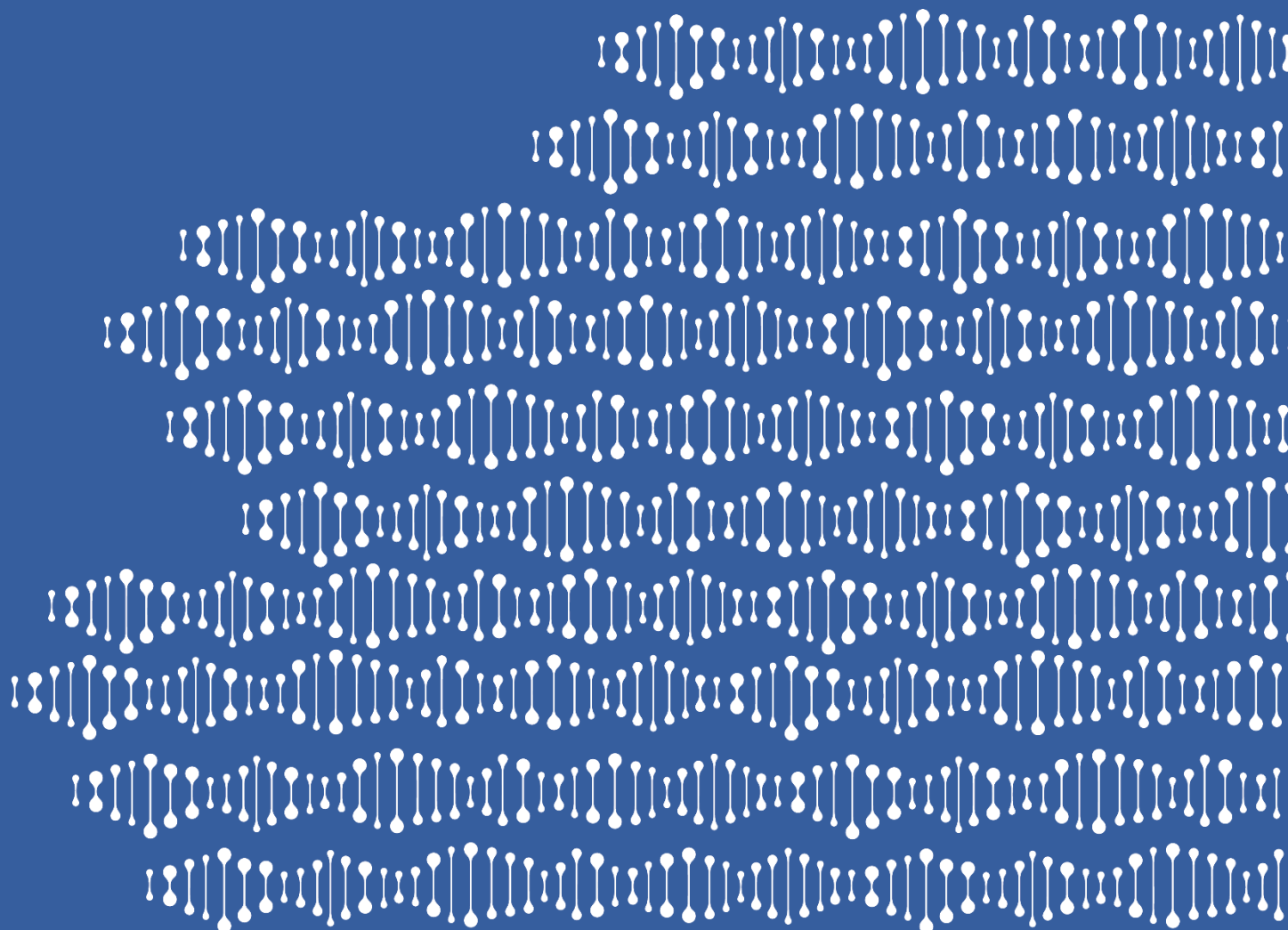




CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

# Proposed Grant Awards

August 16, 2023





CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
**FROM:** MICHELLE LE BEAU, PH.D., CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER  
**SUBJECT:** ACADEMIC RESEARCH FY2023 CYCLE 2 AND RECRUITMENT  
AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS FY2023, CYCLE 23.5 AND 23.6  
**DATE:** AUGUST 16, 2023

The Scientific Review Council (SRC) and Program Integration Committee (PIC) recommendations for FY2023 Cycle 2 and Recruitment Cycles 23.5 and 23.6 include **twenty awards** from six grant mechanisms totaling **\$36,044,691** as displayed in Table 1.

Table 1.

Grant Mechanism	SRC Recommendations	
	Awards	Funding
Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Award	1	\$7,499,998
TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award	1	\$850,000
TREC: Major Instrument Award	3	\$2,894,693
TREC: Pilot Study Award	5	\$1,000,000
Recruitment of Established Investigators	1	\$6,000,000
Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members	9	\$17,800,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$36,044,691</b>

**Program Priorities Addressed:**

The applications proposed for funding address the following Academic Research Program Priorities: recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas, investment in core facilities, innovative investigator-initiated research projects, cancer disparities, childhood and adolescent cancers, hepatocellular carcinoma, drug discovery, and computational biology. Priorities addressed by the proposed slate of awards are displayed in Table 2 and Attachment 1.



**Table 2.**

Program Priorities Addressed by Grant Recommendations		
# Awards*	Program Priorities	Funding*
10	Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas	\$23,800,000
3	Investment in Core Facilities	\$2,894,693
5	A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects,	\$1,000,000
2	Cancer Disparities	\$8,349,998
5	Childhood and Adolescent Cancers	\$6,096,992
2	Hepatocellular Cancer	\$400,000
5	Drug Discovery	\$7,195,767
1	Computational Biology	\$2,000,000
*Some grant awards address more than one program priority and are double counted.		

### ***1. TEXAS CONNECT FOR CANCER PREVENTION STUDY AWARD (RFA R-23.2 TCCPA) Slate***

**Purpose of the Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Award:** To establish a Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study of 25,000-35,000 adults in collaboration with the NCI CONNECT Study. This prospective study will address priorities in cancer prevention, early detection, and etiology research, which include emerging exposures, novel biomarkers, genomics; current-edge methodology and diverse and special populations. The CONNECT Study has the long-term potential to identify social, environmental, and behavioral, and genetic factors that underlie cancer risk among Texans.

**Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Award Funding Levels:** Up to \$7.5 million over a period of 5 years.

**Peer Review Recommendations:** Of the four applications submitted, the Scientific Review Council recommended one Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Award totaling \$7,499,998. Description of the recommended application is below.

**RP230426****PI:** Katherine Sanchez, PhD**Title:** Baylor Scott and White Health Texas Connect for Cancer Prevention Cohort**Applicant Organization:** Baylor Research Institute**Overall Evaluation Score** [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]: 2.8**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$7,499,998**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** Cancer Disparities.**Description:**

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the U.S. Moreover, significant disparities exist by race/ethnicity in the detection and treatment of cancer in general and specifically in Texas. The overall goal of this project is to leverage the clinical resources and research infrastructure of the largest non-profit integrated health care system (IHCS) in Texas to establish the Texas Cohort of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Connect for Cancer Prevention Study to enroll patients from geographically dense and rural, racially/ethnically diverse populations to address a broad range of cancer related questions with the aim to identify social, environmental, behavioral, and genetic factors that underlie cancer risk. Multiple engagement strategies will be utilized to enroll 25,000 Baylor Scott and White Health (BSWH) patients, including 40% Hispanic/Latino (n=10,000), and 20% Black/African American (n=5,000), to build the Texas Connect repository of medical and nonmedical data and biospecimens; to extract and transmit current, retrospective, and prospective medical record information; and to retain subjects for long-term follow-up and ancillary studies. The Texas Connect for Cancer Study will rely on a single IHCS which covers an expansive geography in Texas and includes a comprehensive electronic health record to allow for follow-up that is both cost effective and complete, an existing clinical infrastructure for the collection of blood, urine, and saliva, and long-term stability of the patient population. By joining the study and filling out surveys a few times each year about health and lifestyle factors, such as diet, exercise, and use of alcohol or tobacco, and donating samples of blood, urine, and saliva, health system patients can provide information which can help identify health and behavior patterns that may affect cancer.

**2. TREC: MAJOR INSTRUMENTATION AWARD  
(RFA R-23.2 TREC) Slate**

**Purpose of the TREC: Major Instrumentation Award:** To enhance research capacity by supporting the purchase of major instrumentation for one or more Core Facilities that will support multiple cancer researchers, at eligible Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer Institutions.

**TREC: Major Instrumentation Award Funding Levels:** Up to \$1 million over a period of 2 years.

**Peer Review Recommendations:** Of five applications submitted, the Scientific Review Council recommended three TREC: Major Instrumentation Awards totaling \$2,894,693. Descriptions of the recommended applications are below.

**RP230447**

**PI:** Min Kang, PharmD

**Title:** Fluorescence-Activated Cell Sorting: FACS Aria Fusion

**Applicant Organization:** Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

**Overall Evaluation Score** [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]: 1.4

**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$901,225

**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** Investment in Core Facilities, Childhood and Adolescent Cancers.

**Description:**

The School of Medicine Cancer Center at TTUHSC Lubbock will purchase a high-speed, multi-color cell sorter to replace equipment that has been well-maintained and utilized for over 15 years; however, the instrument is no longer supported by the vendor for repair and updates. TTUHSC will receive approximately 1200 samples from neuroblastoma patients enrolled in clinical trials over the next five years from children's hospitals nationwide to determine whether those patients who have better responses to the current immune agents have high expression of a specific gene. In addition, they have numerous cancer projects that are supported by the federal and state governments and currently utilize the sorter. The institution recently recruited an operator with over 15 years of flow cytometry experience who will be responsible for the day-to-day operation and management of the instrument. The PI will work closely with the operator to ensure the quality of the data and the operation of the instrument.

**RP230449**

**PI:** Wenshe Liu, Ph.D.

**Title:** The acquisition of an instrument suite to set up a high-throughput screening core at Texas A&M University

**Applicant Organization:** Texas A&M University

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

**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$995,767

**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** Investment in Core Facilities, Childhood and Adolescent Cancers, Drug Development

**Description:**

Texas A&M University lacks an openly accessible high-throughput screening facility for small molecule-based drug discovery. The current proposal aims to address this gap by acquiring a high-throughput screening instrument suite. This instrument suite will be set-up in the Texas A&M Drug Discovery Laboratory (TAMDDL) and will be operated by a group of scientists with strong expertise to provide services to researchers at the Bryan-College Station campus of Texas A&M University. Availability of this instrument suite will allow investigators to launch research

projects to identify small molecule therapeutics for a variety of targets including proteins and RNA in various cancers, such as acute myeloid leukemia, colorectal cancer, castration-resistant prostate cancer, liver cancer, and metastatic cancers.

**RP230445**

**PI:** Christopher Beck, Ph.D.

**Title:** Core Imaging Instrumentation for Cancer Studies in Rodent Models: Acquisition of an IVIS Spectrum/Quantum GX2 optical/microCT Small Animal Imaging System

**Applicant Organization:** Baylor University

**Overall Evaluation Score** [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]: 2.2

**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$997,701

**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** Investment in Core Facilities

**Description:**

This proposal seeks to enhance investigator-initiated studies of solid tumors (90% of adult human cancers) with the acquisition of an IVIS Spectrum/Quantum GX2 imaging system. Small-animal, multimodal imaging has been identified as an essential tool for preclinical cancer research and the proposed system will leverage existing core facilities and personnel infrastructure within the Baylor University vivarium, microscopy, and instrumentation cores to provide access to a unique, multimodal combination of optical and microCT imaging. This system will enhance and enable a broad range of cancer research for a multidisciplinary group of established and early-stage investigators (and their trainees) across biology, chemistry, psychology, neuroscience, and nutrition disciplines at Baylor University. The addition of this instrumentation will create an attractive, accessible resource that will both enable rapid progress in cancer discovery and facilitate recruitment of additional top-tier cancer researchers and students at all levels.

**3. TREC: INSTITUTIONAL POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING AWARD  
(RFA R-23.2 TREC) Slate**

**Purpose of the TREC- Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award:** To support training and the conduct of research and, ultimately, the retention as faculty of outstanding post-doctoral students recognized by their institutions for their high potential and strong interest in pursuing careers as independent cancer researchers.

**TREC-Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award Funding Levels:** Up to \$850,000 over a period of 3 years.

**Peer Review Recommendations:** Of three applications submitted, the Scientific Review Council recommended one TREC- Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award totaling \$850,000. Description of the recommended application is below.

**RP230446**

**PI:** Weiqin Lu, Ph.D.

**Title:** UTEP Postdoctoral Career Transition Program in Cancer Research

**Applicant Organization:** The University of Texas at El Paso

**Overall Evaluation Score** [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]: 1.1

**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$850,000

**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** Cancer disparities.

**Description:**

The University of Texas at El Paso is currently conducting research on Hispanic cancer disparities with support from the Border Biomedical Research Center (BBRC) and Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas-the Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer (CPRIT-TREC) with the goal to reduce Hispanic cancer disparities. To sustain these important pipelines and strengthen the existing expertise of the two programs, Dr. Weiqin Lu plans to create an Institutional Postdoctoral Training Program by recruiting outstanding postdoctoral fellows, especially those from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, and train them to become the next generation of leaders in cancer research to address cancer disparities.

***4. TREC: PILOT STUDY AWARD  
(RFA R-23.2 TREC) Slate***

**Purpose of the TREC: PILOT STUDY AWARD:** To provide 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, and provide the foundation to compete successfully for peer-reviewed funding to support an extended research program.

**TREC: Pilot Study Award Funding Levels:** Up to \$200,000 over a period of 2 years.

**Peer Review Recommendations:** Of 14 applications submitted, the Scientific Review Council recommended 5 TREC: Pilot Study Awards, totaling \$1,000,000. Description of the recommended applications is below.

**RP230443****PI:** Hongjun Liang, Ph.D.**Title:** “Click” Assembled Colloidal Molecules with Tunable Plasmon Bands as Novel Agents for Photothermal Tumor Therapy**Applicant Organization:** Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center**Overall Evaluation Score** [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]: 2.9**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$200,000**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects, Childhood and adolescent cancers, Hepatocellular cancer.**Description:**

This TREC Pilot study, led by Dr. Hongjun Liang, proposes to develop colloidal molecules consisting of gold nanorods (AuNRs) linked together via biodegradable polymer ligands. They expect to obtain red-shifted near infra-red absorption due to the quantum confinement effect to treat deep-seated tumors. This design has the added benefits in that the field couplings among AuNRs will be reinforced to achieve higher photothermal conversion efficiency, and the colloidal molecules will be disassembled and deactivated by enzymatic degradation to minimize potential long-term adverse effects once the photothermal tumor therapy (PTT) is done. If successful, this study will break the upmost limitation of AuNRs and open a new path to develop AuNRs formulations for clinically viable PTT.

**RP230454****PI:** Bilal Hafeez, Ph.D.**Title:** Role of transcription factor UBTF in pancreatic cancer**Applicant Organization:** The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley**Overall Evaluation Score** [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]: 2.9**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$200,000**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects, drug development.**Description:**

This project seeks to investigate the role of upstream binding transcription factor (UBTF) in the etiology or progression of pancreatic cancer. Establishing UBTF as a new molecular target will help in developing new therapeutic strategies for the treatment of advanced pancreatic cancer. Through this pilot CPRIT grant application, the project team will generate solid preliminary data for future NIH/R01 and DOD grant applications.

**RP230431****PI:** Linglin Xie, M.D., Ph.D.**Title:** Unraveling the Therapeutic Potential of Osr1 Overexpression in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Management**Applicant Organization:** Texas A & M University**Overall Evaluation Score [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]:** 3.2**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$200,000**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects, hepatocellular cancer.**Description:**

Dr. Linglin Xie will lead this study to test gene therapy for liver cancer by expressing the Osr1 gene in malignant cells in three different mouse models with liver cancer, using adeno-associated virus (AAV) vectors which are efficient in infecting hepatocytes in the liver and have shown success in clinical trials for other liver disorders. The study team will evaluate the potential of AAV8L-delivered Osr1 gene therapy in inhibiting the progression of fatty liver disease to hepatocellular carcinoma, suppressing tumor growth, and improving overall survival in mouse models. If successful, this gene therapy could become a promising treatment option for liver cancer and potentially improve patient outcomes.

**RP230444****PI:** Anna Eiring, Ph.D.**Title:** A Role for PSMD2, PSMD7, and PSMD9 in Drug Resistance of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)**Applicant Organization:** Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso**Overall Evaluation Score [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]:** 3.6**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$200,000**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects.**Description:**

This study, led by Dr. Anna Eiring, will identify certain proteasome subunits as a novel target for therapy in acute myeloid leukemia (AML), a highly aggressive form of cancer, particularly in elderly patients. . Standard proteasome inhibitors such as bortezomib target a particular section of the proteasome, but are associated with significant side effects. Dr. Eiring and her team propose to target a different area of the proteasome, which they believe will have less toxicity. In the long-term, targeting of these proteasome subunits could have therapeutic relevance in myeloid malignancies and possibly extend to other types of cancer.



**RP230451**

**PI:** Ion Bobulescu, M.D.

**Title:** The Role of Renal Lipotoxicity in Carcinogenesis

**Applicant Organization:** Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

**Overall Evaluation Score [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]:** 3.7

**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$200,000

**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects.

**Description:**

In this pilot study, Dr. Bobulescu will test the hypothesis that fat accumulation in the kidney occurring before cancer develops may cause damage in the kidney that leads to clear cell renal cell carcinoma (ccRCC). The project aims are to better understand how kidney cancer develops, and why people with obesity are more at risk. In the short term, this project has the potential to open new avenues for research on kidney cancer biology and prevention, as well as new insights into the link between obesity and cancer risk.

**5. RECRUITMENT OF ESTABLISHED INVESTIGATORS**  
**(RFA R-23.1 – Cycles 23.5 and 23.6) Slate**

**Peer Review Recommendations**

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

**Purpose of Recruitment of Established Investigators Awards:**

The aim is to recruit outstanding senior research faculty with distinguished professional careers and established cancer research programs to academic institutions in Texas.

**Funding levels for Recruitment of Established Investigators Awards:**

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

**Recommended Awards:**

Five Recruitment of Established Investigators grant applications were submitted and one was recommended by the Scientific Review Council for an Established Investigators Award.

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



**RR230078****Candidate:** Simon Gayther, Ph.D.**Funding Mechanism:** Recruitment of Established Investigator**Applicant Organization:** The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio**Original Organization of Nominee:** Cedars-Sinai Medical Center**Overall Evaluation Score** [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]: 1.5**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$6,000,000**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas.**Description:**

Simon Gayther, PhD has been nominated for a CPRIT Established Investigator award by the University of Texas Health San Antonio (UTHSA), and appointment as a Professor of Medicine with tenure, Mays Family Endowed Chair in Inherited Oncogenesis, inaugural Director of UTHSA's Center for Inherited Oncogenesis, and the Co-Leader of the Population Science and Prevention Research Program of the NCI-designated Mays Cancer Center. Dr. Gayther is currently a Professor of Biomedical Sciences, the Barth Family Chair of Cancer Genetics, Director of the Center for Bioinformatics and Functional Genomics, and Director of Molecular Epidemiology, at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. Dr. Gayther has an internationally acclaimed research program in genetic epidemiology and functional biology of cancer risk variants, with an emphasis on elucidating the multi-factorial basis of familial and sporadic breast and ovarian cancer stemming from mutations in the tumor suppressor genes *BRCA1* and *BRCA2*, and determining how ancestry, environmental exposures, and lifestyle affect cancer susceptibility, progression, and treatment outcome. Additionally, Dr. Gayther has been at the forefront of translation of genetic and genomic biomarker discovery into clinical practice, via identification of novel prevention and therapeutic targets for mutant *BRCA1/BRCA2* carriers.

Inherited and acquired mutations in *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* cause breast and ovarian cancers. Moreover, genome-wide association studies have identified other more common, variants that confer modest risk for both cancers. Environmental and lifestyle factors, including pregnancy and oral contraceptive use, also influence the onset and severity of these cancers. How genetic and non-genetic factors and ancestry affect cancer susceptibility, prevention, and treatment outcomes in subjects from South Texas remains to be explored. Dr. Gayther proposes to investigate the genetic and epidemiological risk factors associated with breast and ovarian oncogenesis in the underserved population of the UTHSA catchment area. To this end, he will develop induced pluripotent cell (iPSC) organoid models of breast and fallopian tube tissues (precursor cell types for breast and ovarian cancers, respectively) and conduct CRISPR interference screens of genetic drivers to define the role of gene mutations and risk variants in cancer development and progression. His research team will seek (1) to define new synthetic lethality relationships of genes that function in DNA repair, replication fork protection, and cellular mutagenesis associated with *BRCA1/2* mutations; (2) to elucidate the impact of genetic modifiers on cancer pathogenesis and drug sensitivity; and (3) to leverage available infrastructure to help drive the development of new cancer therapeutics. Dr. Gayther's endeavors will synergize with the research programs of other CPRIT-funded colleagues at UTHSA, who are leaders in elucidating the mechanisms of salient DNA repair and tumor suppression pathways, many of whom have developed small molecule inhibitors that could become the next generation of therapeutics against breast and ovarian cancers. Thus, his

recruitment will be a catalyst to propel research and clinical efforts to prevent and treat *BRCA1/2*-related (and other inherited) cancers, as well as to advance UTHSA's goal of becoming a center of excellence in addressing cancer disparities in the Hispanic population of South Texas.

## ***6. RECRUITMENT OF FIRST-TIME TENURE-TRACK FACULTY MEMBERS (RFA R-23.1 – Cycles 23.5 and 23.6) Slate***

### **Peer Review Recommendations**

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

### **Purpose of First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Recruitment**

The aim is to recruit and support very promising emerging investigators, pursuing their first faculty appointment in Texas, who can make outstanding contributions to the field of cancer research.

### **Funding levels for First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Members Recruitment**

Up to \$2 million over a period of up to 5 years.

### **Recommended Projects:**

Seventeen Recruitment of First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Members grant applications were submitted and nine were recommended by the Scientific Review Council for an award.

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

#### **RR230040**

**Candidate:** Graham Erwin, Ph.D.

**Funding Mechanism:** Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Member

**Applicant Organization:** Baylor College of Medicine

**Original Organization of Nominee:** Stanford University School of Medicine

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

**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$2,000,000.

**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas, Computational Biology.

### **Description:**

Baylor College of Medicine is nominating Graham S. Erwin, Ph.D. for a CPRIT First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member award, and a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of

Molecular and Human Genetics and the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Erwin is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford University, in the Department of Genetics. Dr. Erwin is an emerging star who combines chemical biology, genetics/genomics, and computational approaches to explore how genomic instability - specifically expansion of repetitive DNA elements - contributes to progression and therapeutic vulnerabilities in cancer. During his post-doctoral fellowship, he applied computational methods to make the seminal observation that a previously unrecognized class of recurrent repeat expansions are found in cancer genomes and to study the consequences of targeting these tandem repeat sequences (Erwin et al., Nature 2023).

At Baylor College of Medicine, he will build on these skills and discoveries to uncover new classes of repeats (smaller than 100 base pairs) in cancer. He will then study the functional consequences of this variation by leveraging gene editing and single cell sequencing approaches. Finally, he will apply his chemical biology expertise to test whether polyamide-based synthetic transcription elongation factors (Syn-TEFs), that he had previously demonstrated to target specific repeats, can be used in cancers and specifically, renal carcinomas in which he has evidence of anti-proliferative activities. The feasibility of such an approach has been demonstrated already in a clinical trial leveraging his approach in a genetic neurological disease of repeat expansion, i.e., Friedrich's Ataxia.

**RR230042**

**Candidate:** Michael Robertson, Ph.D.

**Funding Mechanism:** Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member

**Applicant Organization:** Baylor College of Medicine

**Original Organization of Nominee:** Stanford University

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

**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$2,000,000.

**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas, Childhood and adolescent cancers.

**Description:**

Michael Robertson, PhD has been nominated by Baylor College of Medicine for a CPRIT First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member award, and a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology and the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Robertson is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford University. As a postdoctoral fellow, he developed expertise in structural biology, and cryogenic electron microscopy (cryoEM) and coupled this with his computational skills in molecular dynamics simulations to make key contributions to the understanding of membrane receptor biology, specifically G-protein coupled receptors. Membrane proteins represent the largest class of protein targets for drug discovery in cancer and other diseases. Although he is just completing his research training, he has already published 8 first author papers in the highest impact journals including two in Nature and two in Nature Structural and Molecular Biology. He is the recipient of a prestigious NIH K99/R00 Pathway to Independence award, which he will bring with him to Texas.

The overall goal of his research program is to develop next generation pharmaceuticals targeting membrane protein signaling and transport involved in cancer. Membrane proteins are crucial for many phases of tumorigenesis, yet many membrane protein classes remain underutilized as drug targets. In his independent laboratory, he will couple cryoEM structure determinations with molecular dynamics simulations to elucidate the conformational ensemble of membrane protein receptors and use this information for the design of small molecule modulators of signaling function to develop cancer therapeutics. His initial focus will be on the G-protein coupled receptor – Somatostatin receptor 2. A second project will study the transport cycle of the neutral amino acid transporter ASCT2, a key transporter for maintaining the metabolic pathways of tumors. Dr. Robertson's proposed work is highly innovative and is likely to have a powerful impact on our understanding of the role of conformational changes in membrane receptor function, and the use of protein conformational ensembles in the design of small molecules as cancer therapeutics.

**RR230054**

**Candidate:** Xiaofeng Qi, Ph.D.

**Funding Mechanism:** Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member

**Applicant Organization:** The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

**Original Organization of Nominee:** The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

**Overall Evaluation Score** [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]: 1.1

**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$2,000,000.

**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas, Drug development.

**Description:**

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center has nominated Dr. Xiaofeng Qi for a CPRIT First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member Award. Dr. Qi is being recruited as an Assistant Professor to the Department of Molecular Biology and the Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Qi is a world-class structural biologist who has made groundbreaking discoveries of the structures of membrane signaling proteins involved in normal and abnormal cell growth. For example, Dr. Qi used state-of-the-art cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM), to solve the structures of 8 membrane proteins, including three proteins in the Hedgehog signaling pathway (Hedgehog, Patched, and Smoothed) that promote proliferation and other cellular responses. These impressive achievements were documented in 11 papers in premiere journals of his field.

In the future, Dr. Qi will extend his expertise to elucidate the molecular details of critical proteins located on the T cell membrane that regulate immune checkpoints within the tumor microenvironment. He intends to begin by solving the structure of LAG3, also known as CD223, a key surface protein on CD4+ and CD8+ natural killer cells and dendritic cells, that has potential as a checkpoint inhibitor target. In detailed structural studies, Dr. Qi intends to study the interaction affinities between human LAG3 and its ligands and to obtain the structures of these protein complexes, which will provide important structure-function information for therapeutic development. In another series of studies, he will explore how chemokine receptors play suppressive roles to modulate the immune response within the tumor microenvironment.

Armed with this data, he plans to generate conformation-specific antibodies that will enable structural studies and may become candidates for cancer immunotherapy. With this structural information on different conformations, structure-guided optimization of existing small molecule drugs and development of new drugs will be performed sequentially. Overall, the long-term goal of Dr. Qi's laboratory will be to carry out structure-guided drug design to facilitate the development of personalized cancer therapy and establish novel strategies for treating cancer.

**RR230072**

**Candidate:** Simon Eschweiler, Ph.D.

**Funding Mechanism:** Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member

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

**Original Organization of Nominee:** La Jolla Institute for Immunology

**Overall Evaluation Score** [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]: 1.3

**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$2,000,000.

**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas, Drug development.

**Description:**

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC) seeks to recruit Simon Eschweiler, PhD as a CPRIT First-time, Tenure-track Faculty award recipient, and Assistant Professor in the Department of Experimental Therapeutics. Dr. Eschweiler is currently an Instructor at the La Jolla Institute of Immunology, and focuses on determining the cellular and molecular determinants influencing the efficacy of immunotherapies as well as the identification of novel immunotherapeutic targets. His contributions include the identification of T follicular regulatory cells as novel and crucial cellular targets of cancer immunotherapy (Nature Immunology, 2021), identifying alternative dosing regimens of PI3K $\delta$  inhibitors to drive anti-tumor immunity while limiting therapy-related toxicity to normal organs (Nature, 2022) and identifying and validating a novel immunotherapy target for tissue-resident memory T cells (Cell Reports, 2023). Dr. Eschweiler will be directly mentored by newly appointed CPRIT Established Investigator, Rugang Zhang, PhD - an internationally recognized expert in experimental therapeutics whose discoveries have led to the development of synthetic lethality-based therapeutic approaches for rare histological subtypes of ovarian cancer.

The overall goal of Dr. Eschweiler's planned research is to devise and test novel immunotherapeutic strategies through mechanism-guided approaches by (1) assessing the clinical validity of novel cellular targets of cancer immunotherapy; (2) developing and/or testing immunotherapies that selectively target these cells; and (3) rationally combining these therapies with existing treatment options to optimize efficacy while limiting toxicity in early phase clinical trials through collaborations with his colleagues at MDACC. His research findings could lead to changes in the standard-of-care for cancer patients who currently do not benefit from immunotherapy, a significant area of unmet clinical need for a large number of patients in Texas.



**R230050****Candidate:** Zunlong Ke, Ph.D.**Funding Mechanism:** Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member**Applicant Organization:** The University of Texas at Austin**Original Organization of Nominee:** Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry**Overall Evaluation Score** [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]:1.9**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$2,000,000.**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas.**Description:**

The University of Texas at Austin is nominating Zunlong Ke, Ph.D. for a CPRIT First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member award, and a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular Biosciences. Dr. Ke is an extremely well-trained and productive structural biologist who has pioneered cryo-electron tomography (cryo-ET) and cryo-correlative light and electron microscopy (cryo-CLEM) methodology to directly image and analyze virus assembly intermediates from infected cells. Dr. Ke and collaborators were one of the first groups to report the structure of the SARS-CoV-2 spike glycoprotein from intact virions using cryo-EM and cryo-ET analyses (Nature, 2020), work that contributed to the development of novel therapeutics and vaccines for SARS-CoV-2.

Dr. Ke has now turned his attention to examining hepatitis virus type B (HBV) and type C (HCV) and their role in liver cancer, with the long-term goal of developing new vaccine-based anti-cancer therapies. His research seeks to address a critical gap in liver cancer biology research by employing state-of-the-art cryo-ET coupled with advanced computational analysis to investigate the molecular architecture of intact virions at near-atomic resolution and to visualize replication intermediates within infected cells and liver cancer biopsies. This will reveal novel mechanistic insights into the structure, distribution, and conformational states of hepatitis viral surface antigens from native virions, which will inform studies to detect and treat viral hepatitis infections. An additional objective of the research is to uncover the molecular mechanisms underpinning viral replication, to inform the development of novel and broad-spectrum therapeutics targeting key processes during viral replication. The potential impact of this work is considerable, providing a basis for future research in virus-host cell interactions, and host cellular immune response crucial for designing more effective approaches to the detection and treatment of viral hepatitis infections, obesity, and liver cancer.

**RR230052****Candidate:** Varun Venkataramani, M.D., Ph.D.**Funding Mechanism:** Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member**Applicant Organization:** Baylor College of Medicine**Original Organization of Nominee:** University Hospital Heidelberg**Overall Evaluation Score** [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]:2.0**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$2,000,000.**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas, Childhood and Adolescent Cancers.

**Description:**

Baylor College of Medicine is nominating Varun Venkataramani, M.D., Ph.D., for a CPRIT First-Time, Tenure-Track Scholar Award, and appointment as an Assistant Professor in the Center for Cancer Neuroscience in the Department of Neurosurgery, and the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Venkataramani has a long record of outstanding achievement in the fundamentals of neuroscience and brain tumor research. For example, he was the first to identify direct tumor to neuron synaptic connections and to demonstrate that these connections are electrically active and drive tumor progression (Venkataramani, et al. Nature 2019). In a parallel set of studies, he has shown that brain tumors use neuronal-like mechanisms to infiltrate the brain and that this infiltration is reliant upon these tumor-neuron networks (Venkataramani, et al. Cell 2022). These groundbreaking and transformational studies have already made Dr. Venkataramani a recognized thought-leader in cancer neuroscience.

In his independent laboratory, he proposes to examine how these neuron-tumor networks evolve over time, and to identify molecular and cellular regulators of this phenomenon that can be therapeutically targeted. The overarching goal is to use long-term longitudinal in vivo two-photon microscopy of mouse glioma models to determine brain tumor network evolution on a single cell level with subcellular resolution. This highly tractable methodology will enable him to manipulate and investigate both the neuronal tumor microenvironment and tumor-cell intrinsic molecular mechanisms, while simultaneously characterizing cellular behaviors, molecular and connectivity cell states. The immediate goal of this proposal is to determine how neuronal activity regulates and influences the formation of brain tumor networks and whether this can be pharmacologically leveraged for therapeutic opportunities with inhibitors of synaptic transmissions in the central nervous system, e.g., using the AMPA receptor inhibitor, perampanel. The novel approaches that he has developed have a high potential to have a profound impact on the field of brain tumor biology and its treatment.

**RR230053**

**Candidate:** Chen Cao, Ph.D.

**Funding Mechanism:** Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Member

**Applicant Organization:** The University of Texas at Dallas

**Original Organization of Nominee:** Princeton University

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

**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$2,000,000.

**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas.

**Description:**

The University of Texas at Dallas has nominated Chen Cao, PhD for a CPRIT First-time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member award and appointment as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Bioengineering. Dr. Cao is an accomplished junior scientist, and is the recipient of the prestigious NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00). During her graduate work, she demonstrated the evolutionary significance of gene regulatory domains and their structural flexibility under selection, whereas her postdoctoral work at Princeton University is focused on unraveling cell fate specification and regulatory components in cell differentiation through single-cell transcriptome profiling.

The interactions between cellular components of the tumor microenvironment have been recognized as major determinants of tumor progression. Dr. Cao proposes to use engineering principles to build a programmable tumor microenvironment from the bottom up using breast cancer as a model. Her novel approach of utilizing 3D bioprinting to deposit varying components of the tumor ecosystem with dynamic spatial positions on a tumor-on-a-chip platform followed by single cell multi-omics sequencing techniques will enable her to survey cell state dynamics and discover key transition and regulatory elements in cancer initiation and progression. This innovative approach leverages her multidisciplinary training in bioengineering and developmental biology, together with her exceptional expertise at single cell transcriptomic lineage tracing, and has high potential for unraveling tumor heterogeneity and advancing therapeutic development.

