or "the Institute") adopts the amendment to 25 Texas Administrative Code § 701.11(5) without changes to the proposed amendment as published in the May 31, 2024, issue of the *Texas Register* (49 TexReg 3904); therefore, the rules will not be republished.

Reasoned Justification

Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 102 charges CPRIT with the responsibility of facilitating the development of the Texas Cancer Plan, which aims to reduce the cancer burden across the state to improve the lives of Texans. CPRIT plans to present the next version of the Texas Cancer Plan as a fully online, dynamic resource available to the public. The proposed amendment removes the requirement that CPRIT provide a hard copy of the Texas Cancer Plan.

Summary of Public Comments and Staff Recommendation

CPRIT received one public comment from Heather Becker at The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing noting the importance of "having a limited number of print copies available to the public" and explaining that some people may prefer not to read the *Texas Cancer Plan* online. While CPRIT appreciates this perspective, the agency considers that the benefits of providing the 2024 Texas Cancer Plan in a web-based format (e.g., interactive content, multimedia integration, accessibility, hyperlinking, shareability, search functionality) outweigh the likelihood that a person wanting to read the Texas Cancer Plan will be unable or unwilling to access the content in any format other than as a physical copy. To date, CPRIT has not received a request for a physical copy of the current or previous editions of the Texas Cancer Plan. For these reasons, CPRIT declines to change the amendment to Section 701.11(5) as originally published on May 31.

The rule change is adopted under the authority of the Texas Health and Safety Code Annotated, § 102.108, which provides the Institute with broad rule-making authority to administer the chapter, including rules for awarding grants.

Certification

The Institute hereby certifies that Kristen Pauling Doyle, Chief Executive Officer, reviewed the adoption of the rules and found it to be a valid exercise of the agency's legal authority.

To be filed with the Office of Secretary of State on August 23, 2024.

<rule>

§701.11. Texas Cancer Plan.

The Institute shall develop, implement, continually monitor, and revise the Texas Cancer Plan as necessary.

(1) The intent of the Texas Cancer Plan is to reduce the cancer burden across the state and improve the lives of Texans by providing a coordinated, prioritized, and actionable framework that will help guide statewide efforts to fight the human and economic burden of cancer in Texas.

(2) Activities undertaken by the Institute to monitor the Texas Cancer Plan will be described in the Annual Public Report required by Texas Health and Safety Code §102.052.

(3) The Institute will periodically update the Texas Cancer Plan by issuing a revised version of the Texas Cancer Plan every seven (7) years, unless a different timeline for a revised version of the Texas Cancer Plan is approved by a simple majority of the Oversight Committee.

(4) The Institute may solicit input from public or private institutions, government organizations, non-profit organizations, other public entities, private companies, and individuals affected by cancer to assist the Institute in monitoring, implementing, and revising the Texas Cancer Plan.

(5) The most recent version of the Texas Cancer Plan shall be posted on the Institute's Internet website. [~~A hard copy of the Texas Cancer Plan may be requested by contacting the Institute directly.~~]

The agency certifies that legal counsel has reviewed the proposal and found it to be within the state agency's legal authority to adopt.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM: HEIDI MCCONNELL, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

SUBJECT: CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER REPORT

DATE: AUGUST 6, 2024

CPRIT Financial Overview for FY 2024, Quarter 3

FY 2024, Quarter 3 Operating Budget

CPRIT has an adjusted FY 2024 budget of $6 million in Indirect Administration and $16.4 million in Grant Review and Award Operations which incorporate $614,401 carried forward from FY 2023 to FY 2024 for a few contract extensions and IT projects.

As reported in May, the current budget allocation includes the transfer of $1,575,949, or 5.7%, out of the Award Cancer Prevention Grants strategy with $1,270,949 reallocated to the Award Cancer Research Grants strategy product development research grant awarded in May, $185,000 reallocated to the Indirect Administration strategy, and $120,000 reallocated to the Grant Review and Award Operations strategy.

CPRIT has expended or obligated 66% of the $6 million Indirect Administration budget and 94% of the $16.4 million in Grant Review and Award Operations budget.

CPRIT received approximately $281,452 in revenue sharing payments during the third quarter which includes a royalty payment for $126,244 from Merck & Co., Inc. from the sales revenue of WELIREG™ (belzutifan). Revenue sharing payment deposits from CPRIT's inception total more than $10.1 million through the end of May 2024.

FY 2024, Quarter 3 Performance Measure Report

In the second quarter, CPRIT reported to the Legislative Budget Board a total of 228,837 people served through CPRIT prevention and control grants and one company relocation.

Debt Issuance History

As reported in February and May 2024, TPFA issued CPRIT's $298.4 million total requested general obligation bond proceeds for FY 2024. There are no updates.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Quarterly Financial Report
As of May 31, 2024

Indirect Administration (B.1.1.)

		2024 Appropriated	2024 Budgeted	% of Total Budget	Actual Expenditures & Grant Encumbrances (FYTD)	Remaining Budget	Percent Expended	Estimated Expenditures (YTD)	Lapse/Overspent
1001	Salaries and Wages	$ 1,847,425	$ 1,850,358		$ 1,465,260	385,098	79%	$ 1,465,260	$ 385,098
1002	Other Personnel Costs	38,785	50,713		50,713	(0)	100%	50,713	(0)
2001	Professional Fees and Services	1,808,662	2,118,039		1,013,837	1,104,202	48%	1,013,837	1,104,202
2003	Consumable Supplies	24,000	24,000		5,027	18,973	21%	5,027	18,973
2004	Utilities	58,600	58,600		40,567	18,033	69%	40,567	18,033
2005	Travel	45,000	56,133		56,133	0	100%	56,133	0
2006	Rent-Building	11,000	33,112		33,112	(0)	0%	33,112	(0)
2007	Rent-Machine and Other	32,172	32,172		5,980	26,192	19%	5,980	26,192
2009	Other Operating Expenses	1,045,249	1,797,004		1,309,220	487,783	73%	1,309,220	487,783
	Subtotal - Indirect Administration (B.1.1.)	**$ 4,910,893**	**$ 6,020,132**	**2.02%**	**$ 3,979,850**	**$ 2,040,282**	**66%**	**$ 3,979,850**	**$ 2,040,282**

Grant Review and Award Operations (A.1.3.)

		2024 Appropriated	2024 Budgeted	% of Total Budget	Actual Expenditures & Grant Encumbrances (FYTD)	Remaining Budget	Percent Expended	Estimated Expenditures (YTD)	Lapse/Overspent
1001	Salaries and Wages	$ 3,505,873	3,301,226		$ 3,295,351	$ 5,875	100%	$ 3,295,351	$ 5,875
1002	Other Personnel Costs	45,000	76,004		76,004	(0)	0%	76,004	(0)
2001	Professional Fees and Services	12,419,373	12,520,777		11,976,785	543,992	96%	11,976,785	543,992
2003	Consumable Supplies	-	-		-	-	0%	-	-
2004	Utilities	12,000	12,000		-	12,000	0%	-	12,000
2005	Travel	45,000	45,000		23,546	21,454	52%	23,546	21,454
2009	Other Operating Expenses	71,649	465,848		63,314	402,534	14%	63,314	402,534
	Subtotal - Grant Operations (A.1.3.)	**$ 16,098,895**	**$ 16,420,855**	**5.51%**	**$ 15,435,001**	**$ 985,854**	**94%**	**$ 15,435,001**	**$ 985,854**

Grants

		2024 Appropriated	2024 Budgeted	% of Total Budget	Actual Expenditures & Grant Encumbrances (FYTD)	Remaining Budget	Percent Expended	Estimated Expenditures (YTD)	Lapse/Overspent
4000	Grants - Prevention (A.1.2)	$ 27,671,780	$ 25,968,624		$ 25,902,480	$ 66,144	100%	$ 25,902,480	$ 66,144
4000	Grants - Research (A.1.1.)	248,251,400	$ 249,522,349		135,886,309	$ 113,636,040	54%	135,886,309	113,636,040
	Subtotal - Grants	**$ 275,923,180**	**$ 275,490,973**	**92.47%**	**$ 161,788,789**	**$ 113,702,184**	**59%**	**$ 161,788,789**	**$ 113,702,184**
	Grand Totals	**$ 296,932,968**	**$ 297,931,960**	**100.00%**	**$ 181,203,639**	**$ 116,728,320**	**61%**	**$ 181,203,639**	**$ 116,728,320**

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute Fund Account - 5136

As of May 31, 2024

	5/01/2024-5/31/2024	AY 23 Year to Date as of 5/31/2024
Beginning Balance : 9/01/2023		**$ 600,506**
Increases:		
(1)	$ -	$ -
(2)	-	
Total Increases	**$ -**	**$ 600,506.00**
Reductions:		
Expenditures - Appropriated	$ -	$ -
	$ -	$ -
	$ -	$ -
Total Reductions	**$ -**	**$ -**
Ending Balance: 5/31/2024		**$ 600,506.00**

Note: (1) The Institute received a settlement from the Texas Cancer Coalition (TCC). This amount represents the final distribution and transfer of all funds ($303,877) from the TCC which ceased operations in May 2013. These funds are in the State Treasury but are not appropriated to CPRIT. The beginning balance reflects the transfer of all TCC funds.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

License Plate Trust Fund Account - 0802

As of May 31, 2024

		5/01/2024-5/31/2024	AY 23 Year to Date as of 5/31/2024
Beginning Balance : 9/01/2023			**$ 101,766.48**
Increases:			
(1)	License Plate Revenue Received	$ 553.65	$ 4,867.43
	Interest	$ 168.57	$ 1,530.52
Total Increases		**$ 722.22**	**$ 108,164.43**
Reductions:			
	Expenditures - Appropriated	$ -	$ -
		-	-
Total Reductions		**$ -**	**$ -**
Ending Balance: 5/31/2024			**$ 108,164.43**

Note:

Balance forward from 2023 License Plate $101,766.48

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Appropriated Receipts - 666

As of May 31, 2024

		5/01/2024-5/31/2024	AY 23 Year to Date as of 5/31/2024
Beginning Balance : 9/01/2023			**$ 243,044.65**
Increases:			
(1)	Product Development Application Fees Received	$ -	$ 10,500.00
(2)	Conference Registration Fees	$ -	$ 84,640.00
(3)	Conference Registration Fees-Credit Card	$ -	$ 1,761.70
Total Increases		**$ -**	**$ 96,901.70**
Reductions:			
	Conference Expenditures - Appropriated	$ -	$ -
	Credit Card Fees Expended	$ -	$ -
	Refund-Application Fees	$ -	$ -
	Legal Services Expenses (Application Fees)	$ -	$ -
Total Reductions		**$ -**	**$ -**
Ending Balance: 5/31/2024			**$ 339,946.35**

Forward balance for FY 2022 is $55,246.90

Application Fees

Conference Fee for FY 2023 is $187,797.75

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Interest & Sinking Fund Account - 5168

As of May 31, 2024

		5/01/2024-5/31/2024	AY 23 Year to Date as of 5/31/2024
Beginning Balance : 9/01/2023			**$ 6,390,606.01**
Increases:			
(1)	Revenue Sharing / Royalties	$ 157,027.49	$ 564,131.31
		$ -	$ -
Total Increases		**$ 157,027.49**	**$ 6,954,737.32**
Reductions:			
	Expenditures - Appropriated	$ -	$ -
		$ -	
		$ -	$ -
Total Reductions		**$ -**	**$ -**
Ending Balance: 5/31/2024			**$ 6,954,737.32**

Balance forward from FY 2023 is $6,390,606.01

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
FY 2024, Quarter 3 Performance Measure Report

Measure	Targeted Performance	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	Sum of QTRs	% of Mandate Attained
Number of People Served by Institute Funded Prevention and Control Activities	750,000	195,607	203,203	228,837	0	627,647	83.69%
Number of Entities Relocating to TX for Cancer Research Related Projects	3	0	0	1	-	1	33.33%
Annual Age-adjusted Cancer Mortality Rate	138.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.00%
Number of Published Articles on CPRIT-Funded Research Projects	1,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
Number of New Jobs Created and Maintained	3,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%

Variance Explanations

Number of People Served by Institute Funded Prevention and Control Activities
CPRIT prevention grantees have continued to be successful at delivering cancer prevention education and clinical services to more people than they anticipated, stretching their CPRIT-grant funds further to serve Texans. They continue to provide cancer prevention clinical services such as mammograms and colonoscopies.
Number of Entities Relocating to TX for Cancer Research Related Projects
This output is dependent on the number of companies applying for CPRIT Company Awards that can successfully advance through CPRIT's rigorous review and evaluation process, receive an award and relocate operations to Texas. A company must meet 4 of CPRIT's 7 criteria for a relocation to be considered complete. This year one company who received a CPRIT award has been able to complete this process.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
FY 2024, Quarter 2 Performance Measure Report

Measure	Targeted Performance	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	Sum of QTRs	% of Mandate Attained
Number of People Served by Institute Funded Prevention and Control Activities	750,000	195,607	203,203	0	0	398,810	53.17%
Number of Entities Relocating to TX for Cancer Research Related Projects	3	0	-	-	-	0	0.00%
Annual Age-adjusted Cancer Mortality Rate	138.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.00%
Number of Published Articles on CPRIT-Funded Research Projects	1,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
Number of New Jobs Created and Maintained	3,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%

Variance Explanations

Number of Entities Relocating to TX for Cancer Research Related Projects
This output is dependent on the number of companies applying for CPRIT Company Awards that can successfully advance through CPRIT's rigorous review and evaluation process, receive an award and relocate operations to Texas. A company must meet 4 of CPRIT's 7 criteria for a relocation to be considered complete. This year two companies who received a CPRIT award were able to complete this process.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
FY 2024, Quarter 1 Performance Measure Report

Measure	Targeted Performance	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	Sum of QTRs	% of Mandate Attained
Number of People Served by Institute Funded Prevention and Control Activities	750,000	195,607	0	0	0	195,607	26.08%
Number of Entities Relocating to TX for Cancer Research Related Projects	3	0	-	-	-	0	0.00%
Annual Age-adjusted Cancer Mortality Rate	138.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.00%
Number of Published Articles on CPRIT-Funded Research Projects	1,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
Number of New Jobs Created and Maintained	3,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%

Variance Explanations

Number of Entities Relocating to TX for Cancer Research Related Projects
This output is dependent on the number of companies applying for CPRIT Company Awards that can successfully advance through CPRIT's rigorous review and evaluation process, receive an award and relocate operations to Texas. A company must meet 4 of CPRIT's 7 criteria for a relocation to be considered complete. This year two companies who received a CPRIT award were able to complete this process.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	HEIDI MCCONNELL, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
SUBJECT:	FY 2025 SERVICE CONTRACT RENEWAL APPROVAL
DATE:	AUGUST 12, 2024

Recommendation

CPRIT staff recommends the Oversight Committee approve the following contract renewals for FY 2025 with:

- Alan Boyds Consultants Inc. in the amount of $330,000 to perform diligence reviews of product development research grant applications;
- The Perryman Group in the amount of $202,500 to perform an economic assessment of the cost of cancer in Texas;
- Weaver and Tidwell, LLP in the amount of $185,000 to provide internal audit services;
- Norton Rose Fulbright for outside counsel services in the amount of $155,000 to conduct intellectual property due diligence review for product development research company applicants;
- McDermott Will & Emery for outside counsel services in the amount of $155,000 to conduct intellectual property due diligence review for product development research company applicants; and
- Wellspring for the intellectual property database subscription and additional one-time professional services in the amount of $120,000.

CPRIT staff also recommends the approval of an amendment to extend the FY 2024 Business and Financial Management Solutions (BFS) through October 15, 2024, by $45,701.52 increasing the current $121,409 contract to $167,110.52. The extension will allow the necessary peer review meeting monitoring services to be provided through the month of September until the proposals for a new contract for peer review monitoring services can be evaluated by CPRIT staff and approved by the Oversight Committee.

