



# 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



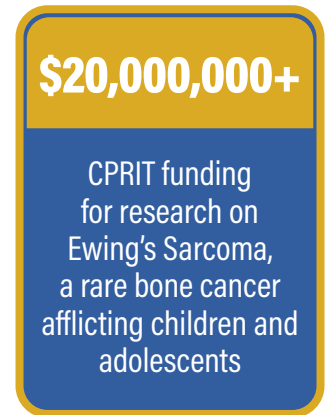
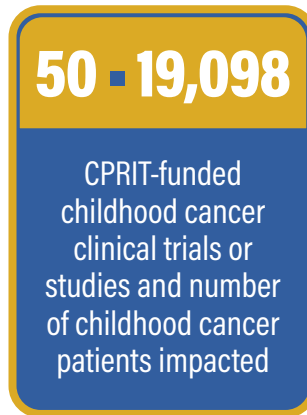
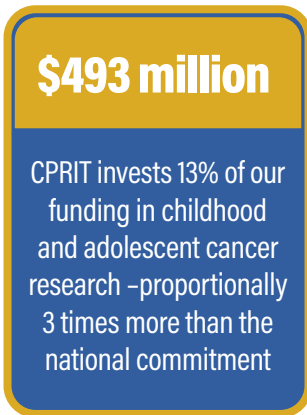
Texas children and adolescents expected to die from cancer in 2024



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.



“ 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 a facility to empower collaboration to fight pediatric cancer

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 The University of Texas Health Science Center at 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.

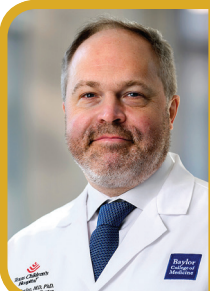
**Grant #: PP230061**



### Screening children who are at the highest risk for cancer

CPRIT awarded a \$2 million grant to The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio's **Dr. Gail Tomlinson** to develop strategies for cancer screenings for children in some of the most underserved areas of Texas. Currently, there is a knowledge gap regarding cancer screening in children with predisposition syndromes and the psychological impact of continued monitoring among these children and their families. With CPRIT funding, Dr. Tomlinson addresses these gaps and provides enhancement to early detection in children at highest risk of cancer with a genetic predisposition.

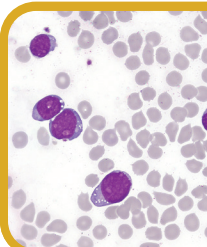
**Grant #: RP220137**



### Revolutionizing the understanding of childhood brain tumors

With the help of a \$6 million CPRIT Scholar grant, Baylor College of Medicine recruited **Dr. Michael Taylor** to Texas to continue his efforts to understand the biological basis of childhood brain tumors. Dr. Taylor's research has revolutionized the classification of childhood brain tumors, prompting the World Health Organization to adopt an international molecular classification for medulloblastoma and ependymoma. Taylor's lab discovered that most of these cancers are initiated in utero, emphasizing the importance of comprehensive understanding of very early brain development.

**Grant #: RR220051**



### Targeting Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, the most common childhood cancer

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 in the Texas Panhandle

CPRIT awarded a \$1.2 million grant to **Dr. Charles Reynolds** at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center in Lubbock 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**