**RR230066****Candidate:** Qian Yin, Ph.D.**Funding Mechanism:** Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member**Applicant Organization:** The University of Texas at Austin**Original Organization of Nominee:** Stanford University**Overall Evaluation Score** [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]:2.0**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$2,000,000.**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas, Drug Development**Description:**

Qian Yin, Ph.D. has been nominated for a CPRIT First-time, Tenure-track Faculty award and appointment as an Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Yin completed a postdoctoral fellowship in immunology under the mentorship of Dr. Mark Davis - a noted world leader in systems immunology - in the Institute for Immunity, Transplantation, and Infection (IITI) at Stanford University. She applied her expertise in nanomedicine to engineer nanoparticles containing immunoadjuvants that induced systemic immunity against viruses and cancer cells. Since 2021, Dr. Yin has been an Instructor in the IITI, and has continued to develop innovative nanomedicines for cancer immunotherapy. She is a multidisciplinary scientist with expertise in materials science and engineering, nanoparticle fabrication and characterization, and systems immunology. This unique academic background has prepared Dr. Yin to be a trailblazer in the development of synthetic biodegradable nanomaterials for stimulating anticancer immunity both locally and systemically, and will bolster the cancer immunotherapy research landscape in Texas. She has been extremely productive as a young scholar, publishing 35 scientific articles with 11 as first author. Her work is also highly translational, having led to 3 patents.

Dr. Yin's long-term research goals are (1) to use an interdisciplinary approach that fuses materials engineering and immunology to identify the key factors that overcome suppression of the immune system, and drive effective anti-tumor immune responses in glioblastoma



multiforme; (2) to develop new therapeutic strategies to enhance cancer immunotherapy; and (3) to ultimately translate these findings and strategies into clinical applications for the treatment of human brain cancer patients in Texas. As a first-time, tenure-track faculty member, Dr. Yin proposes to develop a library of nanoparticles composed of polymers conjugated with an agonist that activates and enhances anticancer immunity. The nano-immunotherapeutics designed by Dr. Yin show promise against glioblastoma, the most lethal form of brain cancer.

**RR230081**

**Candidate:** Annika Wylie, Ph.D.

**Funding Mechanism:** Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Member

**Applicant Organization:** Southern Methodist University

**Original Organization of Nominee:** The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

**Overall Evaluation Score** [Rating Scale 1.0 (highest merit) to 9.0 (lowest merit)]: 2.6

**Recommended Total Budget Award and Duration:** \$2,000,000.

**CPRIT Priorities Addressed:** Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas.

**Description:**

Southern Methodist University has identified Annika Wylie, Ph.D. as an exceptional candidate for the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, and recipient of a CPRIT First-time, Tenure-track Faculty Award. Dr. Wylie is currently completing her post-doctoral fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. John Abram at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, and is focusing on the *TP53* tumor suppressor gene.

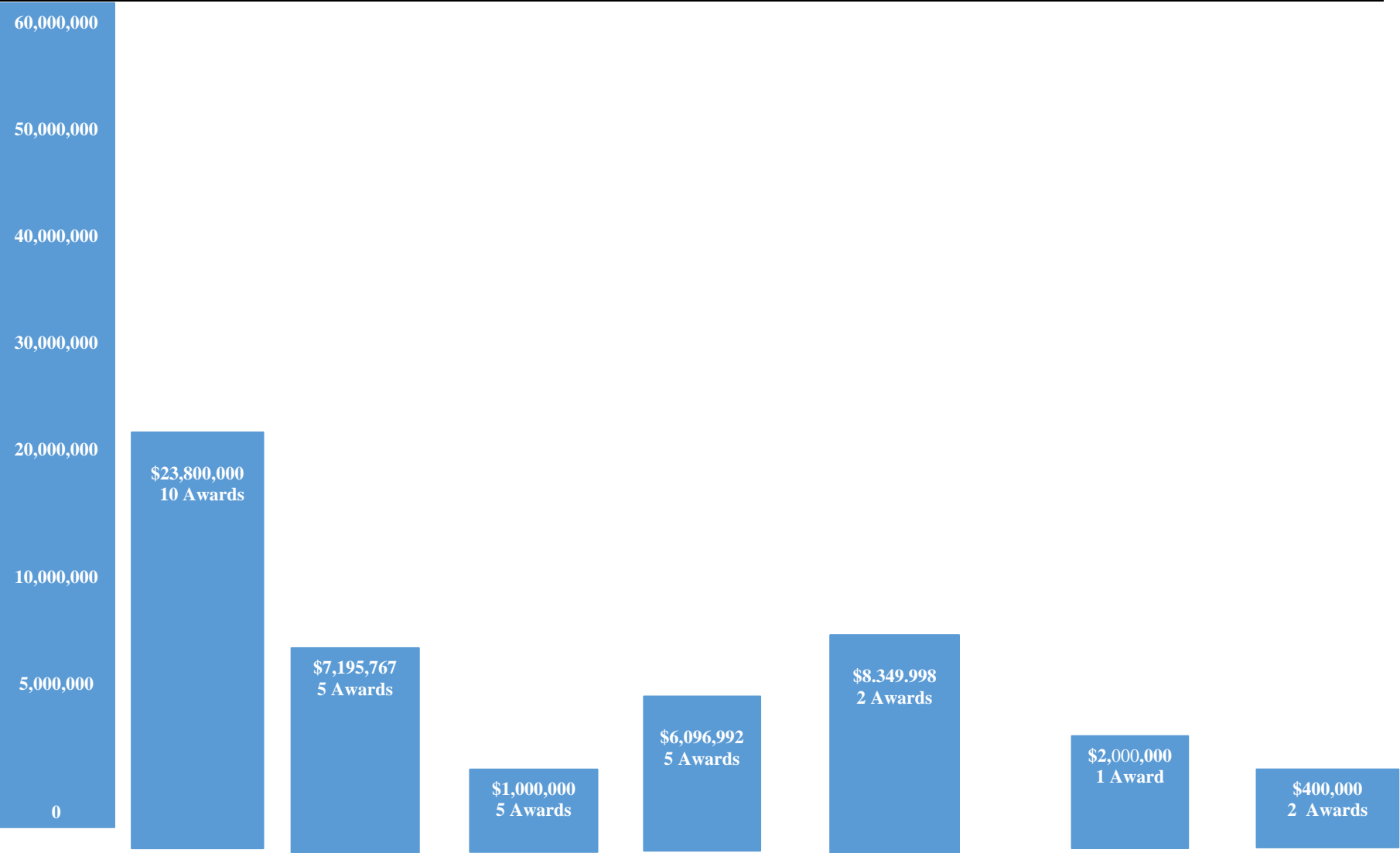
*TP53* is mutated in at least half of all human cancers, but how this gene acts to suppress tumor formation is not completely understood. Additionally, multiple isoforms of the TP53 protein exist, but their distinct functions and potential contributions to tumor suppression are understudied. Using the *Drosophila* and zebrafish model systems, Dr. Wylie discovered that TP53 restricts the mobility of transposable elements – nucleic acid sequences within DNA that can change their position within the genome sometimes creating mutations - and showed how *TP53* loss leads to an eruption of these mobile elements in mouse and human cancers. Building on these observations, Dr. Wylie showed that certain TP53 isoforms act as constitutive transcriptional repressors (Wylie, et al. Dev. Cell, 2022). This finding was surprising because conventional models suggest that TP53 is solely a transcriptional activator. Together, these discoveries raise the possibility that TP53 may mitigate oncogenic disease, in part, by restricting transposon activity and offer a novel hypothesis for TP53-mediated cancer prevention.

To test this hypothesis, Dr. Wylie proposes (1) to determine how opposing transcriptional outputs by TP53 are specified using rigorous genetic and biochemical approaches in the *Drosophila* system to examine how *TP53* repression and activation are specified; and (2) to elucidate the role of TP53 and transposon repression in tumor suppression using the zebrafish model system to test whether TP53 prevents oncogenic disease by repressing retrotransposons. Dr. Wylie's research lays the groundwork for innovative investigations into the functions of distinct TP53 isoforms, and the identification of new therapeutic targets, such as

retrotransposons, as well as providing insights into the therapeutic efficacy of newly developed TP53 inhibitors, based on a tumor's isoform expression profile.

Attachment #1

*Academic Research Program Priorities Addressed by Recommended Awards							
(*Some grant awards address more than one program priority and are double counted.)							
Scale	Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas	Drug Discovery	A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects.	Childhood and Adolescent Cancers	Population Disparities	Computational biology and analytic methods	Hepatocellular Cancer





**Attachment #2**  
RFA Descriptions

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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

- **Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards (RFA R-23.2 TCCPA):**  
Solicits applications from institutions to establish a Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study of 25,000-35,000 adults in collaboration with the NCI CONNECT Study. This prospective study will address priorities in cancer prevention, early detection, and etiology research, which include emerging exposures, novel biomarkers, genomics; current-edge methodology and diverse and special populations. The CONNECT Study has the long-term potential to identify social, environmental, and behavioral, and genetic factors that underlie cancer risk among Texans.  
*Award: Up to \$7.5 million over a period of 5 years.*
- **TREC Pilot Study Award (RFA R-23.2 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.*
- **TREC Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award (RFA R-23.2 TREC PDTA):**  
Solicits applications from TREC-eligible institutions to support training and the conduct of research and, ultimately, the retention as faculty of outstanding post-doctoral students recognized by their institutions for their high potential and strong interest in pursuing careers as independent cancer researchers.  
*Award: Total of \$850,000 over a period of 3 years*
- **TREC Major Instrumentation Award (RFA R-23.2 TREC MIA):**  
Solicits applications from TREC-eligible institutions to enhance research capacity by supporting the purchase of major instrumentation for one or more Core Facilities that will support multiple cancer researchers.  
*Award: Total of \$1 million over a period of 2 years.*
- **Recruitment of Established Investigators (RFA R-23-1 REI):**  
Recruits outstanding senior research faculty with distinguished professional careers and established cancer research programs to academic institutions in Texas.  
*Award: Up to \$6 million over a period of five years.*

- **Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members (RFA R-23-1. RFT):**  
Supports very promising emerging investigators, pursuing their first faculty appointment in Texas, who have the ability to make outstanding contributions to the field of cancer research.

*Award: Up to \$2 million over a period of up to five years.*

Ludwig Institute for  
Cancer Research Ltd

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July 18, 2023

Dr. Mahendra C. Patel  
Oversight Committee Presiding Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [curingkids@gmail.com](mailto:curingkids@gmail.com)

Mr. Wayne R. Roberts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [wroberts@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:wroberts@cprit.texas.gov)

Dear Dr. Patel and Mr. Roberts,

The Scientific Review Council (SRC) is pleased to submit this list of research grant award recommendations for the FY23.2 TREC: Major Instrumentation Awards, TREC:Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award, TREC Pilot Study Awards and FY23 Cycles 23.5 and 23.6 recruitment grant recommendations. The SRC met on May 18, 2023 (Cycle 23.5) and July 13, 2023 (Cycles 23.6 and 23.2 TREC ) to review and finalize applications submitted to CPRIT under the FY23.2 TREC related Request for Applications (RFA) and the Recruitment of Established Investigator and Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members RFA mechanisms.

The SRC recommends 19 applications, which are included on the attached list. The recommended funding amounts and the overall evaluation scores are stated for the grant applications. There were no recommended changes to funding amounts, goals, timelines, or project objectives requested. The total amount for the applications recommended is \$28,544,693.

The recommendations meet the SRC's standards for grant award funding, including selecting recruitment candidates at all career levels that have demonstrated academic excellence, selecting innovative research projects addressing CPRIT's long term goals to select candidates at all career levels that have demonstrated academic excellence achieve a decrease in the burden of cancer in Texas through preventive measures, new diagnostics and treatments, and effective translation of discoveries into products.

Sincerely yours,



Richard D. Kolodner, Ph.D.

Chair, CPRIT Scientific Review Council

Rank	ID	Award Mechanism	Final Overall Score	Application Title	Candidate/PI	Organization	Budget
1	RR230040	RFTFM	1.0	First-Time, Tenure-Track: Dr. Graham Erwin	Graham Erwin	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
2	RR230042	RFTFM	1.0	First-Time Tenure-Track: Dr. Michael Robertson	Michael Robertson	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
3	RR230054	RFTFM	1.1	Nomination of Xiaofeng Qi, Ph.D. for a CPRIT recruitment of a First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Member Award	Xiaofeng Qi	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000
4	RP230446	TRECPDTA	1.1	UTEP Postdoctoral Career Transition Program in Cancer Research	Lu, Weiqin	The University of Texas at El Paso	\$850,000
5	RR230072	RFTFM	1.3	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members - SimonEschweiler	Simon Eschweiler	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$2,000,000
6	RP230447	TRECMIA	1.4	Fluorescence-Activated Cell Sorting: FACS Aria Fusion	Kang, Min	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$901,225
7	RR230078	REI	1.5	Recruitment of Established Investigator, Simon Gayther	Simon Gayther	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	\$6,000,000
8	RR230050	RFTFM	1.9	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Zunlong Ke	Zunlong Ke	The University of Texas at Austin	\$2,000,000
9	RR230052	RFTFM	2.0	First-Time, Tenure-Track: Dr. Varun Venkataramani	Varun Venkataramani	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000

10	RR230053	RFTFM	<b>2.0</b>	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Chen Cao	Chen Cao	The University of Texas at Dallas	\$1,800,000
11	RR230066	RFTFM	<b>2.0</b>	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Qian Yin	Qian Yin	The University of Texas at Austin	\$2,000,000
12	RP230449	TRECMIA	<b>2.0</b>	The acquisition of an instrument suite to set up a high-throughput screening core at Texas A&M University	Liu, Wenshe	Texas A&M University	\$995,767
13	RP230445	TRECMIA	<b>2.2</b>	Core Imaging Instrumentation for Cancer Studies in Rodent Models: Acquisition of an IVIS Spectrum/Quantum GX2 optical/microCT Small Animal Imaging System	Becker, Christopher	Baylor University	\$997,701
14	RR230081	RFTFM	<b>2.6</b>	Nomination of Annika Wylie for CPRIT Recruitment of First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Member	Annika Wylie	Southern Methodist University	\$2,000,000
15	RP230443	TRECPSA	<b>2.9</b>	“Click” Assembled Colloidal Molecules with Tunable Plasmon Bands as Novel Agents for Photothermal Tumor Therapy	Liang, Hongjun	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$200,000
16	RP230454	TRECPSA	<b>2.9</b>	Role of transcription factor UBTF in pancreatic cancer	Hafeez, Bilal	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	\$200,000
17	RP230431	TRECPSA	<b>3.2</b>	Unraveling the Therapeutic Potential of Osr1 Overexpression in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Management	Xie, Linglin	Texas A&M University	\$200,000



18	RP230444	TRECPSA	<b>3.6</b>	A Role for PSMD2, PSMD7, and PSMD9 in Drug Resistance of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)	Eiring, Anna	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	\$200,000
19	RP230451	TRECPSA	<b>3.7</b>	The Role of Renal Lipotoxicity in Carcinogenesis	Bobulescu, Ion	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$200,000

RFTFM- Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty

REI- Recruitment of Established Investigators

TREC: MIA - TREC: Major Instrument Award

TREC:PDTA- TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award

TREC:PSA - TREC: Pilot Study Award

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July 26, 2023

Dr. Mahendra C. Patel  
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Mr. Wayne R. Roberts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [wroberts@cpvit.texas.gov](mailto:wroberts@cpvit.texas.gov)

Dear Dr. Patel and Mr. Roberts,

The Scientific Review Council (SRC) is pleased to submit this list of research grant award recommendations for the FY23.2 Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards. The SRC met on July 26, 2023, to review and finalize applications submitted to CPRIT under the FY23.2 Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards; Request for Applications (RFA).

The SRC recommends one application, which is included on the attached list. The recommended funding amount and the overall evaluation score are stated for the grant application. There were no recommended changes to funding amounts, goals, timelines, or project objectives requested. The total amount for the recommended application is \$7,499,998.

The recommendation meets the SRC's standards for grant award funding, including selecting innovative research projects addressing CPRIT's long term goals to achieve a decrease in the burden of cancer in Texas through preventive measures.

Sincerely yours,



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

Rank	ID	Award Mechanism	Final Overall Score	Application Title	Candidate/PI	Organization	Budget
1	RP230426	Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards.	2.8	Baylor Scott and White Health Texas Connect for Cancer Prevention Cohort	Katherine Sanchez, Ph.D.	Baylor Research Institute	\$7,499,998



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## CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

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### MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** CPRIT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
**FROM:** RAMONA MAGID, CHIEF PREVENTION OFFICER  
**SUBJECT:** PREVENTION GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS – FY 2023 CYCLE 2  
**DATE:** AUGUST 2, 2023

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#### **Summary and Recommendation:**

The Program Integration Committee (PIC) has completed its review of the recommendations forwarded by the Prevention Review Council (PRC) and recommends awarding 9 projects for FY 2023 Cycle 2 totaling \$13,343,163. The grant recommendations are presented in four slates.

Grant Mechanism	Number	Amount
<i>Cancer Screening and Early Detection</i>	2	\$ 3,496,703
<i>Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center</i>	1	\$ 3,000,000
<i>Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions</i>	3	\$ 1,347,265
<i>Primary Prevention of Cancer</i>	3	\$ 5,499,195

#### **Background:**

##### FY 2023 Cycle 2 (23.2)

CPRIT released four RFAs in November 2022 for the second review cycle of FY 2023. CPRIT received 25 proposals totaling \$37,091,837 by the August 31 deadline. Five applications were research projects and were administratively withdrawn. The remaining twenty applications requesting a total of \$31,166,458 underwent peer review on May 24-25 by teleconference. The PRC met on June 19, 2023, to review the two applications responding to the *Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center* mechanism and to finalize recommendations to the Program Integration Committee.

##### Program Priorities Addressed

All the recommended applications address more than one of the Prevention Program priorities. See the attached chart for additional detail.

<b>Number of Applications Addressing Priorities</b>		<b>Amount</b>
9	Prioritize populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence	\$13,343,163
9	Prioritize geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence	\$13,343,163
9	Prioritize populations with obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, diagnostic testing, treatment, and survivorship services	\$13,343,163

## **Prevention Program Slates**

### ***Cancer Screening and Early Detection***

#### **Mechanism:**

This award mechanism seeks to support the delivery of evidence-based clinical services to screen for cancer and pre-cancer in underserved populations who do not have adequate access to cancer early detection interventions and health care, bringing together networks of public health and community partners to carry out programs tailored for their communities. Projects should identify cancers that cause the most burden in the community, have nationally recommended screening methods, and use evidence-based methods to screen for these cancers.

**Award:** Maximum of \$1M for new projects and \$2.5M for expansion projects; maximum duration of 5 years

#### **Recommended projects (2): \$3,496,703**

Four applications were submitted in this mechanism. Two Cancer Screening and Early Detection projects are recommended. One project, PP230030, was initially reviewed in FY 2023 Cycle 1.

#### **Project Descriptions**

PP230059	De Casa en Casa 4: Cervical Cancer Screening in Underserved Rural and Border Communities throughout West and South Texas	Molokwu, Jennifer	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	3.3	\$2,499,437
<b>CPRIT Priorities addressed:</b> Prioritize populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize populations with obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, diagnostic testing, treatment, and survivorship services					

The De Casa program proposes to reduce the burden of cervical cancer in the 61-county service area by providing health education and navigation to women 21-65 years old who are overdue for Pap screening regardless of insurance status while also providing free screening and diagnostic services to uninsured women. The De Casa 4 program builds upon the original

program to create more capacity for understaffed and under-resourced healthcare facilities throughout West and South Texas. This project will also train providers and clinical staff by developing a toolkit that will include presentations, educational videos, and social media post templates, along with providing training to community partners to implement education and navigation components to ensure the program's sustainability. The Texas DSHS-approved community health worker (CHW) curriculum will be translated into Spanish and made available statewide to allow for more trained CHWs throughout Texas.

PP230030	ACTION for Big Country	Byrd, Theresa	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	3.7	\$997,266
<b>CPRIT Priorities addressed:</b> Prioritize populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize populations with obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, diagnostic testing, treatment, and survivorship services					

The project will provide colorectal cancer (CRC) education, FIT test screening, and colonoscopy services for people in Council of Government (COG) Region 7 (West Central Texas) who are uninsured or underinsured. Increasing access to screening will help to decrease rates of colorectal cancer in the region.

Thirty counties in the Council of Governments (COG) Region 7 will be served. This project will decrease the burden of CRC in the priority area through appropriate FIT test and colonoscopy screening and diagnostic testing of uninsured or underinsured adults ages 45-75 and develop professional and lay training that will increase the likelihood of CRC screening sustainability after funding ends.

### ***Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center***

#### **Mechanism:**

This award mechanism seeks to support a Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center to establish and oversee a collaborative network of regional CPRIT-funded colorectal cancer screening projects, patients, communities, clinicians, and health care professionals. The Center will build the infrastructure necessary for a coordinated statewide evidence-based colorectal cancer screening initiative among all populations and geographic areas of Texas. The Center will serve as a hub of expertise and resources, forge innovative partnerships, catalyze interactions, and enable resource and data sharing among multiple stakeholders across the state to reduce the colorectal cancer burden in the state.

**Award:** Maximum of \$3M; maximum duration of 5 years

#### **Recommended projects (1): \$3,000,000**

Two applications were submitted in this mechanism. One Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center application is recommended.

## Project Description

PP230060	Coordinating Center for Colorectal Cancer Screening Across Texas (CONNECT)	Shokar, Navkiran	The University of Texas at Austin	2.3	\$3,000,000
<b>CPRIT Priorities addressed:</b> Prioritize populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize populations with obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, diagnostic testing, treatment, and survivorship services					

This project proposes the creation of the Coordinating Center for Colorectal Cancer Screening across Texas (CONNECT) to galvanize and support CRC prevention efforts in Texas. The Center will be led by Drs. Shokar and Pignone who between them have four decades of experience as primary care physicians, public health scientists and as national and internationally recognized experts and leaders in CRC screening. The Center will serve as a convening entity and central hub of resources, tools, and content expertise accessible by stakeholders across the state. The center will consist of 1) a steering committee that is advisory to the leadership and comprised of physicians in disciplines across the cancer continuum, advocacy groups, CRC screening experts, scientists, leaders of public health and clinic systems and patients representing all geographic regions and populations; 2) Five Cores – i. Administrative; ii. Community-based Implementation, Engagement, Education and Health Communication; iii. Clinical Implementation; iv. Modeling, Mapping, Cost effectiveness and Data; v. Advocacy; and 3) A statewide stakeholder network that will include, public, private, governmental, and non-profit organizations, public health organizations, safety net systems, academic health centers, social services organizations, Community Health Worker organizations, payors, governmental entities, advocacy groups, and individuals among others. The goals of the Center are to: 1) Create a comprehensive stakeholder network representing all regions and communities in Texas to inform development, implementation & dissemination of a Texas CRC screening strategic plan; 2) Develop infrastructure and resources to support expansion of evidence-based CRC screening statewide; 3) Utilize rigorous evaluation methods and innovative approaches of modeling, geospatial mapping and cost effectiveness analyses to assess impact and support planning, implementation, and policy development; 4) Accelerate the creation, implementation, and dissemination of CRC screening best practices for priority populations.

### *Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions*

#### **Mechanism:**

This award mechanism seeks to fund projects that will facilitate the dissemination and implementation of successful CPRIT-funded, evidence-based cancer prevention and control interventions across Texas. The proposed project should be able to develop one or more "products" based on the results of the CPRIT-funded intervention. The proposed project should also identify and assist others to prepare to implement the intervention and/or prepare for grant funding.

Award: Maximum of \$450,000; maximum duration of 3 years

### Recommended projects (3): \$1,347,265

Two applications were submitted in this mechanism. Three Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions projects are recommended. One project, PP230003, was initially reviewed in FY2023 Cycle 1.

#### Project Descriptions

PP230078	Implementation and Dissemination of an Evidence-Based Intervention to Increase Tobacco Treatment Capacity in Opioid Treatment Programs	Reitzel, Lorraine	The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center	2.0	\$449,776
<b>CPRIT Priorities addressed:</b> Prioritize populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize populations with obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, diagnostic testing, treatment, and survivorship services					

This project proposes to disseminate and implement Taking Texas Tobacco Free (TTTF), a successful, evidence-based tobacco control intervention for cancer prevention that will provide policy and workflow guidance, specialized training, and resources to Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) Treatment Centers to bolster their ability to provide tobacco cessation and relapse prevention interventions to their patients. These centers are unique due to the complicated relationship between pain and tobacco use for many OUD patients. There are particularly high patient tobacco use rates, low staff numbers, and early business hours as well. Implementation will include: 1) initiation of tobacco-free workplace policies; 2) provision of tailored education and specialized training on tobacco use cessation and relapse prevention care; 3) provision of setting-tailored resources to motivate patients and providers for tobacco use disorder care provision; and 4) engagement and education of the community around these topics. Hands-on technical assistance will be provided to centers interested in self-led implementation.

PP230003	Taking Texas Tobacco Free: Dissemination to and Implementation within Centers Serving Texans who Identify as LGBTQ+s	Reitzel, Lorraine	University of Houston	3.0	\$448,835
<b>CPRIT Priorities addressed:</b> Prioritize populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize populations with obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, diagnostic testing, treatment, and survivorship services					

This project proposes to disseminate and implement Taking Texas Tobacco Free (TTTF)—a successful, evidence-based tobacco control intervention for cancer prevention that provides tobacco-free workplace policy guidance to de-normalize tobacco use, education and specialized training to care providers, and resources—to LGBTQ+ centers to bolster their ability to provide



cessation and relapse prevention interventions to their patients/clients. Implementation will include: 1) initiation of tobacco-free workplace policies; 2) provision of tailored education and specialized training on tobacco use cessation and relapse prevention care; 3) provision of setting-tailored resources to motivate patients and providers for tobacco use disorder care provision; and 4) engagement and education of the community around these topics. Active and passive dissemination strategies will include a step-by-step implementation/replication guide and toolkit with training materials, tailored materials for passive dissemination, web-based and social media program promotion, and hands-on technical assistance.

PP230069	Dissemination of the Active Living After Cancer Program	Basen-Engquist, Karen	The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center	3.8	\$448,654
<b>CPRIT Priorities addressed:</b> Prioritize populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize populations with obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, diagnostic testing, treatment, and survivorship services					

The goal of this dissemination project is to promote broader, sustainable adoption and implementation of the Active Living After Cancer (ALAC) program, an evidence-based intervention to improve cancer survivors' physical functioning and quality of life through increasing their physical activity. The ALAC program has been funded by CPRIT for the past 9 years and is currently offered to cancer survivors and their caregivers through partnerships with community organizations. With an implementation focus on minority and medically underserved populations, ALAC is available in both English and Spanish, and aims to teach cognitive and behavioral skills for increasing physical activity, provide opportunities to engage in different types of light to moderate physical activity, and deliver education content about survivorship concerns and services. The program will be disseminated to community cancer centers in Texas, partnering with the Texas Society of Clinical Oncology. An online implementation toolkit, an online training, and a standardized Project ECHO curriculum for providing ongoing telementoring and technical assistance implementers will be developed. The toolkit will be pilot tested in two community centers.

## ***Primary Prevention of Cancer***

### **Mechanism:**

This award mechanism focuses on increasing implementation of evidence-based strategies to ensure that all Texans benefit from the cancer prevention knowledge that we currently have. CPRIT seeks to fund multilevel interventions to reduce cancer risk, disease burden, and cancer disparities. Modifiable risk behaviors include tobacco use, obesity, physical inactivity, unhealthy eating, alcohol use, sun exposure, HPV vaccination, Hepatitis B vaccination, and environmental/occupational cancer exposures. Applications should also assess and address social determinants that contribute to cancer burden and disparities (e.g., cultural factors, unmet needs, access barriers). Interventions and communications should be structured to address the unique circumstances of the population to be served.

**Award:** Maximum of \$1M for new projects and \$2.5M for expansion projects; maximum duration of 5 years

### Recommended projects (3): \$5,499,195

Twelve applications were submitted in this mechanism. Three Primary Prevention of Cancer applications are recommended.

#### Project Descriptions

PP230074	Active Living After Cancer: Combining a Physical Activity Program with Survivor Navigation	Basen-Engquist, Karen	The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center	2.5	\$1,999,989
<b>CPRIT Priorities addressed:</b> Prioritize populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize populations with obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, diagnostic testing, treatment, and survivorship services					

This project proposes to continue to implement the Active Living after Cancer (ALAC) program in areas that are medically underserved and/or rural, in collaboration with implementation partners in Houston, El Paso, Beaumont, and Tyler. In addition, online continuing education modules about physical activity and cancer will be developed for physicians, mid-level providers, and nurses. The goal of the ALAC program is to increase physical activity and improve the physical functioning and quality of life of sedentary cancer survivors, particularly those who are minority, medically underserved, or living in rural/medically underserved areas. The 12-session program teaches behavioral and cognitive skills to help cancer survivors increase their physical activity by incorporating moderate intensity physical activity into daily life. ALAC also provides support for health and quality of life issues important to cancer survivors, including fatigue, psychological distress, and nutrition, and navigates participants to appropriate services. The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center serves as the training and evaluation center for this program, and partners with four organizations in Houston, El Paso, Beaumont, and Tyler that promote and implement the program. These partners are trained to administer the program using telementoring sessions based on the Project ECHO model.

PP230061	Expansion of HPV Vaccination Among Survivors of Childhood Cancer	Grimes, Allison	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	3.2	\$999,999
<b>CPRIT Priorities addressed:</b> Prioritize populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize populations with obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, diagnostic testing, treatment, and survivorship services					

This project proposes to partner with 10 pediatric oncology centers across the state of Texas to provide HPV vaccination to childhood cancer survivors. Sites include five from the previously funded project (University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, Methodist Children's Hospital (San Antonio), Dell Children's Hospital (Austin), Driscoll Children's Hospital (Corpus Christi), and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso) and five geographically and institutionally diverse expansion sites (Children's Hospital of San Antonio, MD Anderson Cancer Center (Houston), Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Amarillo, Texas Oncology (Midland), and UT Southwestern (Dallas and Plano)). The catchment areas across these 10 sites encompasses 225 counties that serve over 3,004 CCS who will be age-eligible for the HPV vaccine during the project period. The overall project goal is to increase HPV vaccination rates among eligible CCS who are actively followed within one of the 10 participating sites, delivering an evidence-based HPV provider and staff continuing education program focused on the unique risks and needs of childhood cancer survivors, implementing practice-level changes to build an HPV vaccine-friendly culture and allowing for the monitoring of HPV vaccine eligibility status among childhood cancer survivors, and offering on-site delivery of the HPV vaccine to eligible childhood cancer survivors at each participating clinic.

PP230056	Continuation and Expansion of a Highly Successful Postpartum HPV Vaccination Program	Berenson, Abbey	The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	3.6	\$2,499,207
<b>CPRIT Priorities addressed:</b> Prioritize populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence; prioritize populations with obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, diagnostic testing, treatment, and survivorship services					

This project proposes to increase HPV vaccination rates among low-income women living in 32 counties by continuing to implement a highly successful postpartum HPV vaccination program at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) conducted in collaboration with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). This postpartum intervention addresses barriers of vaccine cost, lack of access to accurate information, lack of a provider recommendation, and inadequate follow-up after the series is initiated by having patient navigators (PNs) educate patients and offer the vaccine at no cost while they are in the hospital after delivery and at postpartum visits. PNs remind patients about follow-up appointments and keep in close contact until all doses are complete. This project will educate medical and nursing students, residents, and community physicians on the importance of counseling all eligible patients on this vaccine and teach them how to administer it.

Prevention Program Priorities Addressed by Recommended Awards August 16, 2023			
Prioritize populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence	Prioritize geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence	Prioritize populations with obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, diagnostic testing, treatment, and survivorship services	Prevention Program Assessment
<div> <div> <div> <div>\$13,343,163</div> <div>9 projects</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PP230003</li> <li>• PP230030</li> <li>• PP230056</li> <li>• PP230059</li> <li>• PP230060</li> <li>• PP230061</li> <li>• PP230069</li> <li>• PP230074</li> <li>• PP230078</li> </ul> </div> <div> <div>\$13,343,163</div> <div>9 projects</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PP230003</li> <li>• PP230030</li> <li>• PP230056</li> <li>• PP230059</li> <li>• PP230060</li> <li>• PP230061</li> <li>• PP230069</li> <li>• PP230074</li> <li>• PP230078</li> </ul> </div> <div> <div>\$13,343,163</div> <div>9 projects</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PP230003</li> <li>• PP230030</li> <li>• PP230056</li> <li>• PP230059</li> <li>• PP230060</li> <li>• PP230061</li> <li>• PP230069</li> <li>• PP230074</li> <li>• PP230078</li> </ul> </div> </div> </div>			

Note: Some grant awards address more than one program priority and will be double counted.



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

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**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
**FROM:** RAMONA MAGID, CHIEF PREVENTION OFFICER  
**SUBJECT:** PREVENTION PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS  
**DATE:** AUGUST 16, 2023

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Background

During the Oversight Committee Prevention subcommittee meeting on August 8, 2023, members requested additional information regarding the recommended proposal PP230069, and clinical service providers collaborating with grant applicants from academic institutions. The requested information is provided in the documents.

Dissemination of the Active Living After Cancer Program, PP230069

This document describes the intent of this proposed dissemination project and highlights the differences between this project and the delivery of the full program in collaboration with providers and communities.

Supplemental Information for Prevention Awards under your consideration

These slides contain additional information for each proposed project in Cycle 23.2, including the geographic area and the partners who will be collaborating with the grantee organization to provide the proposed clinical services.

## PP230069, Dissemination of the Active Living After Cancer Program

The Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions mechanism seeks to fund projects that will facilitate the dissemination and implementation of successful CPRIT-funded, evidence-based cancer prevention and control interventions across Texas. The nature of these projects is to develop one or more "products" based on the results of their CPRIT-funded intervention. They also identify and assist others to prepare to implement successful program interventions and/or prepare institutions for grant funding.

Project PP230069, Dissemination of the Active Living After Cancer Program, proposes to promote broader, sustainable adoption and implementation of the Active Living After Cancer (ALAC) program, an evidence-based intervention to improve cancer survivors' physical functioning and quality of life through increasing their physical activity. **The main purpose of the Dissemination grant is to evaluate a new implementation clinic-based model, one in which staff from oncology clinics/practices are trained to implement ALAC, providing it to their own patients.** ALAC will be disseminated to community cancer centers throughout the state in partnership with the Texas Society of Clinical Oncology (TxSCO). This model could then be adapted and implemented in any clinic serving cancer survivors.

	Clinic-based delivery model (proposed)	Community-based delivery model (current)
<b><u>Expectations:</u></b>		
Implementers	Any staff or volunteers affiliated with clinic	Health educators, community health workers
Target population	Survivors who are patients of the clinic	Survivors from throughout community
Program promotion	Promote in the clinic	Promote throughout the community
Providing curriculum	Implementers teach the program to survivors who are patients of the clinic	Implementers teach the program to any interested and eligible survivor in the community
Program locations	Implementers teach the program virtually and/or at clinic location	Implementers teach the program virtually and at locations throughout the community
# of 12-week ALAC classes taught/year	2-4	8-12
<b><u>Support received:</u></b>		
Program materials	Provided by MD Anderson	Provided by MD Anderson
Training and technical assistance	Self-paced online training, Project ECHO, provided by MD Anderson	In-person or virtual training (synchronous), Project ECHO, provided by MD Anderson
Financial support	No direct financial support	Subcontract on CPRIT grant to cover staff time

# Prevention Program Cycle 23.2 Award Recommendations

Grant Mechanism	Awards	Funding Requested
Cancer Screening and Early Detection	2	\$ 3,496,703
Colorectal Cancer Coordinating Center	1	\$ 3,000,000
Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions	3	\$ 1,347,195
Primary Prevention of Cancer	3	\$ 5,499,195
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>\$13,343,163</b>

Program Priorities Addressed by Grant Recommendations		
# Awards*	Program Priorities	Requested Funding*
9	Prioritize populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence	\$13,343,163
9	Prioritize geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence	\$13,343,163
9	Prioritize populations with obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, diagnostic testing, treatment, and survivorship services	\$13,343,163
*All grant awards address more than one program priority and are counted multiple times.		