The contract costs being considered are not-to-exceed amounts. Payment is based on the delivery of actual services through time and materials expended by the vendor or as a fee for service based on the delivery of a report.

Background

Due Diligence Review Services Contract Renewal

Alan Boyds Consultants Inc. (Boyds) provides due diligence review reports which are an evaluation of a product development research grant applicant's business operations and management that covers discovery science capability, preclinical and clinical research capabilities, manufacturing facilities, regulatory approval pathway, management capability, financial viability, and commercial viability. Boyds performs the diligence evaluation on product development grant applications following the completion of peer review evaluation.

Economic Assessment of the Cost of Cancer in Texas Contract Renewal

The Perryman Group (TPG) provides an economic assessment of the cost of cancer in Texas which includes the measurement of key economic performance indicators based on CPRIT funding and program impact. This is the first renewal of the current TPG contract.

Internal Audit Contract Renewal

Weaver and Tidwell, LLP provides internal audit services to CPRIT. In FY 2025, the proposed internal audit plan includes one audit and two audit advisory engagements. The audit will cover post-award grant monitoring. One of the two audit advisory engagements will evaluate the risks and internal controls in place related to CPRIT's P-Card processes and the other will include an evaluation of risks and internal controls related to CPRIT's non-grant expenditure processes. The plan also includes follow-up procedures on IT General Controls and Communications.

CPRIT must obtain audit delegation authority from the State Auditor's Office for this contract prior to executing the renewal.

Outside Counsel Contract Renewals

CPRIT contracts with outside counsel to conduct intellectual property (IP) due diligence for companies under consideration for product development research awards. CPRIT contracts with at least two outside counsel firms to distribute the workload and avoid potential conflicts of interest with the companies being considered for a grant award. Presently, CPRIT has contracts with two firms, Norton Rose Fulbright and McDermott Will & Emery.

Intellectual Property Database Subscription Contract Renewal and Related Professional Services

CPRIT contracts with Wellspring to provide software as a service to store the underlying documentation related to the intellectual property (IP) generated from CPRIT grant activity and the commercialization paths taken by that IP. In addition to the IP database subscription fee, CPRIT will contract with Wellspring in FY 2025 to provide one-time data audit and data cleansing services for all invention/IP data, revenue sharing agreement data, and project related files already uploaded into the database. The FY 2025 contract renewal of the database subscription fee is less than $40,000. However, the subscription fee together with the additional fee for the one-time data audit and data cleansing services in FY 2025 will cause the total contract amount to exceed the $100,000 threshold necessitating Oversight Committee approval.

Peer Review Monitoring Service Contract Extension

Business and Financial Management Solutions (BFS) personnel attend every meeting of the three program's review councils and peer review panels. Following the conclusion of each meeting BFS provides a written summary to the Chief Compliance Officer of their observations of:

- the meetings following CPRIT's established procedure for panelists who have declared a conflict of interest (e.g., reviewers leave a videoconference);
- CPRIT program staff participation at meetings being limited to offering general points of information when asked by peer review panel members;
- CPRIT program staff not engaging in the panel's discussion on the merits of applications; and
- the peer review panel discussion being focused on the established scoring criteria and/or making grant award recommendations.

Legislative Appropriations Request

For Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027

Submitted to the
Governor's Office of Budget, Planning and Policy
and the Legislative Budget Board
by

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

August 23, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

C E R T I F I C A T E

Agency Name _____

This is to certify that the information contained in the agency Legislative Appropriations Request filed with the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and the Office of the Governor, Budget and Policy Division, is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that the electronic submission to the LBB via the Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST) and the PDF file submitted via the LBB Document Submission application are identical.

Additionally, should it become likely at any time that unexpended balances will accrue for any account, the LBB and the Office of the Governor will be notified in writing in accordance with House Bill 1, Article IX, Section 7.01, Eighty-eighth Legislature, Regular Session, 2023.

Chief Executive Office or Presiding Judge

_____
Signature

_____
Printed Name

_____
Title

_____
Date

Board or Commission Chair

_____
Signature

_____
Printed Name

_____
Title

_____
Date

Chief Financial Officer

_____
Signature

_____
Printed Name

_____
Title

_____
Date

542 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Goal / *Objective* / STRATEGY	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	Req 2026	Req 2027
1 Create and Expedite Innovation in Cancer Research and Prevention Servs					
1 *Cancer Research and Prevention Projects*					
1 AWARD CANCER RESEARCH GRANTS	242,119,006	249,522,349	248,251,400	251,369,432	251,369,432
2 AWARD CANCER PREVENTION GRANTS	26,920,426	25,968,624	27,297,961	27,297,961	27,297,961
3 GRANT REVIEW AND AWARD OPERATIONS	14,793,239	16,485,855	16,379,259	16,379,259	16,379,259
TOTAL, GOAL 1	**$283,832,671**	**$291,976,828**	**$291,928,620**	**$295,046,652**	**$295,046,652**
2 Indirect Administration					
1 *Indirect Administration*					
1 INDIRECT ADMINISTRATION	3,753,918	5,955,132	5,004,348	5,004,348	5,004,348
TOTAL, GOAL 2	**$3,753,918**	**$5,955,132**	**$5,004,348**	**$5,004,348**	**$5,004,348**
TOTAL, AGENCY STRATEGY REQUEST	**$287,586,589**	**$297,931,960**	**$296,932,968**	**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**
TOTAL, AGENCY RIDER APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST*				**$0**	**$0**
GRAND TOTAL, AGENCY REQUEST	**$287,586,589**	**$297,931,960**	**$296,932,968**	**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**

542 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Goal / *Objective* / STRATEGY	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	Req 2026	Req 2027
METHOD OF FINANCING:					
Other Funds:					
666 Appropriated Receipts	4,365	369,446	40,000	40,000	40,000
780 Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	287,582,224	297,496,369	296,881,968	300,000,000	300,000,000
802 Lic Plate Trust Fund No. 0802, est	0	66,145	11,000	11,000	11,000
SUBTOTAL	**$287,586,589**	**$297,931,960**	**$296,932,968**	**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$287,586,589**	**$297,931,960**	**$296,932,968**	**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**

*Rider appropriations for the historical years are included in the strategy amounts.

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	Req 2026	Req 2027
OTHER FUNDS					
666 Appropriated Receipts					
REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2022-23 GAA)	$40,000	$0	$0	$0	$0
Comments: Product Development Research Grant Application Fees					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	$0	$40,000	$40,000	$0	$0
Comments: Product Development Research Grant Application Fees					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)	$0	$0	$0	$40,000	$40,000
Comments: Product Development Research Grant Application Fees					
RIDER APPROPRIATION					
Art IX, Sec 8.07, Seminars and Conferences (2022-23 GAA)	$187,798	$0	$0	$0	$0
Comments: 2023 CPRIT Conference Registration Fee Revenue					

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	Req 2026	Req 2027
OTHER FUNDS					
Art IX, Sec 8.10, Appropriation of Receipts: Credit, Charge, or Debit Card or Electronic Cost Recovery Service Fees (2022-23 GAA)	$4,365	$0	$0	$0	$0
Comments: Credit/Debit Card Fees recovered for payment of CPRIT conference registration fees					
Art IX, Sec 8.07, Seminars and Conferences (2024-25 GAA)	$0	$84,639	$0	$0	$0
Comments: 2023 CPRIT Conference Registration Fee Revenue					
Art IX, Sec 8.10, Appropriation of Receipts: Credit, Charge, or Debit Card or Electronic Cost Recovery Service Fees (2024-25 GAA)	$0	$1,762	$0	$0	$0
Comments: Credit/Debit Card Fees recovered for payment of CPRIT conference registration fees					
LAPSED APPROPRIATIONS					
Unrealized Product Development Research Grant Application Fees	$(19,000)	$0	$0	$0	$0
UNEXPENDED BALANCES AUTHORITY					
Art. IX, Sec 8.15 Cost Recovery of Fees (2024-25 GAA)					

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	Req 2026	Req 2027
OTHER FUNDS					
	$(55,247)	$55,247	$0	$0	$0
Comments: UB of Product Development Research Grant Application Fees Between the Biennia					
Art. IX, Sec 8.07 Seminars and Conference (2024-25 GAA)					
	$(187,798)	$187,798	$0	$0	$0
Comments: UB of CPRIT Conference Registration Fee Revenue Between the Biennia					
Art. IX, Sec 8.02 Reimbursement and Payments (2022-23 GAA)					
	$34,247	$0	$0	$0	$0
Comments: UB of Product Development Research Grant Application Fees within the Biennium					
TOTAL, Appropriated Receipts	**$4,365**	**$369,446**	**$40,000**	**$40,000**	**$40,000**
780 Bond Proceeds - General Obligation Bonds					
REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2022-23 GAA)					
	$300,000,000	$0	$0	$0	$0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)					

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	Req 2026	Req 2027
OTHER FUNDS					
	$0	$300,000,000	$300,000,000	$0	$0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)	$0	$0	$0	$300,000,000	$300,000,000
TRANSFERS					
Art. 1-17 Rider 4 Transfer to Department of State Health Services for the Cancer Registry (2022-23 GAA)	$(3,118,032)	$0	$0	$0	$0
Art. 1-18 Rider 4 Transfer to Department of State Health Services for the Cancer Registry (2024-25 GAA)	$0	$(3,118,032)	$(3,118,032)	$0	$0
Art IX, Sec 17.16, Appropriation for a Salary Increase for General State Employees (2024-25 GAA)	$0	$(182,351)	$(373,819)	$0	$0
Comments: Transfer out from C.1.1 Salary adjustments					
Art IX, Sec 17.16, Appropriation for a Salary Increase for General State Employees (2024-25 GAA)	$0	$136,763	$280,364	$0	$0

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	Req 2026	Req 2027
OTHER FUNDS					
Comments: 75% of salary adjustment transfer into A.1.3 Grant Review and Award Operations					
Art IX, Sec 17.16, Appropriation for a Salary Increase for General State Employees (2024-25 GAA)	$0	$45,588	$93,455	$0	$0
Comments: 25% of salary adjustment transfer into B.1.1 Indirect Administration					
LAPSED APPROPRIATIONS					
Regular Appropriation from MOF Table (2022-23 GAA)	$(8,949,097)	$0	$0	$0	$0
UNEXPENDED BALANCES AUTHORITY					
Art. Rider 8 Unexpended Balances Within the Biennium (2022-23 GAA)	$263,754	$0	$0	$0	$0
Art. 1, Rider 8 Unexpended Balances Between Biennia (2024-25 GAA)	$(614,401)	$614,401	$0	$0	$0
TOTAL, Bond Proceeds - General Obligation Bonds	**$287,582,224**	**$297,496,369**	**$296,881,968**	**$300,000,000**	**$300,000,000**

802 License Plate Trust Fund Account No. 0802, estimated

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	Req 2026	Req 2027
OTHER FUNDS					
REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2022-23 GAA)	$11,000	$0	$0	$0	$0
Comments: Licenses Plate Revenue from Texans Conquer Cancer & Cancer of Unknown Primary Origin Awareness Plates					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	$0	$11,000	$11,000	$0	$0
Comments: Licenses Plate Revenue from Texans Conquer Cancer & Cancer of Unknown Primary Origin Awareness Plates					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)	$0	$0	$0	$11,000	$11,000
Comments: Licenses Plate Revenue from Texans Conquer Cancer & Cancer of Unknown Primary Origin Awareness Plates					
LAPSED APPROPRIATIONS					
Unrealized License Plate Revenue	$(2,477)	$0	$0	$0	$0
UNEXPENDED BALANCES AUTHORITY					
Art. IX, Sec 8.13 Appropriation of Specialty License Plate Receipts (2022-23 GAA)					

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	Req 2026	Req 2027
OTHER FUNDS					
	$46,622	$0	$0	$0	$0
Comments: UB of License Plate Revenue from Texas Conquer Cancer & Cancer of an Unknown Primary Origin Awareness Plates Within the Biennium					
Art. IX, Sec. 8.13 Appropriation of Specialty License Plate Receipts (2024-25 GAA)					
	$(55,145)	$55,145	$0	$0	$0
Comments: UB of License Plate Revenue from Texas Conquer Cancer & Cancer of an Unknown Primary Origin Awareness Plates Between the Biennia					
TOTAL, License Plate Trust Fund Account No. 0802, estimated	**$0**	**$66,145**	**$11,000**	**$11,000**	**$11,000**
TOTAL, ALL OTHER FUNDS	**$287,586,589**	**$297,931,960**	**$296,932,968**	**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**
GRAND TOTAL	**$287,586,589**	**$297,931,960**	**$296,932,968**	**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	Req 2026	Req 2027
FULL-TIME-EQUIVALENT POSITIONS					
REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2022-23 GAA)	44.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	0.0	44.0	44.0	0.0	0.0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	44.0	44.0
UNAUTHORIZED NUMBER OVER (BELOW) CAP					
Unauthorized Number Over (Below) Cap	(5.3)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Comments: Combination of staff turnover and difficulty recruiting qualified individuals for newly authorized FTEs in FY 2023					
Unauthorized Number Over (Below) Cap	0.0	(1.3)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Comments: Combination of staff turnover and difficulty recruiting qualified individuals for authorized FTEs in FY 2024					
TOTAL, ADJUSTED FTES	**38.7**	**42.7**	**44.0**	**44.0**	**44.0**
NUMBER OF 100% FEDERALLY FUNDED FTEs					

542 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

OBJECT OF EXPENSE	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027
1001 SALARIES AND WAGES	$5,770,451	$5,157,609	$5,727,117	$5,727,117	$5,727,117
1002 OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	$160,023	$120,692	$83,785	$83,785	$83,785
2001 PROFESSIONAL FEES AND SERVICES	$11,547,592	$14,638,816	$14,228,035	$14,228,035	$14,228,035
2003 CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	$3,896	$24,000	$24,000	$24,000	$24,000
2004 UTILITIES	$42,542	$70,600	$70,600	$70,600	$70,600
2005 TRAVEL	$53,775	$98,865	$90,000	$90,000	$90,000
2006 RENT - BUILDING	$2,390	$33,112	$11,000	$11,000	$11,000
2007 RENT - MACHINE AND OTHER	$12,135	$32,172	$32,172	$32,172	$32,172
2009 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	$954,353	$2,265,121	$1,116,898	$1,116,898	$1,116,898
4000 GRANTS	$269,039,432	$275,490,973	$275,549,361	$278,667,393	$278,667,393
OOE Total (Excluding Riders)	**$287,586,589**	**$297,931,960**	**$296,932,968**	**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**
OOE Total (Riders)					
Grand Total	**$287,586,589**	**$297,931,960**	**$296,932,968**	**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**

542 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Goal/ *Objective* / **Outcome**	**Exp 2023**	**Est 2024**	**Bud 2025**	**BL 2026**	**BL 2027**
1 Create and Expedite Innovation in Cancer Research and Prevention Servs					
1 Cancer Research and Prevention Projects					
1 Non-State Funds Leveraged as Match for Research Grants (in millions)	25.20	17.70	17.70	20.20	20.50
2 Total Research Matching Fund Expenditures	50,844,479.00	35,450,000.00	35,400,000.00	40,500,000.00	41,100,000.00
3 % TX Regions w/ Cancer Prevention Services and Activities Initiated	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
4 Percentage of Grantees Receiving Compliance Training	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

		2026			2027			Biennium	
Priority	**Item**	**GR and GR/GR Dedicated**	**All Funds**	**FTEs**	**GR and GR Dedicated**	**All Funds**	**FTEs**	**GR and GR Dedicated**	**All Funds**
1	10 New Position		$0	10.0		$0	10.0		$0
2	10% Increase for Exempt Salaries		$0			$0			$0
Total, Exceptional Items Request			**$0**	**10.0**		**$0**	**10.0**		**$0**
Method of Financing									
	General Revenue								
	General Revenue - Dedicated								
	Federal Funds								
	Other Funds		0			0			0
		$0	**$0**		**$0**	**$0**		**$0**	**$0**
Full Time Equivalent Positions				**10.0**			**10.0**		
Number of 100% Federally Funded FTEs									

