



TEXAS IS LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENT CANCER

By prioritizing childhood and adolescent cancer through recruiting world class childhood and adolescent cancer researchers to Texas, supporting collaborative research at Texas' leading institutions and early-stage companies, and focusing efforts on preventing cancer now and in the future, the state is leading the way to a healthier future for Texas' children and their families.

THE CHALLENGE

The types of cancers that develop in children are often different from adult cancers and most treatments frequently cause significant lifelong side effects for childhood cancer survivors.



Texas children and adolescents diagnosed with cancer in 2024



Texas children and adolescents expected to die from cancer in 2024



Increase in childhood cancer rates in U.S. since 1975

THE COMMITMENT

CPRIT's Oversight Committee, with the advice and input from our Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancers, established the discovery of improved treatments and cures for childhood and adolescent cancers as a statewide research priority in 2014.

\$474.5 million

CPRIT invests 13% of our funding in childhood and adolescent cancer research –proportionally 3 times more than the national commitment

251

CPRIT-funded childhood cancer projects

50 - 16,230

CPRIT-funded childhood cancer clinical trials or studies and number of childhood cancer patients impacted

\$20,000,000+

CPRIT funding for research on Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare bone cancer afflicting children and adolescents

“ CPRIT has been a powerful engine for driving childhood, adolescent and young adult cancer research in Texas, positioning the state as a national leader in the field while positively impacting patients and their families. ”

Richard Gorlick, M.D.

*Chair
CPRIT Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancers*





Establishing and supporting the Pediatric Data Core Facility

Established in 2018 with CPRIT funding, the **Pediatric Cancer Data Core (PCDC)** at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas has been providing a research platform and services to enhance data management, harmonization, and sharing for the pediatric cancer research community. This facility developed the Childhood Cancer Explorer, a data integration platform to facilitate research through data exploration, analysis, and visualization. Another grant of \$2 million in 2024 will continue to support this core and encourage collaboration across institutions and disciplines, significantly enhancing research and patient care in pediatric cancer.

Grant #: RP240521



Preventing future cancers through HPV vaccinations

CPRIT awarded a \$1 million grant to **Dr. Allison Grimes** with the Greehey Children's Cancer Research Institute at UT Health San Antonio in an effort to prevent HPV-related cancers in childhood cancer survivors. Human papillomavirus (HPV) contributes to more than 30,000 new cancers in the U.S. every year, with childhood cancer survivors at particular risk. This program partners with 10 pediatric oncology centers and five geographically and institutionally diverse expansion sites across Texas.

Grant #: PP230061



Nanosized immunotherapies to access and treat pediatric medulloblastoma

CPRIT awarded a \$200,000 grant to The University of Texas at Austin researcher **Dr. Jennifer Maynard** in 2019 to develop nanosized immunotherapies to improve treatments for medulloblastoma, a deadly tumor that accounts for almost 20% of pediatric brain tumors and occurs most frequently in children between the ages of 3 and 8. Current therapies rely on radiation, which provides only a brief respite from disease but can cause significant damage to healthy brain tissue. Dr. Maynard's research aims to generate a multi-functional antibody able to penetrate the blood-brain barrier and starve the cancer cells.

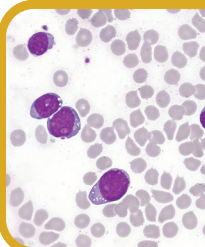
Grant #: RP190653



The Adolescent and Childhood Cancer Epidemiology and Susceptibility Service (ACCESS) for Texas

CPRIT awarded a \$4 million Core Facility Support Award to Baylor College of Medicine's **Michael Scheurer** in 2021 for "The Adolescent and Childhood Cancer Epidemiology and Susceptibility Service" (ACCESS) for Texas project. ACCESS-Texas is a biorepository and data bank that provides researchers throughout the state with rich data and specimens for the discovery of novel biomarkers for cancer predisposition, early detection, and diagnosis for childhood and adolescent cancers. ACCESS-Texas positions Texas researchers to develop and lead international collaborations to explore novel risk factors for childhood cancers.

Grant #: RP210064



Targeting Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

CPRIT awarded an \$11.7 million grant to Houston-based **Allterum Therapeutics**, an early-stage bioscience company developing a novel drug to treat acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), the most common childhood cancer. Allterum's targeted monoclonal antibody is designed to kill ALL cancer cells without the broader, more severe, side-effects typically observed with conventional chemotherapies.

Grant #: DP230071



Advancing treatments for neuroblastoma at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

CPRIT awarded a \$1.2 million grant to **Dr. Charles Reynolds** at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center that may lead to new treatments for neuroblastoma, a lethal malignancy of the nervous system that accounts for 8% of childhood cancers. Dr. Reynolds' work could be a game changer for children whose high-risk neuroblastoma has become chemotherapy resistant.

Grant #: RP200432