# Prevention Program Cycle 23.2 Award Recommendations

ID	Application Title	PD	Organization	Score	Requested Funding
PP230059	De Casa en Casa 4: Cervical Cancer Screening in Underserved Rural and Border Communities throughout West and South Texas.	Molokwu, Jennifer C	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	3.3	\$2,499,437
PP230030	ACTION for Big Country	Byrd, Theresa L	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	3.7	\$997,266
PP230060	Coordinating Center for Colorectal Cancer Screening Across Texas (CONNECT)	Shokar, Navkiran K	The University of Texas at Austin	2.3	\$3,000,000
PP230078	Implementation and Dissemination of an Evidence-Based Intervention to Increase Tobacco Treatment Capacity in Opioid Treatment Programs	Reitzel, Lorraine R	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	2.0	\$449,776
PP230003	Taking Texas Tobacco Free: Dissemination to and Implementation within Centers Serving Texans who Identify as LGBTQ+	Reitzel, Lorraine R	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	3.3	\$448,835





# Prevention Program Cycle 23.2 Award Recommendations

ID	Application Title	PD	Organization	Score	Requested Funding
PP230069	Dissemination of the Active Living After Cancer Program	Basen-Engquist, Karen M	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	3.8	\$448,654
PP230074	Active Living After Cancer: Combining a Physical Activity Program with Survivor Navigation	Basen-Engquist, Karen M	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	2.5	\$1,999,989
PP230061	Expansion of HPV Vaccination Among Survivors of Childhood Cancer	Grimes, Allison	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	3.2	\$999,999
PP230056	Continuation and expansion of a highly successful postpartum HPV vaccination program	Berenson, Abbey B	The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	3.6	\$2,499,207



# PP230059 – Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso

CSD	De Casa en Casa 4: Cervical Cancer Screening in Underserved Rural and Border Communities throughout West and South Texas	Molokwu, Jennifer C	3.3	\$2,499,437
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The De Casa program proposes to reduce the burden of cervical cancer in the 61-county service area by providing health education and navigation to women 21-65 years old who are overdue for Pap screening regardless of insurance status while also providing free screening and diagnostic services to uninsured women. The De Casa 4 program builds upon the original program to create more capacity for understaffed and under-resourced healthcare facilities throughout West and South Texas. This project will also train providers and clinical staff by developing a toolkit that will include presentations, educational videos, and social media post templates, along with providing training to community partners to implement education and navigation components to ensure the program's sustainability. The Texas DSHS-approved community health worker (CHW) curriculum will be translated into Spanish and made available statewide to allow for more trained CHWs throughout Texas.

Counties Served: Andrews, Bailey, Brewster, Callahan, Cochran, Coke, Coleman, Concho, Crosby, Culberson, Dickens, Dimmit, Eastland, Ector, Edwards, El Paso, Floyd, Frio, Gaines, Garza, Glasscock, Guadalupe, Hale, Haskell, Hockley, Howard, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Jones, Kinney, La Salle, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Martin, Maverick, McCulloch, Medina, Midland, Motley, Nolan, Pecos, Presidio, Real, Reeves, Schleicher, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Sutton, Taylor, Terry, Tom Green, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Ward, Winkler, Yoakum, Zavala

Clinical Services Collaborating Partners: Cactus Health Services, Inc.; Sage Family Medicine Associates; South Plains Rural Health Services, Inc.; Larry Combest Community Health and Wellness Center; Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSC), Department of OB/GYN; South Texas Rural Health Services, Inc.; La Esperanza Clinic; Permian Regional Medical Center; Val Verde Regional Medical Center; TTUHSC – Permian Basin Family Medicine Clinic



# PP230030 – Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

CSD (Cycle 1)	ACTION for Big Country	Byrd, Theresa L	3.7	\$997,266
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The project will provide colorectal cancer (CRC) education, FIT test screening, and colonoscopy services for people in Council of Government (COG) Region 7 (West Central Texas) who are uninsured or underinsured. Increasing access to screening will help to decrease rates of colorectal cancer in the region.

Thirty counties in the Council of Governments (COG) Region 7 will be served. This project will decrease the burden of CRC in the priority area through appropriate FIT test and colonoscopy screening and diagnostic testing of uninsured or underinsured adults ages 45-75 and develop professional and lay training that will increase the likelihood of CRC screening sustainability after funding ends.

Counties Served: Archer, Baylor, Brown, Callahan, Clay, Coleman, Comanche, Cottle, Eastland, Fisher, Foard, Hardeman, Haskell, Jack, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Montague, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, Throckmorton, Wichita, Wilbarger, Young

Clinical Services Collaborating Partners: Hendrick Health System; Hendrick Cancer Center; Abilene-Taylor County Health District; Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso through the clinics participating in their colorectal cancer screening grant, SuCCCeS.



# PP230060 – The University of Texas at Austin

CCC	Coordinating Center for Colorectal Cancer Screening Across Texas (CONNECT)	Shokar, Navkiran	2.3	\$3,000,000
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This project proposes the creation of the Coordinating Center for Colorectal Cancer Screening across Texas (CONNECT) to galvanize and support CRC prevention efforts in Texas. The Center will be led by Drs. Shokar and Pignone who between them have four decades of experience as primary care physicians, public health scientists and as national and internationally recognized experts and leaders in CRC screening. The Center will serve as a convening entity and central hub of resources, tools and content expertise accessible by stakeholders across the state. The center will consist of 1) a steering committee that is advisory to the leadership and comprised of physicians in disciplines across the cancer continuum, advocacy groups, CRC screening experts, scientists, leaders of public health and clinic systems and patients representing all geographic regions and populations; 2) Five Cores – i. Administrative; ii. Community-based Implementation, Engagement, Education and Health Communication; iii. Clinical Implementation; iv. Modeling, Mapping, Cost effectiveness and Data; v. Advocacy; and 3) A statewide stakeholder network that will include, public, private, governmental, and non-profit organizations, public health organizations, safety net systems, academic health centers, social services organizations, Community Health Worker organizations, payors, governmental entities, advocacy groups, and individuals among others. The work of the center will culminate in creating the infrastructure, capacity and resources to propel Texas' CRC screening efforts forwards. The goals of the Center are to: 1) Create a comprehensive stakeholder network representing all regions and communities in Texas to inform development, implementation & dissemination of a Texas CRC screening strategic plan; 2) Develop infrastructure and resources to support expansion of evidence-based CRC screening statewide; 3) Utilize rigorous evaluation methods and innovative approaches of modeling, geospatial mapping and cost effectiveness analyses to assess impact and support planning, implementation, and policy development; 4) Accelerate the creation, implementation, and dissemination of CRC screening best practices for priority populations.



# PP230078 – The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

DI	Implementation and Dissemination of an Evidence-Based Intervention to Increase Tobacco Treatment Capacity in Opioid Treatment Programs	Reitzel, Lorraine	2.0	\$449,776
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This project proposes to disseminate and implement Taking Texas Tobacco Free (TTTF), a successful, evidence-based tobacco control intervention for cancer prevention that will provide policy and workflow guidance, specialized training, and resources to Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) Treatment Centers to bolster their ability to provide tobacco cessation and relapse prevention interventions to their patients. These centers are unique due to the complicated relationship between pain and tobacco use for many OUD patients. There are particularly high patient tobacco use rates, low staff numbers, and early business hours as well. Implementation will include: 1) initiation of tobacco-free workplace policies; 2) provision of tailored education and specialized training on tobacco use cessation and relapse prevention care; 3) provision of setting-tailored resources to motivate patients and providers for tobacco use disorder care provision; and 4) engagement and education of the community around these topics. Hands-on technical assistance will be provided to centers interested in self-led implementation.

Implementation guides and toolkits are developed during the first year of the Dissemination projects. Pilot projects begin during year 1 and into year 2. The pilot project selection is based on center interest, capacity, and commitment to implementation. Applicants are not required to select pilot project locations in the original application. Staff will work with the project director to ensure that these criteria are met.



## PP230003 – University of Houston

DI (Cycle 1)	Taking Texas Tobacco Free: Dissemination to and Implementation within Centers Serving Texans who Identify as LGBTQ+	Reitzel, Lorraine	3.3	\$448,835
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This project proposes to disseminate and implement Taking Texas Tobacco Free (TTTF), a successful, evidence-based tobacco control intervention for cancer prevention that provides tobacco-free workplace policy guidance to de-normalize tobacco use, education and specialized training to care providers, and resources—to LGBTQ+ centers to bolster their ability to provide cessation and relapse prevention interventions to their patients/clients. Active and passive dissemination strategies will include a step-by-step implementation/replication guide and toolkit with training materials, tailored materials for passive dissemination, web-based and social media program promotion, and hands-on technical assistance. The project will provide policy and workflow guidance, specialized training, and resources to public health centers serving the LGBTQ+ community to bolster their ability to provide tobacco cessation and relapse prevention interventions to their patients. Implementation will include: 1) initiation of tobacco-free workplace policies; 2) provision of tailored education and specialized training on tobacco use cessation and relapse prevention care; 3) provision of setting-tailored resources to motivate patients and providers for tobacco use disorder care provision; and 4) engagement and education of the community around these topics. Hands-on technical assistance will be provided to centers interested in self-led implementation.

Implementation guides and toolkits are developed during the first year of the Dissemination projects. Pilot projects begin during year 1 and into year 2. The pilot project selection is based on center interest, capacity, and commitment to implementation. Applicants are not required to select pilot project locations in the application. Staff will work with the project director to ensure that these criteria are met.



# PP230069 – The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

DI	Dissemination of the Active Living After Cancer Program	Basen-Engquist, Karen M	3.8	\$448,654
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The goal of this dissemination project is to promote broader, sustainable adoption and implementation of the Active Living After Cancer (ALAC) program, an evidence-based intervention to improve cancer survivors' physical functioning and quality of life through increasing their physical activity. The ALAC program has been funded by CPRIT for the past 9 years and is currently offered to cancer survivors and their caregivers through partnerships with community organizations. With an implementation focus on minority and medically underserved populations, ALAC is available in both English and Spanish, and aims to teach cognitive and behavioral skills for increasing physical activity, provide opportunities to engage in different types of light to moderate physical activity, and deliver education content about survivorship concerns and services. The program will be disseminated to community cancer centers in Texas, partnering with the Texas Society of Clinical Oncology. An online implementation toolkit, an online training and a standardized Project ECHO curriculum for providing ongoing telementoring and technical assistance implementers will be developed. The toolkit will be pilot tested in two community centers.

Two community cancer centers serving rural and/or medically underserved populations will be identified to pilot test the ALAC implementation toolkit and the Project ECHO curriculum. The organizations will be asked to sign an MOU that specifies the expectations of the pilot testing organization and the implementers, as well as the support that will be provided by MD Anderson. Grant applicants are not required to select pilot project locations in the original application. Staff will work with the project director in the selection of the pilot test sites.



# PP230074 – The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

PPC	Active Living After Cancer: Combining a Physical Activity Program with Survivor Navigation	Basen-Engquist, Karen M	2.5	\$1,999,989
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This project proposes to continue to implement the Active Living after Cancer (ALAC) program in areas that are medically underserved and/or rural, in collaboration with implementation partners in Houston, El Paso, Beaumont, and Tyler. In addition, online continuing education modules about physical activity and cancer will be developed for physicians, mid-level providers, and nurses. The goal of the ALAC program is to increase physical activity and improve the physical functioning and quality of life of sedentary cancer survivors, particularly those who are minority, medically underserved, or living in rural/medically underserved areas. The 12-session program teaches behavioral and cognitive skills to help cancer survivors increase their physical activity by incorporating moderate intensity physical activity into daily life. ALAC also provides support for health and quality of life issues important to cancer survivors, including fatigue, psychological distress, and nutrition, and navigates participants to appropriate services. The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center serves as the training and evaluation center for this program, and partners with four organizations in Houston, El Paso, Beaumont, and Tyler that promote and implement the program. These partners are trained to administer the program using telementoring sessions based on the Project ECHO model.

Counties Served: Harris, El Paso, Jefferson, Smith

Clinical Services Collaborating Partners: The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center; Kelsey Research Foundation; Cancer and Chronic Disease Consortium; Gift of Life and The University of Texas Health Science Center - Tyler





# PP230061 – The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

PPC	Expansion of HPV Vaccination Among Survivors of Childhood Cancer	Grimes, Allison	3.2	\$999,999
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This project proposes to partner with 10 pediatric oncology centers across the state of Texas to provide HPV vaccination to childhood cancer survivors. The catchment areas across the 10 sites encompasses 225 counties that serve over 3,004 CCS who will be age-eligible for the HPV vaccine during the project period. The overall project goal is to increase HPV vaccination rates among eligible CCS who are actively followed within one of the 10 participating sites, delivering an evidence-based HPV provider and staff continuing education program focused on the unique risks and needs of childhood cancer survivors, implementing practice-level changes to build an HPV vaccine-friendly culture and allowing for the monitoring of HPV vaccine eligibility status among childhood cancer survivors, and offering on-site delivery of the HPV vaccine to eligible childhood cancer survivors at each participating clinic.

Counties Served: Anderson, Andrews, Angelina, Aransas, Archer, Armstrong, Atascosa, Austin, Bandera, Bastrop, Baylor, Bee, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Borden, Bosque, Bowie, Brazoria, Brazos, Brewster, Briscoe, Brooks, Brown, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Calhoun, Callahan, Cameron, Camp, Carson, Cass, Castro, Chambers, Cherokee, Childress, Clay, Coke, Coleman, Collin, Collingsworth, Colorado, Comal, Comanche, Concho, Cooke, Coryell, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Dallam, Dallas, Dawson, DeWitt, Deaf Smith, Delta, Denton, Dimmit, Donley, Duval, Eastland, Ector, Edwards, El Paso, Ellis, Erath, Falls, Fannin, Fayette, Fort Bend, Franklin, Freestone, Frio, Gaines, Galveston, Gillespie, Glasscock, Goliad, Gonzales, Gray, Grayson, Gregg, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hall, Hamilton, Hansford, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Hartley, Hays, Hemphill, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hill, Hood, Hopkins, Houston, Howard, Hudspeth, Hunt, Hutchinson, Irion, Jack, Jackson, Jasper, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Johnson, Karnes, Kaufman, Kendall, Kenedy, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Lamar, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Lipscomb, Live Oak, Llano, Loving, Madison, Marion, Martin, Mason, Matagorda, Maverick, McCulloch, McLennan, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Midland, Milam, Mills, Montague, Montgomery, Moore, Morris, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Newton, Nueces, Ochiltree, Oldham, Orange, Palo Pinto, Panola, Parker, Parmer, Pecos, Polk, Potter, Presidio, Rains, Randall, Reagan, Real, Red River, Reeves, Refugio, Roberts, Robertson, Rockwall, Runnels, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, San Saba, Schleicher, Shackelford, Shelby, Sherman, Smith, Somervell, Starr, Stephens, Sterling, Sutton, Swisher, Tarrant, Terrell, Throckmorton, Titus, Tom Green, Travis, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Ward, Washington, Webb, Wharton, Wheeler, Wichita, Wilbarger, Willacy, Williamson, Wilson, Winkler, Wise, Wood, Young, Zapata, Zavala

Clinical Services Collaborating Partners: Sites include five from the previously-funded project (University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, Methodist Children's Hospital (San Antonio), Dell Children's Hospital (Austin), Driscoll Children's Hospital (Corpus Christi), and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso) and five geographically and institutionally diverse expansion sites (Children's Hospital of San Antonio, MD Anderson Cancer Center (Houston), Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Amarillo, Texas Oncology (Midland), and UT Southwestern (Dallas and Plano)).



# PP230056 – The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

PPC	Continuation and Expansion of a Highly Successful Postpartum HPV Vaccination Program	Berenson, Abbey	3.6	\$2,499,207
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This project proposes to increase HPV vaccination rates among low-income women living in 32 counties by continuing to implement a highly successful postpartum HPV vaccination program at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) conducted in collaboration with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). This postpartum intervention addresses barriers of vaccine cost, lack of access to accurate information, lack of a provider recommendation, and inadequate follow-up after the series is initiated by having patient navigators (PNs) educate patients and offer the vaccine at no cost while they are in the hospital after delivery and at postpartum visits. PNs remind patients about follow-up appointments and keep in close contact until all doses are complete. This project will educate medical and nursing students, residents and community physicians on the importance of counseling all eligible patients on this vaccine and teach them how to administer it.

Counties Served: Angelina, Austin, Brazoria, Cameron, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Hidalgo, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, Tyler, Waller, Walker and Wharton

Clinical Services Collaborating Partners: The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and clinics, The University of Texas Medical Branch and clinics



Dr. Mahendra Patel  
Oversight Committee Presiding Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [curingkids@gmail.com](mailto:curingkids@gmail.com)  
Via email to [kirtikpatel@hotmail.com](mailto:kirtikpatel@hotmail.com)

Wayne R. Roberts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [wroberts@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:wroberts@cprit.texas.gov)

Dear Mr. Roberts and Dr. Patel,

On behalf of the Prevention Review Council (PRC), I am pleased to provide the PRC's recommendations for the FY2023 Cycle 2 Cancer Screening and Early Detection (CSD), Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center (CCC), Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions (DI), and Primary Prevention of Cancer (PPC) grant awards.

The PRC met on June 19, 2023, to review the CCC applications and to consider the applications recommended by the peer review panel following their May 24-25, 2023, meeting. The PRC recommends 9 projects totaling \$13,343,163. Two of the projects, PP230003 and PP230030, were submitted and reviewed in FY2023 Cycle 1.

The projects are numerically ranked in the order the PRC recommends the applications be funded. Recommended funding amounts and the overall evaluation score are stated for each grant application. The PRC made no changes to the goals, project objectives, or timelines of the applications.

Our recommendations meet the PRC's standards for grant award funding of projects that are evidence-based, deliver programs or services to underserved populations, and focus on primary, secondary, or tertiary prevention. In making these recommendations the PRC continued to consider the available funding, the composition of the current portfolio, and the programmatic priorities in the RFA which include potential for impact and return on investment, geographic distribution, cancer type and type of program. All the recommended grants address one or more of the Prevention Program priorities.

Sincerely,  
Stephen W. Wyatt, DMD, MPH  
Chair, CPRIT Prevention Review Council

Attachment



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**Cycle 23.2 Recommended Prevention Program Awards**

App. ID	Mech	Application Title	PD	Organization	Score	Rank Order	Budget
PP230078	DI	Implementation and Dissemination of an Evidence-Based Intervention to Increase Tobacco Treatment Capacity in Opioid Treatment Programs	Reitzel, Lorraine R	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	2.0	1	\$449,776
PP230060	CCC	Coordinating Center for Colorectal Cancer Screening Across Texas (CONNECT)	Shokar, Navkiran K	The University of Texas at Austin	2.3	2	\$3,000,000
PP230074	PPC	Active Living After Cancer: Combining a Physical Activity Program With Survivor Navigation	Basen-Engquist, Karen M	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	2.5	3	\$1,999,989
PP230061	PPC	Expansion of HPV Vaccination Among Survivors of Childhood Cancer	Grimes, Allison	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	3.2	4	\$999,999
PP230059	CSD	De Casa en Casa 4: Cervical Cancer Screening in Underserved Rural and Border Communities Throughout West and South Texas	Molokwu, Jennifer C	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	3.3	5	\$2,499,437
PP230003	DI	Taking Texas Tobacco Free: Dissemination to and Implementation within Centers Serving Texans who Identify as LGBTQ+	Reitzel, Lorraine R	University of Houston	3.3	6	\$448,835
PP230056	PPC	Continuation and Expansion of a Highly Successful Postpartum HPV Vaccination Program	Berenson, Abbey B	The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	3.6	7	\$2,499,207
PP230030	CSD	ACTION for Big Country	Byrd, Theresa L	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	3.7	8	\$997,266
PP230069	DI	Dissemination of the Active Living After Cancer Program	Basen-Engquist, Karen M	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	3.8	9	\$448,654

CCC: Texas Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center

CSD: Cancer Screening and Early Detection

DI: Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions

PPC: Primary Prevention of Cancer



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

August 4, 2023

Dear Oversight Committee Members:

I am pleased to present the Program Integration Committee's (PIC) unanimous recommendation for funding 29 grant applications totaling \$49,387,854. The PIC recommendations for 20 academic research and 9 prevention grant awards are attached.

Dr. Michelle Le Beau, CPRIT's Chief Scientific Officer, and Ms. Ramona Magid, CPRIT's Chief Prevention Officer, have prepared overviews of the recommended academic research and prevention slates to assist your evaluation of the recommended awards. The overviews are intended to provide a comprehensive summary with enough detail to understand the substance of the proposal and the reasons endorsing grant funding. In addition to the full overviews, all the information considered by each Review Council is available by clicking on the appropriate link in the portal. This information includes the application, peer reviewer critiques, and the CEO affidavit for each proposal.

The approval of these grant recommendations is governed by a statutory process that requires two-thirds of the members present and voting to approve each recommendation. Vince Burgess, CPRIT's Chief Compliance Officer, will certify that the review process for the recommended grants followed CPRIT's award process prior to any Oversight Committee action.

The award recommendations will not be considered final until the Oversight Committee meeting on August 16, 2023. Consistent with the non-disclosure agreement that all Oversight Committee members have signed, the recommendations should be kept confidential and not be disclosed to anyone until the award list is publicly announced at the Oversight Committee meeting. I request that Oversight Committee members not print, email, or save to your computer's hard drive any material on the portal. I appreciate your assistance in taking all necessary precautions to protect this information.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the review process or any of the projects recommended for an award, CPRIT's staff, including myself, Dr. Le Beau, and Ms. Magid are always available. Please feel free to contact us directly should you have any questions. The programs that will be supported by the CPRIT awards are an important step in our efforts to mitigate the effects of cancer in Texas.

Thank you for being part of this endeavor.

Sincerely,  
Wayne R. Roberts,  
Chief Executive Officer

## ACADEMIC RESEARCH GRANT AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The PIC unanimously recommends approval of 20 academic research grant proposals totaling \$36,044,691. The recommended grant proposals were submitted in response to the following grant mechanisms: *Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards*; *TREC: Major Instrumentation Award*; *TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award*; *TREC: Pilot Study Award*; *Recruitment of Established Investigators*; and *Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members*. The Scientific Review Council (SRC) provided the prioritized list of recommendations for grant awards to the presiding officers on July 19 and July 26, 2023.

The PIC is required to give funding priority, to the extent possible, to applications that meet one or more criteria set forth in V.T.C.A., TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 102.251(a)(2)(C). The PIC determined that these academic research proposals met the following CPRIT funding priorities:

Statutory Funding Priority	CON	TREC: MIA	TREC: PDTA	TREC: PSA	REI	RFTFM
<i>CON: Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards</i> <i>TREC: MIA - TREC: Major Instrument Award</i> <i>TREC:PDTA- TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award</i> <i>TREC:PSA - TREC: Pilot Study Award</i> <i>REI- Recruitment of Established Investigators</i> <i>RFTFM- Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty</i>						
Could lead to immediate or long-term medical and scientific breakthroughs in the area of cancer prevention or cures for cancer;	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Strengthen and enhance fundamental science in cancer research;	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ensure a comprehensive coordinated approach to cancer research;	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Are interdisciplinary or interinstitutional;	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Address federal or other major research sponsors' priorities in emerging scientific or technology Fields in the area of cancer prevention or cures for cancer;	✓	✓			✓	✓
Are matched with funds available by a private or nonprofit entity and institution or institutions of higher education;	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Are collaborative between any combination of private and nonprofit entities, public or private agencies or institutions in this state, and public or private institutions outside this state	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Have a demonstrable economic development benefit to this stat					✓	✓
Enhance research superiority at institutions of higher education in this state by creating new research superiority, attracting existing research superiority		✓			✓	✓

Statutory Funding Priority	CON	TREC: MIA	TREC: PDTA	TREC: PSA	REI	RFTFM
<i>CON: Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards</i> <i>TREC: MIA - TREC: Major Instrument Award</i> <i>TREC:PDTA- TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award</i> <i>TREC:PSA - TREC: Pilot Study Award</i> <i>REI- Recruitment of Established Investigators</i> <i>RFTFM- Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty</i>						
from institutions not located in this state and other research entities, or enhancing existing research superiority by attracting from outside this state additional researchers and resources						
Expedite innovation and product development, attract, create, or expand private sector entities that will drive a substantial increase in high-quality jobs, and increase higher education applied science or technology research capabilities						
Address the goals of the Texas Cancer Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

<b>Academic Research Grant Award Recommendations</b> <b>Cycle 23.2 and Recruitment Cycles 23.5 - 23.6</b> <i>RFTFM- Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty</i> <i>REI- Recruitment of Established Investigators</i> <i>TREC: MIA - TREC: Major Instrument Award</i> <i>TREC:PDTA- TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award</i> <i>TREC:PSA - TREC: Pilot Study Award</i>							
Rank	ID	Award Mechanism	Final Overall Score	Application Title	Candidate/PI	Organization	Budget
1	RR230040	RFTFM	1.0	First-Time, Tenure-Track: Dr. Graham Erwin	Graham Erwin	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
2	RR230042	RFTFM	1.0	First-Time Tenure-Track: Dr. Michael Robertson	Michael Robertson	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
3	RR230054	RFTFM	1.1	Nomination of Xiaofeng Qi, Ph.D. for a CPRIT recruitment of a First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Member Award	Xiaofeng Qi	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000
4	RP230446	TRECPDTA	1.1	UTEP Postdoctoral Career Transition Program in Cancer Research	Lu, Weiqin	The University of Texas at El Paso	\$850,000

<b>Academic Research Grant Award Recommendations</b> <b>Cycle 23.2 and Recruitment Cycles 23.5 - 23.6</b> <i>RFTFM- Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty</i> <i>REI- Recruitment of Established Investigators</i> <i>TREC: MIA - TREC: Major Instrument Award</i> <i>TREC:PDTA- TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award</i> <i>TREC:PSA - TREC: Pilot Study Award</i>							
<b>Rank</b>	<b>ID</b>	<b>Award Mechanism</b>	<b>Final Overall Score</b>	<b>Application Title</b>	<b>Candidate/PI</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Budget</b>
5	RR230072	RFTFM	1.3	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members - SimonEschweiler	Simon Eschweiler	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$2,000,000
6	RP230447	TRECMIA	1.4	Fluorescence-Activated Cell Sorting: FACS Aria Fusion	Kang, Min	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$901,225
7	RR230078	REI	1.5	Recruitment of Established Investigator, Simon Gayther	Simon Gayther	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	\$6,000,000
8	RR230050	RFTFM	1.9	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Zunlong Ke	Zunlong Ke	The University of Texas at Austin	\$2,000,000
9	RR230052	RFTFM	2.0	First-Time, Tenure-Track: Dr. Varun Venkataramani	Varun Venkataramani	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
10	RR230053	RFTFM	2.0	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Chen Cao	Chen Cao	The University of Texas at Dallas	\$1,800,000
11	RR230066	RFTFM	2.0	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Qian Yin	Qian Yin	The University of Texas at Austin	\$2,000,000



<b>Academic Research Grant Award Recommendations</b> <b>Cycle 23.2 and Recruitment Cycles 23.5 - 23.6</b> <i>RFTFM- Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty</i> <i>REI- Recruitment of Established Investigators</i> <i>TREC: MIA - TREC: Major Instrument Award</i> <i>TREC:PDTA- TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award</i> <i>TREC:PSA - TREC: Pilot Study Award</i>							
Rank	ID	Award Mechanism	Final Overall Score	Application Title	Candidate/PI	Organization	Budget
12	RP230449	TRECMIA	2.0	The acquisition of an instrument suite to set up a high-throughput screening core at Texas A&M University	Liu, Wenshe	Texas A&M University	\$995,767
13	RP230445	TRECMIA	2.2	Core Imaging Instrumentation for Cancer Studies in Rodent Models: Acquisition of an IVIS Spectrum/Quantum GX2 optical/microCT Small Animal Imaging System	Becker, Christopher	Baylor University	\$997,701
14	RR230081	RFTFM	2.6	Nomination of Annika Wylie for CPRIT Recruitment of First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Member	Annika Wylie	Southern Methodist University	\$2,000,000
15	RP230443	TRECPSA	2.9	“Click” Assembled Colloidal Molecules with Tunable Plasmon Bands as Novel Agents for Photothermal Tumor Therapy	Liang, Hongjun	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$200,000
16	RP230454	TRECPSA	2.9	Role of transcription factor UBTF in pancreatic cancer	Hafeez, Bilal	The University of Texas Rio	\$200,000

<b>Academic Research Grant Award Recommendations</b> <b>Cycle 23.2 and Recruitment Cycles 23.5 - 23.6</b> <i>RFTFM- Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty</i> <i>REI- Recruitment of Established Investigators</i> <i>TREC: MIA - TREC: Major Instrument Award</i> <i>TREC:PDTA- TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award</i> <i>TREC:PSA - TREC: Pilot Study Award</i>							
Rank	ID	Award Mechanism	Final Overall Score	Application Title	Candidate/PI	Organization	Budget
						Grande Valley	
17	RP230431	TRECPSA	3.2	Unraveling the Therapeutic Potential of Osr1 Overexpression in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Management	Xie, Linglin	Texas A&M University	\$200,000
18	RP230444	TRECPSA	3.6	A Role for PSMD2, PSMD7, and PSMD9 in Drug Resistance of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)	Eiring, Anna	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	\$200,000
19	RP230451	TRECPSA	3.7	The Role of Renal Lipotoxicity in Carcinogenesis	Bobulescu, Ion	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$200,000

<b>Academic Research Grant Award Recommendations</b> <b>Cycle 23.2 Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards</b>							
Rank	ID	Award Mechanism	Final Overall Score	Application Title	Candidate/PI	Organization	Budget
1	RP230426	Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards.	2.8	Baylor Scott and White Health Texas Connect for Cancer Prevention Cohort	Katherine Sanchez, Ph.D.	Baylor Research Institute	\$7,499,998

## PREVENTION GRANT AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The PIC unanimously recommends approval of nine prevention grant proposals totaling \$13,343,163. The recommended grant proposals were submitted in response to the following grant mechanisms: *Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center*; *Cancer Screening and Early Detection*; *Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions*; and *Primary Prevention of Cancer*. The Prevention Review Council (PRC) provided the prioritized list of recommendations to the presiding officers on June 28, 2023.

The PIC is required to give funding priority, to the extent possible, to applications that meet one or more criteria set forth in V.T.C.A., TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 102.251(a)(2)(C). The PIC determined that these product development research proposals met the following CPRIT funding priorities:

Statutory Funding Priority	CCC	CSD	DI	PPC
CCC: Texas Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center CSD: Cancer Screening and Early Detection DI: Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions PPC: Primary Prevention of Cancer				
Could lead to immediate or long-term medical and scientific breakthroughs in the area of cancer prevention or cures for cancer;	✓			
Strengthen and enhance fundamental science in cancer research;	✓			
Ensure a comprehensive coordinated approach to cancer research;	✓	✓	✓	✓
Are interdisciplinary or interinstitutional;	✓			
Address federal or other major research sponsors' priorities in emerging scientific or technology Fields in the area of cancer prevention or cures for cancer;	✓			
Are matched with funds available by a private or nonprofit entity and institution or institutions of higher education;	✓			
Are collaborative between any combination of private and nonprofit entities, public or private agencies or institutions in this state, and public or private institutions outside this state	✓	✓	✓	✓
Have a demonstrable economic development benefit to this state		✓	✓	✓
Enhance research superiority at institutions of higher education in this state by creating new research superiority, attracting existing research superiority from institutions not located in this state and other research entities, or enhancing existing research superiority by attracting from outside this state additional researchers and resources				
Expedite innovation and product development, attract, create, or expand private sector entities that will drive a substantial increase in high-quality jobs, and increase higher education applied science or technology research capabilities				
Address the goals of the Texas Cancer Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓

<b>Prevention Grant Award Recommendations</b> <b>Cycle 23.2</b> <i>CCC: Texas Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center</i> <i>CSD: Cancer Screening and Early Detection</i> <i>DI: Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions</i> <i>PPC: Primary Prevention of Cancer</i>							
App. ID	Mech	Application Title	PD	Organization	Score	Rank Order	Budget
PP230078	DI	Implementation and Dissemination of an Evidence-Based Intervention to Increase Tobacco Treatment Capacity in Opioid Treatment Programs	Reitzel, Lorraine R	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	2.0	1	\$449,776
PP230060	CCC	Coordinating Center for Colorectal Cancer Screening Across Texas (CONNECT)	Shokar, Navkiran K	The University of Texas at Austin	2.3	2	\$3,000,000
PP230074	PPC	Active Living After Cancer: Combining a Physical Activity Program With Survivor Navigation	Basen-Engquist, Karen M	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	2.5	3	\$1,999,989
PP230061	PPC	Expansion of HPV Vaccination Among Survivors of Childhood Cancer	Grimes, Allison	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	3.2	4	\$999,999
PP230059	CSD	De Casa en Casa 4: Cervical Cancer Screening in Underserved Rural and Border Communities Throughout West and South Texas	Molokwu, Jennifer C	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	3.3	5	\$2,499,437
PP230003	DI	Taking Texas Tobacco Free: Dissemination to and Implementation within CentersServing Texans who Identify as LGBTQ+	Reitzel, Lorraine R	University of Houston	3.3	6	\$448,835
PP230056	PPC	Continuation and Expansion of a Highly Successful Postpartum HPV Vaccination Program	Berenson, Abbey B	The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	3.6	7	\$2,499,207
PP230030	CSD	ACTION for Big Country	Byrd, Theresa L	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	3.7	8	\$997,266

<b>Prevention Grant Award Recommendations</b> <b>Cycle 23.2</b> <i>CCC: Texas Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center</i> <i>CSD: Cancer Screening and Early Detection</i> <i>DI: Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions</i> <i>PPC: Primary Prevention of Cancer</i>							
<b>App. ID</b>	<b>Mech</b>	<b>Application Title</b>	<b>PD</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Rank Order</b>	<b>Budget</b>
PP230069	DI	Dissemination of the Active Living After Cancer Program	Basen-Engquist, Karen M	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	3.8	9	\$448,654



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
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**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
**FROM:** VINCE BURGESS, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER  
**SUBJECT:** COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION – AUGUST 2023 AWARDS  
**DATE:** AUGUST 4, 2023

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**Summary and Recommendation:**

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

- Recruitment of Established Investigators
- Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members
- Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Award
- TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award
- TREC: Major Instrument Award
- TREC: Pilot Study Award
- Cancer Screening and Early Detection
- Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center
- Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions
- Primary Prevention of Cancer

I have conferred with staff at CPRIT and General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT), CPRIT's contracted third-party grants administrator, regarding the academic research and prevention awards and studied the supporting grant review documentation, including third-party observer reports for the peer review meetings. I am satisfied that the application review process that resulted in the above mechanisms recommended by the Program Integration Committee (PIC) followed applicable laws and agency administrative rules. I certify the academic research and prevention award recommendations for the Oversight Committee's consideration.