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Goal/*Objective*/STRATEGY	Base 2026	Base 2027	Exceptional 2026	Exceptional 2027	Total Request 2026	Total Request 2027
1 Create and Expedite Innovation in Cancer Research and Prevention Se						
1 *Cancer Research and Prevention Projects*						
1 AWARD CANCER RESEARCH GRANTS	$251,369,432	$251,369,432	$(989,782)	$(973,042)	$250,379,650	$250,396,390
2 AWARD CANCER PREVENTION GRANTS	27,297,961	27,297,961	(109,976)	(108,116)	27,187,985	27,189,845
3 GRANT REVIEW AND AWARD OPERATIONS	16,379,259	16,379,259	719,944	708,744	17,099,203	17,088,003
TOTAL, GOAL 1	**$295,046,652**	**$295,046,652**	**$(379,814)**	**$(372,414)**	**$294,666,838**	**$294,674,238**
2 Indirect Administration						
1 *Indirect Administration*						
1 INDIRECT ADMINISTRATION	5,004,348	5,004,348	379,814	372,414	5,384,162	5,376,762
TOTAL, GOAL 2	**$5,004,348**	**$5,004,348**	**$379,814**	**$372,414**	**$5,384,162**	**$5,376,762**
TOTAL, AGENCY STRATEGY REQUEST	**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**
TOTAL, AGENCY RIDER APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST						
GRAND TOTAL, AGENCY REQUEST	**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Goal/*Objective*/**STRATEGY**	**Base 2026**	**Base 2027**	**Exceptional 2026**	**Exceptional 2027**	**Total Request 2026**	**Total Request 2027**
Other Funds:						
666 Appropriated Receipts	$40,000	$40,000	$0	$0	$40,000	$40,000
780 Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	300,000,000	300,000,000	0	0	300,000,000	300,000,000
802 Lic Plate Trust Fund No. 0802, est	11,000	11,000	0	0	11,000	11,000
	$300,051,000	**$300,051,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS	**44.0**	**44.0**	**10.0**	**10.0**	**54.0**	**54.0**

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Goal/ *Objective* / **Outcome**

	BL 2026	BL 2027	Excp 2026	Excp 2027	Total Request 2026	Total Request 2027
1 Create and Expedite Innovation in Cancer Research and Prevention Servs						
1 *Cancer Research and Prevention Projects*						
1 Non-State Funds Leveraged as Match for Research Grants (in millions)						
	20.20	20.50	0.00	0.00	20.20	20.50
2 Total Research Matching Fund Expenditures						
	40,500,000.00	41,100,000.00	0.00	0.00	40,500,000.00	41,100,000.00
3 % TX Regions w/ Cancer Prevention Services and Activities Initiated						
	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
4 Percentage of Grantees Receiving Compliance Training						
	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%

542 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

GOAL: 1 Create and Expedite Innovation in Cancer Research and Prevention Servs

OBJECTIVE: 1 Cancer Research and Prevention Projects — Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 1 Award Cancer Research Grants — Service: 21 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027
Output Measures:						
KEY 1	Number Entities Relocating to TX for Cancer-Research Related Projects	2.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	2.00
2	# of Researchers Recruited	19.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
Explanatory/Input Measures:						
1	Number of Research Grant Awards	92.00	79.00	79.00	79.00	79.00
2	Average Dollar Amount of Research Grants Awarded	2,631,728.00	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00
KEY 3	Number of Published Articles	1,091.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
KEY 4	Number of New Jobs Created and Maintained	3,551.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Objects of Expense:						
4000	GRANTS	$242,119,006	$249,522,349	$248,251,400	$251,369,432	$251,369,432
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$242,119,006**	**$249,522,349**	**$248,251,400**	**$251,369,432**	**$251,369,432**
Method of Financing:						
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	$242,119,006	$249,522,349	$248,251,400	$251,369,432	$251,369,432
SUBTOTAL, MOF (OTHER FUNDS)		**$242,119,006**	**$249,522,349**	**$248,251,400**	**$251,369,432**	**$251,369,432**

542 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

GOAL: 1 Create and Expedite Innovation in Cancer Research and Prevention Servs

OBJECTIVE: 1 Cancer Research and Prevention Projects — Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 1 Award Cancer Research Grants — Service: 21 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (INCLUDING RIDERS)					**$251,369,432**	**$251,369,432**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (EXCLUDING RIDERS)		**$242,119,006**	**$249,522,349**	**$248,251,400**	**$251,369,432**	**$251,369,432**

FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:

STRATEGY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The goal of CPRIT's Academic Research and Product Development Research Programs is to expedite innovation in the area of cancer research by enhancing the potential for a medical or scientific breakthrough in the prevention of cancer and cures for cancer and create or expand the research capabilities of public or private institutions of higher education and other public or private entities to get more cures to cancer patients.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY:

CPRIT’s investments are important because, despite advances, cancer remains the leading cause of death for Texans under the age of 85, with more than 130 people dying from cancer every day in Texas. Although the emotional and physical toll of cancer is incalculable, in purely economic terms, cancer cost the state $56.3 billion in direct medical costs and mortality losses in 2023, which is an increase of $5.3 billion from 2022. Considering Texas’ emerging demographics and growing population, the state’s cost of cancer is unlikely to decline unless Texas makes significant and sustainable changes now.

Academic research projects are awarded to public and private institutions of higher education. Texas is fortunate to have numerous prestigious universities from which originate applications for CPRIT to support. Funded projects range from basic research into the fundamentals of cancer science to early translational activities that begin moving basic research into the development stage for clinical (bedside) use. Product development research projects fund early translational research at existing or nascent Texas companies or companies that are willing to relocate to Texas to develop their cancer-related product.

542 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

GOAL:	1	Create and Expedite Innovation in Cancer Research and Prevention Servs			
OBJECTIVE:	1	Cancer Research and Prevention Projects	Service Categories:		
STRATEGY:	1	Award Cancer Research Grants	Service: 21	Income: A.2	Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027

EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE (includes Rider amounts):

STRATEGY BIENNIAL TOTAL - ALL FUNDS		BIENNIAL	EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE	
Base Spending (Est 2024 + Bud 2025)	Baseline Request (BL 2026 + BL 2027)	CHANGE	$ Amount	Explanation(s) of Amount (must specify MOFs and FTEs)
$497,773,749	$502,738,864	$4,965,115	$6,236,064	In each year of the 2024-25 biennium, CPRIT transferred $3,118,032 to the Department of State Health Services for the Texas Cancer Registry pursuant to the requirement in CPRIT Rider 4.
			$(1,270,949)	Budget transfer under the authority of Art. IX, Sec. 14.01, Appropriations Transfers. Notification required by CPRIT Rider 3 transmitted on 5/2/24.
			$4,965,115	**Total of Explanation of Biennial Change**

542 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

GOAL: 1 Create and Expedite Innovation in Cancer Research and Prevention Servs

OBJECTIVE: 1 Cancer Research and Prevention Projects — Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 2 Award Cancer Prevention Grants — Service: 23 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027
Output Measures:						
KEY 1	Number of Cancer Prevention and Control Services Provided	848,103.00	750,000.00	750,000.00	775,000.00	775,000.00
Explanatory/Input Measures:						
KEY 1	Annual Age-adjusted Cancer Mortality Rate	140.50	138.00	135.00	136.00	134.00
Objects of Expense:						
4000	GRANTS	$26,920,426	$25,968,624	$27,297,961	$27,297,961	$27,297,961
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$26,920,426**	**$25,968,624**	**$27,297,961**	**$27,297,961**	**$27,297,961**
Method of Financing:						
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	$26,920,426	$25,902,479	$27,286,961	$27,286,961	$27,286,961
802	Lic Plate Trust Fund No. 0802, est	$0	$66,145	$11,000	$11,000	$11,000
SUBTOTAL, MOF (OTHER FUNDS)		**$26,920,426**	**$25,968,624**	**$27,297,961**	**$27,297,961**	**$27,297,961**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (INCLUDING RIDERS)					**$27,297,961**	**$27,297,961**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (EXCLUDING RIDERS)		**$26,920,426**	**$25,968,624**	**$27,297,961**	**$27,297,961**	**$27,297,961**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:						

542 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

GOAL:	1	Create and Expedite Innovation in Cancer Research and Prevention Servs			
OBJECTIVE:	1	Cancer Research and Prevention Projects	Service Categories:		
STRATEGY:	2	Award Cancer Prevention Grants	Service: 23	Income: A.2	Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027

STRATEGY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The Prevention Program's goal is to establish effective evidence-based cancer control and prevention programs across Texas mobilizing public, private, and volunteer agencies and individuals to enhance the availability and quality of these services. To date, this program has funded 303 prevention projects throughout all 254 Texas counties. Through these projects, more than 43,200 cancers and cancer precursors have been detected in the population which would otherwise have not been identified for these under-insured and uninsured individuals.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY:

CPRIT’s investments are important because, despite advances, cancer remains the leading cause of death for Texans under the age of 85, with more than 130 people dying from cancer every day in Texas. Although the emotional and physical toll of cancer is incalculable, in purely economic terms, cancer cost the state $56.3 billion in direct medical costs and mortality losses in 2023, which is an increase of $5.3 billion from 2022. Considering Texas’ emerging demographics and growing population, the state’s cost of cancer is unlikely to decline unless Texas makes significant and sustainable changes now.

542 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

GOAL: 1 Create and Expedite Innovation in Cancer Research and Prevention Servs

OBJECTIVE: 1 Cancer Research and Prevention Projects — Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 2 Award Cancer Prevention Grants — Service: 23 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027

EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE (includes Rider amounts):

STRATEGY BIENNIAL TOTAL - ALL FUNDS		BIENNIAL	EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE	
Base Spending (Est 2024 + Bud 2025)	Baseline Request (BL 2026 + BL 2027)	CHANGE	$ Amount	Explanation(s) of Amount (must specify MOFs and FTEs)
$53,266,585	$54,595,922	$1,329,337	$1,575,949	Budget transfer under the authority of Art. IX, Sec. 14.01, Appropriation Transfers. Required Rider 3 notification transmitted on 5/2/24.
			$(246,612)	The $1.1 million annual exceptional item requests reallocates bond funds to operating costs, reducing funding available for new research and prevention grant awards.
			$1,329,337	**Total of Explanation of Biennial Change**

542 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

GOAL: 1 Create and Expedite Innovation in Cancer Research and Prevention Servs

OBJECTIVE: 1 Cancer Research and Prevention Projects — Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 3 Grant Review and Award Operations — Service: 09 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027
Output Measures:						
1	Number of Grants Reviewed for Compliance	225.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Objects of Expense:						
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	$4,035,641	$3,305,301	$3,786,237	$3,786,237	$3,786,237
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	$112,967	$71,929	$45,000	$45,000	$45,000
2001	PROFESSIONAL FEES AND SERVICES	$10,581,757	$12,520,777	$12,419,373	$12,419,373	$12,419,373
2004	UTILITIES	$17,674	$12,000	$12,000	$12,000	$12,000
2005	TRAVEL	$22,234	$45,000	$45,000	$45,000	$45,000
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	$22,966	$530,848	$71,649	$71,649	$71,649
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$14,793,239**	**$16,485,855**	**$16,379,259**	**$16,379,259**	**$16,379,259**
Method of Financing:						
666	Appropriated Receipts	$4,365	$369,446	$40,000	$40,000	$40,000
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	$14,788,874	$16,116,409	$16,339,259	$16,339,259	$16,339,259
SUBTOTAL, MOF (OTHER FUNDS)		**$14,793,239**	**$16,485,855**	**$16,379,259**	**$16,379,259**	**$16,379,259**

542 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

GOAL: 1 Create and Expedite Innovation in Cancer Research and Prevention Servs

OBJECTIVE: 1 Cancer Research and Prevention Projects — Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 3 Grant Review and Award Operations — Service: 09 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (INCLUDING RIDERS)					**$16,379,259**	**$16,379,259**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (EXCLUDING RIDERS)		**$14,793,239**	**$16,485,855**	**$16,379,259**	**$16,379,259**	**$16,379,259**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:		**23.2**	**30.2**	**31.5**	**31.5**	**31.5**

STRATEGY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

This strategy summarizes CPRIT's direct operational costs to receive and review grant applications as well as award and monitor the cancer research and prevention grants.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY:

These operating costs fund the online receipt of grant applications, independent expert peer review of the grant applications received, and monitoring and review of required grant reports of the more than 550 active awards at any given time. CPRIT has a total portfolio of approximately 2,000 grants awarded since inception. CPRIT must maintain and aggregate the significant statistical data and results that have emanated from every award. CPRIT must also track the intellectual property that has been created by the research awards as every research grant contract contains intellectual property revenue sharing terms required by state law.

542 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

GOAL: 1 Create and Expedite Innovation in Cancer Research and Prevention Servs

OBJECTIVE: 1 Cancer Research and Prevention Projects — Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 3 Grant Review and Award Operations — Service: 09 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027

EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE (includes Rider amounts):

STRATEGY BIENNIAL TOTAL - ALL FUNDS		BIENNIAL	EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE	
Base Spending (Est 2024 + Bud 2025)	Baseline Request (BL 2026 + BL 2027)	CHANGE	$ Amount	Explanation(s) of Amount (must specify MOFs and FTEs)
$32,865,114	$32,758,518	$(106,596)	$(12,500)	Portion of contract expenses carried forward ($614,401 total) from FY23 to FY24 under Rider 8 UB authority offset by annualization of FY25 5% salary increase FYs 26-27.
			$(187,798)	CPRIT Conference fees (Appropriated Receipts) carried forward from FY23 to FY 24.
			$(120,000)	Portion of budget transfer out of prevention award strategy to support grant review and award operating costs.
			$191,468	Difference due to 2024-25 annual salary increases annualized in the 2026-27 biennium.
			$(128,830)	**Total of Explanation of Biennial Change**

542 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

GOAL: 2 Indirect Administration

OBJECTIVE: 1 Indirect Administration — Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 1 Indirect Administration — Service: 09 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027
Objects of Expense:						
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	$1,734,810	$1,852,308	$1,940,880	$1,940,880	$1,940,880
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	$47,056	$48,763	$38,785	$38,785	$38,785
2001	PROFESSIONAL FEES AND SERVICES	$965,835	$2,118,039	$1,808,662	$1,808,662	$1,808,662
2003	CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	$3,896	$24,000	$24,000	$24,000	$24,000
2004	UTILITIES	$24,868	$58,600	$58,600	$58,600	$58,600
2005	TRAVEL	$31,541	$53,865	$45,000	$45,000	$45,000
2006	RENT - BUILDING	$2,390	$33,112	$11,000	$11,000	$11,000
2007	RENT - MACHINE AND OTHER	$12,135	$32,172	$32,172	$32,172	$32,172
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	$931,387	$1,734,273	$1,045,249	$1,045,249	$1,045,249
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$3,753,918**	**$5,955,132**	**$5,004,348**	**$5,004,348**	**$5,004,348**
Method of Financing:						
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	$3,753,918	$5,955,132	$5,004,348	$5,004,348	$5,004,348
SUBTOTAL, MOF (OTHER FUNDS)		**$3,753,918**	**$5,955,132**	**$5,004,348**	**$5,004,348**	**$5,004,348**

542 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

GOAL: 2 Indirect Administration

OBJECTIVE: 1 Indirect Administration — Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 1 Indirect Administration — Service: 09 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (INCLUDING RIDERS)					**$5,004,348**	**$5,004,348**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (EXCLUDING RIDERS)		**$3,753,918**	**$5,955,132**	**$5,004,348**	**$5,004,348**	**$5,004,348**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:		**15.5**	**12.5**	**12.5**	**12.5**	**12.5**

STRATEGY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

This strategy captures the Institute's indirect costs to maintain the functions of a state agency.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY:

These operating costs support general agency functions including executive administration, accounting, financial reporting, human resources, procurement, facilities, information technology and security, internal audit, internal audit, and legal services.

542 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

GOAL: 2 Indirect Administration

OBJECTIVE: 1 Indirect Administration — Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 1 Indirect Administration — Service: 09 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027

EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE (includes Rider amounts):

STRATEGY BIENNIAL TOTAL - ALL FUNDS		BIENNIAL	EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE	
Base Spending (Est 2024 + Bud 2025)	Baseline Request (BL 2026 + BL 2027)	CHANGE	$ Amount	Explanation(s) of Amount (must specify MOFs and FTEs)
$10,959,480	$10,008,696	$(950,784)	$(601,901)	Carried forward $614,401 in contracts from FY23 to FY24 under Rider 8 UB authority.
			$(185,000)	Portion of the budget transfer out of the prevention award strategy to support indirect operating costs.
			$(786,901)	**Total of Explanation of Biennial Change**

SUMMARY TOTALS:

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:	**$287,586,589**	**$297,931,960**	**$296,932,968**	**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**
METHODS OF FINANCE (INCLUDING RIDERS):				**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**
METHODS OF FINANCE (EXCLUDING RIDERS):	**$287,586,589**	**$297,931,960**	**$296,932,968**	**$300,051,000**	**$300,051,000**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:	**38.7**	**42.7**	**44.0**	**44.0**	**44.0**

3.B. Rider Revisions and Additions Request

Agency Code:	Agency Name:	Prepared By:	Date:	Request Level:
542	Cancer Research and Prevention Institute of Texas	Donna Cooper	08/12/2024	

Current Rider Number	Page Number in 2024-25 GAA	Proposed Rider Language
4	I-19	**Transfer to Department of State Health Services for the Cancer Registry.** Out of amounts appropriated above out of General Obligation Bond Proceeds to the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas is $3,118,032 out of General Obligation Bond Proceeds each fiscal year of the ~~2024-25~~ 2026-27 biennium which shall be transferred to the Department of State Health Services in Strategy A.1.3, Health Registries, for administration of the Cancer Registry in accordance with the Texas Constitution, Article III, Section 67 and Health and Safety Code, Chapter 102.
7	I-19 & I-20	**Unexpended Balances Within the Biennium.** Any unexpended balances remaining as of August 31, ~~2024~~ 2026, in the appropriations made above are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning September 1, ~~2024~~ 2026. The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas shall report the amount of unexpended balances remaining as of August 31, ~~2024~~ 2026, and carried forward into the fiscal year beginning September 1, ~~2024~~ 2026, to the Legislative Budget Board no later than 30 days after the end of the fiscal year.
8	I-20	**Unexpended Balances Between Biennia.** Included in amounts appropriated above are any unexpended balances out of General Obligation Bond Proceeds (estimated to be $0) remaining as of August 31, ~~2023~~ 2025, in appropriations made to the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas and re-appropriated for the same purpose for the biennium beginning September 1, ~~2023~~ 2025. In addition to the amounts appropriated herein and above, all amounts previously appropriated to the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas out of General Obligation Bond Proceeds and awarded, obligated, or otherwise encumbered but not previously expended are appropriated for the same purpose for the biennium beginning September 1, ~~2023~~ 2025. The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas shall report the amount of encumbered but unexpended balances remaining as of August 31, ~~2023~~ 2025, and carried forward into the fiscal year beginning September 1, ~~2023~~ 2025, to the Legislative Budget Board no later than 30 days after the end of the fiscal year.

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

CODE	DESCRIPTION			Excp 2026	Excp 2027
	Item Name:	10 FTEs for Grant Award Portfolio Management and IT Infrastructure Support			
	Item Priority:	1			
	IT Component:	No			
	Anticipated Out-year Costs:	Yes			
	Involve Contracts > $50,000:	No			
	Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies:	01-01-01	Award Cancer Research Grants		
		01-01-02	Award Cancer Prevention Grants		
		01-01-03	Grant Review and Award Operations		
		02-01-01	Indirect Administration		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:					
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES			1,004,400	985,800
4000	GRANTS			-1,004,400	-985,800
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE			**$0**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING:					
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat			0	0
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING			**$0**	**$0**
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS (FTE):				10.00	10.00

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

CPRIT requests ten (10) new full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for grant award portfolio management and appropriate agency operations infrastructure support. The request includes:

-4 new Grant Accountants to address the financial reports workload of 550+ grants each financial quarter,

-1 new Grant Compliance Specialist to address the increasing workload of performing the necessary annual grant compliance reviews, monitoring visits, and trainings for CPRIT's portfolio of 550+ active grants,

-1 Cybersecurity Analyst to monitor, analyze, and mitigate threats to the agency's information security controls,

-1 Front End Developer to update content on and maintain required accessibility standards on the agency website,

-1 External Relations Manager to provide support to executive staff by providing agency information to legislative inquiries, monitor and report on legislative hearings, work with CPRIT stakeholders including grant recipient academic institutions, and coordinate agency outreach events,

-1 new Data Scientist for the Academic Research Program to better gather and fully analyze and evaluate the program's grant award data to inform strategic decisions, and

-1 new Intellectual Property Database Manager to update and maintain the IP information for all research grant awards in the database.

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2026	Excp 2027

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

While CPRIT is sensitive to the need to keep overhead as low as possible, the relatively low ratio of less than 2% between annual operating costs and total funds of $1.4 billion under active management may indicate insufficient resources dedicated to compliance and fiscal monitoring activities. There are no comparable grant making entities with a defined statutory compliance program like CPRIT's. The National Institutes of Health operate on trust and work with their grantees on policy questions but don't verify research progress or expenditure accountability prior to disbursing grant funds .

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

The ongoing cost of maintaining the additional 10 FTEs.

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

2028	2029	2030
$985,800	$985,800	$985,800

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

CODE	DESCRIPTION			Excp 2026	Excp 2027
	Item Name:	10% Increase for Exempt Position Salaries			
	Item Priority:	2			
	IT Component:	No			
	Anticipated Out-year Costs:	Yes			
	Involve Contracts > $50,000:	No			
	Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies:	01-01-01	Award Cancer Research Grants		
		01-01-02	Award Cancer Prevention Grants		
		01-01-03	Grant Review and Award Operations		
		02-01-01	Indirect Administration		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:					
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES			95,358	95,358
4000	GRANTS			-95,358	-95,358
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE			**$0**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING:					
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat			0	0
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING			**$0**	**$0**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

CPRIT requests that the salaries for both exempt positions, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Scientific Officer (CSO), be increased by 10% in order to ensure that both positions provide competitive salaries to employ individuals the the unique skills required to fulfill both positions. In the 2024-25 GAA, the CEO salary was not increased by the 5% cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) in each year of the biennium authorized by the Texas Legislature for all other state employees. The CSO salary increase is necessary to ensure that this position remains approximately comparable to analogous positions found primarily at institutions of higher education.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

The CEO exempt salary was not increased by the 5% annual COLA provided to all other state employees. The CSO exempt salary must stay competitive with similar positions at institutions of higher education.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2026	Excp 2027

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

The ongoing cost to maintain the salary increases.

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

2028	2029	2030
$95,358	$95,358	$95,358

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Code	Description	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
Item Name:	10 FTEs for Grant Award Portfolio Management and IT Infrastructure Support		
Allocation to Strategy:	1-1-1 Award Cancer Research Grants		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
4000	GRANTS	-903,960	-887,220
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**-$903,960**	**-$887,220**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	-903,960	-887,220
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**-$903,960**	**-$887,220**

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Code	Description	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
Item Name:	10 FTEs for Grant Award Portfolio Management and IT Infrastructure Support		
Allocation to Strategy:	1-1-2 Award Cancer Prevention Grants		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
4000	GRANTS	-100,440	-98,580
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**-$100,440**	**-$98,580**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	-100,440	-98,580
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**-$100,440**	**-$98,580**

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Code	Description	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
Item Name:	10 FTEs for Grant Award Portfolio Management and IT Infrastructure Support		
Allocation to Strategy:	1-1-3 Grant Review and Award Operations		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	638,700	627,500
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$638,700**	**$627,500**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	638,700	627,500
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**$638,700**	**$627,500**
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS (FTE):		7.0	7.0

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Code	Description	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
Item Name:	10 FTEs for Grant Award Portfolio Management and IT Infrastructure Support		
Allocation to Strategy:	2-1-1 Indirect Administration		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	365,700	358,300
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$365,700**	**$358,300**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	365,700	358,300
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**$365,700**	**$358,300**
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS (FTE):		3.0	3.0

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Code	Description	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
Item Name:	10% Increase for Exempt Position Salaries		
Allocation to Strategy:	1-1-1 Award Cancer Research Grants		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
4000	GRANTS	-85,822	-85,822
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**-$85,822**	**-$85,822**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	-85,822	-85,822
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**-$85,822**	**-$85,822**

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Code	Description	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
Item Name:	10% Increase for Exempt Position Salaries		
Allocation to Strategy:	1-1-2 Award Cancer Prevention Grants		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
4000	GRANTS	-9,536	-9,536
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**-$9,536**	**-$9,536**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	-9,536	-9,536
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**-$9,536**	**-$9,536**

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Code	Description	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
Item Name:	10% Increase for Exempt Position Salaries		
Allocation to Strategy:	1-1-3 Grant Review and Award Operations		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	81,244	81,244
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$81,244**	**$81,244**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	81,244	81,244
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**$81,244**	**$81,244**

Agency code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Code	Description	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
Item Name:	10% Increase for Exempt Position Salaries		
Allocation to Strategy:	2-1-1 Indirect Administration		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	14,114	14,114
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$14,114**	**$14,114**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	14,114	14,114
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**$14,114**	**$14,114**

Agency Code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

GOAL: 1 Create and Expedite Innovation in Cancer Research and Prevention Servs

OBJECTIVE: 1 Cancer Research and Prevention Projects Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 1 Award Cancer Research Grants Service: 21 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
4000	GRANTS	(989,782)	(973,042)
	Total, Objects of Expense	**$(989,782)**	**$(973,042)**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	(989,782)	(973,042)
	Total, Method of Finance	**$(989,782)**	**$(973,042)**

EXCEPTIONAL ITEM(S) INCLUDED IN STRATEGY:

10 FTEs for Grant Award Portfolio Management and IT Infrastructure Support

10% Increase for Exempt Position Salaries

Agency Code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

GOAL: 1 Create and Expedite Innovation in Cancer Research and Prevention Servs

OBJECTIVE: 1 Cancer Research and Prevention Projects Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 2 Award Cancer Prevention Grants Service: 23 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
4000	GRANTS	(109,976)	(108,116)
	Total, Objects of Expense	**$(109,976)**	**$(108,116)**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	(109,976)	(108,116)
	Total, Method of Finance	**$(109,976)**	**$(108,116)**

EXCEPTIONAL ITEM(S) INCLUDED IN STRATEGY:

10 FTEs for Grant Award Portfolio Management and IT Infrastructure Support

10% Increase for Exempt Position Salaries

Agency Code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

GOAL: 1 Create and Expedite Innovation in Cancer Research and Prevention Servs

OBJECTIVE: 1 Cancer Research and Prevention Projects Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 3 Grant Review and Award Operations Service: 09 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	719,944	708,744
	Total, Objects of Expense	**$719,944**	**$708,744**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	719,944	708,744
	Total, Method of Finance	**$719,944**	**$708,744**
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS (FTE):		7.0	7.0

EXCEPTIONAL ITEM(S) INCLUDED IN STRATEGY:

10 FTEs for Grant Award Portfolio Management and IT Infrastructure Support

10% Increase for Exempt Position Salaries

Agency Code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

GOAL: 2 Indirect Administration

OBJECTIVE: 1 Indirect Administration

STRATEGY: 1 Indirect Administration

Service Categories:

Service: 09 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	379,814	372,414
	Total, Objects of Expense	**$379,814**	**$372,414**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
780	Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	379,814	372,414
	Total, Method of Finance	**$379,814**	**$372,414**
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS (FTE):		3.0	3.0

EXCEPTIONAL ITEM(S) INCLUDED IN STRATEGY:

10 FTEs for Grant Award Portfolio Management and IT Infrastructure Support

10% Increase for Exempt Position Salaries

Agency Code: **542** Agency: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

COMPARISON TO STATEWIDE HUB PROCUREMENT GOALS

A. Fiscal Year - HUB Expenditure Information

Statewide HUB Goals	Procurement Category	% Goal	HUB Expenditures FY 2022 % Actual	Diff	Actual $	Total Expenditures FY 2022	% Goal	HUB Expenditures FY 2023 % Actual	Diff	Actual $	Total Expenditures FY 2023
23.7%	Professional Services	23.7 %	50.8%	27.1%	$38,500	$75,784	23.7 %	22.5%	-1.2%	$41,000	$182,258
26.0%	Other Services	26.0 %	4.8%	-21.2%	$578,646	$12,076,550	26.0 %	6.1%	-19.9%	$641,034	$10,488,700
21.1%	Commodities	21.1 %	23.4%	2.3%	$96,604	$413,160	21.1 %	19.8%	-1.3%	$45,986	$231,987
	Total Expenditures		**5.7%**		**$713,750**	**$12,565,494**		**6.7%**		**$728,020**	**$10,902,945**

B. Assessment of Attainment of HUB Procurement Goals

Attainment:

The agency attained or exceeded 2 of 3, or 67%, of the applicable agency HUB procurement goals in fiscal year 2022.

The agency did not attain the expenditure goal in any of the three applicable agency HUB procurement goals in fiscal year 2023. However, the agency came within approximately 1% of attaining two of the expenditure goals in the Professional Services and the Commodities categories.

Applicability:

CPRIT does not perform heavy construction, building construction, or special trade construction so these HUB categories are not applicable to the agency.

Factors Affecting Attainment:

CPRIT must procure accounting and audit professional services for the statutorily required internal audit program and annual independent financial audit. CPRIT has procured independent financial audit services from a certified HUB vendor but has not been able to procure a firm for internal audit due to the limited number of certified HUB vendors in this category.

Other Services comprise the bulk of CPRIT purchases which includes specialized services such as grant management support, outside counsel, business and regulatory due diligence, and a cost of cancer economic assessment. There are very few vendors that provide some of these specialized services like grant management support and business and regulatory due diligence in the U.S., and none in Texas. As a result, there's a corresponding lack of certified HUB vendors for these services. Honoraria payments to CPRIT's peer review chairs who lead the grant application evaluations are in this category. They are recruited for their scientific expertise and must live outside the state, so they can't be certified HUB vendors.

C. Good-Faith Efforts to Increase HUB Participation

Outreach Efforts and Mentor-Protégé Programs:

CPRIT uses the following services and outreach activities to increase the utilization of HUB vendors in its procurement processes:

Agency Code: **542** Agency: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

-Utilizing the SPD Centralized Master Bidders List and HUB search to ensure that all eligible certified HUBs are notified of CPRIT's procurement opportunities; Utilizing HUB resellers from the Department of Information Resources' information technology contracts as often as possible;
-Attending HUB Workgroup Discussion meetings;
-Attending HUB small business trainings and HUB forums to increase awareness of CPRIT procurement oppm1unities among HUB vendors; and
-Participating in available meetings with HUB vendors at other agencies

HUB Program Staffing:

As a small agency with 44 FTEs, CPRIT has one FTE dedicated to purchasing. The purchaser’s duties include the role of HUB Coordinator and the responsibility to ensure that the agency implements the HUB outreach and procurement strategies to increase HUB utilization.

Current and Future Good-Faith Efforts:

CPRIT is continuously implementing strategies to increase the agency's HUB participation and ensure the agency complies with the laws and rules established for the HUB program. This compliance includes adherence to HUB planning and reporting requirements and to HUB purchasing procedures established by SPD. As part of the effort to increase HUB participation, the purchaser must ensure that procurement opportunities are distributed among HUB groups, not concentrated within one or two HUB groups.