Two applications recommended by the Program Integration Committee (PIC) to the Oversight Committee for the August 16, 2023, meeting were initially reviewed during cycle 23.1; however, the

Prevention Review Council (PRC) took no action on the applications at that time. The PRC recommended two cycle 23.1 applications with the cycle 23.2 awards at their June 19, 2023, meeting. I certified the cycle one Cancer Screening and Early Detection mechanism and the Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions mechanism for the February 15, 2023, Oversight Committee meeting; therefore, I will not repeat the certification here but instead will make available copies of those previous certifications.

### **Background:**

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

CPRIT uses a compliance pedigree process to formally document compliance for the grant award process. The compliance pedigree tracks the grant application as it moves through the review process and documents compliance with applicable laws and administrative rules. A compliance pedigree is created for each application; the information related to the procedural steps listed on the pedigree is entered and attested to by GDIT employees and CPRIT employees. CPRIT relies on GDIT to accurately record a majority of the information on the pedigree from the pre-receipt stage to final Review Council recommendation. To the greatest extent possible, information reported in the compliance pedigree is imported directly from data contained in CPRIT's Application Receipt System (CARS), the grant application database managed by GDIT. This is done to minimize the opportunity for error caused by manual data entry.

### **No Prohibited Donations:**

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

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

### **Pre-Receipt Compliance:**

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

### **Academic Research:**

*For recruitment cycles 23.5 and 23.6, five applications were received for the Recruitment of Established Investigators RFA and 17 applications were received in response to the Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members RFA.*

*In response to the academic, non-recruitment RFAs for cycle 23.2, CPRIT received 26 applications: four applications for the Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Award RFA, three applications for the TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award RFA, five applications for the TREC: Major Instrument Award RFA, and 14 applications for the TREC: Pilot Study Award RFA.*

*All academic research RFAs were posted on the Texas.gov eGrants website and all applications were submitted through CARS.*

### **Prevention:**

*For prevention cycle 23.2, five applications were received for the Cancer Screening and Early Detection RFA, two applications were received for the Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center, three applications were received for the Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions RFA, and 15 applications were received for the Primary Prevention of Cancer RFA. I note that two applications submitted to cycle 23.1 and recommended as 'no action' were reviewed as*



*part of cycle 23.2. Five prevention applications were administratively withdrawn for being non-responsive to the RFA.*

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

### **Receipt, Referral, and Assignment Compliance:**

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

*The pedigrees attest that a conflict of interest statement was signed by each primary reviewer for each Grant Application.*

#### **Academic Research:**

*No academic research applications were withdrawn during this cycle.*

#### **Prevention:**

*Five prevention applications were administratively withdrawn prior to peer review assignment.*

### **Peer Review:**

Primary reviewers (typically three) must submit written critiques for each of their assigned applications prior to the peer review meeting. Sign out sheets are used to document when a reviewer with a conflict of interest associated with a particular application leaves the room (or disengages from the conference call) during the discussion and scoring of the application.

Following the peer review meeting, each participating peer reviewer must sign a post-review peer review statement certifying that the reviewer knew of and understood CPRIT's conflict of interest policy and followed the policy for this review process. After the peer review meetings, a final score report from the review committee is delivered to the Review Council for additional review.

#### **Academic Research:**

*For the recruitment awards, the applications are reviewed by the Scientific Review Council (SRC), which assigns two members of the SRC to be primary reviewers. I reviewed the supporting documentation, such as the sign-out sheets, third-party observer reports, and post-review peer reviewer statements. Sign out sheets are used to document when a reviewer with a conflict of interest associated with a particular application leaves the room (or disengages from the conference call) during the discussion and scoring of the application. Four conflicts of interest were declared by the SRC for recruitment cycles 23.5 and 23.6.*

*I reviewed and confirmed that the post review conflict of interest statements were signed by the nine SRC members that attended the 23.5 Recruitment Review Panel meeting on May 18, 2023, and the eight SRC members that attended the 23.6 Recruitment Review Panel on July 13, 2023.*

*Academic research applications (non-recruitment) are reviewed by peer review panels and recommended to the SRC. As documented by GDIT, reviewers with conflicts of interest did not participate in review of those applications. I reviewed supporting documentation, such as conflict of interest statements (COIs), third-party observer reports, and sign out sheets. All declared COIs left the room or disengaged from the conference call and did not participate in the discussion of relevant applications. I note that there was an investigation into a potential undisclosed conflict of interest during a panel's review of a cycle two grant mechanism; however, the investigation resulted in a finding of no such conflict of interest.*

*I also reviewed and confirmed that the post review conflict of interest statements were signed by peer review members for each review panel as well as the seven SRC members that attended the Review Council meeting on July 13, 2023 and the CONNECT Review Council meeting on July 26, 2023.*

#### *Prevention:*

*For the Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center RFA, applications are reviewed by the Prevention Review Council (PRC), which assigns two members of the PRC to be primary reviewers. All other Prevention applications are reviewed by peer review panels and then sent to the PRC.*

*I reviewed the supporting documentation, such as the sign-out sheets, third-party observer reports, and post-review peer reviewer statements. As documented by GDIT and verified by third-party observer reports, reviewers with conflicts of interest did not participate in review of those applications. All declared COIs left the room or disengaged from the conference call and did not participate in the discussion of relevant applications.*

*I reviewed and confirmed that the post review conflict of interest statements were signed by 12 peer review members for Prevention Panel 1 on May 24-25, 2023, the three PRC members that attended the Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center Panel and the PRC meeting on June 19, 2023.*

## **Programmatic Review:**

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

*To the extent that any Review Council member identified a conflict of interest, I reviewed documentation confirming that the review council member did not participate in the discussion or vote on the application(s).*

*I also reviewed the third-party observer reports for each Review Council meeting. The third-party observer reports document that the Review Council discussions were limited to the merits of the applications and established evaluation criteria and that conflicted reviewers, if applicable, exited the room or the conference call when the application was discussed.*

*For the Academic Research and Prevention awards, I reviewed and confirmed that the Review Council recommendations corresponded to RFAs that had been released. I also confirmed that the pedigrees reflect the date of the Review Council meeting and that the applications were recommended by the Review Council.*

## **Academic Research:**

*The SRC met on July 13, 2023, and July 26, 2023, to consider 10 applications recommended by the peer review panels following their meetings held on June 13, 2023, and June 16, 2023. After review of these applications, the SRC recommended 10 applications to the Program Integration Committee (PIC) for consideration. In addition, 10 academic recruitment applications were recommended to the PIC by the SRC at their meetings on May 18, 2023, and July 13, 2023.*

## **Prevention:**

*The PRC met on June 19, 2023, to review 13 applications discussed by the peer review panel on May 24-25, 2023, along with the two applications that were brought forward from cycle 23.1. The PRC recommended eight of these applications to move forward to the PIC. In addition, one Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center application was recommended by the PRC at their meeting on June 19, 2023. The PRC recommended a total of nine applications to the PIC for consideration.*

## **Program Integration Committee (PIC) Review:**

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

for each Grant Application recommended by the PIC containing relevant information related to the Grant Application recommendations.

*I attended the August 2, 2023, PIC meeting as an observer and confirm that the PIC review process complied with CPRIT's statute and administrative rules. Four of the five PIC members were present for the meeting.*

*The PIC considered 29 applications that were recommended by the SRC and PRC. The PIC voted to recommend 29 applications to move forward to the Oversight Committee.*

*A review of the CEO affidavits confirms that such affidavits were executed and provided for each grant application recommendation.*



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

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**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
**FROM:** VINCE BURGESS, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER  
**SUBJECT:** COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION – FEBRUARY 2023 AWARDS  
**DATE:** FEBRUARY 3, 2023

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**Summary and Recommendation:**

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

- Recruitment of Established Investigators
- Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members
- Individual Investigator Research Awards
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Childhood and Adolescent Cancers
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Computational Systems Biology of Cancer
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Clinical Translation
- Individual Investigator Research Awards for Prevention and Early Detection
- Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer
- Cancer Screening and Early Detection
- Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions
- Primary Prevention of Cancer

I have conferred with staff at CPRIT and General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT), CPRIT's contracted third-party grants administrator, regarding the academic research and prevention awards and studied the supporting grant review documentation, including third-party observer reports for the peer review meetings. I am satisfied that the application review process that resulted in the above mechanisms recommended by the Program Integration Committee (PIC) followed applicable laws and agency administrative rules. I certify the academic research and prevention award recommendations for the Oversight Committee's consideration.

**Background:**

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

CPRIT uses a compliance pedigree process to formally document compliance for the grant award process. The compliance pedigree tracks the grant application as it moves through the review process and documents compliance with applicable laws and administrative rules. A compliance pedigree is created for each application; the information related to the procedural steps listed on the pedigree is entered and attested to by GDIT employees and CPRIT employees. CPRIT relies on GDIT to accurately record a majority of the information on the pedigree from the pre-receipt stage to final Review Council recommendation. To the greatest extent possible, information reported in the compliance pedigree is imported directly from data contained in CPRIT's Application Receipt System (CARS), the grant application database managed by GDIT. This is done to minimize the opportunity for error caused by manual data entry.

**No Prohibited Donations:**

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

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

**Pre-Receipt Compliance:**

The activities listed on a compliance pedigree in the pre-receipt stage cover the period beginning with CPRIT's approval and issuance of the Request for Applications (RFA) through the submission of grant applications. For the period covering these RFAs, CPRIT published the

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

#### Academic Research:

*For recruitment cycles 23.2 and 23.3, three applications were received for the Recruitment of Established Investigators RFA and four applications were received in response to the Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members RFA.*

*In response to the academic, non-recruitment RFAs for cycle 23.1, CPRIT received 333 applications. Two applications were administratively withdrawn, and two applications were voluntarily withdrawn by the applicant.*

*All academic research RFAs were posted on the Texas.gov eGrants website and all applications were submitted through CARS.*

#### Prevention:

*For prevention cycle 23.1, nine applications were received for the Cancer Screening and Early Detection RFA, six applications were received for the Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions RFA, and 13 applications were received for the Primary Prevention of Cancer RFA. Four prevention applications were administratively withdrawn for being non-responsive to the RFA.*

*All prevention RFAs were posted on the Texas.gov eGrants website and all applications were submitted through CARS. Two applicants requested an extension to submit an application after the deadline. The program officer determined that there was good cause for both requests and the deadline was extended.*

#### **Receipt, Referral, and Assignment Compliance:**

Once applications have been submitted through CARS, GDIT staff reviews the applications for compliance with RFA directions. If an applicant does not comply with the directions, GDIT notifies the program officer, and the program officer makes the final decision whether to administratively



withdraw the application. Recruitment grant applications are assigned to the Scientific Review Council members for peer review. All other academic research, product development research, and prevention applications are assigned by the peer review panel chair to their respective peer review panels. Prior to distribution of the applications, reviewers are given summary information about the applicant, including the Project Director and collaborators. Reviewers must sign a conflict of interest agreement and confirm that they do not have a conflict of interest with the application before they are provided with the full application.

*The pedigrees attest that a conflict of interest statement was signed by each primary reviewer for each Grant Application.*

Academic Research:

*Four academic research, non-recruitment applications were withdrawn during this cycle: two applications were administratively withdrawn prior to peer review, one application was voluntarily withdrawn by the applicant prior to assignment and one application was withdrawn by the applicant after peer review but prior to the Scientific Review Council (SRC) meeting.*

Prevention:

*Four prevention applications were administratively withdrawn prior to peer review assignment.*

**Peer Review:**

Primary reviewers (typically three) must submit written critiques for each of their assigned applications prior to the peer review meeting. Sign out sheets are used to document when a reviewer with a conflict of interest associated with a particular application leaves the room (or disengages from the conference call) during the discussion and scoring of the application.

Following the peer review meeting, each participating peer reviewer must sign a post-review peer review statement certifying that the reviewer knew of and understood CPRIT's conflict of interest policy and followed the policy for this review process. After the peer review meetings, a final score report from the review committee is delivered to the Review Council for additional review.

Academic Research:

*For the recruitment awards, the applications are reviewed by the Scientific Review Council (SRC), which assigns two members of the SRC to be primary reviewers. I reviewed the supporting documentation, such as the sign-out sheets, third-party observer reports, and post-review peer reviewer statements. Sign out sheets are used to document when a reviewer with a conflict of interest associated with a particular application leaves the room (or disengages from the conference call) during the discussion and scoring of the application. No conflicts of interest were declared by the SRC for recruitment cycles 23.2 and 23.3.*



*I reviewed and confirmed that the post review conflict of interest statements were signed by the six SRC members that attended the 23.2 Recruitment Review Panel meeting on November 10, 2022 and the eight SRC members that attended the 23.3 Recruitment Review Panel on January 12, 2023.*

*Academic research applications (non-recruitment) are reviewed by peer review panels and recommended to the SRC. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was used for applications in the Individual Investigator Mechanisms in this cycle. This process allows the peer review panel chairperson to determine which grant applications move forward to full review from preliminary evaluation. The chairperson's decision is based on several factors including the preliminary evaluation scores by the assigned primary reviewers and their comments. A total of 211 applications across the five Individual Investigator mechanism were recommended for full review and of those, 110 applications received a full onsite peer review. As documented by GDIT, reviewers with conflicts of interest did not participate in review of those applications. I reviewed supporting documentation, such as conflict of interest statements (COIs), third-party observer reports, and sign out sheets. All declared COIs left the room or disengaged from the conference call and did not participate in the discussion of relevant applications.*

*I also reviewed and confirmed that the post review conflict of interest statements were signed by peer review members for each review panel as well as the eight SRC members that attended the Review Council meeting on December 22, 2022.*

#### **Prevention:**

*For the Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions RFA, the applications are reviewed by the Prevention Review Council (PRC), which assigns two members of the PRC to be primary reviewers. All other Prevention applications are reviewed by peer review panels and then sent to the PRC.*

*I reviewed the supporting documentation, such as the sign-out sheets, third-party observer reports, and post-review peer reviewer statements. As documented by GDIT and verified by third-party observer reports, reviewers with conflicts of interest did not participate in review of those applications. All declared COIs left the room or disengaged from the conference call and did not participate in the discussion of relevant applications.*

*I reviewed and confirmed that the post review conflict of interest statements were signed by 10 peer review members for Prevention Panel 1 on December 5, 2022, and the three PRC members that attended the Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions Panel on January 6, 2023, and the PRC meeting on January 13, 2023.*

#### **Programmatic Review:**

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

*To the extent that any Review Council member identified a conflict of interest, I reviewed documentation confirming that the review council member did not participate in the discussion or vote on the application(s).*

*I also reviewed the third-party observer reports for each Review Council meeting. The third-party observer reports document that the Review Council discussions were limited to the merits of the applications and established evaluation criteria and that conflicted reviewers, if applicable, exited the room or the conference call when the application was discussed.*

*For the Academic Research and Prevention awards, I reviewed and confirmed that the Review Council recommendations corresponded to RFAs that had been released. I also confirmed that the pedigrees reflect the date of the Review Council meeting and that the applications were recommended by the Review Council.*

Academic Research:

*The SRC met on December 22, 2022, to consider 59 applications recommended by the peer review panels following their meetings held on October 24-31 and November 29, 2022. After review of these applications, the SRC recommended 59 applications to the Program Integration Committee (PIC) for consideration. In addition, six academic recruitment applications were recommended to the PIC by the SRC at their meetings on November 10, 2023, and January 12, 2023.*

*Four Individual Investigator Research Awards grant applications and two Individual Investigator Research Awards for Cancer in Children and Adolescents grant applications are not recommended for funding with scores that are the same as or more favorable than some applications that were recommended within each mechanism. An application's score establishes its position relative to other applications reviewed by its assigned panel, but not relative to other panels. CPRIT has no policy that specifies a score that guarantees an application will or will not be recommended for funding. I am satisfied that the individual panels followed CPRIT's review policies in creating the panel's list of recommended awards.*

Prevention:

*Eight applications were recommended by the peer review panel to the PRC. After review and discussion of these applications, the PRC recommended all eight applications to the PIC for consideration.*

*The PRC took no action on one application that was submitted for the Cancer Screening and Early Detection RFA and one application that was submitted for the Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions RFA.*

**Program Integration Committee (PIC) Review:**

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

*I attended the February 1, 2023, PIC meeting as an observer and confirm that the PIC review process complied with CPRIT's statute and administrative rules. All five PIC members were present for the meeting.*

*The PIC considered 73 applications that were recommended by the SRC and PRC. Because the SRC recommendations exceeded available funds, Dr. Le Beau recommended 40 of the 65 academic research applications be recommended to the Oversight Committee and defer action on the remaining 25 Individual Investigator applications recommended by the SRC with overall scores of 2.8 and higher. The PIC voted to recommend 48 applications to move forward to the Oversight Committee.*

*Similarly, Dr. Smith recommended that the PIC defer the six grant applications recommended by the Product Development Review Council on January 30. The recommendations exceeded the amount of funds available for product development awards for the remainder in the fiscal year. Dr. Smith explained that deferring the six product development application recommendations would allow him time to negotiate budget reductions with the companies. The PIC voted to defer all PDRC recommendations until the May 2023 PIC meeting.*

*A review of the CEO affidavits confirms that such affidavits were executed and provided for each grant application recommendation.*



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

# **CEO Affidavit Supporting Information**

**Academic Research  
FY 2023—Cycle 2**

***Texas CONNECT for Cancer  
Prevention Study Awards***

# Request for Applications

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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**  
**RFA R-23.2 Connect**

**The Texas Connect for Cancer Prevention Study:**

**A Prospective Cohort to Study Cancer Etiology, Prevention,  
and Early Detection**

**Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document,  
which will be posted on January 25, 2023**

**Application Receipt Opening Date:** January 25, 2023

**Application Receipt Closing Date:** April 18, 2023

**FY2023**

Fiscal Year Award Period  
September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023

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## **RFA VERSION HISTORY**

Rev	01/17/23	RFA released
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## 1. KEY POINTS

- Supports applications to recruit 25,000 to 35,000 adults (40 to 65 years of age) into a prospective, longitudinal, multicenter study within integrated health care systems (IHCSs) in the United States as a participating site in the NCI Connect for Cancer Prevention Study (<https://github.com/episphere/connect/wiki>; see also the public site at <https://www.cancer.gov/connect-prevention-study/>) to provide a powerful platform to study cancer etiology, prevention, and early detection.
- Applicants may request a maximum of \$1,500,000 per year for a 5-year period.
- Multi-Principal Investigators (PIs) (MIs) are not allowed under this RFA, although Coinvestigators (Co-Is) may be included.
- Note that CPRIT does not allow the use of the term Co-PI.
- Minimum effort for the PI throughout the project period is required.

Note that key sections of this RFA are adapted from the NCI Connect for Cancer Prevention Study (IRB #000034, NCT04609072), available under [Current Funding Opportunities](#) for Academic Research in CARS.

Applicants are encouraged to review the IRB protocol

([https://github.com/episphere/connect/blob/master/about%20connect/connect\\_protocol\\_v1.5\\_07212021\\_clean.pdf](https://github.com/episphere/connect/blob/master/about%20connect/connect_protocol_v1.5_07212021_clean.pdf)) for detailed information on Connect study design, study assessment and procedures, statistical considerations, regulatory and operational considerations, governance structure, and other considerations.

- The Connect study is run by the Coordinating Center within the NCI Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genomics (DCEG), with support services provided by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago (NORC). Four initial awards have been established to set up recruitment at 9 individual IHCSs:
  1. Henry Ford Health with Health Partners and Marshfield Clinic Health System
  2. Kaiser Permanente Colorado with Kaiser Permanente Georgia, Kaiser Permanente Hawaii, and Kaiser Permanente Northwest
  3. Sanford Health
  4. The University of Chicago Medicine and Comprehensive Cancer Center

- One or more sites in Texas will be funded by CPRIT and will participate as full members of the Connect study. The NCI DCEG Coordinating Center will establish a collaborative agreement with participating institution(s) in Texas and will assist with field activities, such as developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) and the manual of operating procedures (MOOPs), as well as training research staff to implement the MOOPs. NORC will also provide Helpdesk support, conduct linkages, and aid efforts to follow participants who leave the IHCS.
- **Structure and Governance of Connect Study.** The Connect study organizational structure is described in Appendix 1 of the Connect Study Protocol (#000034), and includes leadership committees, the DCEG Steering Committee and Executive Committee, as well as the Resource Access Committee (RAC), which are supported by the functions of the Coordinating Center, as well as external guidance from the International Scientific Advisory Board and the Connect Patient Advisory Board. Scientific review of the Connect study will be conducted by the DCEG Senior Advisory Group.
- **Institutional Study Team.** Key personnel may include PI, Co-I or Project Manager, Programmer(s), Biospecimen Collection Manager/Study Manager, and Research Assistants/Phlebotomists. Select responsibilities of the study team are summarized in Table 1.
- **Responsibilities of Participating Institution**
  - Institution must be willing and able to utilize the NIH IRB.
  - Institution must be willing to provide electronic medical record (EMR) or insurance claims data broadly defined to include medical history, medical imaging, and any other health-related data such as pathology reports and insurance claims data among study participants who provide HIPAA authorization to NCI using a secure file transfer protocol server with data encrypted in transit and during rest.

- Institution must be willing to allow and facilitate use of the EMR to contact patients for recruitment and enrollment in routine questionnaires and sample collection, etc, through patient access portals, eg, MyChart, and provide demographic information including age, race and ethnicity, and sex (male/female at birth or current) among all people invited to the study.

**Table 1. Select Responsibilities of Participating Study Team**

Team Member	Responsibilities (abbreviated list)
Site PI & other senior leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify clinical champions to promote Connect</li> <li>○ Contribute to development of study enhancements</li> </ul>
Programmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop algorithms with EMR data to identify and verify eligible patients</li> <li>○ Connect to existing application programming interfaces (APIs) for bidirectional data transfer</li> <li>○ Transfer EMR data via file transfer protocol</li> </ul>
Study & Biospecimen Manager(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Customize template SOPs</li> <li>○ Customize recruitment assets</li> <li>○ Collaborate on enhanced recruitment strategies</li> </ul>
Research Assistants/ Phlebotomists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Navigate participant through biospecimen collection</li> <li>○ Draw and ship blood or other biospecimens</li> </ul>

- **Future Use of Stored Specimens and Data.** Biological specimens will be stored temporarily at appropriate temperatures at the collection facilities, eg, study site, until transferred to the Connect processing facility (Frederick National Laboratory operated currently by Leidos Biomed) for permanent storage. Deidentified study data, such as survey or EMR data, and biospecimens (collectively referred to as the “Connect Resource”) will be available for the research community through a continuum of open to controlled access mechanisms, managed by the Connect Resource Access Committee (see IRB Protocol #000034, Appendix 1 *Study Governance Structure*) and available on the Connect Data Platform. Scientific researchers will be able to request access through a multistep process coordinated by the DCEG Connect Coordinating Center and directed by the RAC. Researchers with projects approved by the RAC will be able to access individual-level data and specimens after receiving IRB approval, if required, and signing

a Data Transfer Agreement and/or Materials Transfer Agreement as appropriate with the NCI. **It is understood that institutions may also be conducting other IRB-approved studies, including other cohort studies, and that some participants in Connect may also be participating in other institutional studies.**

- The study population consists of patients or members of participating IHCS at the time of enrollment with no personal history of cancer and aged between 40 and 65 years old at study invitation. **The enrollment of ethnic and racial minority populations, particularly Latino men and women, is a high priority for participating sites in Texas.**

## **2. ABOUT CPRIT**

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

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

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

### **2.1. Academic Research Program Priorities**

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

Established Principles:

- Scientific excellence and impact on cancer
- Increasing the life sciences infrastructure in all regions of the state
- Achieving health equity and reducing cancer disparities

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

- Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas
- Investment in core facilities
- A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects
- Implementation research to accelerate the adoption and deployment of evidence-based prevention and screening interventions
- Computational oncology and analytic methods
- Childhood and adolescent cancers
- Hepatocellular cancer
- Expanding access to innovative clinical trials

### **3. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE**

**This section has been adapted from the Connect IRB protocol (#000034).**

#### **3.1. Background**

Over 1.9 million people in the United States had a diagnosis of cancer in 2022, and over 609,000 people died of cancer-related causes. Nationally, this places cancer as the second leading cause of death, after cardiovascular diseases. Although treatments for cancer are improving and there are promising advances through personalized medicine, the total number of cancer diagnoses is expected to increase substantially over the next decade, in large part due to the aging of the population and behavioral/lifestyle changes. The risk of developing cancer depends on the complex interplay of multiple factors, including our genes; age and gender, lifestyle, and behavioral factors such as diet, energy balance, physical activity, tobacco, and alcohol; endogenous factors such as hormones and growth factors; medication and drug use; infectious agents; and exposures in our surrounding environment and workplace. Therefore, research on the causes of primary and second cancers as well as prevention strategies are critical to reduce the burden of cancer in the population.

Given the changing nature of most cancer-related exposures over time and over an individual's lifespan, a prospective cohort study design, ie, a longitudinal study to determine how carcinogenic changes unfold over time (through detection of early lesions of cancer and changes

in biomarkers), is essential to make progress in our understanding of the causes of cancer. Ascertainment of disease diagnoses, treatment courses, laboratory tests, and other outcomes in prospective cohort studies in the United States is logistically very complex and expensive due to the lack of an organized health care system with comprehensive coverage, as exists in many other countries with government-run health care systems. IHCSs (formerly called HMOs) are the exception. These organizations have several important characteristics including provision of comprehensive health care to their members through a range of coordinated health care facilities and services, and storage of all health care information on their members in a central database. The existing infrastructure provides a highly efficient setting for the proposed new cohort. Major advantages of IHCSs include the availability of comprehensive EMRs, a passive follow-up system that is both cost effective and highly complete, existing clinical infrastructure for specimen collection, and the long-term stability of the population.

### **3.2. Rationale**

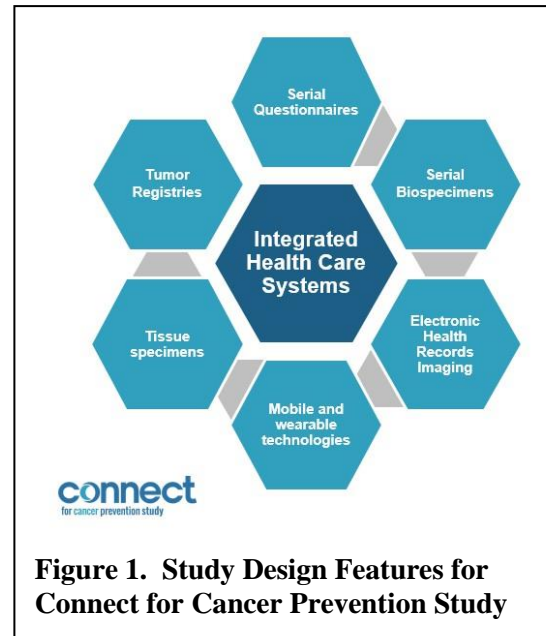
The central focus of the Connect cohort is to understand the etiology and natural history of cancer to inform new approaches in precision prevention and early detection of cancer. A number of recent developments in the assessment of external and internal exposures, as well as tissue characterization, provide unprecedented opportunities to advance the field of cancer epidemiology and prevention. Most notably, these include the following:

- Widespread use of electronic devices and applications in the digital age that facilitate engagement of study participants to provide and receive health information;
- Opportunities for high-quality exposure assessment using innovative technologies such as wearable devices to measure behavior and environment;
- Increased availability and quality of EMR and medical imaging for assessment of health conditions and medications;
- New, cost-effective methodologies to interrogate the genome, epigenome, transcriptome, proteome, metabolome, microbiome, and other biological processes;
- Increased availability and quality of databases for data linkages, including pollution monitoring, pharmaceutical records, and cancer registries; and
- Advances in molecular profiling of tumors and precursor lesions to study the natural history of cancer and etiologic heterogeneity across tumor subtypes.

These technologies coupled with new methods in complex analytics of integrated high-dimensional data provide powerful tools to address the primary objectives of the Connect study (see [section 4.2](#), Primary Objectives).

**Key characteristics** of the Connect cohort (Figure 1) designed to address a broad range of scientific questions related to cancer include the following:

1. Large sample size to identify a sufficient number of participants who develop incident cancer.
2. Serial exposure assessment and biological specimen collections to study changing exposures/biomarkers and evaluate critical exposure windows prior to disease diagnosis.
3. Collection and storage protocols for biological specimens that are adequate for new assays and technologies.
4. Longitudinal (which may include retrospective) access to EMRs to obtain information on medication use, medical conditions, medical screening, and medical (including cancer) diagnoses.
5. Longitudinal (which may include retrospective) collection of tissue specimens from malignant tumors as well as benign or precursor lesions to study the natural history of cancer and molecular subtypes of cancer.



**Figure 1. Study Design Features for Connect for Cancer Prevention Study**

This state-of-the-art cohort employs an efficient, flexible, and integrated cloud-based infrastructure that utilizes modern interoperability standards to serve as a research workhorse for future generations of scientists. Although the primary end points of interest for this cohort are cancer incidence and mortality, the infrastructure will be designed to also enable collaborative studies of general research use and ancillary enhancements. **This RFA solicits applications for CPRIT-supported participation of a Texas institution(s) as member of the Connect study with the long-term potential to identify social, environmental, behavioral, and genetic factors that underlie cancer risk among Texans.**



## 4. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

CPRIT will support a recruitment site(s) in Texas to participate in the Connect study, a prospective cohort to understand the etiology and natural history of cancer to inform new approaches in precision prevention and early detection of cancer. The objectives identified in the Connect study (IRB Protocol #000034, NCT04609072) are provided below.

### 4.1. Objectives

The overarching objective is to recruit approximately 200,000 adults into a prospective, multicenter study within IHCSs in the United States to provide a powerful platform for studying the etiology, prevention, and early detection of cancer (Table 2).

**Table 2. Objectives of the Connect Study.**

OBJECTIVES	END POINTS	JUSTIFICATION FOR END POINTS
Primary		
The <b>overarching objective</b> is to recruit 200,000 adults aged 40 to 65 years into a prospective, multicenter study within IHCSs in the United States using a powerful digital platform. The <b>primary objective</b> is to study associations of end points in the cancer continuum with multilevel factors, including behavioral, biological, environmental, medical, and social factors.	Cancer transformation, incidence, progression, and mortality end points could include, but are not limited to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• early biological effects (eg, inflammation or metabolomic markers) related to cancer</li> <li>• intermediate biomarkers</li> <li>• cancer precursors</li> <li>• cancer incidence</li> <li>• cause of death</li> <li>• cancer survival, risk of second cancers and survivorship</li> </ul>	These end points will facilitate inferences on <b>cancer etiology and natural history</b> to provide insights into carcinogenic processes and inform new approaches <b>in risk assessment and early detection of cancer</b> (see below for additional detail). Studying the cancer continuum will improve translation of epidemiologic findings to public health and clinical practice.
Secondary		
The <b>secondary objective</b> is to create a publicly available resource of deidentified data and biological sample repository to registered users for general research use.	The end points are numerous and could include methodological research, human biology, ancestry, evolution, or health-related outcomes.	The Connect study is a rich resource that will benefit the progress of science for years to come.
Tertiary/Exploratory		
Not applicable		

## 4.2. Primary Objectives

**Etiology of Cancer:** This prospective cohort will enable studies to identify and characterize biological, behavioral, and (broadly defined) environmental risk factors and the interactions among them associated with the incidence of different cancers. Specifically, serial exposure and biomarker assessments in individuals prior to any cancer diagnosis will allow the study of how changes over many years could influence cancer development and the identification of critical exposure periods. Examples of research topics in this area include the following:

- Evaluation of current and emerging behavioral and environmental factors, eg, vaping, physical activity patterns, in relation to cancer risk and progression.
- Evaluation of possible links between commonly used pharmaceuticals and medical procedures, eg, opioid use, gastric bypass surgery, with subsequent cancer risk.
- Investigation of the relationship between exposure to outdoor air pollution (including at the home) and cancer risk, based on linkage of the residential address to modeled estimates of air pollutants derived from Environmental Protection Agency's air quality monitoring network.
- Investigation of the relationship between ingested drinking water contaminants and cancer risk, based on linkage of the residential address and self-reported public drinking water utility to regulatory monitoring data for water contaminants.
- Characterization of biomarkers of exposure, eg, pollutants, and early biological effects, eg, inflammation markers, metabolomic markers, to determine distribution in the population, sources of variation and changes over time.
- Identification of biomarkers of susceptibility and early biological effects in tumor initiation to characterize biological processes including the genome, eg, germline genetic susceptibility factors, epigenome, transcriptome, proteome, metabolome, microbiome, and immune response as well as their interactions with behavioral, contextual, and environmental factors.
- Identification of molecular signatures in cancers and precursors associated with behavioral, contextual, and environmental factors as well as germline-somatic associations to provide insights into mechanisms of carcinogenesis.
- Characterization of etiologic heterogeneity for different tumor subtypes using state-of-the-art imaging and molecular characterization of tumor and relevant tissues.

**Natural history from precursor to tumor transformation:** Although cancer initiation is typically not observable, precursor lesions detected through population-based screening programs or clinical symptoms have been identified for certain cancer types (eg, breast, cervical, colorectal cancers). Some cancer precursors are typically removed at detection to prevent progression to cancer, eg, cervical cancer precursors and colorectal polyps. Others, eg, hematological cancer precursors, atypical hyperplasia of the breast or the uterus, or anal cancer precursors, can be left and observed through clinical surveillance. This allows for a direct observation of the possible transition from precursor to early-stage cancer that can be detected and treated with improved prognosis. Clinical imaging data, eg, ultrasound of the breast from screening programs or symptomatic conditions, can also detect abnormalities that represent cancer precursors. For many cancer sites, precursors are not well characterized and typically are not detected widely.

- Study of biomarkers of tumor transformation and progression, including early postzygotic mutational events, eg, clonal mosaicism, clonal hematopoiesis, high-risk molecular changes in precursor lesions, eg, benign breast disease, colon polyps, cervical cancer precursors, lung nodules, esophageal metaplasia/dysplasia, endometrial hyperplasia, urothelial proliferation/dysplasia.
- Identification of precursors for cancers with suspected or unknown precursors, eg, monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) and hematological cancers.
- Identification of determinants of cancer precursors, eg, behavioral, contextual, environmental, and genetic, to inform natural history studies and models for predicting clinically relevant cancer precursors.

**Cancer Risk Assessment:** Determining individual risk of cancer is important for public health, eg, population-based cancer screening programs and individual counseling for cancer prevention and early detection strategies. During the last decade, major progress has been made in the development of statistical methods and the application of risk prediction models of various cancer sites. The Connect study resource will be instrumental in the development and validation of risk prediction models for precision prevention through the integration of risk factors from multiple sources, eg, questionnaires, EMRs, imaging, personal monitors, germline genetics, and

blood/urine/tissue biomarkers, accounting for changes over time and more precise definitions of end points, eg, molecular subtypes of cancer. Integral to these risk prediction efforts, the study questionnaire has been developed to provide relevant risk factor information for many cancer end points. As new risk factors are identified, they can be integrated into follow-up questionnaires to allow for continuous updating and improvement of cancer risk prediction models.