6.E. Estimated Revenue Collections Supporting Schedule
89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

Agency Code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

FUND/ACCOUNT	Act 2023	Exp 2024	Est 2025	Est 2026	Est 2027
666 Appropriated Receipts					
Beginning Balance (Unencumbered):	$0	$243,045	$0	$0	$0
Estimated Revenue:					
3722 Conf, Semin, & Train Regis Fees	192,163	86,401	0	0	0
3802 Reimbursements-Third Party	21,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
3975 Unexpended Balance Forward	34,247	0	0	0	0
Subtotal: Actual/Estimated Revenue	247,410	126,401	40,000	40,000	40,000
Total Available	**$247,410**	**$369,446**	**$40,000**	**$40,000**	**$40,000**
DEDUCTIONS:					
Product Development Research Review Expenses	0	(95,247)	(40,000)	(40,000)	(40,000)
Unexpended Balance-PDR Grant Application FEE Revenue	(55,247)	0	0	0	0
Credit & Debt Card Fees	(4,365)	(1,762)	0	0	0
CPRIT Conference Registration & Exhibit Fees	0	(272,437)	0	0	0
Unexpended Balance-CPRIT Conference Registration & Exhibit Fees	(187,798)	0	0	0	0
Total, Deductions	**$(247,410)**	**$(369,446)**	**$(40,000)**	**$(40,000)**	**$(40,000)**
Ending Fund/Account Balance	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

REVENUE ASSUMPTIONS:

For the product development research program, CPRIT requires that applicants pay a fee of either $500 or $1,000 based on the type of grant mechanism application to ensure that the applications are not frivolous and to defray some of the additional cost associated with evaluation of these applications. The product development research grant application evaluation is composed of not only peer review but also business, regulatory and intellectual property due diligence which results in an additional expense not necessary for academic research or prevention grant application evaluations. The fees generate approximately $40,000 per year in third-party reimbursements.

CPRIT held a cancer research and prevention innovations conference in October 2023. CPRIT initiated conference registration in FY 2023, collecting the registration fee revenue and associated credit card processing fees that year through the first quarter of FY 2024 when the conference took place.

CONTACT PERSON:

Dan Limas

6.E. Estimated Revenue Collections Supporting Schedule
89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

Agency Code: **542** Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

FUND/ACCOUNT	Act 2023	Exp 2024	Est 2025	Est 2026	Est 2027
802 Lic Plate Trust Fund No. 0802, est					
Beginning Balance (Unencumbered):	$0	$55,145	$0	$0	$0
Estimated Revenue:					
3014 Mtr Vehicle Registration Fees	8,523	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
3975 Unexpended Balance Forward	46,622	0	0	0	0
Subtotal: Actual/Estimated Revenue	55,145	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
Total Available	**$55,145**	**$66,145**	**$11,000**	**$11,000**	**$11,000**
DEDUCTIONS:					
Prevention Grant Patient Support Service	0	(66,145)	(11,000)	(11,000)	(11,000)
Unexpended Balance-Prevention Grant Patient Support Services	(55,145)	0	0	0	0
Total, Deductions	**$(55,145)**	**$(66,145)**	**$(11,000)**	**$(11,000)**	**$(11,000)**
Ending Fund/Account Balance	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

REVENUE ASSUMPTIONS:

License plate fees are collected through the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. The license plate revenue is used to pay for patient support services that may be funded through CPRIT's cancer prevention grants. The revenue from the cancer license plate has been steadily declining as other specialty license plates, including some for cancer, have become available.

CONTACT PERSON:

Dan Limas

Agency Code: **542** Agency: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Statutory Authorization: Health and Safety Code, Sec. 102.151
Number of Members: 200
Committee Status: Ongoing
Date Created: 06/19/2009
Date to Be Abolished:

Strategy (Strategies): 1-1-3 GRANT REVIEW AND AWARD OPERATIONS

Advisory Committee Costs	**Expended Exp 2023**	**Estimated Est 2024**	**Budgeted Bud 2025**	**Requested BL 2026**	**Requested BL 2027**
Committee Members Direct Expenses					
OTHER OPERATING COSTS	$1,207,300	$1,473,543	$1,473,543	$1,473,543	$1,473,543
HONORARIA	2,027,902	2,081,182	2,081,182	2,081,182	2,081,182
Other Expenditures in Support of Committee Activities					
PERSONNEL	640,664	681,898	716,007	716,007	716,007
Total, Committee Expenditures	**$3,875,866**	**$4,236,623**	**$4,270,732**	**$4,270,732**	**$4,270,732**
Method of Financing					
Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	$3,875,866	$4,236,623	$4,270,732	$4,270,732	$4,270,732
Total, Method of Financing	**$3,875,866**	**$4,236,623**	**$4,270,732**	**$4,270,732**	**$4,270,732**
Meetings Per Fiscal Year	52	90	90	90	90

Agency Code: **542** Agency: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Description and Justification for Continuation/Consequences of Abolishing

The Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee (SRPPC) conducts CPRIT's expert peer review of all cancer prevention, academic research and product development research grant applications. Members of the committee provide an independent evaluation of each grant application received by CPRIT. Their evaluations are the basis of grant award recommendations considered and approved by the Oversight Committee. The peer review committees are the cornerstone of CPRIT's processes to fund the best prevention education and service delivery, academic research and product development research cancer projects. Without these advisory peer review committees, CPRIT would have more difficulty making decisions about awarding grant funds and achieving its mission to expedite discoveries and innovations that reduce the burdens of cancer.

Agency Code: **542** Agency: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

UNIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statutory Authorization: Health and Safety Code, Sec. 102.154
Number of Members: 12
Committee Status: Ongoing
Date Created: 06/19/2009
Date to Be Abolished:

Strategy (Strategies): 1-1-3 GRANT REVIEW AND AWARD OPERATIONS

Advisory Committee Costs	**Expended Exp 2023**	**Estimated Est 2024**	**Budgeted Bud 2025**	**Requested BL 2026**	**Requested BL 2027**
Other Expenditures in Support of Committee Activities					
PERSONNEL	$4,114	$4,320	$4,536	$4,536	$4,536
Total, Committee Expenditures	**$4,114**	**$4,320**	**$4,536**	**$4,536**	**$4,536**
Method of Financing					
Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	$4,114	$4,320	$4,536	$4,536	$4,536
Total, Method of Financing	**$4,114**	**$4,320**	**$4,536**	**$4,536**	**$4,536**
Meetings Per Fiscal Year	1	1	1	1	1

Agency Code: **542** Agency: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Description and Justification for Continuation/Consequences of Abolishing

The primary purpose of the University Advisory Committee (UAC) is to advise the Oversight Committee and the Scientific Research and Prevention Program Peer Review Committees regarding the role of institutions of higher education in cancer research, including early stage product development. If the UAC were abolished, the Oversight Committee would lose valuable insight from the Texas institutions of higher education about academic cancer research priorities and the value of different types of grant funding mechanisms.

Agency Code: **542** Agency: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHILDHOOD CANCER

Statutory Authorization: Health and Safety Code, Sec. 102.155
Number of Members: 20
Committee Status: Ongoing
Date Created: 6/19/2009
Date to Be Abolished:

Strategy (Strategies): 1-1-3 GRANT REVIEW AND AWARD OPERATIONS

Advisory Committee Costs	**Expended Exp 2023**	**Estimated Est 2024**	**Budgeted Bud 2025**	**Requested BL 2026**	**Requested BL 2027**
Committee Members Direct Expenses					
PERSONNEL	$49,370	$47,519	$49,896	$49,896	$49,896
Total, Committee Expenditures	**$49,370**	**$47,519**	**$49,896**	**$49,896**	**$49,896**
Method of Financing					
Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	$49,370	$47,519	$49,896	$49,896	$49,896
Total, Method of Financing	**$49,370**	**$47,519**	**$49,896**	**$49,896**	**$49,896**
Meetings Per Fiscal Year	12	11	11	11	11

Agency Code: **542** Agency: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Description and Justification for Continuation/Consequences of Abolishing

The Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancer (ACCC) advises the Oversight Committee on the impact of CPRIT funding of innovative research grant projects that prevent, control or treat pediatric cancers and on new grant award mechanisms that encourage additional research in these areas. The ACCC is composed of pediatric oncologists and parents of pediatric cancer patients appointed by the Oversight Committee. If the ACCC were abolished, the Oversight Committee would lose this valuable insight and advice.

Agency Code: **542** Agency: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statutory Authorization: Health and Safety Code, Sec. 102.155
Number of Members: 17
Committee Status: Ongoing
Date Created: 9/1/2014
Date to Be Abolished:

Strategy (Strategies): 1-1-3 GRANT REVIEW AND AWARD OPERATIONS

Advisory Committee Costs	**Expended Exp 2023**	**Estimated Est 2024**	**Budgeted Bud 2025**	**Requested BL 2026**	**Requested BL 2027**
Other Expenditures in Support of Committee Activities					
PERSONNEL	$11,505	$12,434	$13,055	$13,055	$13,055
Total, Committee Expenditures	**$11,505**	**$12,434**	**$13,055**	**$13,055**	**$13,055**
Method of Financing					
Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	$11,505	$12,434	$13,055	$13,055	$13,055
Total, Method of Financing	**$11,505**	**$12,434**	**$13,055**	**$13,055**	**$13,055**
Meetings Per Fiscal Year	4	4	4	4	4

Agency Code: **542** Agency: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Description and Justification for Continuation/Consequences of Abolishing

The Product Development Advisory Committee (PDAC) advises the Oversight Committee on key issues related to the product development research program including fair revenue sharing terms and the appropriate mix of product development awards by stage of company and size of award in CPRIT's grant portfolio. The PDAC is composed of individuals with any combination of scientific, business and legal backgrounds who have experience with life sciences start-up companies. The members are appointed by the Oversight Committee. If the PDAC were abolished, the Oversight Committee would lose valuable insight about Texas' environment for life sciences start-up companies, like the ones receiving CPRIT awards, as well as advice on the key issues described above.

Agency Code: **542** Agency: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

PREVENTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statutory Authorization: Health and Safety Code, Sec. 102.155
Number of Members: 13
Committee Status: Ongoing
Date Created: 3/9/2020
Date to Be Abolished:

Strategy (Strategies): 1-1-3 GRANT REVIEW AND AWARD OPERATIONS

Advisory Committee Costs	**Expended Exp 2023**	**Estimated Est 2024**	**Budgeted Bud 2025**	**Requested BL 2026**	**Requested BL 2027**
Other Expenditures in Support of Committee Activities					
PERSONNEL	$8,750	$7,350	$9,647	$9,647	$9,647
Total, Committee Expenditures	**$8,750**	**$7,350**	**$9,647**	**$9,647**	**$9,647**
Method of Financing					
Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	$8,750	$7,350	$9,647	$9,647	$9,647
Total, Method of Financing	**$8,750**	**$7,350**	**$9,647**	**$9,647**	**$9,647**
Meetings Per Fiscal Year	5	4	5	5	5

Agency Code: **542** Agency: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Description and Justification for Continuation/Consequences of Abolishing

The Prevention Advisory Committee (PAC) advises the Oversight Committee on key issues surrounding cancer prevention and control. The members of the PAC share their advice on opportunities to increase CPRIT's impact on cancer prevention and control in Texas. If the PAC were abolished, the Oversight Committee would lose valuable insight from experts in the field of cancer prevention and control on the most efficient and effective ways to increase cancer prevention as well as decrease the incidence and mortality cancer rates in Texas.

Agency Code: **542** Agency: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

CLINICAL TRIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statutory Authorization: Health and Safety Code, Sec. 102.155
Number of Members: 9
Committee Status: Ongoing
Date Created: 5/16/2018
Date to Be Abolished:

Strategy (Strategies): 1-1-3 GRANT REVIEW AND AWARD OPERATIONS

Advisory Committee Costs	**Expended Exp 2023**	**Estimated Est 2024**	**Budgeted Bud 2025**	**Requested BL 2026**	**Requested BL 2027**
Other Expenditures in Support of Committee Activities					
PERSONNEL	$8,228	$34,559	$36,288	$36,288	$36,288
Total, Committee Expenditures	**$8,228**	**$34,559**	**$36,288**	**$36,288**	**$36,288**
Method of Financing					
Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	$8,228	$34,559	$36,288	$36,288	$36,288
Total, Method of Financing	**$8,228**	**$34,559**	**$36,288**	**$36,288**	**$36,288**
Meetings Per Fiscal Year	2	8	8	8	8

Agency Code: **542** Agency: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Description and Justification for Continuation/Consequences of Abolishing

The Clinical Trial Advisory Committee (CTAC) advises the Oversight Committee on the impact of current CPRIT mechanisms supporting clinical trials; opportunities to increase CPRIT's impact on translating basic discoveries to clinical trials; and on mechanisms that would address barriers to patient enrollment in therapeutic clinical trials. Without the CTAC, the Oversight Committee would lose valuable expertise and insights that improve and increase the number of clinical trials funded through CPRIT grant awards. The agency's activities related to clinical trials are a high priority focus for the agency.

Agency Code: **542** Agency: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statutory Authorization: Health and Safety Code, Sec. 102.155 (b)
Number of Members: 8
Committee Status: Ongoing
Date Created: 8/18/2021
Date to Be Abolished:

Strategy (Strategies): 1-1-3 GRANT REVIEW AND AWARD OPERATIONS

Advisory Committee Costs	**Expended Exp 2023**	**Estimated Est 2024**	**Budgeted Bud 2025**	**Requested BL 2026**	**Requested BL 2027**
Other Expenditures in Support of Committee Activities					
PERSONNEL	$49,370	$51,839	$54,432	$54,432	$54,432
Total, Committee Expenditures	**$49,370**	**$51,839**	**$54,432**	**$54,432**	**$54,432**
Method of Financing					
Bond Proceed-Gen Obligat	$49,370	$51,839	$54,432	$54,432	$54,432
Total, Method of Financing	**$49,370**	**$51,839**	**$54,432**	**$54,432**	**$54,432**
Meetings Per Fiscal Year	12	12	12	12	12

Agency Code: **542** Agency: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

Description and Justification for Continuation/Consequences of Abolishing

The Geographic Diversity Advisory Committee (GDAC) advises the Oversight Committee on challenges in developing cancer research capabilities at Texas academic institutions which are in communities at least 100 miles from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Designated Cancer Centers located in the major metropolitan areas of the state (Dallas and Houston). The GDAC provides their expert opinions about the impact of current CPRIT grant mechanisms on universities that meet this geographic definition and suggest opportunities for CPRIT to enhance cancer research capacity throughout the state through its award mechanisms. Without the GDAC, the Oversight Committee would lose these valuable insights.

Agency code: 542 Agency name: **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

GR Baseline Request Limit = $1

GR-D Baseline Request Limit = $0

Strategy/Strategy Option/Rider	2026 Funds			2027 Funds				Biennial Cumulative GR	Biennial Cumulative Ded	Page #
	FTEs	Total	GR	Ded	FTEs	Total	GR	Ded			
Strategy: 1 - 1 - 1	**Award Cancer Research Grants**										
	0.0	251,369,432	0	0	0.0	251,369,432	0	0	0	0	
Strategy: 1 - 1 - 2	**Award Cancer Prevention Grants**										
	0.0	27,297,961	0	0	0.0	27,297,961	0	0	0	0	
Strategy: 1 - 1 - 3	**Grant Review and Award Operations**										
	31.5	16,379,259	0	0	31.5	16,379,259	0	0	0	0	
Strategy: 2 - 1 - 1	**Indirect Administration**										
	12.5	5,004,348	0	0	12.5	5,004,348	0	0	0	0	
Excp Item: 1	**10 FTEs for Grant Award Portfolio Management and IT Infrastructure Support**										
	10.0	0	0	0	10.0	0	0	0	0	0	

Strategy Detail for Excp Item: 1

Strategy: 1 - 1 - 1	**Award Cancer Research Grants**						
0.0	(903,960)	0	0	0.0	(887,220)	0	0
Strategy: 1 - 1 - 2	**Award Cancer Prevention Grants**						
0.0	(100,440)	0	0	0.0	(98,580)	0	0
Strategy: 1 - 1 - 3	**Grant Review and Award Operations**						
7.0	638,700	0	0	7.0	627,500	0	0
Strategy: 2 - 1 - 1	**Indirect Administration**						
3.0	365,700	0	0	3.0	358,300	0	0

54.0	**$300,051,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**54.0**	**$300,051,000**	**$0**	**0**

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

IA #2024-05 Internal Audit Report over Communications Follow-Up Procedures

August 1, 2024

weaver

Assurance • Tax • Advisory

CONTENTS

The Oversight Committee
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
1701 North Congress Avenue, Suite 6-127
Austin, Texas 78701

This report presents the results of the internal audit follow-up procedures performed for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) during August related to the findings from the Internal Audit Report over Communications dated April 30, 2018.

The objective of these follow-up procedures was to validate that corrective action have been taken to remediate the issues identified in the 2018 Internal Audit Report over Communications.

To accomplish this objective, we conducted interviews with CPRIT personnel responsible for the communication process. We also reviewed documentation and performed specific testing procedures to validate actions taken. Procedures were performed remotely and completed on August 1, 2024.

The following report summarizes the findings identified, follow-up actions taken for remediation, and management's responses.

Weaver and Tidwell, L.L.P.

WEAVER AND TIDWELL, L.L.P.

Austin, Texas
August 1, 2024

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

IA #2024-05 Internal Audit Report over Communications Follow-Up Procedures

August 1, 2024

Background

In fiscal year 2018, an internal audit over CPRIT's communication process was completed. The internal audit report identified five findings within the communication process. In 2019, follow-up procedures were performed, and two of the five findings were remediated. In 2022, follow-up procedures were performed, and two of the three remaining open findings were remediated. In 2023, follow-up procedures were performed, and one remaining open finding was partially remediated.

The 2024 Internal Audit Plan included performing follow-up procedures to validate that CPRIT management has taken steps to address the one open internal audit finding (compliance with state website requirements).

Follow-Up Objective and Scope

The follow-up procedures focused on the remediation efforts taken by CPRIT management to address the one open finding included in the 2018 Internal Audit Report over Communications and to validate that appropriate corrective action had been taken.

We evaluated the corrective action for the one open internal audit finding identified in the 2018 Internal Audit Report over Communications.

Our procedures included interviewing key personnel responsible for the communication process, examining existing documentation and evaluating if corrective action had been taken. Our coverage period was as of August 2024.

Executive Summary

The findings from the 2018 Internal Audit Report over Communications include those items that were identified and are considered to be non-compliance issues with CPRIT's policies and procedures, rules and regulations required by law, or where there is a lack of procedures or internal controls in place to cover risks to CPRIT. These issues could have significant financial or operational implications.

Through our interviews, review of documentation, observations, and testing, we determined that the one open finding was partially remediated.

A summary of our results is provided in the table below. *See the Appendix for an overview of the Assessment and Risk Ratings.*

Risk Rating	Total Findings	Previously Remediated	Partially Remediated	Remediated
High	1	-	1	-
Moderate	4	4	-	-
Low	-	-	-	-
Total	**5**	**4**	**1**	**-**

A summary of our results is provided in the table below. *See the Appendix for an overview of the Assessment and Risk Ratings*.

SCOPE AREA	RESULT
Objective: Validate that adequate corrective action has been taken to remediate the findings identified in the 2018 Internal Audit Report over Communications.	We determined that CPRIT management made efforts to remediate the findings from the 2018 Internal Audit Report over Communications. As of August 2023, one finding from the 2018 audit report was not remediated. Management partially remediated this remaining open finding as of August 2024. The remaining portion of this finding is anticipated to be remediated in 2025.

Conclusion

Based on our evaluation, CPRIT has made progress to partially remediate the one remaining open finding from the 2018 Internal Audit Report over Communications. CPRIT should continue to review the potential solution and implement this translation solution once a security assessment has been completed and Management knows its expectations will be fulfilled.

Detailed Follow-Up Results, Findings, Recommendations and Management Response

Detailed Follow-Up Results, Recommendations and Management Response

Our procedures included interviewing key CPRIT personnel responsible for the Communication process to gain an understanding of the corrective actions taken in order to address the open finding identified in the 2018 Internal Audit Report over Communications, examining existing documentation, and performing testing in order to validate the corrective actions. We evaluated the existing policies, procedures, and processes in their current state.

Finding 4 – HIGH – CPRIT Website Compliance: In February 2018 CPRIT's Senior Program Manager for Prevention, Staff Attorney and Information Specialist conducted an annual website review to assess compliance with applicable state requirements and identified that CPRIT is not in compliance with the following requirements:

- 1 TAC 206.54(a) - Requirement to include meta data tags on all publications
- 1 TAC 206.54(b) - Requirement to include TRAIL meta data on the homepage
- 13 TAC 3.4(2)(a) - Requirement for accessibility of publications
- 13 TAC 3.2(b) - Requirement for posting the date that each publication is produced or distributed
- 1 TAC 206.51 - Requirement for translation of the website
- 1 TAC 206.55(d) - Requirement for address of the web page with high-value data set.

CPRIT personnel identified the non-compliance prior to this audit and are actively working on addressing these issues with the ongoing implementation of the new agency website.

Procedure: We obtained supporting documentation that supports that 1 TAC 206.54(a) was implemented. We verified that CPRIT's website included metadata tagging for publications with the applicable requirements. These requirements are to include the author, title, name of agency that created the publication, description, and keyword tagging.

Results: **Partially Remediated**

The remaining requirement remediated during this follow-up audit is:

- 1 TAC 206.54(a) - Requirement to include meta data tags on all publications

The remaining requirement to be remediated during a future follow-up audit is:

- 1 TAC 206.51 - Requirement for translation of the website

Management Response: IT Management has engaged a vendor, Carahsoft, that uses an artificial intelligence (AI) translation software to translate the website into Spanish and provides a simple UI to review the website and allow the user an option to select a Spanish translation. A demonstration with the vendor was performed to review the solution's potential, and this phase has been completed. IT Management is in the process of completing a security review of the translation solution before going live. The reason for the delay on this is lack of staff with time to assist in the implementation and the former solution not entirely meeting expectations. After this is complete the translation feature will be incorporated on the site, fully resolving this finding.

Responsible Party: Information Resources Manager
Implementation Date: July 2025

Appendix

Risk Ratings

Residual risk is the risk derived from the environment after considering the mitigating effect of internal controls. The area under audit has been assessed from a residual risk level utilizing the following risk management classification system.

High

High risk findings have qualitative factors that include, but are not limited to:

- Events that threaten the agency's achievement of strategic objectives or continued existence
- Impact of the finding could be felt outside of the agency or beyond a single function or department
- Potential material impact to operations or the agency's finances
- Remediation requires significant involvement from senior agency management

Moderate

Moderate risk findings have qualitative factors that include, but are not limited to:

- Events that could threaten financial or operational objectives of the agency
- Impact could be felt outside of the agency or across more than one function of the agency
- Noticeable and possibly material impact to the operations or finances of the agency
- Remediation efforts that will require the direct involvement of functional leader(s)
- May require senior agency management to be updated

Low

Low risk findings have qualitative factors that include, but are not limited to:

- Events that do not directly threaten the agency's strategic priorities
- Impact is limited to a single function within the agency
- Minimal financial or operational impact to the organization
- Require functional leader(s) to be kept updated, or have other controls that help to mitigate the related risk

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Internal Audit Report over Oversight Committee Reporting
August 1, 2024

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The Oversight Committee
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
1701 North Congress Avenue, Suite 6-127
Austin, TX 78701

This report presents the results of the internal audit procedures performed for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) during the period of May 1, 2024, through July 30, 2024, relating to the Oversight Committee reporting processes.

The objectives of this internal audit were to evaluate the design and effectiveness of CPRIT's Oversight Committee reporting processes as follows:

A. Determine that internal controls over Oversight Committee reporting processes are deigned to ensure that consistent processes are implemented and effectively address the risks within the associated sub-processes and to ensure effective operations.

B. Ensure that controls over critical requirements within the Oversight Committee reporting processes are operating efficiently and effectively.

Our procedures included performing interviews with key personnel responsible Oversight Committee reporting to gain an understanding of the current processes in place, examining existing supporting documentation, and evaluating the internal controls over the processes. We evaluated the existing policies, procedures, and processes in their current state. Our coverage period was from November 1, 2022, through April 30, 2024.

The following report summarizes the findings identified, risks to CPRIT, recommendations for improvement and management's responses.

Weaver and Tidwell, L.L.P.

WEAVER AND TIDWELL, L.L.P.

Austin, Texas
August 1, 2024

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Internal Audit Report over Oversight Committee Reporting
August 1, 2024

Background

The Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) is the state agency established to create and expedite innovation in cancer research and enhance the potential for a medical or scientific breakthrough in the prevention of cancer and cures for cancer.

CPRIT is governed by the Oversight Committee which is comprised of nine members appointed by the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House to serve staggered terms. The Oversight Committee meets at least once every quarter. The Oversight Committee has seven subcommittees that are established to oversee various areas of CPRIT operations. Meetings for these subcommittees occur prior to the Oversight Committee meetings.

Materials for the quarterly Oversight Committee, and corresponding subcommittee meetings are prepared by CPRIT personnel and submitted to members in advance. Subcommittees meet prior to the Oversight Committee meetings to review reports and materials to be presented in the quarterly Oversight Committee meetings.

In preparation for these meetings, materials are prepared by CPRIT personnel and senior staff. These materials are transferred to an online portal by senior staff responsible for their respective reporting area when they are complete. A CPRIT employee organizes and formats the agenda documents and uploads them to an online portal. Once all materials are ready, an email is sent to the Oversight Committee members that the packet with ready for their review.

A management dashboard is also updated each quarter by senior staff. The dashboard contains information from multiple areas of CPRIT operations. Each quarter, the Chief Prevention Officer contacts the personnel responsible for updating the dashboard, requesting that each person update the information in their respective area of responsibility. The template is updated by the personnel responsible, and once complete, the Chief Prevention Officer uploads the dashboard to the online portal to be added to the Oversight Committee packet.

Audit Objective and Scope

The audit focused on CPRIT's internal processes to manage and monitor CPRIT personnel and Oversight Committee Reporting compliance with statutory and CPRIT requirements. We reviewed the procedures in place for appropriate risk and regulatory coverage and compliance to ensure efficient and effective processes. Key functions and sub-processes within the Oversight Committee Reporting processes that were reviewed included:

- Management Reporting
- Meeting Materials
- Monthly Reporting
- Management Dashboard

Our procedures were designed to ensure relevant risks are covered and verify the following:

<u>Management Reporting</u>

- Subcommittee reports are prepared and presented timely
- Required elements are included within the reports
- Reports are reviewed prior to submission to the Oversight Committee for accuracy and completeness

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Internal Audit Report over Oversight Committee Reporting
August 1, 2024

Meeting Materials

- Materials are prepared by appropriate personnel
- Materials are reviewed and approved prior to submission
- Materials are prepared timely

Monthly Reporting

- Reports are prepared and presented timely
- Required elements are included within the reports
- Reports are reviewed prior to submission to the Oversight Committee for accuracy and completeness

Management Dashboard

- Dashboard elements are updated timely
- Values used are accurate and complete with supporting documentation

The objectives of this internal audit were to evaluate the design and effectiveness of CPRIT's Oversight Committee Reporting processes as follows:

A. Determine that internal controls over Oversight Committee Reporting processes are deigned to ensure that consistent processes are implemented and effectively address the risks within the associated sub-processes and to ensure effective operations.

B. Ensure that controls over critical requirements within the Oversight Committee Reporting processes are operating efficiently and effectively.

Our procedures included interviewing key personnel within CPRIT that have responsibilities for Oversight Committee Reporting to gain an understanding of the current processes in place, examining existing documentation, and evaluating the internal controls over the process. We evaluated the existing policies, procedures, and processes in their current state. Our coverage period was from November 1, 2022, through April 30, 2024.

Executive Summary

Through our interviews, observations, evaluation of internal control design, and testing of controls, we did not identify any findings over Oversight Committee Reporting.

A summary of our results, by audit objective, is provided in the table below. *See the Appendix for an overview of the Assessment and Risk Ratings*.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Internal Audit Report over Oversight Committee Reporting

August 1, 2024

OVERALL ASSESSMENT	Strong

SCOPE AREA	RESULT	RATING
Objective A: Determine that internal controls over Oversight Committee Reporting processes are deigned to ensure that consistent processes are implemented and effectively address the risks within the associated sub-processes and to ensure effective operations.	We identified 5 controls to be in place in the Oversight Committee Reporting process. Based on the procedures performed, the internal controls over the Oversight Committee Reporting processes are implemented and designed effectively to address the risks within the associated sub-processes and to ensure effective operations.	**Strong**
Objective B: Ensure that controls over critical requirements within the Oversight Committee Reporting processes are operating efficiently and effectively.	Based on the procedures performed, the controls over critical requirements within the Oversight Committee Reporting processes are operating efficiently and effectively.	**Strong**

Conclusion

Based on our evaluation, the Oversight Committee Reporting processes have procedures and controls in place to conduct effective management of the significant processes within CPRIT. No findings were identified.

Detailed Procedures Performed, Findings, Recommendations and Management Response

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Internal Audit Report over Oversight Committee Reporting
August 1, 2024

Detailed Procedures Performed, Findings, Recommendations and Management Response

Our procedures included interviewing key personnel within the Oversight Committee Reporting process to gain an understanding of the current processes in place, examining existing documentation, and evaluating the internal controls over the process. We evaluated the existing policies, procedures, and processes in their current state. Our coverage period was from November 1, 2022, through April 30, 2024.

Objective A: Design of Internal Controls

Determine that internal controls over Oversight Committee Reporting processes are deigned to ensure that consistent processes are implemented and effectively address the risks within the associated sub-processes and to ensure effective operations.

1. **Procedures Performed:** We conducted interviews with key personnel to confirm our understanding of the current processes in place, examined existing documentation, and evaluated the internal controls over the process. We evaluated the existing policies, procedures, and processes in their current state. We updated our documentation of the processes and internal controls over the following sub processes:

    - Management Reporting
    - Meeting Materials
    - Monthly Reporting
    - Management Dashboard

    We confirmed that internal controls are sufficiently designed to comply with CPRIT policies and procedures and mitigate critical risks associated with the Oversight Committee Reporting processes. We identified any unacceptable risk exposures due to control design inadequacy or any opportunities to strengthen the effectiveness of the existing control design.

    Results: No Findings Identified

Summary of Results

Process Area	Findings
Management Reporting	-
Meeting Materials	-
Monthly Reporting	-
Management Dashboard	-
Total:	**0**

Objective B: Effectiveness of Controls

Ensure that controls over critical requirements within the Oversight Committee Reporting processes are operating efficiently and effectively.

1. **Procedures Performed:** We obtained three Oversight Committee meeting packets during our test period of November 1, 2022, through April 30, 2024, and verified that the materials presented at the Oversight Committee meetings were properly reviewed and approved according to CPRIT's current procedures.

   These procedures included verifying the following:

   - The approved Oversight Committee Agenda was sent to parties responsible for preparing meeting materials, notifying them of content to prepare.
   - Senior staff responsible for the respective reporting area uploaded the applicable reports, indicating their review.
   - Prepared reports were submitted timely.
   - Required information was included in all reports.
   - Notifications were sent to Subcommittee members indicating materials were ready for review.
   - Notifications were sent to indicate that the Oversight Committee Packet was ready for review.
   - The Oversight Committee Agenda template is consistent with the meeting agenda posted to the CPRIT website.

   Results: No findings identified.