**Early Detection of Cancer:** Early detection of cancer promises to improve cancer outcomes through detection of early-stage cancers and identification of precursors that can be treated to avoid development of invasive cancers. Currently, very few early detection approaches, eg, blood biomarkers or imaging, exist that have demonstrated improved cancer outcomes in clinical trials. Repeated biomarker measurements using specimens collected prior to diagnosis of cancer from study participants will provide extensive opportunities to identify biomarkers, eg, mutations in prediagnostic circulating tumor DNA, and develop algorithms for the early detection of cancer based on the trajectories of high-dimensional biomarkers. Studies of early detection marker development can be conducted in Connect, including marker discovery, assessment of clinical performance for detection of disease, and evaluation of detection windows and lead time for specific markers and cancer sites, as well as comparative studies of cancer detection for several early detection approaches.

### **Secondary Aims**

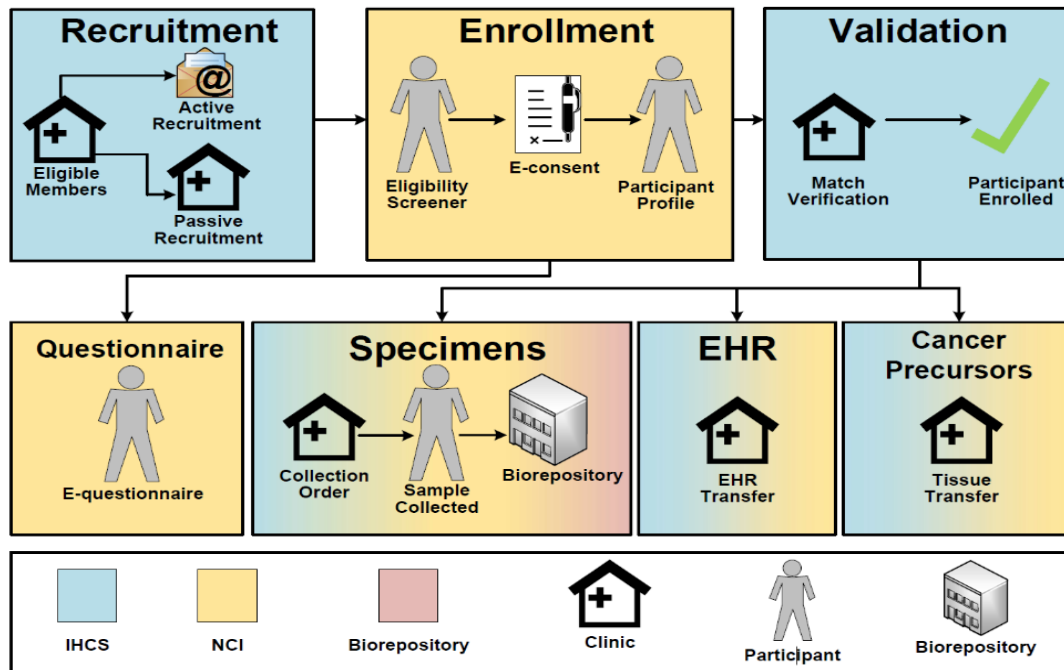
The Connect cohort will be a large and comprehensive data resource and biospecimen repository for general research use.

## **5. STUDY DESIGN**

The Connect study is a multisite, prospective cohort study with the goal of enrolling 200,000 adults free of cancer who are patients or members of participating IHCSs in the United States (see [section 6.1](#), Inclusion Criteria). Due to the long natural history of cancer, the Connect study anticipates following participants for life. Participants will have consented to passive study activities and to participate in active study activities at baseline and regular intervals throughout follow-up (see [Figure 2](#)). During follow-up, other ancillary studies also might be proposed to participants. Study activities and communication with participants will be facilitated by a secure,

web-enabled participant application that has been developed by the NCI DCEG Connect Coordinating Center (“participant app”).

**Figure 2. Participant Workflow for Connect Cohort**



- **Baseline Activities.** After providing informed consent, the study participants will be asked to complete the following baseline study procedures:
  - Participant profile and match verification (see Connect IRB Protocol #000034, Section 5.6 *Strategies for Recruitment and Retention*)
  - Baseline questionnaire divided into 4 modules to capture behavioral, medical, residential history, social, and identifying information (social security number [SSN] will be requested but not required) (see Connect IRB Protocol #000034, Section 7.2 *Clinical Evaluations*)
  - Blood, urine, and mouthwash specimen collection and associated questionnaires (see Connect IRB Protocol #000034, Section 7.3 *Biospecimen Evaluations*)
  - HIPAA authorization for the collection of EMR and other IHCS data (see Connect IRB Protocol #000034, Section 7.2 *Clinical Evaluations*) and acquisition of tissues for prevalent cancer precursors (see Connect IRB Protocol #000034, Section 7.3 *Biospecimen Evaluations*)

- **Passive Follow-up Activities:**

- EMR updates: EMR data will be released by the IHCS and any other health care providers to NCI at least once a year as long as the participant remains in the IHCS (see Connect IRB Protocol #000034, Section 7.2 *Clinical Evaluations*). Cancer, mortality, and other health outcomes, as well as exposure information, eg, weight, will be ascertained from the EMR.
- Clinical tissue specimen collection: Precursor and cancerous lesions will be requested from the participating IHCS or affiliated facilities.
- Data linkages: For all participants (including those who leave the IHCS), personal identifiable information, including name and SSN, will be linked to data from US state cancer registries and the National Death Index (NDI) to ascertain end points, including cancer and vital status. Linkage with state registries will be facilitated, where applicable, by the Virtual Pooled Registry Cancer Linkage System (VPR-CLS), an initiative from the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) and the NCI Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences to provide a central and streamlined application process for cancer surveillance data linkages. Other data linkages may include geocoding to environmental monitoring databases and demographic and health data, such as census, Medicare, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) registries, pharmacies, and imaging centers.

- **Active follow-up activities:**

- Serial questionnaires on changes in health status and end points as well as existing and new exposures, including quality of life and lifelong cancer screening behaviors (see Connect IRB Protocol #000034, Section 7.2 *Clinical Evaluations*)
- Serial biospecimen collections from time to time as needed (see Connect IRB Protocol #000034, Section 7.3 *Biospecimen Evaluations*)
- EMR updates: For participants who leave the IHCS, the Connect Study will request that they provide the EMR data through the participant application.
- Additional assessments: Participants will be asked to use their own devices and/or be provided with a device, such as wearable devices or applications for mobile devices (provided by the NCI DCEG Coordinating Center). During follow-up, other possible

technology-assisted assessment tools may include those that measure heart rate, pulse oximetry, ambient air pollutants, and other assessments.

## **6. STUDY POPULATION**

### **6.1. Inclusion Criteria**

Due to the minimal risk nature of the Connect protocol, all individuals interested and able to participate in Connect, who meet the eligibility criteria and are not specifically excluded, will be able to participate. To be eligible to participate in this study, an individual must meet all of the following criteria:

- Patients or members of participating IHCS at the time of enrollment.
- Age between 40 and 65 years old without a personal history of cancer at study invitation.
- Children are not included in Connect because cancer incidence is low.

### **6.2. Exclusion Criteria**

An individual who meets any of the following criteria will be excluded from participation in this study:

- Individuals with a history of invasive cancer (other than nonmelanoma skin cancer).
- Individuals with known cognitive impairment documented in their medical record.

### **6.3. Active recruitment outreach of underrepresented populations**

A major goal of this RFA is to recruit underrepresented individuals who are representative of the Texas population. In parallel, the Connect study seeks to increase the proportion of Hispanic participants. The successful applicant is expected to demonstrate the ability to recruit a diverse population and to describe health system members and patients who are in underrepresented populations within the health system's catchment areas, eg, non-White individuals, living in medically underserved areas, as well as efforts to recruit such individuals. Such efforts can include research coordinators traveling to clinics in underserved areas, tailored recruitment materials, and community outreach activities.

Please refer to the Connect for Cancer Prevention Study (Protocol #000034) for additional information on study design, such as recruitment and retention (Section 5.6) participant

discontinuation/withdrawal (Section 6), study assessments and procedures, and correlative studies for research (Section 7).

#### **6.4. Sample storage, tracking and disposition**

Biological specimens will be stored temporarily at appropriate temperatures at the collection facilities, eg, study site, or participant's home, eg, refrigerated, ambient, until transferred to the Connect processing facility (Frederick National Laboratory operated currently by Leidos Biomed). Shipment procedures are outlined in the SOPs to maintain the cold chain needed to prevent specimen degradation. Specimens collected by participants at home will be shipped directly to the Connect processing facility. Tracking of the biological specimens will be done by the IHCS and the Connect processing facility through the study data system. The samples obtained under this protocol will be stored indefinitely at appropriate temperatures at the Connect central repository (Frederick National Laboratory operated currently by Leidos Biomed). Refer to the NCI Connect Study IRB Protocol, #000034, for information on disposal of biological specimens upon revocation of consent and withdrawal from the study (Section 7.3 *Biospecimen Evaluations*). Deidentified study data, such as survey or EMR data, and biospecimens (collectively referred to as the "Connect Resource") will be available for the research community through a continuum of open to controlled access, managed by the Connect Resource Access Committee (see IRB Protocol, Appendix 1 *Study Governance Structure*) and available on the Connect Data Platform.

#### **6.5. Compensation**

Monetary and nonmonetary compensation will be provided for completing study activities. At baseline, monetary compensation will include parking reimbursement (where applicable) plus compensation of \$25 after completion of the 4 questionnaire modules and donation of the blood sample. During each follow-up contact for biospecimen collection, compensation of no more than \$25 will be provided. In addition, participants might be given the option to receive nonmonetary compensation, eg, data summaries from questionnaires such as diet composition, or branded study materials, eg, pens, pins, tote bags provided by the NCI DCEG Coordinating Center. Note that the NCI Support Services contractor administers the compensation and incentives through the MyConnect participant site; providing compensation(s) is not a responsibility of the participating sites.



## 8. FUNDING INFORMATION

Applicants may request a maximum of \$7,500,000 in total costs for up to 5 years for recruitment of study subjects. Exceptions to these limits may be requested if extremely well justified (see [section 12.5.8](#)). Funds may be used for salary and fringe benefits; research supplies; printing supplies and study materials such as mailed invitations, brochures, banners, etc; equipment; subject participation costs; and travel to scientific/technical meetings or collaborating institutions. **Note that the NCI DCEG Coordinating Center will cover the costs of the Helpdesk (via the support services contractor), participant incentives, biospecimen collection tubes/containers, shipping supplies, cancer registry, and other linkages to the Connect databases.** Requests for funds to support construction and/or renovation will not be approved under this funding mechanism. State law limits the amount of award funding that may be spent on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the total award amount.

## 9. ELIGIBILITY

- The applicant must be a Texas-based entity. Any health care provider that conducts research is eligible to apply for funding under this award mechanism. Ascertainment of disease diagnosis, treatment courses, laboratory tests, and other outcomes in a longitudinal, prospective cohort study is complex, and the applicant must maintain an integrated health care system, ie, an HMO, or an integrated network providing comprehensive health care to their members through a range of coordinated health care facilities and services, and storage of all health care information on their members in a central database (EMR).
- The applicant institution must maintain a cancer registry and have infrastructure for archived tissue specimens and biospecimen collection facilities in a clinical or research setting.
- The applicant institution must have a diverse, ideally large, catchment population.
- The PI must have a doctoral degree, including MD, PhD, DDS, DMD, DrPH, DO, DVM, or equivalent, and must be a full-time resident of Texas during the time the research that is the subject of the grant is conducted.
- This award mechanism does not allow for MIs.

- Any PI on the Connect study is required to maintain a minimum 20% level of effort throughout the entire award period. The level of effort of the PI and Co-I (if applicable) must be substantial, together summing a minimum of 50% throughout the entire award period. If the application does not have a Co-I then the PI must maintain a minimum 50% level of effort throughout the entire award period.
- A PI may submit only 1 application under this RFA during this funding cycle.
- A PI may be a part of only 1 application under this RFA.
- An individual may serve as a PI on no more than 3 active CPRIT Academic Research grants. Recruitment Grants and Research Training Awards do not count toward the 3-grant maximum; however, CPRIT considers MIRA Project Co-PIs equivalent to a PI. For the purpose of calculating the number of active grants, CPRIT will consider the number of active grants at the time of the award contract effective date (for this cycle expected to be August 31, 2023).
- Collaborating organizations may include public, not-for-profit, and for-profit entities but must be a component of the applicant institution's IHCS and located within Texas.
- An applicant is eligible to receive a grant award only if the applicant certifies that the applicant institution or organization, including the PI, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's institution or organization (or any person related to 1 or more of these individuals within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity) has not made and will not make a contribution to CPRIT or to any foundation specifically created to benefit CPRIT.
- An applicant is not eligible to receive a CPRIT grant award if the applicant PI, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's organization or institution is related to a CPRIT Oversight Committee member.
- The applicant must report whether the applicant institution or organization, the PI, or other individuals who contribute to the execution of the proposed project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not those individuals are slated to receive salary or compensation under the grant award, are currently ineligible to receive federal grant funds or have had a grant terminated for cause within 5 years prior to the submission date of the grant application.

- CPRIT grants will be awarded by contract to successful applicants. Certain contractual requirements are mandated by Texas law or by administrative rules. Although applicants need not demonstrate the ability to comply with these contractual requirements at the time the application is submitted, applicants should make themselves aware of these standards before submitting a grant application. Significant issues addressed by the CPRIT contract are listed in [section 15](#) and [section 16](#). All statutory provisions and relevant administrative rules can be found at [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov).

## 10. RESUBMISSION POLICY

An application previously submitted to CPRIT but not funded may be resubmitted **only upon reissuance of this RFA by CPRIT**. An application may be resubmitted **once** and must follow all resubmission guidelines. More than one resubmission is not permitted. Given the nature of this RFA and population cohort study, an application is considered a resubmission and will only be considered if the proposed project is the same project as presented in the original submission, with allowance made for revisions to respond to the previous critique. A change in the identity of the PI for a project or a change of title of the project that was previously submitted to CPRIT or omission or modification of an aim does not constitute a new application; the application would be considered a resubmission. This policy is in effect for all applications submitted to date.

## 11. RENEWAL POLICY

An application funded by CPRIT under this mechanism may be submitted for a competitive renewal, **only upon reissuance of this RFA by CPRIT for the maintenance phase of the Connect study**. Competitive renewals are not subject to preliminary evaluation. Renewal applications move directly to the full peer review phase. See [section 13.1](#).

## 12. RESPONDING TO THIS RFA

### 12.1. Application Submission Guidelines

Applications must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). **Only applications submitted through this portal will be considered eligible for evaluation.** The applicant is eligible solely for the grant mechanism specified by the RFA under which the grant application was submitted. The PI must create a user

account in the system to start and submit an application. Furthermore, the Application Signing Official (a person authorized to sign and submit the application for the organization) and the Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official (the individual who will manage the grant contract if an award is made) also must create a user account in CARS. Please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants (IFA)* document for the instructions on adding Key Personnel to an application. The *IFA* document will be available when the application receipts system opens.

Applications will be accepted beginning at 7 AM central time on January 25, 2023, and must be submitted by 4 PM central time on April 18, 2023. **Submission of an application is considered an acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFA**

## **12.2. Submission Deadline Extension**

The submission deadline may be extended upon a showing of extenuating circumstances. A request for a deadline extension based on the need to complete multiple CPRIT or other grants applications will be denied. All requests for extension of the submission deadline must be submitted via email to the CPRIT [Helpdesk](#) within 24 hours of the submission deadline. Submission deadline extensions, including the reason for the extension, will be documented as part of the grant review process records. Please note that deadline extension requests are very rarely approved.

## **12.3. Scope of the Work**

The goal of this RFA is to recruit health plan members from selected IHCSs into a complex, intensive, prospective cohort study led by the NCI, collect serial biospecimens and longitudinal data, and follow participants for disease outcomes, with a primary focus on cancer. The IHCS sites shall work with the NCI DCEG Coordinating Center, and others such as NORC at the University of Chicago (NORC provides the support services), and study information technology (IT) platform team, processing lab, and the NCI central repository at Frederick National Laboratory. NORC will primarily provide support for the study fieldwork activities including providing support for provision of procedures and protocols, staff training (as required) at study sites, follow-up and tracing of participants who have left the IHCS's health plan and assistance with data and specimen access. The study IT platform team has developed a tiered-access study IT platform with integrated systems for study operations, participant data collection, study research data, study research data and specimen request and approval, as well as the participant

MyConnect progressive web application. The DCEG Connect Coordinating Center also provides all Connect study communications materials and other core assets that can be customized (pending approval by the Connect Coordinating Center) for individual sites. The Connect Coordinating Center provides biospecimen collection tubes/containers and the specimen shippers.

The applicant and their institution shall furnish all the necessary services, qualified personnel, materials, equipment, and facilities, not otherwise provided by the NCI, as needed to perform the work below. The applicant shall do the following:

1. Coordinate and integrate all of the Connect study activities including staffing decisions, prioritizing support for projects, and managing and monitoring any subcontracts.
2. Ensure quality assessment and quality control of the work performed, fostering excellent internal/external communications, tracking projects, and monitoring the budget. The applicant will report this work by preparing and submitting technical and financial reports as required by CPRIT, including quarterly enrollment reports that will be shared with the DCEG Connect Coordinating Center.
3. Coordinate training and certification for in-house study staff as required.
4. Ensure that data security and confidentiality requirements are met.
5. Work cooperatively with the NCI DCEG Coordinating Center, NORC, study IT team, and other Connect study sites in all relevant aspects of study development and execution to maximize cost effectiveness and efficiency of the study.

#### **12.3.1. Study Planning and Preparation and Pilot Studies (6 months)**

The applicant shall perform all activities necessary to prepare for participant recruitment, follow-up, and biological specimen and data collections (See Table 3). The applicant shall perform a run-in pilot phase as defined in the study protocol (IRB Protocol #000034) for recruitment and data and specimen collection to identify and resolve any barriers to successful implementation of the full study. Activities performed by the contractor include, but are not limited to the following:

- Executing planning and implementation of study protocols, including the NIH IRB protocol;
- Identifying and recruiting eligible participants;
- Collecting, processing, and shipping baseline biospecimens from consented participants;
- Electronically submitting standardized data from various data sources such as the EMR to the study IT platform;
- Using the study IT platform to manage and monitor all study activities;
- Serving as the point of contact to IHCS members and study participants to answer questions for all stages of the study;
- Working with NCI and third-party contractors to modify protocols, procedures, and study materials (if needed); and
- Performing administrative, operational, and technical duties to support productive collaboration among the study personnel at all sites, NCI, the IT study team, and the support services contractors. This shall include participation of the PI, Co-I, and/or other team members in regular calls with NCI and third-party contractors and in-study committee meetings, eg, Executive Committee (monthly), Participant Engagement Subcommittee (twice monthly), Feedback and Review Meeting (monthly), site-specific meetings (monthly), Scientific Working Groups, and RAC. In addition, this includes attending an annual in-person meeting of all stakeholders.

### **12.3.2. Recruitment (Years 1-5), Follow-up, and Retention (Years 6-10, pending reissue of RFA).**

The applicant will perform full-scale recruitment and follow-up of participants as defined in the study protocol (see Table 3). Activities performed by the contractor include, but are not limited to the following:

- Implementing the full study with full-scale recruitment, baseline and serial specimen and data collections, and participant follow-up and retention; and
- Performing administrative, operational, and technical duties to support productive collaboration among the study personnel at all sites, NCI, the IT study team, and the support services contractors, and participating in study meetings as described above.

### **12.3.3. Ancillary Data and Biospecimen Collections**

Activities performed by the participating site include, but are not limited to the following:

- Conducting a run-in pilot study for ancillary studies; and
- Performing administrative, operational, and technical duties to support productive collaboration among the study personnel at all sites, NCI, the IT study team, and the support services contractors, and participating in study meetings as described above.

### **12.3.4. Contract Closeout/Transition**

The participating institution shall perform study closeout/transition activities.

## **12.4. Schedule of Activities**

**This section has been adapted from the Connect Study Protocol (#000034).**

Study participant activities are expected to last through a participant's lifetime. Table 3 shows an example of a hypothetical participant's experience in the study from enrollment through active activities in the first 10 years of follow-up. The frequency of research specimens collected directly from participants, ie, blood, urine, saliva, could vary depending on age, risk of cancer, or other factors. The calendar shows retrieval of EMRs as an example of the passive activities, eg, data linkages to regional or national databases, that will be performed at regular intervals during follow-up.

**Table 3. Example of Study Calendar for Data and Specimen Collections**

Activities	Enrollment and Retention Activities (years)										
	Base-line	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Study Eligibility Screener</b>	X										
<b>Enrollment</b>	X										
<b>Electronic Questionnaires and Personal Wearables</b>											
Baseline questionnaire	X										
Serial assessments		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Electronic Medical Records (EMR)</b>											
EMR retrieval	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Biological Specimens</b>											
Blood	X			X			X			X	
Urine	X			X			X			X	
Saliva	X						X				
Tissue, precursor lesions*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Tissue, cancer*</b>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

\* Collection of tissue from clinically diagnosed cancer precursor lesions at baseline and follow-up and cancers during follow-up, if diagnosed (see Protocol #000034 Section 7.3 *Biospecimen Evaluations*)

## 12.5. Application Components

Applicants are advised to follow all instructions to ensure accurate and complete submission of all components of the application. Please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants*(IFA) for details that will be available when the application receipt system opens. Submissions that are missing 1 or more components or do not meet the eligibility requirements listed in [section 9](#) will be administratively withdrawn without review.

### 12.5.1. Abstract and Significance (5,000 characters)

It is the responsibility of the applicant to capture CPRIT’s attention primarily with the Abstract and Significance statement alone. Therefore, applicants are advised to prepare this section wisely. **Based on the Abstract and Significance statement (and the Budget and Justification and Biographical Sketches), applications that are judged to offer only modest capacity to**



**develop the Texas Connect Cohort as a component of the Connect study may be excluded from further peer review (see [section 13.1](#)).**

Clearly describe the IHCS's membership and patient population, by age group and race/ethnicity, and other attributes as appropriate, eg, acculturation; ability to implement study protocols; establish the necessary integrated infrastructure (including clinical informatics capabilities, EMR access, and communications to patients through the EMR or mailings, emails, and telephone calls), finalize protocols, procedures, and study materials; and hire or assign adequately trained staff in preparation for initiating recruitment into the longitudinal cohort. Describe the PI's and Co-I's (if applicable) expertise and experience with population-based studies, including studies involving underrepresented populations. Describe the institutional commitment and sustainability plan.

#### **12.5.2. Layperson's Summary (2,000 characters)**

Provide a layperson's summary of the proposed work. Describe, in simple, nontechnical terms, the overall goals of the proposed work, the potential significance of the results to the population of Texas and the United States, and the impact of the inclusion of the IHCS's membership in the Connect study on advancing the field of cancer epidemiology early detection and prevention. The information provided in this summary will be made publicly available by CPRIT, particularly if the application is recommended for funding. Do not include any proprietary information in the layperson's summary. The layperson's summary will also be used by advocate reviewers ([section 13.1](#)) in evaluating the significance and impact of the proposed work.

#### **12.5.3. Goals and Objectives**

List specific goals and objectives for each year of the project. These goals and objectives will also be used during the submission and evaluation of progress reports and assessment of project success.

#### **12.5.4. Timeline (1 page)**

Provide an outline of anticipated major milestones to be tracked. Timelines will be reviewed for reasonableness, and adherence to timelines will be a criterion for continued support of successful applications. If the application is approved for funding, this section will be included in the award

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

#### **12.5.5. Research Plan (20 pages)**

**Background:** Present the rationale behind the proposed project to participate in the Texas Connect Study and its parent Connect study, emphasizing the pressing problem(s), cancer burden diversity, and cancer disparities affecting the catchment area of the IHCS, and particular strengths and expertise of the health care network and research team relevant to achieving the goals of the Connect cohort to understand the etiology and natural history of cancer.

**Specific Aims:** Concisely state the specific aims/overall goals to be addressed by the development of the population cohort described in the application. Describe the significance, innovation, and potential impact of the overall study on the cancer burden and unique population in Texas.

**Study Design and Strategy:** Refer to the Connect Protocol (IRB Protocol #000034, attached to this RFA) for a full description of the study design and schedule of activities.

1. Provide a description of the study team, their expertise and experience with the development and conduct of longitudinal cohort studies and other observational studies, participant recruitment, and the collection of biological specimens and biobanking.
2. Describe the IHCS, including its network members. Provide the demographics of members within the health plan by year, for the past 5 years, by age groups (20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+); race and ethnicity, eg, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White; gender (male, female); and other salient demographic factors, eg, acculturation, rurality, persistent poverty, and area deprivation index. Provide the median duration of enrollment in the health care system/plan.
3. Provide total annual number of members and number of members (a) leaving health plan annually and (b) enrolling with health plan annually, for the past 5 years, by age groups (20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+), race and ethnicity (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White), and gender (male, female).

4. Provide information on the geographic catchment area of the clinics where biospecimen collection will occur, including which clinics cover what percentage of the health plan membership. In addition, identify if all collection sites within the offeror's group have the required infrastructure for research specimen collection. Provide additional information such as routine operation information of each collection site, eg, staffing, hours of operation, current SOPs for clinical samples, and ability to store/oversee study-specific equipment/supplies.
5. Provide information on local biospecimen (blood, urine, mouthwash samples) collection processing and short-term storage capabilities as well as the ability to ship samples for centralized lab for processing and long-term storage. Provide information such as routine operation information of local processing center, eg, staffing, hours of operation, current SOPs for clinical samples (time between collection and processing, ability to store/oversee study-specific equipment/supplies, and ability to use 2D barcodes).
6. Provide information on capabilities of retrieval of archival specimens, such as premalignant and tumor tissues. Provide information on premalignant and tumor tissues, such as preservation method, eg, frozen, FFPE, general storage time (years after diagnosis until purge) and conditions (temperature, light, humidity, location) of paraffin blocks/frozen tissue and their location.
7. Provide current cancer screening recommendations implemented in the health care plan for all its members.
8. Describe organizational policies and/or guidelines on the return of incidental findings, ie, a finding concerning an individual study participant that is discovered in the course of research and has potential clinical importance. If required to return such incidental findings, describe the approach that would be implemented in this study to handle the return of results to individuals and/or healthcare providers as necessary, including administrative and cost considerations.
9. IT and EMR Capabilities: Describe the clinical informatics team's capacity to do the following:

- a. To develop a participant identification protocol to identify eligible participants, eg, from the EMR, as new members become eligible.
  - b. To develop a data abstraction protocol for efficiently transferring data electronically from various data sources, such as EMR, at baseline and repeatedly (as defined in the final study protocol) to the study IT platform. For instance, this could be done by uploading electronic files with standardized data fields, completion of electronic case report forms, and/or Application Program Interface (API) with the study IT platform systems.
  - c. To establish an internal management infrastructure necessary for recruitment and follow-up including, but not limited to, the following:
    - i. Sending invitations to participate, preferably electronically via email, but other cost-effective methods are encouraged when email addresses are not available.
    - ii. Integrating internal systems with study IT platform for efficient data transfer.
    - iii. Establishing necessary infrastructure to serve as the primary point of contact for health plan members and participants (as defined in the final study protocol). For example, establish and host a toll-free study telephone line, and provide and monitor a study email address.
    - iv. Creating a process to implement electronic lab orders for research biospecimen.
10. Describe any anticipated IT-related issues that may impede progress of the study. For example, describe any restrictions on software additions to institutional computers or networks, such as software required to scan barcodes.
11. Provide 5- and 10-year estimates of the number of projected incident cancer cases (overall and by cancer site) among potentially eligible study participants (member at least 1 year, cancer free) by age groups (20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+), race and ethnicity (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White), and gender (male, female).
12. Provide number of known and potential cancer precursors by age, gender, and race as specified above. For example, provide definitions of precursors such as ICD codes and

procedures (codes) and treatments associated with each precursor diagnosis from the past 5 and 10 years.

13. Describe ability to perform administrative, operational, and technical duties to support productive collaboration among the study personnel at all Connect study sites, NCI DCEG Connect Coordinating Center, the study IT platform team and NORC. This will include participation in monthly Executive Committee meetings (site PIs, DCEG senior investigators); monthly meetings of the DCEG Coordinating Center with each Connect site; and monthly meetings related to data and biospecimen access for the RAC, as well as additional monthly meetings involving Study Managers, Participant Engagement Management Meetings involving 1 to 2 representatives from each site, and Feedback and Review Meetings involving the technical staff and programmers. Study responsibilities also include attending an in-person annual meeting of all participating sites and stakeholders (the next meeting anticipated to occur in October 2023 is currently being planned by the DCEG Coordinating Center). Finally, study site PIs may be asked to participate in ad hoc Working Groups charged with developing enhancements to the study design, eg, new questionnaires or new SOPs.
14. Provide a summary of institutional IRB policies and ability to establish and maintain a reliance agreement with internal IRB to cede to the NIH IRB.
15. Describe the institutional commitment and plan for sustainability.

#### **12.5.6. Human Subjects (3 pages)**

Provide a detailed plan for recruitment of subjects and/or the acquisition of samples that will meet the time constraints of this award mechanism, using the NIH PHS398 Targeted/Planned Enrollment Form. Certification of approval of these plans by the institutional IRB will be required before funding can occur.

#### **12.5.7. Publications/References**

Provide a concise and relevant list of publications/references cited for the application.

### 12.5.8. Budget and Justification

Provide a compelling and detailed justification of the budget for the entire proposed period of support, including salaries and benefits, supplies, equipment, participant costs, and other expenses. Based on expenses incurred at the existing Connect participating sites during the Set-up and Pilot Phase, a sample budget worksheet is provided for estimating costs for the Set-up/Pilot Phase (Year 1, Months 1-6), Recruitment Phase (Year 1, Months 7-12), and Recruitment Phase (Years 2-5) Refer to the sample budget worksheet document located in [Current Funding Opportunities](#) for Academic Research in CARS.

Applicants are advised not to interpret the maximum allowable request under this award as a suggestion that they should expand their anticipated budget to this level. Reasonable budgets clearly work in favor of the applicant. However, if there is a highly specific and defensible need to request more than the maximum amount in any year(s) of the proposed budget, include a special and clearly labeled section in the budget justification that explains the request. Poorly justified requests of this type will likely have a negative impact on the overall evaluation of the application.

In preparing the requested budget, applicants should be aware of the following:

- Equipment purchases allowable under the Connect RFA that are exempt from CPRIT's traditional acquisition cost cap of \$5,000 include centrifuge(s) and carts. Other necessary items, such as a refrigerator, a freezer, iPads and laptop, although likely to fall below the acquisition cost of \$5,000, are also exempt from this cap.
- Texas law limits the amount of grant funds that may be spent on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs). Guidance regarding indirect cost recovery can be found in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, which are available at [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov). So-called grants management and facilities fees, eg, sponsored programs fees; grants and contracts fees; electricity, gas, and water; and custodial fees and maintenance fees may not be requested. Applications that include such budgetary items will be rejected administratively and returned without review.
- The maximum annual salary (also referred to as direct salary or institutional base salary) that an individual may request under a CPRIT award for FY 2023 is \$200,000; CPRIT FY 2023 is from September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023. Salary does not include

fringe benefits and/or facilities and administrative costs, also referred to as indirect costs. An individual's institutional base salary is the annual compensation that the applicant organization pays for an individual's appointment, whether that individual's time is spent on research, teaching, patient care, or other activities. Base salary excludes any income that an individual may be permitted to earn outside of his or her duties to the applicant organization.

#### **12.5.9. Biographical Sketches (5 pages each)**

Applicants should provide a biographical sketch that describes their education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, and publications relevant to cancer research. A biographical sketch must be provided for the PI and, if applicable, any additional Co-I as required by the online application receipt system. Up to 2 additional biographical sketches for key personnel may be provided. Each biographical sketch must not exceed 5 pages. The NIH biosketch format is appropriate.

#### **12.5.10. Current and Pending Support**

Describe the funding source and duration of all current and pending support for all personnel who have included a biographical sketch with the application. For each award, provide the title, a 2-line summary of the goal of the project, and, if relevant, a statement of overlap with the current application. At a minimum, current and pending support of the PI and, if applicable, the Co-I must be provided. Refer to the sample current and pending support document located in [Current Funding Opportunities](#) for Academic Research in CARS.

#### **12.5.11. Institutional/Collaborator Support and/or Other Certification (4 pages)**

Applicants may provide letters of institutional support, collaborator support, and/or other certification documentation relevant to the proposed project. A maximum of 4 pages may be provided.

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

## 12.6. Formatting Instructions

Formatting guidelines for all submitted CPRIT applications are as follows:

- **Language:** English.
- **Document Format:** PDF only.
- **Font Type/Size:** Arial (11 point), Calibri (11 point), or Times New Roman (12 point).
- **Line Spacing:** Single.
- **Page Size:** 8.5 x 11 inches.
- **Margins:** 0.75 inch, all directions.
- **Color and High-Resolution Images:** Images, graphs, figures, and other illustrations must be submitted as part of the appropriate submitted document. Applicants should include text to explain illustrations that may be difficult to interpret when printed in black and white.
- **Scanning Resolution:** Images and figures must be of lowest reasonable resolution that permits clarity and readability. Unnecessarily large files will NOT be accepted, especially those that include only text.
- **References:** Applicants should use a citation style that includes the full name of the article and that lists at least the first 3 authors. Official journal abbreviations may be used. An example is included below; however, other citation styles meeting these parameters are also acceptable as long as the journal information is stated. Include URLs of publications referenced in the application.

Smith, P.T., Doe, J., White, J.M., et al (2006). Elaborating on a novel mechanism for cancer progression. *Journal of Cancer Research*, 135: 45-67.
- **Internet URLs:** Applicants are encouraged to provide the URLs of publications referenced in the application; however, applicants should not include URLs directing reviewers to websites containing additional information about the proposed research.
- **Headers and Footers:** These should not be used unless they are part of a provided template. Page numbers may be included in the footer (see following point).
- **Page Numbering:** Pages should be numbered at the bottom right corner of each page.
- All attachments that require signatures must be filled out, printed, signed, scanned, and then uploaded in PDF format.



## **13. APPLICATION REVIEW**

### **13.1. Full Peer Review**

Applications will undergo review using a 2-stage peer review process: (1) Full peer review and (2) prioritization of grant applications by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council. In the first stage, applications will be evaluated by an independent peer review panel consisting of scientific experts as well as advocate reviewers using the criteria listed in [section 13.3](#). In the second stage, applications judged to be most meritorious by the peer review panels will be evaluated and recommended for funding by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council based on comparisons of all applications and programmatic priorities. Applications approved by the Scientific Review Council will be forwarded to the CPRIT Program Integration Committee (PIC) for review. The PIC will consider factors including program priorities set by the Oversight Committee, portfolio balance across programs, and available funding. The CPRIT Oversight Committee will vote to approve each grant award recommendation made by the PIC. The grant award recommendations will be presented at an open meeting of the Oversight Committee and must be approved by two-thirds of the Oversight Committee members present and eligible to vote. The review process is described more fully in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, sections 703.6 to 703.8](#).