2. **Procedures Performed:** We selected three Oversight Committee meetings during our test period of November 1, 2022, through April 30, 2024. For each meeting we obtained the management dashboard provided in the materials and selected five data points from each dashboard. For each data point, we obtained reports, exports, and other supporting data to validate that the information included in the dashboard.

   Results: No findings identified

Appendix

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Internal Audit Report over Oversight Committee Reporting

August 1, 2024

The appendix defines the approach and classifications utilized by Internal Audit to assess the residual risk of the area under review, the priority of the findings identified, and the overall assessment of the procedures performed.

Report Ratings

The report rating encompasses the entire scope of the engagement and expresses the aggregate impact of the exceptions identified during our test work on one or more of the following objectives:

- Operating or program objectives and goals conform with those of CPRIT
- CPRIT objectives and goals are being met
- The activity under review is functioning in a manner which ensures:
    - Reliability and integrity of financial and operational information
    - Effectiveness and efficiency of operations and programs
    - Safeguarding of assets
    - Compliance with laws, regulations, policies, procedures and contracts

The following ratings are used to articulate the overall magnitude of the impact on the established criteria:

Strong	The area under review meets the expected level. No high risk rated findings and only a few moderate or low findings were identified.
Satisfactory	The area under review does not consistently meet the expected level. Several findings were identified and require routine efforts to correct, but do not significantly impair the control environment.
Unsatisfactory	The area under review is weak and frequently falls below expected levels. Numerous findings were identified that require substantial effort to correct.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Internal Audit Report over Oversight Committee Reporting
August 1, 2024

Risk Ratings

Residual risk is the risk derived from the environment after considering the mitigating effect of internal controls. The area under audit has been assessed from a residual risk level utilizing the following risk management classification system.

High

High risk findings have qualitative factors that include, but are not limited to:

- Events that threaten the agency's achievement of strategic objectives or continued existence
- Impact of the finding could be felt outside of agency or beyond a single function or department
- Potential material impact to operations or agency's finances
- Remediation requires significant involvement from senior agency management

.

Moderate

Moderate risk findings have qualitative factors that include, but are not limited to:

- Events that could threaten financial or operational objectives of the agency
- Impact could be felt outside of the agency or across more than one function of the agency
- Noticeable and possibly material impact to the operations or finances of the agency
- Remediation efforts that will require the direct involvement of functional leader(s)
- May require senior agency management to be updated

Low

Low risk findings have qualitative factors that include, but are not limited to:

- Events that do not directly threaten the agency's strategic priorities
- Impact is limited to a single function within the agency
- Minimal financial or operational impact to the agency
- Require functional leader(s) to be kept updated, or have other controls that help to mitigate the related risk

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

IA# 2024-02 Internal Audit Advisory Report over Records Management
August 1, 2024

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The Oversight Committee
Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas
1701 North Congress Avenue, Suite 6-127
Austin, TX 78701

This report presents the results of the internal audit advisory procedures performed for Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) during the period April 1, 2024, through July 25, 2024, relating to the records management processes.

The objective of our internal audit advisory procedures was to evaluate CPRIT's records management procedures related to digital document storage and retention in the SharePoint system and provide recommendations for improving procedures and controls. These recommendations included developing procedures for identifying records and their classification in SharePoint, as well as implementing procedures to identify documents for archiving and/or destruction.

To accomplish this objective, we conducted interviews and collaborative working sessions with CPRIT personnel responsible for records management and the SharePoint system. We also obtained detailed information and data exports from CPRIT's SharePoint system. Our procedures were completed on July 25, 2024. We will continue to provide advisory consultation on tools and procedures on an as-needed basis.

The following report summarizes the results of our procedures.

Weaver and Tidwell, L.L.P.

WEAVER AND TIDWELL, L.L.P.

Austin, Texas
August 1, 2024

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

IA# 2024-02 Internal Audit Advisory Report over Records Management
August 1, 2024

Background

As a Texas state agency, the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) is subject to the records management requirements of the state. These requirements are set by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC).

CPRIT maintains a records retention schedule that aligns with the guidelines promulgated by TSLAC, and the retention schedule is submitted to TSLAC for recertification every five years. As part of normal operations in fulfilling the mission of CPRIT, documents are produced that are necessary to conduct agency business. A portion of these documents are defined as official records, according to Texas state statute.

To store the documents and records generated through the course of operations, CPRIT utilizes Microsoft SharePoint. SharePoint is a software tool that is intended to assist organizations in streamlining document management and teamwork. It allows users to create websites and store, share and collaborate on documents and information. CPRIT's SharePoint system currently contains 348,000 files, with file origination dates as old as 2009. These files are comprised of many file types, such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, and other assorted file types.

SharePoint allows users to include metadata and tags for file identification. Metadata and tags are information stored with the files that describe documents, to assist users and systems in better understanding and more efficiently locating files. CPRIT has not historically utilized tagging and specific metadata identifiers to assist in its records management processes.

Audit Advisory Objective and Scope

This internal audit advisory engagement focused on CPRIT's records management procedures related to the digital document storage and retention in the agency's SharePoint system and provide recommendations for improving procedures and controls. These recommendations included developing procedures for identifying records and their classification in SharePoint, as well as implementing procedures to identify documents for archiving and/or destruction.

Our procedures included interviews and collaborative working sessions with CPRIT personnel responsible for records management and the SharePoint system. We also obtained and evaluated detailed information and data exports from CPRIT's SharePoint system.

Executive Summary

The outcome of our internal audit advisory procedures resulted in providing CPRIT a draft of standard operating procedures for the identification and classification of records. These standard operating procedures utilized the guidance from TSLAC as well as the opportunities to use the digital tools and metadata in the SharePoint system. The use of the metadata and tagging was designed to align with the retention codes and record series titles in CPRIT's Records Retention Schedule.

We were also able to provide CPRIT a draft of proposed metadata tags for all existing files in CPRIT's SharePoint system. In addition to these tags, we were also able to provide a query workflow design to assist with identifying populations of files to be evaluated for record retention purposes.

Conclusion

CPRIT should evaluate the draft of the standard operating procedures and consider adopting the procedures into practice. Additionally, after review of the draft metadata tags, CPRIT should import the tags into the SharePoint system to utilize in reporting and review of the files for record retention schedule compliance.

Detailed Procedures Performed and Results

Detailed Procedures Performed and Management Results

Our procedures included interviews and collaborative working sessions with CPRIT personnel responsible for records management and the SharePoint system. We also obtained and analyzed detailed information and data exports from CPRIT's SharePoint system. We examined existing documentation policies, procedures, and processes in their current state.

Objective: Records Management Efficiency and Effectiveness

Evaluate CPRIT's records management procedures related to digital document storage and retention in the SharePoint system and provide recommendations for improving procedures and controls.

Existing Records in SharePoint

Procedures Performed: We obtained exports from the SharePoint system of the overarching file structure and an export of all files in the SharePoint system. The detailed file export contained:

- File Name
- Location
- Created Date
- Last Modified By User ID
- Last Modified Date

We also conducted interviews and working sessions with IT personnel at CPRIT to understand the current uses and configuration of the SharePoint system. We obtained information on current tools in use within the system and any metadata tagging strategies in use.

We evaluated the files to make recommendations on a metadata tagging structure and file query workflow to identify files for archiving or deletion in accordance with CPRIT's Record Retention Schedule. We utilized data analysis software to aid in the assignment of metadata tags to the files, and then performed a manual review of all 348,000 files.

Results: Based on the information provided by the IT personnel and our evaluation of the data, we provided a file with recommendations on metadata tags for the files in the existing system. Our recommendations include which files, based on our review, would be considered official records, and appropriate tags for each file that correspond to the record series defined in CPRIT's Record Retention Schedule that has been approved by TSLAC.

Standard Operating Procedures:

Procedures Performed: We obtained CPRIT's existing records retention procedure documentation and reviewed it to understand the current guidelines in place. We reviewed the documentation with considerations for the current files in the SharePoint system as well as for future use of metadata tags and other settings in CPRIT's SharePoint system.

Results: We provided CPRIT with an updated document that includes proposed changes to the current records retention and management procedures. The updates include procedures for proactively identifying files as records when they are uploaded to SharePoint, as well as the assignment of data tags. The procedures also include monthly review of uploaded files and the regular review of documents to be evaluated for archiving or deletion.

August 2024 Oversight Committee
Internal Audit Status Report
As of August 1, 2024

Weaver and Tidwell, LLP (Weaver) is the outsourced internal auditor of the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). The Weaver engagement team is led by Daniel Graves, Partner.

2024 Internal Audit Plan and Schedule

Based on the approval of the 2024 Internal Audit Plan by the Oversight Committee in the November meeting, we have coordinated and planned the timing of the internal audits and follow-up procedures for the 2024 Internal Audit Plan.

2024 NEW INTERNAL AUDITS		
Internal Audit	**Description**	**Status**
Internal Agency Compliance	The Internal Audit included an evaluation of risks and internal controls in place related to CPRIT's Internal Agency Compliance practices. Activities evaluated included: • Disclosures • Ethics Policy and Compliance • Code of Conduct • Complaints/Grievances. There were no findings identified.	Complete
Records Management Advisory	The Internal Audit advisory included an evaluation of the processes and procedures to manage digital records in the SharePoint system. Our review included recommendations for a methodology for tagging documents stored in SharePoint as well as a workflow to identify and evaluate documentation for improvement of records management processes through the SharePoint system.	Complete
Oversight Committee Reporting	The Internal Audit included an evaluation of risks and internal controls in place related to CPRIT's Oversight Committee Reporting processes. Activities evaluated included: • Management Reporting • Meeting Materials • Monthly Reporting • Management Dashboards. There were no findings identified.	Complete

2024 NEW INTERNAL AUDIT FOLLOW-UPS		
Purchasing Compliance Follow-up • 1 Low Finding	Fieldwork for the follow-up procedures to validate remediation of the one low finding are complete. The one low finding has been remediated and closed.	Complete
Communications Follow-Up • 1 High Finding	Fieldwork for the follow-up procedures to validate remediation of the one high finding are complete. The one high finding has been partially remediated and remains open.	Complete
IT General Controls Follow-Up	Fieldwork for the follow-up procedures to validate the remediation of the findings are complete. Substantial progress was made on the remediation of the open findings.	Complete

We have prepared a summary schedule of audits, their status and a summary of the findings by risk rating. The schedule maps out the internal audit and follow-up procedures performed, by year, the report date, report rating, and the findings by risk rating. The summary schedule is attached.

We also updated the annual risk assessment and have prepared a proposed internal audit plan for FY 2025. This plan was based on the risk assessment update, historical internal audit activity and consultation with CPRIT senior staff.

The proposed FY 2025 internal audit plan is included in the FY 2024 Annual Internal Audit Report. This report has been prepared in compliance with the Texas Internal Audit Act and is due to be submitted to the SAO, Governor's Office and the LBB before November 1, 2024.

Daniel Graves, CPA, Internal Auditor
Partner
Weaver and Tidwell L.L.P.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Schedule of Audits, Status, and Findings Summary
As of August 1, 2024

					Open Findings				Closed Findings				Total Findings				
Audit	**Fiscal Year**	**Status/Timing**	**Report Date**	**Report Rating**	**High**	**Mod**	**Low**	**Total**	**High**	**Mod**	**Low**	**Total**	**High**	**Mod**	**Low**	**Total**	
Fiscal Year 2017																	
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2017	Complete	May 30, 2017														
Fiscal Year 2017 Subtotal					**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	
Fiscal Year 2018																	
Communications Internal Audit	2018	Complete	April 30, 2018	Satisfactory	1	4	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	5	
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2018	Complete	July 17, 2018														
Fiscal Year 2018 Subtotal					**1**	**4**	**-**	**5**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1**	**4**	**-**	**5**	
Fiscal Year 2019																	
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2019	Cancelled	N/A														
2018 Communications Follow-Up	2019	Complete	August 30, 2019	Satisfactory	1	4	-	5	-	2	-	2	1	2	-	3	
Fiscal Year 2019 Subtotal					**1**	**4**	**-**	**5**	**-**	**2**	**-**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**-**	**3**	
Fiscal Year 2020																	
Governance	2020	Complete	October 30, 2020	Strong	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2020	Complete	N/A														
2018 Communications Follow-Up	2020	Complete	N/A	N/A	1	4	-	5	-	2	-	2	1	2	-	3	
Fiscal Year 2020 Subtotal					**1**	**5**	**-**	**6**	**-**	**2**	**-**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**-**	**4**	
Fiscal Year 2021																	
Sunset Self-Assessment Advisory	2021	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Information Technology General Computer Controls	2021	Complete	September 24, 2022														
Grantee Compliance Records Management	2021	Rescheduled	FY 2022	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2021	Rescheduled	FY 2022														
2018 Communications Follow-Up	2021	Rescheduled	FY 2022	N/A	1	4	-	5	-	2	-	2	1	2	-	3	
2020 Governance Follow-up	2021	Rescheduled	FY 2022	Strong	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
2020 Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Follow-up	2021	Complete	September 28, 2021	N/A	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	5	
Fiscal Year 2021 Subtotal					**1**	**5**	**-**	**36**	**-**	**2**	**-**	**27**	**1**	**2**	**-**	**9**	
Fiscal Year 2022																	
Vendor Contract Compliance	2022	Complete	October 25, 2022	Strong	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	
Information Technology General Computer Controls	2022	Cancelled	N/A														
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2022	Cancelled	N/A														
2018 Communications Follow-Up	2022	Complete	October 28, 2022	Satisfactory	1	4	-	5	-	4	-	4	1	-	-	1	
2020 Governance Follow-up	2022	Complete	October 28, 2022	Strong	-	1	-	1		1	-	1	-	-	-	-	
2020 Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Follow-up	2022	Complete	October 28, 2022														Note 1
Fiscal Year 2022 Subtotal					**1**	**5**	**2**	**8**	**-**	**5**	**-**	**5**	**1**	**-**	**2**	**3**	

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Schedule of Audits, Status, and Findings Summary
As of August 1, 2024

Audit	Fiscal Year	Status/Timing	Report Date	Report Rating	Open Findings				Closed Findings				Total Findings				
					High	Mod	Low	Total	High	Mod	Low	Total	High	Mod	Low	Total	
Fiscal Year 2023																	
Contract Risk Assessment	2023	Complete	May 1, 2023	N/A	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	**Note 2**
Post-Award Grant Compliance Program	2023	Complete	September 12, 2023	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Purchasing Compliance	2023	Complete	September 22, 2023	Strong	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
IT General Controls	2023	Complete	September 18, 2023	Satisfactory	1	4	3	8	-	-	-	-	1	4	3	8	
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2023	Cancelled	N/A														
2018 Communications Follow-Up	2023	Complete	October 27, 2023	N/A	2	4	-	6	1	4	-	5	1	-	-	1	
2020 Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Follow-up	2023	Complete	July 31, 2023														
2022 Vendor Contract Compliance Follow-up	2023	Complete	October 27, 2023	Strong	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-		-	-	
Fiscal Year 2023 Subtotal					**3**	**8**	**5**	**17**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**6**	**2**	**4**	**4**	**11**	
Fiscal Year 2024																	
Internal Agency Compliance	2024	Complete	April 5, 2024	Strong	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Records Management Advisory	2024	Complete	August 1, 2024	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Oversight Committee Reporting	2024	Complete	August 1, 2024	Strong	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2023 Purchasing Compliance Follow-up	2024	Complete	April 12, 2024	Strong	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	
2018 Communications Follow-Up	2024	Complete	August 1, 2024	N/A	1	4	-	5	-	4	-	4	1	-	-	1	
2023 IT General Controls Follow-up	2024	Complete	August 1, 2024														
Fiscal Year 2024 Subtotal					**1**	**4**	**1**	**6**	**-**	**4**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**-**	**-**	**1**	

Open Items Summary																	
Audit	Fiscal Year	Status/Timing	Report Date	Report Rating	Findings				Closed Findings				Total Open Findings				IA Follow-Up Procedure Timing
					High	Mod	Low	Total	High	Mod	Low	Total	High	Mod	Low	Total	
2018 Communications Follow-Up	2024	Complete	August 1, 2024	N/A	1	4	-	5	-	4	-	4	1	-	-	1	**FY 2025**
2023 IT General Controls Follow-up	2024	Complete	August 1, 2024														**FY 2025**
Total Findings For Internal Audit Follow-Up					**1**	**4**	**-**	**5**	**-**	**4**	**-**	**4**	**1**	**-**	**-**	**1**	

NOTE 1: The 2020 Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity findings are recommendations for improvement of the DR/BCP documentation. Therefore, they do not have a risk rating associated with them.

NOTE 2: The 2023 Contract Risk Assessment finding is a recommendation for implementing a Contract Risk Assessment required by state contract monitoring requirements. Therefore, they do not have a risk rating associated with them.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Proposed Internal Audit Plan
Fiscal Year 2025

Audit Area	Risk Rating	Summary Procedures	Audit Focus
2025 Planned New Internal Audits			
Post-Award Grant Monitoring	High	Internal Audit will include an evaluation of risks and internal controls in place related to CPRIT's Post-Award Grant Monitoring processes. Activities to be evaluated include the processes for the review of financial statement reports and reimbursement of funds to grant recipients.	Internal Audit
Procurement and P-Cards	High	Internal Audit Advisory project will include an evaluation of risks and internal controls in place related to CPRIT's P-Card rocesses. Activities to be evaluated include the processes for use of CPRIT's p-cards and the utilization of the state's p-card rebates.	Internal Audit Advisory
Non-Grant Expenditures	Moderate	Internal Audit will include an evaluation of risks and internal controls in place related to CPRIT's non-grant expenditure processes. Activities to be evaluated include the review of invoices, vendor payments, vendor monitoring. and the cancellation of warrants in the CAPPS system.	Internal Audit Advisory
2025 Planned Internal Audit Follow-up			
Communications	High	Internal Audit will perform follow-up procedures on 2018 Internal Audit finding to ensure corrective action has been taken.	Follow-up
IT General Controls	HIgh	Internal Audit will perform follow-up procedures on 2023 Internal Audit findings to ensure corrective action has been taken.	Follow-up
2025 Planned Annual Requirements			
Project Management	NA	Track overall internal audit procedures, coordinate audit activities, and reporting to management.	Project Management
Update Risk Assessment	NA	Perform required annual update of risk assessment	Policy Compliance
Annual and Quarterly Board Reports	NA	Prepare and submit required Annual Internal Audit Report and quarterly reports to the Audit Committee of internal audit activities.	Policy Compliance

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Internal Audit Report

August 31, 2024

CONTENTS

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Internal Audit Report
August 31, 2024

I. Compliance with Texas Government Code, Section 2102.015: Posting the Internal Audit Plan, Internal Audit Annual Report, and Other Audit information on Internet Web site

Texas Government Code, Section 2102.015 requires state agencies and higher education institutions, as defined in the statute, to post their Internal Audit Plan, Internal Audit Annual Report, and other audit information on the Internet.

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT or the agency) will post this report which includes the Fiscal Year 2024 Internal Audit Plan on its website at www.cprit.texas.gov. CPRIT's Oversight Committee reviewed and approved the Annual Internal Audit Report as part of their regular meeting held on August 21, 2024. In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 2102.015, CPRIT will post this report on its website within 30 days of the Oversight Committee's approval.

The table in Section II below provides a detailed summary of the weaknesses, deficiencies, wrongdoings or other concerns raised by performance of the audit plan and the actions taken by the agency to address any of those issues identified.

II. Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2024

The internal audits planned and performed for fiscal year 2024 were selected to address the agency's highest risk areas, based on the risk assessment update conducted in 2024, which included input from CPRIT management. The audits conducted during fiscal year 2024 are listed below.

Internal Audit	Report Date	Current Status
Internal Agency Compliance	March 25, 2024	This audit is complete. No findings were identified.
Oversight Committee Reporting	August 1, 2024	This audit is complete. No findings were identified.
Purchasing Compliance Follow-Up	March 5, 2024	This follow-up is complete. All findings have been remediated.
IT General Controls Follow-Up	August 1, 2024	This follow-up is complete. Follow-up Procedures to address the open finding is included in the FY 2025 Internal Audit Plan.
Communications Follow-Up	August 1, 2024	This follow-up is complete. Follow-up procedures to address the one remaining open finding is included in the FY 2025 Internal Audit Plan.

III. Consulting Services and Non-audit Services Completed

Weaver, as the agency's Internal Auditor, provided audit consulting services in one area, as defined in the Institute of Internal Audit Auditors' International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing. The area, the report date and status of those services are provided in the table below.

Audit Advisory	Report Date	Current Status
Records Management Advisory	August 1, 2024	This audit advisory engagement is complete.

IV. External Quality Assurance Review

In accordance with professional standards, and to meet the requirements of the Texas Internal Auditing Act, Internal Audit is required to undergo an external quality assurance review at least once every three years. Weaver's review was issued in September 2022.

Report on Firm's System of Quality Control

September 19, 2022

To the Partners of Weaver & Tidwell, L.L.P.
and the National Peer Review Committee

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Weaver & Tidwell, L.L.P. (the firm) applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB permanent inspection in effect for the year ended May 31, 2022. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Standards).

A summary of the nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a system review as described in the Standards may be found at www.aicpa.org/prsummary. The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported in conformity with applicable professional standards, if any, are evaluated by a peer reviewer to determine a peer review rating.

Firm's Responsibility

The firm is responsible for designing a system of quality control and complying with it to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. The firm is also responsible for evaluating actions to promptly remediate engagements deemed as not performed or reported in conformity with professional standards, when appropriate, and for remediating weaknesses in its system of quality control, if any.

Peer Reviewer's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of and compliance with the firm's system of quality control based on our review.

Required Selections and Considerations

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under *Government Auditing Standards*, including compliance audits under the Single Audit Act; audits of employee benefit plans, an audit performed under FDICIA, and examinations of service organizations [SOC 1 and SOC 2 engagements].)

As a part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities as communicated by the firm, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures.

Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Weaver & Tidwell, L.L.P. applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB permanent inspection in effect for the year ended May 31, 2022, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)* or *fail*. Weaver & Tidwell, L.L.P. has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

Eide Bailly LLP

Eide Bailly LLP

V. Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2025

The Internal Audit Plan was submitted to the Audit Subcommittee of the CPRIT Oversight Committee. The Audit Subcommittee approved the plan on August 12, 2024, and the Oversight Committee subsequently approved the plan on August 21, 2024. Below is the Fiscal Year 2025 Internal Audit Plan submitted to the agency's Oversight Committee based on the results of the 2024 Internal Audit Risk Assessment Update. The approved internal audit plan was submitted to the State Auditor's Office upon approval from CPRIT's Oversight Committee.

Fiscal Year 2025 Internal Audit Plan		
Audit Area	**2024 Risk Rating**	**Estimated Hours**
Post-Award Grant Monitoring	**High**	280
Procurement and P-Cards Advisory	**High**	250
Non-Grant Expenditures Advisory	**Moderate**	230

Planned follow-up procedures for fiscal year 2025 to verify and communicate with Management the remediation efforts of prior Internal Audit Recommendations.

Fiscal Year 2025 Follow-up Procedures		
Audit Area	**2024 Risk Rating**	**Estimated Hours**
Communications	**High**	30
IT General Controls	**High**	50

As part of the risk assessment, CPRIT assesses the probability and impact of the following risk categories across all significant activities of the agency, which include the information technology risks and considerations related to Title 1, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 202:

- financial and fraud risk
- operations, complexity, and human capital risk
- information technology risk
- regulatory compliance and public policy risk, and
- reputational risk

Taking into consideration the input from the CPRIT management, all significant activities are assigned a risk score for probability and impact related to each risk category. The overall risk rating (High, Moderate or Low) is assigned to each significant activity based on the activity's average risk rating.

The internal audit plan is developed by considering risk ratings for each significant activity and prioritizing "High" risk activities.

The 2024 Internal Audit Risk Assessment Update resulted in 9 Significant Activities rated as "High" risk. Six of the nine Significant Activities are not included in the Fiscal Year 2025 Internal Audit Plan. Those activities are as follows:

1. Pre-Award Grant Management
2. Information Security
3. Commodity and Service Contracts
4. Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Planning
5. Internal Agency Compliance
6. Governance

VI. External Audit Services Procured in FY 2024

CPRIT engaged McConnell & Jones, LLP, a certified public accounting and consulting firm, as their external auditors for FY 2024.

VII. Reporting Suspected Fraud, Waste and Abuse

- CPRIT contracts with Red Flag Reporting to provide a confidential hotline for reporting fraud, waste and abuse. The agency has posted a link on its home page at www.cprit.texas.gov and also has a dedicated page to fraud prevention and reporting on its website at https://www.cprit.texas.gov/about-us/fraud-reporting.

- The CPRIT Chief Compliance Officer is the designated staff member within the agency to receive written or verbal allegations of suspected fraud, waste, and abuse. The Chief Compliance Officer has the authority to examine and investigate those allegations and turn over information of verified instances of fraud, waste, or abuse to the State Auditor's Office.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM:	MARK DALLAS LOEFFLER
SUBJECT:	COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE
DATE:	AUGUST 12, 2024

These are highlights of the CPRIT communications team efforts since the May Oversight Committee meeting.

Publications / Websites

- Created design for 2025-2029 Agency Strategic Plan; published online.
- Working on website layout for upcoming Texas Cancer Plan; due by end of year.
- Began content creation process for 2024 CPRIT Annual Report.
- Updated 30 CPRIT Scholar pages on website with photo, bios.

Audio / Video

- Created and posted "Why CPRIT Matters: A Special Message from Jane Nelson" video.

The communications team posted and distributed several media advisories and press releases related to CPRIT programs and news:

- Press Release (May 15): CPRIT adds $52 million to fight against cancer, names new CEO
- Press Release (May 15): CPRIT names new CEO
- Press Release (July 11): State cancer agency gains new board member

Direct Communication

The communications team distributed the following listserv emails to our list:

- The communications team distributed listserv notifications regarding:
- PRESS RELEASE: May 2024 OC Meeting
- PRESS RELEASE: CPRIT names new CEO
- CPRIT Grantee Training Webinars - JUNE 20 & 27, 2024 (REVISED)
- Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) 2024 Annual Meeting
- CPRIT Updated Policies and Procedures Guide June 2024
- Proposed Changes to Current Agency Rules - 6/12/24

- CPRIT Academic Research Recruitment Program Releases FY 25.1 RFAs
- UPCOMING: ARPA-H Investor Catalyst Hub Tuesday, July 2
- Message from CPRIT CEO Kristen Doyle
- New CPRIT Oversight Committee Member and Personnel Update
- UTMB Study Participants Needed

Newsclips

We shared **592** articles and social media posts through CPRIT ENews from May 7 to August 9, 2024.

Social Media Statistics

Social Media from May 7, 2024, to August 7, 2024

Facebook	X	LinkedIn
6.08% post engagement rate	**3.33%** engagement rate	**9.21%** engagement rate
1,290 Fans (+14)	**3,621** followers (+32)	**3,861** followers (+174)
Top Post: **12.71%** engagement (6/28/24)	Top Tweet: **12,513** impressions (6/28/24)	Top Post: **4,850** impressions (5/15/24)

Website Hits and Visitors May 7, 2024, to August 7, 2024

Users	New Users	Sessions (Visits)	Pageviews	Engage Rate
19,517	**18,285**	**33,931**	**63,107**	**48.76%**

Top Performing Posts

FACEBOOK: 6/28/24

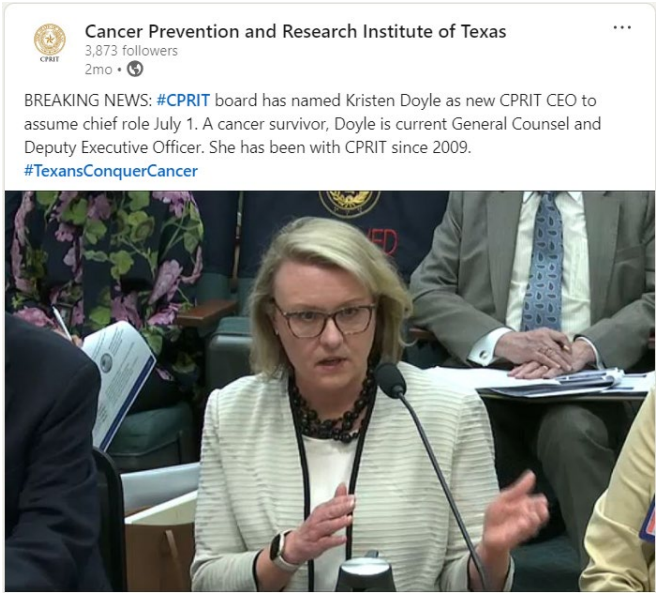
#CPRIT staff said a final farewell yesterday to CEO Wayne Roberts as he looks forward to the next phase of his busy life. Thanks Wayne, for all you have done for CPRIT and for the fight against cancer! #TexansConquerCancer

X: 6/28/24

#CPRIT Scholar David Sarlah joins the @RiceUniversity faculty next week. Dr. Sarlah was awarded a $4 million recruitment award in February. Congratulations! #TexansConquerCancer https://ow.ly/qNQS50SrQXv

LINKEDIN: 5/15/24

BREAKING NEWS: #CPRIT board has named Kristen Doyle as new CPRIT CEO to assume chief role July 1. A cancer survivor, Doyle is current General Counsel and Deputy Executive Officer. She has been with CPRIT since 2009. #TexansConquerCancer



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
FROM:	DAVID CUMMINGS, M.D., PRESIDING OFFICER
SUBJECT:	PROPOSED FY 2025 SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR THOMAS "TOMMY" TAYLOR
DATE:	AUGUST 19, 2024

I propose that the Oversight Committee votes to approve the following FY 2025 subcommittee assignments for our newest member, Mr. Thomas "Tommy" Taylor:

- The Prevention Subcommittee
- The Product Development Subcommittee
- The Scientific Research Subcommittee

Mr. Taylor's assignments reflect his expressed preferences and balance the workload among members. The Oversight Committee will consider new subcommittee assignments for all members at its August 2025 meeting.

Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas

Oversight Committee Meetings and Standing Subcommittees Meetings FY 2025

November 2024

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
3	4	5	6 PIC Meeting CPRIT Staff Only	7 Board Governance Portal Opens	8 Geographic Diversity Advisory	9
10	11 Audit	12 Prevention	13 Academic Research	14 Product Development	15	16
17	18	19	**20 Oversight Committee Meeting**	21	22	23

February 2025

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
2	3	4	5 PIC Meeting CPRIT Staff Only	6 Board Governance Portal Opens	7 Geographic Diversity Advisory	8
9	10 Audit	11 Prevention	12 Academic Research	13 Product Development	14	15
16	17	18	**19 Oversight Committee Meeting**	20	21	22

May 2025

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
4	5	6	7 PIC Meeting CPRIT Staff Only	8 Board Governance Portal Opens	9 Geographic Diversity Advisory	10
11	12 Audit	13 Prevention	14 Academic Research	15 Product Development	16	17
18	19	20	**21 Oversight Committee Meeting**	22	23	24

August 2025

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
3	4	5	6 PIC Meeting CPRIT Staff Only	7 Board Governance Portal Opens	8 Geographic Diversity Advisory	9
10	11 Audit	12 Prevention	13 Academic Research	14 Product Development	15	16
17	18	19	**20 Oversight Committee Meeting**	21	22	23

Note: Unless the subcommittee members agree to a different time, all subcommittee meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. Members of the Audit and Program subcommittees should allocate 1.5 hours for a meeting. All others subcommittee meetings require one hour.