### **13.2. Confidentiality of Review**

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

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

The peer review panel members for the Texas Connect for Cancer Prevention study applications will be listed on CPRIT's website.

**By submitting a grant application, the applicant agrees and understands that the only basis for reconsideration of a grant application is limited to an undisclosed conflict of interest as set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules ([Texas Administrative Code RULE §703.9](#)).**

Communication regarding the substance of a pending application is prohibited between the grant applicant (or someone on the grant applicant's behalf) and the following individuals: an Oversight Committee Member, a PIC Member, a Scientific Review Panel member, or a Scientific Review Council member. Applicants should note that the CPRIT PIC comprises the CPRIT Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Scientific Officer, the Chief Prevention Officer, the Chief Product Development Research Officer, and the Commissioner of State Health Services.

The prohibition on communication begins on the first day that grant applications for the particular grant mechanism are accepted by CPRIT and extends until the grant applicant receives notice regarding a final decision on the grant application. The prohibition on communication does not apply to the time period when preapplications or letters of interest are accepted. Intentional, serious, or frequent violations of this rule may result in the disqualification of the grant application from further consideration for a grant award.

### **13.3. Review Criteria**

Full peer review of applications will be based on primary scored criteria and secondary unscored criteria, listed below. Review committees will evaluate and score each primary criterion and subsequently assign a global score that reflects an overall assessment of the application. **The overall assessment will not be an average of the scores of individual criteria; rather, it will reflect the reviewers' overall impression of the application. Evaluation of the scientific merit of each application is within the sole discretion of the peer reviewers.**

#### **13.3.1. Primary Criteria**

Primary criteria will evaluate the technical approach and merit, PI/research team past performance and experience, and cost effectiveness. Concerns with any of these criteria potentially indicate a major flaw in the significance and/or design of the proposed study. Primary criteria include the following:

## **Technical Approach and Merit:**

**Population:** Does the application document that the health system has coordinated and integrated care provision, ie, all individual health care data (including, but not limited to, outpatient care, in-patient care, pharmacy, specialist care, and emergency care health records) are captured in the patient's EMR and can be accessed electronically by the system? If any services are not covered/captured in the EMR, details of these should be documented. Does the application provide estimates of the number of potentially eligible study participants (member of their care network for at least 1 year, cancer free) by age groups (20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+), race and ethnicity (eg, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White), and gender (male, female)?

**Scope of the Work:** Does the application demonstrate a clear understanding of the scope of the work, ie, study preparation, pilot phase, recruitment and follow-up, serial data and biological specimen collection, processing, and shipment, EMR data abstracting, and ability to perform this work within their IHCS infrastructure required to meet the study goals? Do they demonstrate the ability to implement study protocols and procedures as described in the study protocol, eg, linkage to the cancer registry? Does the proposal demonstrate their ability within existing infrastructure to perform data abstraction from the EMR for research purposes, and describe a plan for electronic submission of EMR data to the Connect study IT platform? Does the application describe a recruitment plan and schedule commensurate with the requirements of the study protocol?

**Biological Specimens:** Does the applicant demonstrate the ability to implement, comply with, and monitor study-specific protocols, including the ability to schedule and place an order for research biospecimen collection and communicate with participants who did not come in for research blood donation? Does the application document the ability of the research blood collection site, in particular the ability to accommodate walk-in visits for study biospecimen collections; perform biospecimen collection based on standing research order; track and store study-specific equipment and supplies, eg, specific blood tubes; trigger study platform at time of collection to administer a short questionnaire; and notify processing sites of incoming specimens? Does the application demonstrate the ability to collect biological tissue?

**Other:** Does the application demonstrate an adequate approach to quality control, quality assurance, and the process for review of task performance to optimize delivery of the task within schedule and budget and to minimize performance risk factors?

**Past Performance and Experience:**

**Applicant Investigator and Key Personnel:** Has the PI demonstrated leadership and experience in performing work of similar size (relative to the health care system's population) and/or complexity as well as qualifications? Has the PI and key personnel budgeted the required level of effort (percent effort) to this project? Does the proposal demonstrate an appropriate mix of disciplines at the optimal staffing levels needed for efficient, timely delivery of high-quality service for core and ancillary activities? Do the key personnel have appropriate experience and capabilities? Note that key personnel may include PI, Co-I, Project Manager, Research Assistant, Programmer, Study Manager, and Lab Technician.

**Organizational Experience, Resources, and Facilities:** Does the health care system have the appropriate organizational structure, experience, and ability to manage and execute the requirements of the study protocol? Have they demonstrated organizational experience with projects of comparable size and scope? Have they demonstrated capacity, adequacy, suitability, and availability of secure facilities, equipment, and other resources, eg, biospecimen processing and short-term storage facilities such as blood collection clinics and freezer storage/storage space available, necessary to carry out the requirements?

**Cost Effectiveness:** Are the specific elements of the applicant proposed costs realistic and appropriate for the work to be performed, reflective of a clear understanding of the requirements, and consistent with the unique methods of performance and materials described in the applicant's technical proposal?

**Human Subjects Evaluation:** The applicant's proposal must address the involvement of human subjects and protections from research risk relating to their participation, using the standard NIH format. The application should include the NIH Targeted/Planned Enrollment Report. The reviewers will evaluate the proposal with regard to 4 issues: Risks to Human Subjects, Adequacy of Protection Against Risks, Potential Benefits of the Proposed Research to the Subjects and Others, and Importance of the Knowledge to be Gained.

**Duration:** Is the stated duration appropriate for the proposed work?

## 14. KEY DATES

### RFA

RFA release January 17, 2023

### Application

Online application opens January 25, 2023, 7 AM central time

Application due April 18, 2023, 4 PM central time

Application review April 2023-June 2023

### Award

Award notification August 2023

Anticipated start date August 31, 2023

## 15. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

Texas law requires that CPRIT grant awards be made by contract between the applicant and CPRIT. CPRIT grant awards are made to institutions or organizations, not to individuals. Award contract negotiation and execution will commence once the CPRIT Oversight Committee has approved an application for a grant award. CPRIT may require, as a condition of receiving a grant award, that the grant recipient use CPRIT's electronic Grant Management System to exchange, execute, and verify legally binding grant contract documents and grant award reports. Such use shall be in accordance with CPRIT's electronic signature policy as set forth in [chapter 701, section 701.25](#).

Texas law specifies several components that must be addressed by the award contract, including needed compliance and assurance documentation, budgetary review, progress and fiscal monitoring, and terms relating to revenue sharing and intellectual property rights. These contract provisions are specified in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, which are available at [www.cpritis.texas.gov](http://www.cpritis.texas.gov). Applicants are advised to review CPRIT's Administrative Rules related to contractual requirements associated with CPRIT grant awards and limitations related to the use of CPRIT grant awards as set forth in [chapter 703, sections 703.10, 703.12](#).

Prior to disbursement of grant award funds, the grant recipient organization must demonstrate that it has adopted and enforces a tobacco-free workplace policy consistent with the requirements set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.20](#).

CPRIT requires award recipients to submit an annual progress report. These reports summarize the progress made toward the research goals and address plans for the upcoming year. In addition, fiscal reporting, human studies reporting, and vertebrate animal use reporting will be required as appropriate. Continuation of funding is contingent upon the timely receipt of these reports. Failure to provide timely and complete reports may waive reimbursement of grant award costs and may result in the termination of the award contract. Forms and instructions will be made available at [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov).

## **16. REQUIREMENT TO DEMONSTRATE AVAILABLE FUNDS**

Texas law requires that prior to disbursement of CPRIT grant funds, the award recipient must demonstrate that it has an amount of funds equal to one-half of the CPRIT funding dedicated to the research that is the subject of the award. A grant recipient that is a public or private institution of higher education, as defined by §61.003, Texas Education Code, may credit toward the grant recipient's matching funds obligation the dollar amount equivalent to the difference between the indirect cost rate authorized by the federal government for research grants awarded to the grant recipient and the 5% indirect cost limit imposed by §102.203(c), Texas Health and Safety Code. Grant applicants are advised to consult CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.11](#), for specific requirements regarding demonstration of available funding. The demonstration of available matching funds must be made at the time the award contract is executed, and annually thereafter, not when the application is submitted.

## **17. CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **17.1. Helpdesk**

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

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

**Tel:** 866-941-7146

**Email:** [Help@CPRITGrants.org](mailto:Help@CPRITGrants.org)

### **17.2. Scientific and Programmatic Questions**

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

**Tel:** 512-305-8491

**Email:** [research@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:research@cprit.texas.gov)

**Website:** [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov)

# **Third Party Observer Reports**

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**Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**  
**23.2 Academic Research Texas Connect for Cancer**  
**Prevention Study Awards (23.2 ACR CONNECT)**  
**Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-06-13 23.2\_ACR\_CONNECT  
Program Name: Academic Research  
Panel Name: 23.2 Academic Research Texas Connect for Cancer Prevention  
Study Awards (23.2 \_ACR\_CONNECT)  
Panel Date: June 13, 2023  
Report Date: June 19, 2023

***BACKGROUND***

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

***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Academic Research Texas Connect for Cancer Prevention Study Awards (23.2\_ACR\_CONNECT) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Maria Martinez and conducted via videoconference on June 13, 2023.

***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

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

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

### **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Four (4) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, seven (7) expert reviewers, and one (1) advocate reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Four (4)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions
- CPRIT Oversight Committee Members: One (1)
- CPRIT Oversight Committee Members did not actively participate in the meeting
- Other Attendees, Senior Scientist NCI, The Connect for Cancer Prevention Cohort Study: One (1)

There were two (2) Conflicts of Interest (COIs) identified prior to and/or during the meeting. The COI was excluded from discussions concerning applications for which there was a conflict.

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

### **CONCLUSION**

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

BFS's third-party observation services did not include an evaluation of the appropriateness or rigor of the review panel's discussions of scientific, technical, or

programmatic aspects of the applications. We were not engaged to perform an audit, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion on the accuracy of voting and scoring. Accordingly, we will not express such an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures; other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

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

With best regards,



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

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



**Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**  
**23.2 Academic Research Review Panel – Scientific Review**  
**Council CONNECT (23.2 SRC CONNECT)**  
**Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-07-26 23.2\_SRC\_CONNECT  
Program Name: Academic Research  
Panel Name: 23.2 Academic Research Review Panel – Scientific Review Council  
CONNECT (23.2\_SRC\_CONNECT)  
Panel Date: July 26, 2023  
Report Date: July 28, 2023

***BACKGROUND***

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

***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Academic Research Review Panel – Scientific Review Council CONNECT (23.2\_SRC\_CONNECT) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Richard Kolodner and conducted via videoconference on July 26, 2023.

***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

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

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

## **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

One (1) BFS independent observer participated in observing the meeting. GDIT, CPRIT's contracted third-party grant application administrator, facilitated the meeting.

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Four (4) applications were discussed and zero (0) applications were not discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, six (6) expert reviewers and zero (0) advocate reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Two (2)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Three (3)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

There were no (0) Conflict of Interest (COI) identified prior to and/or during the meeting. The COI was excluded from discussions concerning applications for which there was a conflict.

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

## **CONCLUSION**

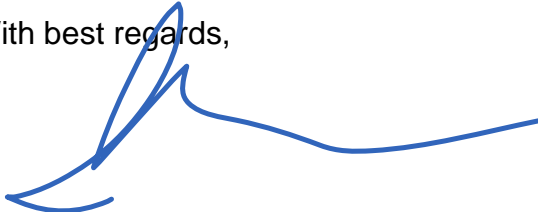
In conclusion, we observed that the activities of the meeting identified herein were limited to the identified objectives noted earlier in this report. Our observations are limited to the information made available.

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

procedures; other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

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

With best regards,



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

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

# Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

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## Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

### CPRIT Academic Research Cycle 23.2

#### Awards Announced at the August 16, 2023, Oversight Committee Meeting

The table below lists the conflicts of interest (COIs) identified by peer reviewers, Program Integration Committee (PIC) members, and Oversight Committee members on an application-by-application basis. Applications reviewed in Academic Research Cycle 23.2 include: *Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards*; *TREC: Major Instrumentation Award*; *TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award*; and *TREC: Pilot Study Award*.

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

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

Application ID	Principal Investigator	Organization	Conflict Noted by Reviewer
Applications considered by the PIC and Oversight Committee:			
None reported.			
Applications not considered by the PIC or Oversight Committee:			
RP230427	Thrift, Aaron	Baylor College of Medicine	Kobetz, Erin; McGlynn, Katherine



# De-Identified Overall Evaluation Scores

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## Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards

Academic Research Cycle 23.2

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
RP230426*	2.8
a	3.5
b	4.0
c	5.0

\* Recommended for grant award.

# **Final Overall Evaluation Scores and Rank Order Scores**

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Ludwig Institute for  
Cancer Research Ltd

Richard D. Kolodner  
Ph.D.

Head, Laboratory of  
Cancer Genetics  
San Diego Branch

Distinguished Professor of  
Cellular & Molecular  
Medicine, University of  
California San Diego School  
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July 26, 2023

Dr. Mahendra C. Patel  
Oversight Committee Presiding Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [curingkids@gmail.com](mailto:curingkids@gmail.com)

Mr. Wayne R. Roberts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [wroberts@cpvit.texas.gov](mailto:wroberts@cpvit.texas.gov)

Dear Dr. Patel and Mr. Roberts,

The Scientific Review Council (SRC) is pleased to submit this list of research grant award recommendations for the FY23.2 Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards. The SRC met on July 26, 2023, to review and finalize applications submitted to CPRIT under the FY23.2 Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards; Request for Applications (RFA).

The SRC recommends one application, which is included on the attached list. The recommended funding amount and the overall evaluation score are stated for the grant application. There were no recommended changes to funding amounts, goals, timelines, or project objectives requested. The total amount for the recommended application is \$7,499,998.

The recommendation meets the SRC's standards for grant award funding, including selecting innovative research projects addressing CPRIT's long term goals to achieve a decrease in the burden of cancer in Texas through preventive measures.

Sincerely yours,



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

Rank	ID	Award Mechanism	Final Overall Score	Application Title	Candidate/PI	Organization	Budget
1	RP230426	Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards.	2.8	Baylor Scott and White Health Texas Connect for Cancer Prevention Cohort	Katherine Sanchez, Ph.D.	Baylor Research Institute	\$7,499,998



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

# **CEO Affidavit Supporting Information**

**Academic Research  
FY 2023—Cycle 2  
*TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral  
Training Award***

# Request for Applications

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# CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## **REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

### **RFA R-23.2 TREC: PDTA**

#### **TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award**

Applications for this award mechanism are limited to institutions eligible to receive a Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer Award (TREC).

**Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document,  
which will be posted on January 25, 2023**

**Application Receipt Opening Date:** January 25, 2023

**Application Receipt Closing Date:** April 18, 2023

**FY2023**

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023



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## **RFA VERSION HISTORY**

Rev    01/17/2023    RFA release

## **1. KEY POINTS**

- The TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award (TREC: PDTA) is designed to support training and the conduct of research and, ultimately, the retention as faculty of outstanding postdoctoral trainees recognized by their institutions for their high potential and strong interest in pursuing careers as independent cancer researchers.
- The TREC: PDTA RFA is limited to TREC-eligible institutions located in regions of Texas that have historically received low levels of peer-reviewed cancer research funding.
- Applicants may request up to \$850,000 in CPRIT funds over 3 years to support postdoctoral fellows training.
- The TREC: PDTA is granted to the PI, who represents the applicant institution and its training programs. The awards will provide support for training 2 to 3 postdoctoral scholars annually. The institution is expected to conduct an application review process, selecting the most meritorious postdoctoral candidates for participation in the training program annually. An individual trainee may not be supported by this award for more than 3 years.

## **2. ABOUT CPRIT**

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

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

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

## **2.1. Academic Research Program Priorities**

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

Established Principles:

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

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

- Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas
- Investment in core facilities
- A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects
- Implementation research to accelerate the adoption and deployment of evidence-based prevention and screening interventions
- Computational oncology and analytic methods
- Childhood and adolescent cancers
- Hepatocellular cancer
- Expanding access to innovative clinical trials

## **3. GOAL**

The purpose of the Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award is to train the next generation of outstanding cancer researchers to help ensure that a diverse pool of highly trained scientists is available in adequate numbers and in appropriate research areas to address the institution's regional needs and the state's and nation's basic, population-based, clinical, and translational cancer research needs. This award supports the training of highly qualified postdoctoral fellows who have the potential to become productive, independent research scientists or physician-scientists and who intend to pursue careers focused on cancer research. Training is expected to be directed toward building the broad research competence required to ensure that trainees are prepared to assume leadership roles in cancer research.

Committed institutional support is required, especially in the form of research opportunities, excellent instruction and mentoring, and availability of research resources. Trainees are expected to be immersed in a highly interactive and supportive didactic and research program that facilitates research and instruction in cancer-related areas that will contribute to innovative approaches to key problems and will help bring novel solutions and potential therapies into practice. The training environment should be enriched by programmatic elements such as seminars from visiting researchers, journal clubs, internal research seminars, videoconferencing with collaborating institutions (if applicable), and attendance at relevant national and/or international scientific meetings. Each supported trainee is expected to identify an appropriate mentor and/or mentoring committee that will be responsible for providing critical teaching, monitoring of research progress and findings, advising, and leadership experience.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

Over the past decade, CPRIT academic research awards have gone primarily to Texas institutions located along the I-35 corridor or located within the Houston metroplex with dramatic impact on accelerating the cancer research capabilities and accomplishments of those institutions. However, institutions located in other geographic regions of the state have not been as competitive for cancer research funding from [CPRIT](#) or the [National Cancer Institute \(NCI\)](#). **The limited cancer research funding to these regions of Texas raises a concern that cancer-related issues affecting Texans from these geographic regions of Texas will not be adequately addressed.**

The TREC: PDTA is designed to provide an opportunity for those institutions located in geographic regions of Texas that historically have received low levels of peer-reviewed cancer research funding to train and develop the next generation of scientists. If successful, the TREC: PDTA would contribute to the retention of postdoctoral fellows as faculty and strengthen the cancer research infrastructure in TREC-eligible institutions.

#### **5. FUNDING INFORMATION**

The maximum duration for this award mechanism is 3 years. Applicants may request a maximum of \$850,000 in total costs. Funds may be used for salary and fringe benefits and training and research supplies. Because this RFA is issued as a new funding mechanism, renewal applications

will not be accepted. Requests for funds to support construction and/or renovation are not appropriate for this funding mechanism.

State law limits the amount of award funding that may be spent on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the **total** award amount.

Support may be requested as follows for the various types of postdoctoral trainees in an institutional training program:

- **Postdoctoral trainees** may request NIH-scale salary support plus benefits, up to \$10,000 annually per trainee in research supplies, and an allowance per trainee of \$2,000 per year for travel to scientific meetings. Appointments may be made for up to 3 years. Individuals holding PhD, MD/PhD, MD/DO, DNS, DO, or MD degrees are eligible for postdoctoral fellowship support provided that the training supported by CPRIT is for cancer research (basic, population-based, translational, or clinical).

## 6. ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility to apply for a TREC: PDTA is open to a Texas institution of higher learning whose campus is located 100 miles or greater from 1 of the 4 Texas NCI-designated cancer centers located in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio.

- An institution may submit only 1 application under this RFA during this funding cycle. For purposes of this RFA, an institution is defined as that component of a university system that has a president.
- TREC-eligible institutions with multiple campuses are eligible to participate in a single application under this RFA.
- The Principal Investigator (PI) must have a doctoral degree, including MD, PhD, DDS, DMD, DrPH, DO, DVM, or equivalent and reside in Texas for the period of the time that the research that is the subject of the grant application is conducted.
- This award must be directed by the PI. Multiple PIs are not permitted. One Coinvestigator is allowed. The PI must commit a 5% level of effort throughout the entire award period.
- Collaborations with Texas-based institutions to provide access to technology and counsel are permitted and can be supported with award funds through subcontracts.

- Collaborators may or may not reside in Texas; however, collaborators who do not reside in Texas are not eligible to receive CPRIT funds.
- Collaborators should have specific and well-defined roles. Subcontracting and collaborating organizations may include public, not-for-profit, and for-profit entities. Such entities may be located outside of the State of Texas, but non-Texas-based organizations are not eligible to receive CPRIT funds. In no event shall equipment purchased under this award leave the State of Texas.
- An individual may serve as a PI on no more than 3 active Academic Research grants. Recruitment Grants, Research Training Awards, and this TREC: PDTA do not count toward the 3-grant maximum; however, CPRIT considers project leaders on a MIRA award equivalent to a PI. For the purpose of calculating the number of active grants, CPRIT will consider the number of active grants at the time of the award contract effective date (for this cycle expected to be August 31, 2023).
- An applicant is eligible to receive a grant award only if the applicant certifies that the applicant institution or organization, including the PI, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's institution or organization (or any person related to 1 or more of these individuals within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity), has not made and will not make a contribution to CPRIT or to any foundation specifically created to benefit CPRIT.
- An applicant is not eligible to receive a CPRIT grant award if the applicant PI, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's institution or organization is related to a CPRIT Oversight Committee member.
- The applicant must report whether the applicant institution or organization, the PI, or other individuals who contribute to the execution of the proposed project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not those individuals are slated to receive salary or compensation under the grant award, are currently ineligible to receive federal grant funds or have had a grant terminated for cause within 5 years prior to the submission date of the grant application.
- CPRIT grants will be awarded by contract to successful applicants. Certain contractual requirements are mandated by Texas law or by administrative rules. Although applicants

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

## **7. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

This RFA solicits applications for *integrated institutional postdoctoral research training programs* to support promising postdoctoral scholars who seek specialized training in the area of cancer research. The goals of the TREC: PDTA are to attract outstanding postdoctoral trainees committed to pursuing a career in basic, population-based, translational, or clinical cancer research; to expand the skills and expertise of trainees to promote the next generation of investigators and leaders in cancer research; to position most trainees for independent research careers; and to support the development of high-quality, innovative, and creative research that, if successful, could provide the basis for a significant impact on cancer prevention, detection, and/or treatment. 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.

*Awards in response to this RFA will be made for institutional programs; individual fellowship applications will not be considered.*

It is expected that the research training experience will provide the following:

- A strong foundation in research design, methods, and analytic techniques appropriate to the proposed research project
- The development or enhancement of the supported trainee's ability to conceptualize and think through research problems with increasing independence
- An understanding of how basic discoveries are translated to clinical practice
- Experience in conducting, presenting, and publishing independent research
- Instruction in the responsible conduct of research
- The opportunity to interact with members of the scientific community at relevant seminars, scientific meetings, and workshops, and



- A well-conceived career plan to increase the trainee’s ability to compete successfully for additional support for his or her career development as an independent investigator

**Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds are especially encouraged to participate in CPRIT’s training programs, and a plan for recruiting such individuals is a requirement for this award.** Successful applicants will be expected to report demographic data by program type and trainee in annual progress reports, which will serve as an important evaluative component of the program.

CPRIT expects outcomes of supported activities to directly and indirectly benefit subsequent cancer research efforts, cancer public health policy, or the continuum of cancer care—from prevention to treatment and cure. To fulfill this vision, trainees may pursue any research topic or issue related to cancer biology, causation, prevention, detection or screening, treatment, or cure. Each supported trainee and his or her mentor and institution are jointly responsible for planning, directing, and executing the proposed research training program.

## **8. RESPONDING TO THIS RFA**

### **8.1. Application Submission Guidelines**

Applications must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). **Only applications submitted through this portal will be considered eligible for evaluation.** The applicant is eligible solely for the grant mechanism specified by the RFA under which the grant application was submitted. The PI must create a user account in the system to start and submit an application. Furthermore, the Application Signing Official (a person authorized to sign and submit the application for the organization) and the Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official (the individual who will manage the grant contract if an award is made) also must create a user account in CARS. Please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants (IFA)* document for the instructions on adding Key Personnel to an application. The *IFA* document will be available when the application receipts system opens.

Applications will be accepted beginning at 7 AM central time on January 25, 2023 and must be submitted by 4 PM central time on April 18, 2023. **Submission of an application is considered an acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFA.**

## **8.2. Submission Deadline Extension**

The submission deadline may be extended upon a showing of extenuating circumstances. A request for a deadline extension based on the need to complete multiple CPRIT or other grant applications will be denied. All requests for extension of the submission deadline must be submitted via email to the CPRIT [Helpdesk](#) within 24 hours of the submission deadline.

Submission deadline extensions, including the reason for the extension, will be documented as part of the grant review process records. Please note that deadline extension requests are very rarely approved.

## **8.3. Application Components**

Applicants are advised to follow all instructions to ensure accurate and complete submission of all components of the application. Please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants (IFA)* document for details that will be available on January 25, 2023. Submissions that are missing 1 or more components or do not meet the eligibility requirements listed in [section 6](#) will be administratively withdrawn without review.

### **8.3.1. Abstract and Significance (5,000 characters)**

Clearly describe the proposed training program. Explain program goals and provide an outline of the proposed didactic and research training activities and an overview of the institutional infrastructure and commitment. The specific aims of the application must be obvious from the abstract although they need not be restated verbatim from the Research Training Plan. Clearly address how the proposed program, if successful, will have a major impact on the TREC-eligible institution and impact retention of postdoctoral scholars as faculty of the applicant institution.

### **8.3.2. Layperson's Summary (2,000 characters)**

Provide a layperson's summary of the proposed work. Describe, in simple, nontechnical terms, the overall goals of the proposed training program, the type(s) of cancer research addressed, the potential significance of the results, and the impact of the work on advancing the field of cancer research, early diagnosis, prevention, or treatment. The information provided in this summary will be made publicly available by CPRIT, particularly if the application is recommended for funding. Do not include any proprietary information in the Layperson's Summary. The

Layperson's Summary will also be used by advocate reviewers ([section 9.1](#)) in evaluating the significance and impact of the proposed work.

### **8.3.3. Goals and Objectives**

Concisely state the specific goals and objectives to be achieved by the training plan described in the application. Goals and objectives should be listed for each year of the project. These goals and objectives will also be used during the submission and evaluation of progress reports and assessment of project success. Note recruitment, diversity, and retention goals and objectives are required, as they represent a core RFA component.

### **8.3.4. Timeline (1 page)**

Provide an outline of anticipated major milestones to be tracked. Timelines will be reviewed for reasonableness, and adherence to timelines will be a criterion for continued support of successful applications. If the application is approved for funding, this section will be included in the award contract. Applicants are advised not to include information that they consider confidential or proprietary when preparing this section.

### **8.3.5. Research Training Plan (20 pages)**

**Background:** Present the rationale behind the proposed training plan, emphasizing how the proposed project will support the development of dedicated postdoctoral investigators in cancer research.

**Program Goals:** Concisely state the goals and objectives to be achieved by the research training plan described in the application. These need not be fully repeated (as entered in [section 7](#)) and may be only summarized.

**Training Plan:** Provide a description of career development opportunities, such as seminar series, courses, and opportunities for interaction with other groups and scientists. Describe both formal program requirements and opportunities for professional development. Training in career skills (e.g., grant writing and presentation skills) is strongly encouraged. Elaborate on the research environment and available research facilities and equipment and discuss the relationship of the proposed research projects to trainees' careers. A mentoring/monitoring plan must be described.

**Selection of Trainees and Mentors:** Describe the process and major criteria that will be used to select trainees to be supported by this program. Describe the process and major criteria that will be used to select mentors for this program. It is not required that applicants identify trainees at the time of submission. Institutions have the option of describing the characteristics of trainees already at the institution, or characteristics of potential trainees that will be used in the selection process of outside candidates.

Note the following eligibility criteria for trainees supported by this mechanism:

1. All supported trainees must reside in Texas during the time the training program that is the subject of the grant is conducted.
2. All trainees must be officially enrolled in the appropriate institutional training program.
3. Trainees may be citizens or noncitizen nationals of the United States or international citizens who hold student visas.
4. Trainees must hold PhD, MD/PhD, MD/DO, DNS, DO, or MD degrees and show evidence of both high academic performance in the sciences and keen interest in research in areas of high priority to the participating institution. Trainees must be sponsored by a mentor who holds a faculty-level appointment for the research component.

**PI:** Outline the responsibilities of the PI in the overall management, administration, and evaluation of the program. Describe how the PI's scientific background, leadership, and administrative capabilities will enable him or her to coordinate and oversee the proposed research training program. Describe the research training record of the PI and, if applicable, Coinvestigator.

**Faculty Mentors:** Describe the pool of faculty mentors in terms of demographics (faculty rank, departmental appointment, and research interests).

**Recruitment Plan/Diversity Recruitment:** Describe the applicant pool of postdoctoral trainees with respect to demographics and research interests. Include a recruitment and retention plan for recruiting trainees from both outside and inside the applicant institution and for attracting trainees from complementary disciplines (e.g., from the physical, chemical, computational, and engineering sciences) to cancer research. Provide plans for enhancing the diversity of the trainee pool by recruiting from underrepresented groups and a plan for career mentoring for such

trainees (**this will be an important factor in the evaluation of the application**). Applications that do not address recruitment and retention will be considered incomplete.

**Responsible Conduct of Research:** Describe the plan to provide instruction in the responsible conduct of research, including the rationale, subject matter, appropriateness, format, frequency, and duration of instruction. The amount and nature of faculty participation must be described.

### **8.3.6. Publications/References**

Provide a concise and relevant list of publications/references cited for the application.

### **8.3.7. Budget and Justification**

Provide an outline and justification of the budget for the entire proposed period of support.

Applicants may request a maximum of \$850,000 in total costs per year for up to 3 years.

Allowable costs include trainee stipends (see limits in [section 5](#)), benefits, travel allowances, and training and research supplies (as indicated in [section 5](#)). The budget should be based on the number of trainee slots requested for each type of training activity. Justification of the number of trainees requested must be compelling and based on the number of exceptionally well-qualified individuals who are likely to be available and who deserve such support, as well as funds currently available from other training programs to support them. An appropriate and modest level of salary support may be requested for the PI, Co-I, and administrative staff.

In preparing the requested budget, applicants should be aware of the following:

- Texas law limits the amount of grant funds that may be spent on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs). Guidance regarding indirect cost recovery can be found in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, which are available at [www.cprit.state.tx.us](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us). So-called grants management and facilities fees (eg, sponsored programs fees; grants and contracts fees; electricity, gas, and water; custodial fees; maintenance fees) may not be requested. Applications that include such budgetary items will be rejected administratively and returned without review.
- The annual salary (also referred to as direct salary or institutional base salary) that an individual may receive under a CPRIT award for FY 2023 is \$200,000; CPRIT FY 2023 is from September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023. Salary does not include fringe benefits and/or facilities and administrative (F&A) costs, also referred to as indirect costs.

An individual's institutional base salary is the annual compensation that the applicant organization pays for an individual's appointment, whether that individual's time is spent on research, teaching, patient care, or other activities. Base salary excludes any income that an individual may be permitted to earn outside of his or her duties to the applicant organization.

- For the purpose of this award, institutions should develop the budget based on the number of projected postdoctoral trainees to be supported, the salary and benefits based on the NIH scale commensurate with the anticipated years of post-degree experience, partial project research costs (up to \$10,000 annually for supplies and reagents), and administrative costs, such as percent effort for the PI and program administrator.

#### **8.3.8. Biographical Sketches (5 pages each)**

Applicants should provide a biographical sketch that describes their education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, and publications relevant to cancer research.

A biographical sketch must be provided for the PI and, if applicable, the Coinvestigator (as required by the online application receipt system). Up to 10 additional biographical sketches for key personnel may be provided. Each biographical sketch must not exceed 5 pages. The NIH biosketch format is appropriate.

#### **8.3.9. Current and Pending Support**

Describe the funding source and duration of all current and pending support for all personnel who have included a biographical sketch with the application. For each award, provide the title and a 2-line summary of the goal of the project. At a minimum, current and pending support of the PI and, if applicable, any additional investigator must be provided. Refer to the sample current and pending support document located in [Current Funding Opportunities](#) for Academic Research in CARS.

#### **8.3.10. Institutional Support (3 pages)**

Each application must be accompanied by a letter of institutional support from the president or provost indicating support and commitment to the training program. The letter could include, but is not limited to, information about laboratory space, shared laboratory facilities and equipment,

funds for curriculum development, support for additional trainees in the program, and initiatives to support recruitment of underrepresented minorities. A maximum of 3 pages may be provided.

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

#### **8.4. Formatting Instructions**

Formatting guidelines for all submitted CPRIT applications are as follows:

- **Language:** English.
- **Document Format:** PDF only.
- **Font Type/Size:** Arial (11 point), Calibri (11 point), or Times New Roman (12 point).
- **Line Spacing:** Single.
- **Page Size:** 8.5 x 11 inches.
- **Margins:** 0.75 inch, all directions.
- **Color and High-Resolution Images:** Images, graphs, figures, and other illustrations must be submitted as part of the appropriate submitted document. Applicants should include text to explain illustrations that may be difficult to interpret when printed in black and white.
- **Scanning Resolution:** Images and figures must be of lowest reasonable resolution that permits clarity and readability. Unnecessarily large files will NOT be accepted, especially those that include only text.
- **References:** Applicants should use a citation style that includes the full name of the article and that lists at least the first 3 authors. Official journal abbreviations may be used. An example is included below; however, other citation styles meeting these parameters are also acceptable as long as the journal information is stated. Include URLs of publications referenced in the application.

Smith, P.T., Doe, J., White, J.M., et al (2006). Elaborating on a novel mechanism for cancer progression. *Journal of Cancer Research*, 135: 45-67.

- **Internet URLs:** Applicants are encouraged to provide the URLs of publications referenced in the application; however, applicants should not include URLs directing reviewers to websites containing additional information about the proposed research.
- **Headers and Footers:** These should not be used unless they are part of a provided template. Page numbers may be included in the footer (see following point).
- **Page Numbering:** Pages should be numbered at the bottom right corner of each page.
- All attachments that require signatures must be filled out, printed, signed, scanned, and then uploaded in PDF format.

## 9. APPLICATION REVIEW

### 9.1. Full Peer Review

All applications submitted in response to this RFA will undergo a 2-stage peer review process: (1) Full peer review and (2) prioritization of grant applications by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council. In the first stage, applications will be evaluated by an independent peer review panel consisting of scientific experts as well as advocate reviewers using the criteria listed in [section 9.3](#). In the second stage, applications judged to be most meritorious by the peer review panels will be evaluated and recommended for funding by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council based on comparisons with applications from all of the peer review panels and programmatic priorities. Applications approved by Scientific Review Council will be forwarded to the CPRIT Program Integration Committee (PIC) for review. The PIC will consider factors including program priorities set by the Oversight Committee, portfolio balance across programs, and available funding.

The CPRIT Oversight Committee will vote to approve each grant award recommendation made by the PIC. The grant award recommendations will be presented at an open meeting of the Oversight Committee and must be approved by two-thirds of the Oversight Committee members present and eligible to vote. The review process is described more fully in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, sections 703.6 to 703.8](#).

Applicants will be notified of peer review panel assignment prior to the peer review meeting dates.



## 9.2. Confidentiality of Review

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

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

An applicant will be notified regarding the peer review panel assigned to review the grant application. Peer review panel members are listed by panel on CPRIT's website.

**By submitting a grant application, the applicant agrees and understands that the only basis for reconsideration of a grant application is limited to an undisclosed conflict of interest as set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.9](#).**

Communication regarding the substance of a pending application is prohibited between the grant applicant (or someone on the grant applicant's behalf) and the following individuals: an Oversight Committee Member, a PIC Member, a Scientific Review Panel member, or a Scientific Review Council member. Applicants should note that the CPRIT PIC comprises the CPRIT Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Scientific Officer, the Chief Prevention Officer, the Chief Product Development Officer, and the Commissioner of State Health Services.

The prohibition on communication begins on the first day that grant applications for the particular grant mechanism are accepted by CPRIT and extends until the grant applicant receives notice regarding a final decision on the grant application. Intentional, serious, or frequent violations of this rule may result in the disqualification of the grant application from further consideration for a grant award.

## 9.3. Review Criteria

Full peer review of applications will be based on primary scored criteria and secondary unscored criteria, listed below. Review committees will evaluate and score each primary criterion and

subsequently assign a global score that reflects an overall assessment of the application. **The overall assessment will not be an average of the scores of individual criteria; rather, it will reflect the reviewers' overall impression of the application. Evaluation of the scientific merit of each application is within the sole discretion of the peer reviewers.**

### **9.3.1. Primary Criteria**

Primary criteria will evaluate the scientific merit and potential impact of the proposed training program. Concerns with any of these criteria potentially indicate a major flaw in the significance and/or design of the proposed program. Primary criteria include the following:

**Overall Evaluation of Training Potential:** What is the likelihood that the training program will serve as a sound foundation to enhance a supported trainee's potential for, and commitment to, a productive, independent scientific research career in a cancer-related field?

**Research Training Plan:** Will the training plan provide trainees with individualized and supervised experiences that will enable them to develop the research skills needed to be independent researchers or physician-scientists? Is the training plan customizable for fellows from diverse academic backgrounds and differing educational philosophies?

**PI and Mentors:** Do the PI and mentors have excellent research qualifications (including publications in high-quality journals and peer-reviewed research support) and track records of mentoring that are appropriate for the proposed training program?

**Trainees:** It is not required that applicants identify trainees at the time of submission. Institutions have the option of describing the characteristics of trainees already at the institution, or characteristics of potential trainees that will be used in the selection process of outside candidates. Is there a plan to enhance the diversity of trainees by recruiting from underrepresented groups?

**Institutional Environment and Commitment to Training:** Is there a high-quality institutional environment for the scientific development of trainees? Is there appropriate institutional commitment to fostering training as investigators or physician-scientists? Are the research facilities, resources (eg, equipment, laboratory space, computer time, subject populations), and training opportunities adequate and appropriate? If a new program, does the applicant show evidence of a strong training environment?

### 9.3.2. Secondary Criteria

Secondary criteria contribute to the global score assigned to the application. Concerns with these criteria potentially question the value of the proposed training program.

Secondary criteria include the following:

**Relevance to Cancer Research:** Does the proposed training program have a high degree of *direct* relevance to cancer research? Does the program include high priority areas of emphasis for CPRIT (prevention and early detection, rare and intractable cancers, computational biology, cancers of special interest in Texas)?

**Project Leadership:** Is the program managed by strong leadership in a position to organize and manage the proposed training activities?

**Responsible Conduct of Research:** Does the applicant institution have acceptable plans to provide instruction in the responsible conduct of research?

**Budget:** Is the budget appropriate for the proposed work?

**Duration:** Is the stated duration appropriate for the proposed work?

## 10. KEY DATES

### RFA

RFA release January 17, 2023

IFA posted January 25, 2023

### Application

Online application opens January 25, 2023, 7 AM central time

Application due April 18, 2023, 4 PM central time

Application review April 2023 to June 2023

### Award

Award notification August, 2023

Anticipated start date August 31, 2023

## 11. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

Texas law requires that CPRIT grant awards be made by contract between the applicant and CPRIT. CPRIT grant awards are made to institutions or organizations, not to individuals. Award contract negotiation and execution will commence once the CPRIT Oversight Committee has approved an application for a grant award. CPRIT may require, as a condition of receiving a grant award, that the grant recipient use CPRIT's electronic Grant Management System to exchange, execute, and verify legally binding grant contract documents and grant award reports. Such use shall be in accordance with CPRIT's electronic signature policy as set forth in [chapter 701, section 701.25](#).

Texas law specifies several components that must be addressed by the award contract, including needed compliance and assurance documentation, budgetary review, progress and fiscal monitoring, and terms relating to revenue sharing and intellectual property rights. These contract provisions are specified in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, which are available at [www.cprit.state.tx.us](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us). Applicants are advised to review CPRIT's administrative rules related to contractual requirements associated with CPRIT grant awards and limitations related to the use of CPRIT grant awards as set forth in chapter 703, [sections 703.10, 703.12](#).

Prior to disbursement of grant award funds, the grant recipient organization must demonstrate that it has adopted and enforces a tobacco-free workplace policy consistent with the requirements set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.20](#).

CPRIT requires award recipients to submit an annual progress report. These reports summarize the progress made toward the research goals and address plans for the upcoming year. In addition, fiscal reporting, human studies reporting, and vertebrate animal use reporting will be required as appropriate. Continuation of funding is contingent upon the timely receipt of these reports. Failure to provide timely and complete reports may waive reimbursement of grant award costs and may result in the termination of the award contract. Forms and instructions will be made available at [www.cprit.state.tx.us](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us).

## **12. REQUIREMENT TO DEMONSTRATE AVAILABLE FUNDS**

Texas law requires that prior to disbursement of CPRIT grant funds, the award recipient must demonstrate that it has an amount of funds equal to one-half of the CPRIT funding dedicated to the research that is the subject of the award. A grant recipient that is a public or private institution of higher education, as defined by §61.003, Texas Education Code, may credit toward the Grant Recipient's Matching Funds obligation the dollar amount equivalent to the difference between the indirect cost rate authorized by the federal government for research grants awarded to the Grant Recipient and the 5% indirect cost limit imposed by §102.203(c), Texas Health and Safety Code. Grant applicants are advised to consult CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.11](#), for specific requirements regarding demonstration of available funding. The demonstration of available matching funds must be made at the time the award contract is executed, and annually thereafter, not when the application is submitted.

## **13. CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **13.1. Helpdesk**

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

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

**Tel:** 866-941-7146

**Email:** [Help@CPRITGrants.org](mailto:Help@CPRITGrants.org)

### **13.2. Scientific and Programmatic Questions**

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

**Tel:** 512-305-8491

**Email:** [research@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:research@cprit.texas.gov)

**Website:** [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov)

# **Third Party Observer Reports**

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**Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**  
**23.2 Academic Research - Texas Regional Excellence in**  
**Cancer (TREC) (23.2 ACR TREC)**  
**Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-06-16 23.2\_ACR\_TREC  
Program Name: Academic Research  
Panel Name: 23.2 Academic Research - Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer  
(TREC) (23.2 \_ACR\_TREC)  
Panel Date: June 16, 2023  
Report Date: June 23, 2023

***BACKGROUND***

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

***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Academic Research - Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer (TREC) (23.2\_ACR\_TREC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Eric Fearon and conducted via videoconference on June 16, 2023.

***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

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



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

### **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Twenty-two (22) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, twelve (12) expert reviewers, and two (2) advocate reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Three (3)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

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

### **CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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



**Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**  
**23.2 Academic Research - Scientific Review Council Meeting**  
**(23.2 SRC)**  
**Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-07-13 23.2\_SRC  
Program Name: Academic Research  
Panel Name: 23.2 Academic Research - Scientific Review Council Meeting (23.2\_SRC)  
Panel Date: July 13, 2023  
Report Date: July 17, 2023

***BACKGROUND***

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

***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Academic Research - Scientific Review Council Meeting (23.2\_SRC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Richard Kolodner and conducted via videoconference on July 13, 2023.

***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

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

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

## **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Nine (9) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, and six (6) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Two (2)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

There were no (0) Conflicts of Interest (COIs) identified prior to and/or during the meeting. The COI was excluded from discussions concerning applications for which there was a conflict.

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


## **CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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

# **Conflicts of Interest Disclosure**

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## Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

### CPRIT Academic Research Cycle 23.2

#### Awards Announced at the August 16, 2023, Oversight Committee Meeting

The table below lists the conflicts of interest (COIs) identified by peer reviewers, Program Integration Committee (PIC) members, and Oversight Committee members on an application-by-application basis. Applications reviewed in Academic Research Cycle 23.2 include: *Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards*; *TREC: Major Instrumentation Award*; *TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award*; and *TREC: Pilot Study Award*.

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

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

Application ID	Principal Investigator	Organization	Conflict Noted by Reviewer
Applications considered by the PIC and Oversight Committee:			
None reported.			
Applications not considered by the PIC or Oversight Committee:			
RP230427	Thrift, Aaron	Baylor College of Medicine	Kobetz, Erin; McGlynn, Katherine

# De-Identified Overall Evaluation Scores

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## TREC: Major Instrumentation Award

Academic Research Cycle 23.2

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
RP230446*	1.1
ba	5.6
bb	6.9

\* Recommended for grant award.

# **Final Overall Evaluation Scores and Rank Order Scores**

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**Ludwig Institute for  
Cancer Research Ltd**

**Richard D. Kolodner  
Ph.D.**

Head, Laboratory of  
Cancer Genetics  
San Diego Branch

Distinguished Professor of  
Cellular & Molecular  
Medicine, University of  
California San Diego School  
of Medicine

[rkolodner@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:rkolodner@health.ucsd.edu)

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Medicine  
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**T** 858 534 7804  
**F** 858 534 7750

July 18, 2023

Dr. Mahendra C. Patel  
Oversight Committee Presiding Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [curingkids@gmail.com](mailto:curingkids@gmail.com)

Mr. Wayne R. Roberts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [wroberts@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:wroberts@cprit.texas.gov)

Dear Dr. Patel and Mr. Roberts,

The Scientific Review Council (SRC) is pleased to submit this list of research grant award recommendations for the FY23.2 TREC: Major Instrumentation Awards, TREC:Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award, TREC Pilot Study Awards and FY23 Cycles 23.5 and 23.6 recruitment grant recommendations. The SRC met on May 18, 2023 (Cycle 23.5) and July 13, 2023 (Cycles 23.6 and 23.2 TREC ) to review and finalize applications submitted to CPRIT under the FY23.2 TREC related Request for Applications (RFA) and the Recruitment of Established Investigator and Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members RFA mechanisms.

The SRC recommends 19 applications, which are included on the attached list. The recommended funding amounts and the overall evaluation scores are stated for the grant applications. There were no recommended changes to funding amounts, goals, timelines, or project objectives requested. The total amount for the applications recommended is \$28,544,693.

The recommendations meet the SRC's standards for grant award funding, including selecting recruitment candidates at all career levels that have demonstrated academic excellence, selecting innovative research projects addressing CPRIT's long term goals to select candidates at all career levels that have demonstrated academic excellence achieve a decrease in the burden of cancer in Texas through preventive measures, new diagnostics and treatments, and effective translation of discoveries into products.

Sincerely yours,



Richard D. Kolodner, Ph.D.

Chair, CPRIT Scientific Review Council

Rank	ID	Award Mechanism	Final Overall Score	Application Title	Candidate/PI	Organization	Budget
1	RR230040	RFTFM	1.0	First-Time, Tenure-Track: Dr. Graham Erwin	Graham Erwin	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
2	RR230042	RFTFM	1.0	First-Time Tenure-Track: Dr. Michael Robertson	Michael Robertson	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
3	RR230054	RFTFM	1.1	Nomination of Xiaofeng Qi, Ph.D. for a CPRIT recruitment of a First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Member Award	Xiaofeng Qi	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000
4	RP230446	TRECPDTA	1.1	UTEP Postdoctoral Career Transition Program in Cancer Research	Lu, Weiqin	The University of Texas at El Paso	\$850,000
5	RR230072	RFTFM	1.3	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members - SimonEschweiler	Simon Eschweiler	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$2,000,000
6	RP230447	TRECMIA	1.4	Fluorescence-Activated Cell Sorting: FACSaria Fusion	Kang, Min	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$901,225
7	RR230078	REI	1.5	Recruitment of Established Investigator, Simon Gayther	Simon Gayther	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	\$6,000,000
8	RR230050	RFTFM	1.9	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Zunlong Ke	Zunlong Ke	The University of Texas at Austin	\$2,000,000
9	RR230052	RFTFM	2.0	First-Time, Tenure-Track: Dr. Varun Venkataramani	Varun Venkataramani	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000

10	RR230053	RFTFM	<b>2.0</b>	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Chen Cao	Chen Cao	The University of Texas at Dallas	\$1,800,000
11	RR230066	RFTFM	<b>2.0</b>	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Qian Yin	Qian Yin	The University of Texas at Austin	\$2,000,000
12	RP230449	TRECMIA	<b>2.0</b>	The acquisition of an instrument suite to set up a high-throughput screening core at Texas A&M University	Liu, Wenshe	Texas A&M University	\$995,767
13	RP230445	TRECMIA	<b>2.2</b>	Core Imaging Instrumentation for Cancer Studies in Rodent Models: Acquisition of an IVIS Spectrum/Quantum GX2 optical/microCT Small Animal Imaging System	Becker, Christopher	Baylor University	\$997,701
14	RR230081	RFTFM	<b>2.6</b>	Nomination of Annika Wylie for CPRIT Recruitment of First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Member	Annika Wylie	Southern Methodist University	\$2,000,000
15	RP230443	TRECPSA	<b>2.9</b>	“Click” Assembled Colloidal Molecules with Tunable Plasmon Bands as Novel Agents for Photothermal Tumor Therapy	Liang, Hongjun	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$200,000
16	RP230454	TRECPSA	<b>2.9</b>	Role of transcription factor UBTF in pancreatic cancer	Hafeez, Bilal	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	\$200,000
17	RP230431	TRECPSA	<b>3.2</b>	Unraveling the Therapeutic Potential of Osr1 Overexpression in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Management	Xie, Linglin	Texas A&M University	\$200,000

18	RP230444	TRECPSA	<b>3.6</b>	A Role for PSMD2, PSMD7, and PSMD9 in Drug Resistance of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)	Eiring, Anna	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	\$200,000
19	RP230451	TRECPSA	<b>3.7</b>	The Role of Renal Lipotoxicity in Carcinogenesis	Bobulescu, Ion	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$200,000

RFTFM- Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty

REI- Recruitment of Established Investigators

TREC: MIA - TREC: Major Instrument Award

TREC:PDTA- TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award

TREC:PSA - TREC: Pilot Study Award



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

# **CEO Affidavit Supporting Information**

**Academic Research  
FY 2023—Cycle 2  
*TREC: Major Instrumentation Award***

# Request for Applications

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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

**RFA R-23.2 TREC:MIA**

**TREC: Major Instrumentation Award**

Applications for this award mechanism are limited to institutions eligible to receive a Texas  
Regional Excellence in Cancer Award (TREC)

Institutions are limited to 1 application submission for R-23.2 TREC: MIA

**Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document,  
which will be posted on January 25, 2023**

**Application Receipt Opening Date:** January 25, 2023

**Application Receipt Closing Date:** April 18, 2023

**FY2023**

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023

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## **RFA VERSION HISTORY**

01/17/2023 RFA release

Rev 2/17/23 Section 3 – Goal

- Updated language regarding user group requirement to the following: “A major and minor (unfunded) user group of investigators must be identified. The major user group must contain 2 investigators with peer-reviewed funding relevant to cancer, and at least 2 existing promising cancer researchers (for example, junior faculty)”

## **1. KEY POINTS**

- The TREC: Major Instrumentation Award (TREC: MIA) is designed to enhance research capacity by supporting the purchase of major instrumentation for 1 or more core facilities that will support multiple cancer researchers.
- The acquisition of 1 major piece of instrumentation is preferred; however, additional pieces of equipment may be requested if they are related to the other equipment and necessary to provide the desired technologies and services.
- A major and minor (unfunded) user group must be created, and the major user group must contain 2 investigators with peer-reviewed funding relevant to cancer, and at least 2 existing promising cancer researchers (for example, junior faculty).
- The TREC: MIA RFA applications are limited to TREC-eligible institutions located in regions of Texas that have historically received low levels of peer-reviewed cancer research funding.
- TREC-eligible institutions are limited to 1 application submission for the FY23.2 TREC: MIA RFA.
- Applicants may request up to \$1,000,000 in CPRIT funds for 2 years.

## **2. ABOUT CPRIT**

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

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

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

## **2.1. Academic Research Program Priorities**

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

- Established Principles:
- Scientific excellence and impact on cancer
- Increasing the life sciences infrastructure
- Achieve health equity and reduce cancer disparities

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

- Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas
- Investment in core facilities
- A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects
- Implementation research to accelerate the adoption and deployment of evidence-based prevention and screening interventions
- Computational oncology and analytic methods
- Childhood and adolescent cancers
- Hepatocellular cancer
- Expanding access to innovative clinical trials

## **3. GOAL**

The purpose of the TREC: MIA is to support the acquisition of major research instrumentation that cannot be requested through other CPRIT programs and whose purchase can be justified to support the goals of scientifically meritorious research projects. A major and minor (unfunded) user group of investigators must be identified. The major user group must contain 2 investigators with peer-reviewed funding relevant to cancer, and at least 2 existing promising cancer researchers (for example, junior faculty); other users may have non-peer-reviewed funding or be unfunded but with departmental-supported cancer research projects that make use of the requested instrumentation.

## 4. BACKGROUND

Over the past decade, CPRIT academic research awards have gone primarily to Texas institutions located along the I-35 corridor or located within the Houston metroplex with dramatic impact on accelerating the cancer research capabilities and accomplishments of those institutions. However, institutions located in other geographic regions of the state have not been as competitive for cancer research funding from [CPRIT](#) or the [National Cancer Institute \(NCI\)](#).

**The limited cancer research funding to these regions of Texas raises a concern that cancer-related issues affecting Texans from these geographic regions of Texas will not be adequately addressed.**

The TREC: MIA is designed to provide an opportunity for those institutions located in geographic regions of Texas that historically have received low levels of peer-reviewed cancer research funding to seek funds to purchase a major instrument(s) needed to conduct or expand cancer research projects at TREC-eligible institutions.

## 5. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

CPRIT will foster cancer research across Texas by providing financial support for a wide variety of projects relevant to cancer research. This RFA solicits applications from institutions to purchase major instrumentation to provide cancer researchers with access to achieve their research objectives. This award supports cancer researchers' acquisition of scientific instruments that are justified by investigators' needs to pursue their scientific projects in basic, translational, clinical, or population cancer research. To fulfill this vision, applications may address any topic or issue related to cancer biology, causation, prevention, detection or screening, treatment, or survivorship.

A wide variety of instrumentation can be wholly or partially supported including, but not limited to, biomedical imaging systems, microscopes, cyclotrons, mass spectrometers, protein and DNA sequencers, flow cytometers, and cell sorters. It is expected that the instrument(s), by augmenting institutional research capabilities, will invigorate current research, contribute to opportunities for novel research projects, stimulate new collaborations, and increase overall research competitiveness. Moreover, a broader research community at the applicant or regional institution(s) should benefit from access to the instrument. The program requires that a minimum

of 2 major users with active peer-reviewed cancer research projects to demonstrate significant need for the requested instrument.

## 6. FUNDING INFORMATION

The maximum duration for this award mechanism is 2 years. Applicants may request a maximum of \$1,000,000 in total costs. Travel to scientific/technical meetings or collaborating institutions is not an allowable expense for this RFA. Because of the nature of this funding mechanism, renewal applications will not be accepted. Requests for funds to support construction and/or renovation are not appropriate for this funding mechanism.

State law limits the amount of award funding that may be spent on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the **total** award amount.

## 7. ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility to apply for a TREC: MIA is open to a Texas institution of higher learning whose campus is located 100 miles or greater from 1 of the 4 Texas NCI-designated cancer centers located in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio.

- The acquisition of 1 major piece of instrumentation is preferred; however, a second piece of equipment, or suite of equipment, may be requested if it is related to the other equipment and necessary to provide the desired technologies and services.
- Collaborative applications among TREC institutions are permitted. However, such collaboration must not be used as a pretext for acquiring multiple instruments at a given institution.
- TREC-eligible institutions with multiple campuses are eligible to participate in a single application under this RFA.
- The Principal Investigator (PI) must have a doctoral degree, including MD, PhD, DDS, DMD, DrPH, DO, DVM, or equivalent and reside in Texas for the period of the time that the research that is the subject of the grant application is conducted.
- This award must be directed by the PI. Multiple PIs or Coinvestigators are not allowed. The PI must commit a 5% level of effort throughout the entire award period.
- An applicant is eligible to receive a grant award only if the applicant certifies that the applicant institution or organization, including the PI, any senior member or key

personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's institution or organization (or any person related to 1 or more of these individuals within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity), has not made and will not make a contribution to CPRIT or to any foundation specifically created to benefit CPRIT.

- An applicant is not eligible to receive a CPRIT grant award if the applicant PI, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's institution or organization is related to a CPRIT Oversight Committee member.
- The applicant must report whether the applicant institution or organization, the PI, or other individuals who contribute to the execution of the proposed project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not those individuals are slated to receive salary or compensation under the grant award, are currently ineligible to receive federal grant funds or have had a grant terminated for cause within 5 years prior to the submission date of the grant application.
- CPRIT grants will be awarded by contract to successful applicants. Certain contractual requirements are mandated by Texas law or by administrative rules. Although applicants need not demonstrate the ability to comply with these contractual requirements at the time the application is submitted, applicants should make themselves aware of these standards before submitting a grant application. Significant issues addressed by the CPRIT contract are listed in [section 11](#) and [section 12](#). All statutory provisions and relevant administrative rules can be found at [www.cpritis.texas.gov](http://www.cpritis.texas.gov).

## **8. RESPONDING TO THIS RFA**

### **8.1. Application Submission Guidelines**

Applications must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). **Only applications submitted through this portal will be considered eligible for evaluation.** The applicant is eligible solely for the grant mechanism specified by the RFA under which the grant application was submitted. The PI must create a user account in the system to start and submit an application. Furthermore, the Application Signing Official (a person authorized to sign and submit the application for the organization) and the Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official (the individual who will manage the grant



contract if an award is made) also must create a user account in CARS. Please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants (IFA)* document for the instructions on adding Key Personnel to an application. The *IFA* document will be available when the application receipts system opens.

Applications will be accepted beginning at 7 AM central time on January 25, 2023, and must be submitted by 4 PM central time on April 18, 2023. **Submission of an application is considered an acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFA.**

## **8.2. Submission Deadline Extension**

The submission deadline may be extended upon a showing of extenuating circumstances. A request for a deadline extension based on the need to complete multiple CPRIT or other grant applications will be denied. All requests for extension of the submission deadline must be submitted via email to the CPRIT [Helpdesk](#) within 24 hours of the submission deadline.

Submission deadline extensions, including the reason for the extension, will be documented as part of the grant review process records. Please note that deadline extension requests are very rarely approved.

## **8.3. Application Components**

Applicants are advised to follow all instructions to ensure accurate and complete submission of all components of the application. Please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants (IFA)* document for details that will be available January 25, 2023. Submissions that are missing 1 or more components or do not meet the eligibility requirements listed in [section 7](#) will be administratively withdrawn without review.

### **8.3.1. Abstract and Significance (5,000 characters)**

Provide a succinct and accurate description of the requested instrument and an explanation of the need for the instrument to advance research projects of the users. The application's broad, long-term objectives should be stated, concisely describing how access to the instrument will enhance the health-related goals of the research projects. Clearly address how acquisition of the proposed technology/instrument(s) and subsequent research conducted will have a major impact on cancer.

**If the application is approved for funding, this section will be included in the award contract. Applicants are advised not to include information that they consider confidential or proprietary when preparing this section.**

**Note:** It is the responsibility of the applicant to capture CPRIT’s attention primarily with the Abstract and Significance statement alone. Therefore, applicants are advised to prepare this section wisely. Applicants should not waste this valuable space by stating obvious facts (eg, that cancer is a significant problem, that better diagnostic and therapeutic approaches are needed urgently, or that the type of cancer of interest to the PI is important, vexing, or deadly).

### **8.3.2. Layperson’s Summary (2,000 characters)**

In this section, be succinct and use plain language that can be understood by a general, lay audience. Provide a summary of the requested instrumentation and an explanation of the need for the instrument(s) or technology to advance research projects of the users. The information provided in this summary will be made publicly available by CPRIT, particularly if the application is recommended for funding. Do not include any proprietary information in the Layperson’s Summary. The Layperson’s Summary will also be used by advocate reviewers ([section 9.1](#)) in evaluating the significance and impact of the proposed work.

### **8.3.3. Goals and Objectives**

List specific goals and objectives for each year of the project. These goals and objectives will also be used during the submission and evaluation of progress reports and assessment of project success if the award is made.

### **8.3.4. Timeline (1 page)**

Provide an outline of anticipated major milestones to be tracked. Timelines will be reviewed for reasonableness, and adherence to timelines will be a criterion for continued support of successful applications. If the application is approved for funding, this section will be included in the award contract. Applicants are advised not to include information that they consider confidential or proprietary when preparing this section.

### **8.3.5. Instrumentation Plan – in lieu of Research Plan (10 pages)**

Organize the Instrumentation Plan in the specified order as described below, starting each section with the appropriate section heading. If utilizing a table to demonstrate a component of the plan, the tables count toward the page limits.

**Background:** Present the rationale and need for the instrument, emphasizing the pressing problem in cancer research that will be addressed.

**Instrument Details:** Provide details of the equipment/instrument that will be acquired, and the technology made possible by the equipment. Justify why the chosen model was prioritized for the user group identified as compared to other similar instruments on the market. Also, justify the need for any specific features and special accessories of the requested instrument. If the requested equipment is replacing or upgrading existing instruments, justify the need for the request. Provide an inventory of similar instruments existing at your institution. Each such accessory must be utilized at minimum by the identified 2 investigators with peer-reviewed funding relevant to cancer, and at least 2 existing promising cancer researchers (for example, junior faculty).

**Technical Expertise:** Describe the technical expertise of individuals who will set up and safely operate the instrument and the plan to train users on the use of the instrument and evaluate the results obtained.

**Research Projects:** In this section, describe the benefit of the requested instrument(s) to enhance users' research projects. As the research projects have already been peer reviewed, briefly list research projects by PI, funding, scope, and focus. Research projects may be drawn from a broad array of topics in basic, translational, clinical, or population cancer research. If there are unfunded users of the instrument, provide a list of anticipated projects and identify users and focus.

**Administrative Plan:** Clearly describe the organizational plan to administer the award:

- Location of the instrumentation and proximity to the major and unfunded user base.
- Operational details including policies on time allocation, prioritization of users/use, maintenance of the instrument, and how other projects and new users will be enlisted.
- Describe typical day-by-day management of the instrument.
- If relevant, describe additional institutional services relevant to the optimal application of the technology, eg, informatics services or analytical software available for data interpretation and analysis and data storage.

- If the plans are to install the instrument in a setting other than a core or a shared resource facility, describe the procedures that will implement and ensure broad access to the instrument and its use on a shared basis.
- Provide a financial plan for the long-term operation and maintenance of the instrument, as such costs are not supported by this RFA.

### **8.3.6. Publications/References**

Provide a concise and relevant list of publications/references cited for the application.

### **8.3.7. Budget and Justification**

Provide a compelling justification of the budget for the entire proposed period of support and an itemized detailed budget breakdown of the main instrument and requested accessories, including tax and import duties, if applicable. An itemized quote from the vendor, with appropriate discounts and warranty terms, is required. Allowable expenses include the total cost of the instrument (in first 6 months of the contracted year) and 2 years of maintenance/service contracts that do not exceed the award's contractual term.

Applicants are advised NOT to interpret the maximum allowable request under this award mechanism as an invitation to purchase the most expensive equipment. Rather, requests for the most appropriate instrument(s) to support the research needs will clearly work in favor of the applicant. Poorly justified and/or inflated requests will likely have a negative impact on the overall evaluation of the application.

The annual salary (also referred to as direct salary or institutional base salary) that an individual may receive under a CPRIT award for FY 2023 is \$200,000; CPRIT FY 2023 is from September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023. Salary does not include fringe benefits and/or facilities and administrative (F&A) costs, also referred to as indirect costs. An individual's institutional base salary is the annual compensation that the applicant organization pays for an individual's appointment, whether that individual's time is spent on research, teaching, patient care, or other activities. Base salary excludes any income that an individual may be permitted to earn outside of his or her duties to the applicant organization.

### **8.3.8. User Group (8 pages)**

Provide a tabular summary of users of the requested instrument. List the names of all researchers, their academic appointment and affiliation, funded project title(s)/number(s) (where applicable), a brief description of the project(s), and approximate percentage use of the equipment for direct use in cancer research efforts.

### **8.3.9. Biographical Sketches (5 pages each)**

Applicants should provide a biographical sketch that describes their education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, and publications relevant to cancer research.

A biographical sketch must be provided for the PI. Provide up to 10 additional biographical sketches for major and minor (unfunded) users. Each biographical sketch must not exceed 5 pages. The NIH biosketch format is appropriate.

### **8.3.10. Current and Pending Support**

Describe the funding source and duration of all current and pending support for all personnel who have included a biographical sketch with the application. For each award, provide the title and a 2-line summary of the goal of the project.

### **8.3.11. Instrument Quote (2 pages)**

Provide an itemized price quote with appropriate discounts and warranty terms of the requested instrument from the vendor from which the instrument will be purchased. The price quote should also include the cost of any maintenance/service contracts. The price quote must be scanned and uploaded to the instrument quote tab in the CARS.

### **8.3.12. Institutional Support (1 page)**

Each application must be accompanied by a letter of institutional support from the president or provost indicating commitment to the program and certifying that this is the sole application submitted by this institution in response to this RFA. Furthermore, the letter should indicate the institutions support of the short- and long-term financial plan (consistent with the expected useable lifetime of the type of instrument requested) and support for all activities beyond the term of the award.

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

#### **8.4. Formatting Instructions**

Formatting guidelines for all submitted CPRIT applications are as follows:

- **Language:** English.
- **Document Format:** PDF only.
- **Font Type/Size:** Arial (11 point), Calibri (11 point), or Times New Roman (12 point).
- **Line Spacing:** Single.
- **Page Size:** 8.5 x 11 inches.
- **Margins:** 0.75 inch, all directions.
- **Color and High-Resolution Images:** Images, graphs, figures, and other illustrations must be submitted as part of the appropriate submitted document. Applicants should include text to explain illustrations that may be difficult to interpret when printed in black and white.
- **Scanning Resolution:** Images and figures must be of lowest reasonable resolution that permits clarity and readability. Unnecessarily large files will NOT be accepted, especially those that include only text.
- **References:** Applicants should use a citation style that includes the full name of the article and that lists at least the first 3 authors. Official journal abbreviations may be used. An example is included below; however, other citation styles meeting these parameters are also acceptable as long as the journal information is stated. Include URLs of publications referenced in the application.

Smith, P.T., Doe, J., White, J.M., et al (2006). Elaborating on a novel mechanism for cancer progression. *Journal of Cancer Research*, 135: 45-67.
- **Internet URLs:** Applicants are encouraged to provide the URLs of publications referenced in the application; however, applicants should not include URLs directing reviewers to websites containing additional information about the proposed research.
- **Headers and Footers:** These should not be used unless they are part of a provided template. Page numbers may be included in the footer (see following point).

- **Page Numbering:** Pages should be numbered at the bottom right corner of each page.
- All attachments that require signatures must be filled out, printed, signed, scanned, and then uploaded in PDF format.

## **9. APPLICATION REVIEW**

### **9.1. Full Peer Review**

All applications submitted in response to this RFA will undergo a 2-stage peer review process: (1) Full peer review and (2) prioritization of grant applications by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council. In the first stage, applications will be evaluated by an independent peer review panel consisting of scientific experts as well as advocate reviewers using the criteria listed in [section 9.3](#). In the second stage, applications judged to be most meritorious by the peer review panels will be evaluated and recommended for funding by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council based on comparisons with applications from all of the peer review panels and programmatic priorities. Applications approved by the Scientific Review Council will be forwarded to the CPRIT Program Integration Committee (PIC) for review. The PIC will consider factors including program priorities set by the Oversight Committee, portfolio balance across programs, and available funding.

The CPRIT Oversight Committee will vote to approve each grant award recommendation made by the PIC. The grant award recommendations will be presented at an open meeting of the Oversight Committee and must be approved by two-thirds of the Oversight Committee members present and eligible to vote. The review process is described more fully in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, sections 703.6 to 703.8](#).

Applicants will be notified of peer review panel assignment prior to the peer review meeting dates.

### **9.2. Confidentiality of Review**

Each stage of application review is conducted confidentially, and all CPRIT Scientific Peer Review Panel members, Scientific Review Council members, PIC members, CPRIT employees, and Oversight Committee members with access to grant application information are required to sign nondisclosure statements regarding the contents of the applications. All technological and

scientific information included in the application is protected from public disclosure pursuant to Health and Safety Code §102.262(b).

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

An applicant will be notified regarding the peer review panel assigned to review the grant application. Peer review panel members are listed by panel on CPRIT's website.

**By submitting a grant application, the applicant agrees and understands that the only basis for reconsideration of a grant application is limited to an undisclosed conflict of interest as set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.9](#).**

Communication regarding the substance of a pending application is prohibited between the grant applicant (or someone on the grant applicant's behalf) and the following individuals: an Oversight Committee Member, a PIC Member, a Scientific Review Panel member, or a Scientific Review Council member. Applicants should note that the CPRIT PIC comprises the CPRIT Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Scientific Officer, the Chief Prevention Officer, the Chief Product Development Officer, and the Commissioner of State Health Services.

The prohibition on communication begins on the first day that grant applications for the particular grant mechanism are accepted by CPRIT and extends until the grant applicant receives notice regarding a final decision on the grant application. Intentional, serious, or frequent violations of this rule may result in the disqualification of the grant application from further consideration for a grant award.

### **9.3. Review Criteria**

Full peer review of applications will be based on primary scored criteria and secondary unscored criteria, listed below. Review committees will evaluate and score each primary criterion and subsequently assign a global score that reflects an overall assessment of the application. **The overall assessment will not be an average of the scores of individual criteria; rather, it will reflect the reviewers' overall impression of the application. Evaluation of the scientific merit of each application is within the sole discretion of the peer reviewers.**



### 9.3.1. Primary Criteria

Primary criteria will evaluate the scientific merit and potential impact of the proposed major instrumentation program. Concerns with any of these criteria potentially indicate a major flaw in the significance and/or design of the proposed program. Primary criteria include the following:

**Justification of Need/Value and Quality of Research Projects:** Is the need for the instrument/equipment justified? Is it necessary and appropriate for the research projects? Is the user group both major and minor adequately defined? Are the research projects sufficiently exciting and important to justify the purchase of this instrument/equipment? How will the availability of the instrument offer incipient research projects by various career-stage investigators the opportunity to develop?

**Technical Expertise:** Is there sufficient technical expertise for optimal use of the requested equipment? How well qualified is the user group to operate the instrument and evaluate the research results for the proposed projects? How will the instrument be maintained? Is there a satisfactory training plan for new users?

**Administration:** Is there an adequate plan for the management of the instrumentation? Is there evidence that the instrument will be purchased in the first 6 months of the award term? Does the financial plan provide adequate short- and long-term plans? Is the time allocation for both major and minor users equitable and fair? Is the plan to enlist new users adequate and compelling?

**Institutional Commitment:** Is there clear institutional commitment for support short- and long-term for the chosen instrument to enhance cancer research at the institution? Has the institution provided an appropriate site for the instrument?

### 9.3.2. Secondary Criteria

Secondary criteria contribute to the global score assigned to the application. Concerns with these criteria potentially question the feasibility of the proposed project.

Secondary criteria include the following:

**Research Environment:** Does the PI have the needed expertise and resources to accomplish all aspects of the project? Are the levels of effort of the key personnel appropriate? Is there evidence of institutional support for the project?

**Vertebrate Animals and/or Human Subjects:** If vertebrate animals and/or human biological samples are processed by the proposed instrumentation, is the vertebrate animals and/or human subjects plan adequate and sufficiently detailed? Note that certification of approval by the institutional IACUC and/or IRB, as appropriate, will be required before funding can occur.

**Budget:** Is the budget appropriate for the proposed instrumentation and technologies?

**Duration:** Is the stated duration appropriate for the proposed work?

## 10. KEY DATES

### RFA

RFA release January 17, 2023

IFA posted January 25, 2023

### Application

Online application opens January 25, 2023, 7 AM central time

Application due April 18, 2023, 4 PM central time

Application review April 2023 to June 2023

### Award

Award notification August, 2023

Anticipated start date August 31, 2023

## 11. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

Texas law requires that CPRIT grant awards be made by contract between the applicant and CPRIT. CPRIT grant awards are made to institutions or organizations, not to individuals. Award contract negotiation and execution will commence once the CPRIT Oversight Committee has approved an application for a grant award. CPRIT may require, as a condition of receiving a grant award, that the grant recipient use CPRIT's electronic Grant Management System to exchange, execute, and verify legally binding grant contract documents and grant award reports. Such use shall be in accordance with CPRIT's electronic signature policy as set forth in [chapter 701, section 701.25](#).

Texas law specifies several components that must be addressed by the award contract, including needed compliance and assurance documentation, budgetary review, progress and fiscal

monitoring, and terms relating to revenue sharing and intellectual property rights. These contract provisions are specified in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, which are available at [www.cprit.state.tx.us](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us). Applicants are advised to review CPRIT's administrative rules related to contractual requirements associated with CPRIT grant awards and limitations related to the use of CPRIT grant awards as set forth in chapter 703, [sections 703.10, 703.12](#).

Prior to disbursement of grant award funds, the grant recipient organization must demonstrate that it has adopted and enforces a tobacco-free workplace policy consistent with the requirements set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.20](#).

CPRIT requires award recipients to submit an annual progress report. These reports summarize the progress made toward the research goals and address plans for the upcoming year. In addition, fiscal reporting, human studies reporting, and vertebrate animal use reporting will be required as appropriate. Continuation of funding is contingent upon the timely receipt of these reports. Failure to provide timely and complete reports may waive reimbursement of grant award costs and may result in the termination of the award contract. Forms and instructions will be made available at [www.cprit.state.tx.us](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us).

## **12. REQUIREMENT TO DEMONSTRATE AVAILABLE FUNDS**

Texas law requires that prior to disbursement of CPRIT grant funds, the award recipient must demonstrate that it has an amount of funds equal to one-half of the CPRIT funding dedicated to the research that is the subject of the award. A grant recipient that is a public or private institution of higher education, as defined by §61.003, Texas Education Code, may credit toward the Grant Recipient's Matching Funds obligation the dollar amount equivalent to the difference between the indirect cost rate authorized by the federal government for research grants awarded to the Grant Recipient and the 5% indirect cost limit imposed by §102.203(c), Texas Health and Safety Code. Grant applicants are advised to consult CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.11](#), for specific requirements regarding demonstration of available funding. The demonstration of available matching funds must be made at the time the award contract is executed, and annually thereafter, not when the application is submitted.

## **13. CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **13.1. Helpdesk**

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

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

**Tel:** 866-941-7146

**Email:** [Help@CPRITGrants.org](mailto:Help@CPRITGrants.org)

### **13.2. Scientific and Programmatic Questions**

Questions regarding the CPRIT program, including questions regarding this or any other funding opportunity, should be directed to the CPRIT Director for Academic Research.

**Tel:** 512-305-8491

**Email:** [research@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:research@cprit.texas.gov)

**Website:** [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov)

# **Third Party Observer Reports**

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**Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**  
**23.2 Academic Research - Texas Regional Excellence in**  
**Cancer (TREC) (23.2 ACR TREC)**  
**Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-06-16 23.2\_ACR\_TREC  
Program Name: Academic Research  
Panel Name: 23.2 Academic Research - Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer  
(TREC) (23.2 \_ACR\_TREC)  
Panel Date: June 16, 2023  
Report Date: June 23, 2023

***BACKGROUND***

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

***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Academic Research - Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer (TREC) (23.2\_ACR\_TREC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Eric Fearon and conducted via videoconference on June 16, 2023.

***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

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

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

### **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Twenty-two (22) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, twelve (12) expert reviewers, and two (2) advocate reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Three (3)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

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


### **CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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





**Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**  
**23.2 Academic Research - Scientific Review Council Meeting**  
**(23.2 SRC)**  
**Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-07-13 23.2\_SRC  
Program Name: Academic Research  
Panel Name: 23.2 Academic Research - Scientific Review Council Meeting (23.2\_SRC)  
Panel Date: July 13, 2023  
Report Date: July 17, 2023

***BACKGROUND***

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

***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Academic Research - Scientific Review Council Meeting (23.2\_SRC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Richard Kolodner and conducted via videoconference on July 13, 2023.

***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

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

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

## **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Nine (9) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, and six (6) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Two (2)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

There were no (0) Conflicts of Interest (COIs) identified prior to and/or during the meeting. The COI was excluded from discussions concerning applications for which there was a conflict.

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


## **CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mara Ash', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

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

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

# **Conflicts of Interest Disclosure**

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## Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

### CPRIT Academic Research Cycle 23.2

#### Awards Announced at the August 16, 2023, Oversight Committee Meeting

The table below lists the conflicts of interest (COIs) identified by peer reviewers, Program Integration Committee (PIC) members, and Oversight Committee members on an application-by-application basis. Applications reviewed in Academic Research Cycle 23.2 include: *Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards*; *TREC: Major Instrumentation Award*; *TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award*; and *TREC: Pilot Study Award*.

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

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

Application ID	Principal Investigator	Organization	Conflict Noted by Reviewer
Applications considered by the PIC and Oversight Committee:			
None reported.			
Applications not considered by the PIC or Oversight Committee:			
RP230427	Thrift, Aaron	Baylor College of Medicine	Kobetz, Erin; McGlynn, Katherine

# De-Identified Overall Evaluation Scores

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## TREC: Major Instrumentation Award

Academic Research Cycle 23.2

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
RP230447*	1.4
RP230449*	2.0
RP230445*	2.2
aa	4.2
ab	6.0

\* Recommended for grant award.

# **Final Overall Evaluation Scores and Rank Order Scores**

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**Ludwig Institute for  
Cancer Research Ltd**

**Richard D. Kolodner  
Ph.D.**

Head, Laboratory of  
Cancer Genetics  
San Diego Branch

Distinguished Professor of  
Cellular & Molecular  
Medicine, University of  
California San Diego School  
of Medicine

[rkolodner@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:rkolodner@health.ucsd.edu)

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La Jolla, CA 92093-0660

**T** 858 534 7804  
**F** 858 534 7750

July 18, 2023

Dr. Mahendra C. Patel  
Oversight Committee Presiding Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [curingkids@gmail.com](mailto:curingkids@gmail.com)

Mr. Wayne R. Roberts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [wroberts@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:wroberts@cprit.texas.gov)

Dear Dr. Patel and Mr. Roberts,

The Scientific Review Council (SRC) is pleased to submit this list of research grant award recommendations for the FY23.2 TREC: Major Instrumentation Awards, TREC:Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award, TREC Pilot Study Awards and FY23 Cycles 23.5 and 23.6 recruitment grant recommendations. The SRC met on May 18, 2023 (Cycle 23.5) and July 13, 2023 (Cycles 23.6 and 23.2 TREC ) to review and finalize applications submitted to CPRIT under the FY23.2 TREC related Request for Applications (RFA) and the Recruitment of Established Investigator and Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members RFA mechanisms.

The SRC recommends 19 applications, which are included on the attached list. The recommended funding amounts and the overall evaluation scores are stated for the grant applications. There were no recommended changes to funding amounts, goals, timelines, or project objectives requested. The total amount for the applications recommended is \$28,544,693.

The recommendations meet the SRC's standards for grant award funding, including selecting recruitment candidates at all career levels that have demonstrated academic excellence, selecting innovative research projects addressing CPRIT's long term goals to select candidates at all career levels that have demonstrated academic excellence achieve a decrease in the burden of cancer in Texas through preventive measures, new diagnostics and treatments, and effective translation of discoveries into products.

Sincerely yours,



Richard D. Kolodner, Ph.D.

Chair, CPRIT Scientific Review Council

Rank	ID	Award Mechanism	Final Overall Score	Application Title	Candidate/PI	Organization	Budget
1	RR230040	RFTFM	1.0	First-Time, Tenure-Track: Dr. Graham Erwin	Graham Erwin	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
2	RR230042	RFTFM	1.0	First-Time Tenure-Track: Dr. Michael Robertson	Michael Robertson	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
3	RR230054	RFTFM	1.1	Nomination of Xiaofeng Qi, Ph.D. for a CPRIT recruitment of a First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Member Award	Xiaofeng Qi	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000
4	RP230446	TRECPDTA	1.1	UTEP Postdoctoral Career Transition Program in Cancer Research	Lu, Weiqin	The University of Texas at El Paso	\$850,000
5	RR230072	RFTFM	1.3	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members - SimonEschweiler	Simon Eschweiler	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$2,000,000
6	RP230447	TRECMIA	1.4	Fluorescence-Activated Cell Sorting: FACSaria Fusion	Kang, Min	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$901,225
7	RR230078	REI	1.5	Recruitment of Established Investigator, Simon Gayther	Simon Gayther	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	\$6,000,000
8	RR230050	RFTFM	1.9	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Zunlong Ke	Zunlong Ke	The University of Texas at Austin	\$2,000,000
9	RR230052	RFTFM	2.0	First-Time, Tenure-Track: Dr. Varun Venkataramani	Varun Venkataramani	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000

10	RR230053	RFTFM	2.0	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Chen Cao	Chen Cao	The University of Texas at Dallas	\$1,800,000
11	RR230066	RFTFM	2.0	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Qian Yin	Qian Yin	The University of Texas at Austin	\$2,000,000
12	RP230449	TRECMIA	2.0	The acquisition of an instrument suite to set up a high-throughput screening core at Texas A&M University	Liu, Wenshe	Texas A&M University	\$995,767
13	RP230445	TRECMIA	2.2	Core Imaging Instrumentation for Cancer Studies in Rodent Models: Acquisition of an IVIS Spectrum/Quantum GX2 optical/microCT Small Animal Imaging System	Becker, Christopher	Baylor University	\$997,701
14	RR230081	RFTFM	2.6	Nomination of Annika Wylie for CPRIT Recruitment of First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Member	Annika Wylie	Southern Methodist University	\$2,000,000
15	RP230443	TRECPSA	2.9	“Click” Assembled Colloidal Molecules with Tunable Plasmon Bands as Novel Agents for Photothermal Tumor Therapy	Liang, Hongjun	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$200,000
16	RP230454	TRECPSA	2.9	Role of transcription factor UBTF in pancreatic cancer	Hafeez, Bilal	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	\$200,000
17	RP230431	TRECPSA	3.2	Unraveling the Therapeutic Potential of Osr1 Overexpression in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Management	Xie, Linglin	Texas A&M University	\$200,000

18	RP230444	TRECPSA	<b>3.6</b>	A Role for PSMD2, PSMD7, and PSMD9 in Drug Resistance of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)	Eiring, Anna	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	\$200,000
19	RP230451	TRECPSA	<b>3.7</b>	The Role of Renal Lipotoxicity in Carcinogenesis	Bobulescu, Ion	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$200,000

RFTFM- Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty

REI- Recruitment of Established Investigators

TREC: MIA - TREC: Major Instrument Award

TREC:PDTA- TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award

TREC:PSA - TREC: Pilot Study Award



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

# **CEO Affidavit Supporting Information**

**Academic Research  
FY 2023—Cycle 2  
*TREC: Pilot Study Award***

# Request for Applications

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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

**RFA R-23.2-TREC: PSA**

**TREC: Pilot Study Award**

Applications for this award mechanism are limited to institutions eligible to receive a Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer Award (TREC).

**Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document,  
which will be posted on January 25, 2023**

**Application Receipt Opening Date:** January 25, 2023

**Application Receipt Closing Date:** April 18, 2023

**FY 2023**

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023

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## **RFA VERSION HISTORY**

Rev    01/17/2023    RFA release

## **1. KEY POINTS**

- The TREC: Pilot Study Award (TREC-PSA) is an award designed 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.
- The overarching purpose is to strengthen cancer research at institutions located in regions of Texas that have historically received low levels of peer-reviewed cancer research funding.
- Applicants may request up to \$200,000 in CPRIT funds over 2 years to support pilot projects that will lead to preliminary data that can be leveraged to secure new peer-reviewed research funding for the investigator and institution.

## **2. ABOUT CPRIT**

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

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

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

### **2.1. Academic Research Program Priorities**

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

Established Principles:

- Scientific excellence and impact on cancer

- Increasing the life sciences infrastructure
- Achieving health equity and reducing health disparities

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

- Recruitment of outstanding cancer researchers to Texas
- Investment in core facilities
- A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated research projects
- Implementation research to accelerate the adoption and deployment of evidence-based prevention and screening interventions
- Computational oncology and analytic methods
- Childhood and adolescent cancers
- Hepatocellular cancer
- Expanding access to innovative clinical trials

### 3. GOAL

The CPRIT TREC: PSA RFA seeks to provide short-term funding to explore the feasibility of pilot study projects that, if successful, would contribute major new insights into the etiology, diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of cancers. Because TREC-PSAs are designed to support new ideas, preliminary data are not required. 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. Applicants must address how short-term funding will lead to strong applications for additional peer-reviewed support.

Applications that might be described as “mini-R01s” will not be competitive. **The goal of this award mechanism is to fund ideas that merit the opportunity to acquire preliminary data that will lead to additional funding support.** Applications may address any research topic related to cancer biology, causation, prevention, detection, screening, treatment, or survivorship. Applications focused solely on developing research reagents (eg, animal models, modified cell lines, or antibodies) will not be considered responsive to this RFA.

## 4. BACKGROUND

Over the past decade, CPRIT academic research awards have gone primarily to Texas institutions located along the I-35 corridor or located within the Houston metroplex with dramatic impact on accelerating the cancer research capabilities and accomplishments of those institutions. However, institutions located in other geographic regions of the state have not been as competitive for cancer research funding from [CPRIT](#) or the [National Cancer Institute \(NCI\)](#).

**The limited cancer research funding to these regions of Texas raises a concern that cancer-related issues affecting Texans from these geographic regions of Texas will not be adequately addressed.**

The TREC: PSA is designed to provide an opportunity for those institutions located in geographic regions of Texas that historically have received low levels of peer-reviewed cancer research funding to develop pilot projects. If successful, the pilot projects will contribute new insights into the etiology, prevention, detection, diagnosis or treatment of cancer, or survivorship that will lead to preliminary data that can be leveraged to secure new peer-reviewed research funding for the investigator and institution to address the cancer challenges facing their region.

## 5. FUNDING INFORMATION

The maximum duration for this award mechanism is 2 years. Applicants may request a maximum of \$200,000 in total costs. Funds may be used for salary and fringe benefits, research supplies, equipment, and costs associated with clinical research. Because of the nature of this funding mechanism, renewal applications will not be accepted. *Requests for funds for travel to scientific meetings other than the CPRIT biennial conference are not appropriate for this funding mechanism, nor are requests for funds to support construction and/or renovation.*

State law limits the amount of award funding that may be spent on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the **total** award amount.

## 6. ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility to apply for a TREC: PSA is open to a Texas institution of higher learning whose campus is located 100 miles or greater from 1 of the 4 Texas NCI-designated cancer centers located in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio.

- TREC-eligible institution may submit 2 applications, regardless of multiple campuses, under this RFA during this funding cycle.
- The Principal Investigator (PI) must have a doctoral degree, including MD, PhD, DDS, DMD, DrPH, DO, DVM, or equivalent and reside in Texas for the period of the time that the research that is the subject of the grant application is conducted.
- This award must be directed by the PI. Multiple PIs are not permitted. One Coinvestigator is allowed. The PI must commit a 5% level of effort throughout the entire award period.
- The PI must be an independent investigator, with an appointment as a faculty member at any academic rank, ie, assistant professor, associate professor, or professor.
- A PI may submit only 1 application under this RFA during this funding cycle.
- Collaborations with Texas-based institutions to provide access to technology and counsel are permitted and can be supported with award funds through subcontracts.
- Collaborators may or may not reside in Texas; however, collaborators who do not reside in Texas are not eligible to receive CPRIT funds. Collaborators should have specific and well-defined roles. Subcontracting and collaborating organizations may include public, not-for-profit, and for-profit entities. Such entities may be located outside of the State of Texas, but non-Texas-based organizations are not eligible to receive CPRIT funds. In no event shall equipment purchased under this award leave the State of Texas.
- An individual may serve as a PI on no more than 3 active Academic Research grants. Recruitment Grants and Research Training Awards do not count toward the 3-grant maximum; however, CPRIT considers project leaders on a MIRA award equivalent to a PI. For the purpose of calculating the number of active grants, CPRIT will consider the number of active grants at the time of the award contract effective date (for this cycle expected to be August 31, 2023).
- An applicant is eligible to receive a grant award only if the applicant certifies that the applicant institution or organization, including the PI, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's institution or organization (or any person related to 1 or more of these individuals within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity), has not made and will not make a contribution to CPRIT or to any foundation specifically created to benefit CPRIT.

- An applicant is not eligible to receive a CPRIT grant award if the applicant PI, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's institution or organization is related to a CPRIT Oversight Committee member.
- The applicant must report whether the applicant institution or organization, the PI, or other individuals who contribute to the execution of the proposed project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not those individuals are slated to receive salary or compensation under the grant award, are currently ineligible to receive federal grant funds or have had a grant terminated for cause within 5 years prior to the submission date of the grant application.
- CPRIT grants will be awarded by contract to successful applicants. Certain contractual requirements are mandated by Texas law or by administrative rules. Although applicants need not demonstrate the ability to comply with these contractual requirements at the time the application is submitted, applicants should make themselves aware of these standards before submitting a grant application. Significant issues addressed by the CPRIT contract are listed in [section 10](#) and [section 11](#). All statutory provisions and relevant administrative rules can be found at [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov).

## 7. RESPONDING TO THIS RFA

### 7.1. Application Submission Guidelines

Applications must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). **Only applications submitted through this portal will be considered eligible for evaluation.** The applicant is eligible solely for the grant mechanism specified by the RFA under which the grant application was submitted. The PI must create a user account in the system to start and submit an application. Furthermore, the Application Signing Official (a person authorized to sign and submit the application for the organization) and the Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official (the individual who will manage the grant contract if an award is made) also must create a user account in CARS. Please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants (IFA)* document for the instructions on adding Key Personnel to an application. The *IFA* document will be available when the application receipts system opens.

Applications will be accepted beginning at 7 AM central time on January 25, 2023 and must be submitted by 4 PM central time on April 18, 2023. **Submission of an application is considered an acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFA.**

## **7.2. Submission Deadline Extension**

The submission deadline may be extended upon a showing of extenuating circumstances. A request for a deadline extension based on the need to complete multiple CPRIT or other grant applications will be denied. All requests for extension of the submission deadline must be submitted via email to the CPRIT [Helpdesk](#) within 24 hours of the submission deadline. Submission deadline extensions, including the reason for the extension, will be documented as part of the grant review process records. Please note that deadline extension requests are very rarely approved.

## **7.3. Application Components**

Applicants are advised to follow all instructions to ensure accurate and complete submission of all components of the application. Please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants (IFA)* document for details that will be available on January 25, 2023. Submissions that are missing 1 or more components or do not meet the eligibility requirements listed in [section 6](#) will be administratively withdrawn without review.

### **7.3.1. Abstract and Significance (5,000 characters)**

Clearly explain the question or problem to be addressed and the approach to its answer or solution. The specific aims of the application must be obvious from the abstract, although they need not be restated verbatim from the research plan. Clearly address how the proposed project, if successful, will have a major impact on the field of cancer research or on the care of patients with cancer. Indicate whether this research will address cancers associated with disparities. Summarize how the proposed research creates new paradigms or challenges existing ones. Summarize the long-term goals of the project, ie, the overall goal(s) of a future grant application based on this research.

### 7.3.2. Layperson's Summary (2,000 characters)

Provide a layperson's summary of the proposed work. Describe, in simple, nontechnical terms, the overall goals of the proposed work, the type(s) of cancer addressed, the potential significance of the results, and the impact of the work on advancing the field of cancer prevention research, early diagnosis, treatment, or survivorship. The information provided in this summary will be made publicly available by CPRIT, particularly if the application is recommended for funding. Do not include any proprietary information in the layperson's summary. The layperson's summary will also be used by advocate reviewers ([section 8.1](#)) in evaluating the significance and impact of the proposed work.

### 7.3.3. Goals and Objectives

List specific goals and objectives for each year of the project. These goals and objectives will also be used during the submission and evaluation of progress reports and assessment of project success if the award is made.

### 7.3.4. Timeline (1 page)

Provide an outline of anticipated major milestones to be tracked. Timelines will be reviewed for reasonableness, and adherence to timelines will be a criterion for continued support of successful applications. If the application is approved for funding, this section will be included in the award contract. Applicants are advised not to include information that they consider confidential or proprietary when preparing this section.

### 7.3.5. Research Plan (4 pages)

**Background:** Present the rationale behind the proposed project, emphasizing the pressing problem in cancer research that will be addressed. Preliminary data are not required, but strong reasoning and literature support will obviously enhance the application.

**Hypothesis and Specific Aims:** Concisely state the hypothesis and/or specific aims to be tested or addressed by the research described in the application.

**Research Strategy:** Describe the experimental design, including methods, anticipated results, potential problems or pitfalls, and alternative approaches. Preliminary data that support the



proposed hypothesis may be included but are not required. Provide the overall goals and research directions for a future grant application extending this research.

### **7.3.6. Vertebrate Animals and/or Human Subjects (2 pages)**

If vertebrate animals will be used, provide an outline of the appropriate protocols that will be followed. If human subjects or human biological samples will be used, provide a plan for recruitment of subjects or acquisition of samples that will meet the time constraints of this award mechanism.

### **7.3.7. Publications/References**

Provide a concise and relevant list of publications/references cited for the application.

### **7.3.8. Budget Justification**

Provide a compelling justification of the budget for the entire proposed period of support, including salaries and benefits, supplies, equipment, patient care costs, animal care costs, and other expenses. Applications requesting more than \$200,000 (total costs) over a maximum period of 24 months (2 years) will be administratively withdrawn.

In preparing the requested budget, applicants should be aware of the following:

- Major equipment purchases are discouraged for this funding mechanism. Equipment having a useful life of more than 1 year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit must be specifically approved by CPRIT. An applicant does not need to seek this approval prior to submitting the application.
- Texas law limits the amount of grant funds that may be spent on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs). Guidance regarding indirect cost recovery can be found in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, which are available at [www.cpritis.texas.gov](http://www.cpritis.texas.gov). So-called grants management and facilities fees (eg, sponsored programs fees; grants and contracts fees; electricity, gas, and water; custodial fees; maintenance fees) may not be requested. Applications that include such budgetary items will be rejected administratively and returned without review.
- The annual salary (also referred to as direct salary or institutional base salary) that an individual may be reimbursed from a CPRIT award is limited to a maximum of \$200,000. In other words, an individual may request salary proportional to the percent of effort up

to a maximum of \$200,000. Salary does not include fringe benefits and/or facilities and administrative costs, also referred to as indirect costs. An individual's institutional base salary is the annual compensation that the applicant organization pays for an individual's appointment, whether that individual's time is spent on research, teaching, patient care, or other activities. Base salary excludes any income that an individual may be permitted to earn outside of his or her duties to the applicant organization.

- The PI must commit 5% level of effort throughout the entire award period.

### **7.3.9. Biographical Sketches (5 pages each)**

Applicants should provide a biographical sketch that describes their education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, and publications relevant to cancer research.

A biographical sketch must be provided for the PI and, if applicable, the Coinvestigator (as required by the online application receipt system). Up to 2 additional biographical sketches for key personnel may be provided. Each biographical sketch must not exceed 5 pages. The NIH biosketch format is appropriate.

### **7.3.10. Current and Pending Support**

State the funding source and duration of all current and pending support for all personnel who have included a biographical sketch with the application. For each award, provide the title, a 2-line summary of the goal of the project, and, if relevant, a statement of overlap with the current application. At a minimum, current and pending support of the PI and, if applicable, any additional investigator must be provided. Refer to the sample current and pending support document located in [Current Funding Opportunities](#) for Academic Research in CARS.

### **7.3.11. Institutional/Collaborator Support and/or Other Certification (2 pages)**

Applicants may provide letters of institutional support, collaborator support, and/or other certification documentation relevant to the proposed project. A maximum of 2 pages may be provided.

### 7.3.12. Institutional Limits

In order to ensure timely and high-quality review of the most innovative and cutting-edge research with the greatest potential for advancement of cancer research, CPRIT is imposing a limit of 2 applications from a TREC-eligible institution during this review cycle.

CPRIT expects institutions to initiate an internal review process and only authorize submission of the appropriate number of applications that have been rigorously judged to be responsive to this RFA.

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

### 7.4. Formatting Instructions

Formatting guidelines for all submitted CPRIT applications are as follows:

- **Language:** English.
- **Document Format:** PDF only.
- **Font Type/Size:** Arial (11 point), Calibri (11 point), or Times New Roman (12 point).
- **Line Spacing:** Single.
- **Page Size:** 8.5 x 11 inches.
- **Margins:** 0.75 inch, all directions.
- **Color and High-Resolution Images:** Images, graphs, figures, and other illustrations must be submitted as part of the appropriate submitted document. Applicants should include text to explain illustrations that may be difficult to interpret when printed in black and white.
- **Scanning Resolution:** Images and figures must be of lowest reasonable resolution that permits clarity and readability. Unnecessarily large files will NOT be accepted, especially those that include only text.
- **References:** Applicants should use a citation style that includes the full name of the article and that lists at least the first 3 authors. Official journal abbreviations may be used. An example is included below; however, other citation styles meeting these parameters

are also acceptable if the journal information is stated. Include URLs of publications referenced in the application.

Smith, P.T., Doe, J., White, J.M., et al (2006). Elaborating on a novel mechanism for cancer progression. *Journal of Cancer Research*, 135: 45-67.

- **Internet URLs:** Applicants are encouraged to provide the URLs of publications referenced in the application; however, applicants should not include URLs directing reviewers to websites containing additional information about the proposed research.
- **Headers and Footers:** These should not be used unless they are part of a provided template. Page numbers may be included in the footer (see following point).
- **Page Numbering:** Pages should be numbered at the bottom right corner of each page.
- All attachments that require signatures must be filled out, printed, signed, scanned, and then uploaded in PDF format.

## 8. APPLICATION REVIEW

### 8.1. Review Process Overview

All applications submitted in response to this RFA will undergo a 2-stage peer review process: (1) Full peer review and (2) prioritization of grant applications by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council. In the first stage, applications will be evaluated by an independent peer review panel consisting of scientific experts as well as advocate reviewers using the criteria listed in [section 8.3](#). In the second stage, applications judged to be most meritorious by the peer review panels will be evaluated and recommended for funding by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council based on comparisons with applications from all the peer review panels and programmatic priorities. Applications approved by Scientific Review Council will be forwarded to the CPRIT Program Integration Committee (PIC) for review. The PIC will consider factors including program priorities set by the Oversight Committee, portfolio balance across programs, and available funding.

The CPRIT Oversight Committee will vote to approve each grant award recommendation made by the PIC. The grant award recommendations will be presented at an open meeting of the Oversight Committee and must be approved by two-thirds of the Oversight Committee members

present and eligible to vote. The review process is described more fully in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, sections 703.6 to 703.8](#).

## **8.2. Confidentiality of Review**

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

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

An applicant will be notified regarding the peer review panel assigned to review the grant application. Peer review panel members are listed by panel on CPRIT's website.

**By submitting a grant application, the applicant agrees and understands that the only basis for reconsideration of a grant application is limited to an undisclosed conflict of interest as set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules ([Texas Administrative Code Rule §703.9](#)).**

Communication regarding the substance of a pending application is prohibited between the grant applicant (or someone on the grant applicant's behalf) and the following individuals: an Oversight Committee Member, a PIC Member, a Scientific Review Panel member, or a Scientific Review Council member. Applicants should note that the CPRIT PIC comprises the CPRIT Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Scientific Officer, the Chief Prevention Officer, the Chief Product Development Research Officer, and the Commissioner of State Health Services.

The prohibition on communication begins on the first day that grant applications for the grant mechanism are accepted by CPRIT and extends until the grant applicant receives notice regarding a final decision on the grant application. The prohibition on communication does not apply to the period when preapplications or letters of interest are accepted. Intentional, serious, or frequent violations of this rule may result in the disqualification of the grant application from further consideration for a grant award.

### 8.3. Review Criteria

Full peer review of applications will be based on primary scored criteria and secondary unscored criteria, listed below. Review panels will evaluate and score each primary criterion and subsequently assign a global score that reflects an overall assessment of the application. **The overall assessment will not be an average of the scores of individual criteria; rather, it will reflect the reviewers' overall impression of the application. Evaluation of the scientific merit of each application is within the sole discretion of the peer reviewers.**

#### 8.3.1. Primary Criteria

Primary criteria will evaluate the scientific merit, potential impact of the proposed work, and potential to lead to subsequent peer-reviewed funding. Concerns with any of these criteria potentially indicate a major flaw in the significance and/or design of the proposed study. Primary criteria include the following:

**Significance and Impact:** Is the application clearly responsive to the RFA and specifically to the TREC: PSA mechanism? What is the innovative potential of the project? Does the applicant propose new paradigms or challenge existing ones? Does the project develop state-of-the-art technologies, methods, tools, or resources for cancer research or address important underexplored or unexplored areas? If the pilot project and extended research project are successful, will it lead to truly substantial advances in the field rather than add modest increments of insight? Responsive applications will be highly speculative or exploratory; they need not be based on preliminary data but must have the potential for high scientific payoff because of exceptionally promising ideas.

**Research Plan:** Is the proposed work presented as a self-contained research project? Does the proposed research have a clearly defined hypothesis or goal that is supported by a sound scientific rationale? Are the methods appropriate, and are potential experimental obstacles and unexpected results discussed?

**Applicant Investigator:** Does the applicant investigator demonstrate the required creativity, expertise, experience, and accomplishments to make a significant contribution to the research? Applicants' credentials will be evaluated in a career stage-specific fashion. Have early-career-stage investigators received excellent training, and do their accomplishments to date offer great

promise for a successful career? Has the applicant devoted a sufficient amount of his or her time (percent effort) to this project?

**Relevance:** Does the proposed research have a high degree of relevance to cancer? This will be an important criterion for evaluation of projects for CPRIT support.

### **8.3.2. Secondary Criteria**

Secondary criteria contribute to the global score assigned to the application. Concerns with these criteria potentially question the feasibility of the proposed research. Secondary criteria include the following:

**Research Environment:** Does the research team have the needed expertise, facilities, and resources to accomplish all aspects of the proposed research? Are the levels of effort of the key personnel appropriate? Is there evidence of institutional support of the research team and the project?

**Vertebrate Animals and/or Human Subjects:** If vertebrate animals and/or human biological samples are included in the proposed research, is the vertebrate animals and/or human subjects plan adequate and sufficiently detailed? Note that certification of approval by the institutional IACUC and/or IRB, as appropriate, will be required before funding can occur.

**Budget and Duration:** Are the budget and the duration appropriate for the proposed work?

## 9. KEY DATES

### RFA

RFA release January 17, 2023

IFA posted January 25, 2023

### Application

Online application opens January 25, 2023, 7 AM central time

Application due April 18, 2023, 4 PM central time

Application review April 2023 to June 2023

### Award

Award notification August, 2023

Anticipated start date August 31, 2023

## 10. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

Texas law requires that CPRIT grant awards be made by contract between the applicant and CPRIT. CPRIT grant awards are made to institutions or organizations, not to individuals. Award contract negotiation and execution will commence once the CPRIT Oversight Committee has approved an application for a grant award. CPRIT may require, as a condition of receiving a grant award, that the grant recipient use CPRIT's electronic Grant Management System to exchange, execute, and verify legally binding grant contract documents and grant award reports. Such use shall be in accordance with CPRIT's electronic signature policy as set forth in Texas Administrative Code [chapter 701, section 701.25](#).

Texas law specifies several components that must be addressed by the award contract, including needed compliance and assurance documentation, budgetary review, progress and fiscal monitoring, and terms relating to revenue sharing and intellectual property rights. These contract provisions are specified in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, which are available at <https://www.cprit.texas.gov> Applicants are advised to review CPRIT's Administrative Rules related to contractual requirements associated with CPRIT grant awards and limitations related to the use of CPRIT grant awards as set forth in [chapter 703, sections 703.10, 703.12](#).



Prior to disbursement of grant award funds, the grant recipient organization must demonstrate that it has adopted and enforces a tobacco-free workplace policy consistent with the requirements set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.20](#).

CPRIT requires award recipients to submit an annual progress report. These reports summarize the progress made toward the research goals and address plans for the upcoming year. In addition, fiscal reporting, human studies reporting, and vertebrate animal use reporting will be required as appropriate. Continuation of funding is contingent upon the timely receipt of these reports. Failure to provide timely and complete reports may waive reimbursement of grant award costs and may result in the termination of award contract. Forms and instructions will be made available at [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov).

## **11. REQUIREMENT TO DEMONSTRATE AVAILABLE FUNDS**

Texas law requires that prior to disbursement of CPRIT grant funds, the award recipient must demonstrate that it has an amount of funds equal to one-half of the CPRIT funding dedicated to the research that is the subject of the award. A grant recipient that is a public or private institution of higher education, as defined by §61.003, Texas Education Code, may credit toward the Grant Recipient's Matching Funds obligation the dollar amount equivalent to the difference between the indirect cost rate authorized by the federal government for research grants awarded to the Grant Recipient and the 5% indirect cost limit imposed by §102.203(c), Texas Health and Safety Code. Grant applicants are advised to consult CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.11](#), for specific requirements regarding demonstration of available funding. The demonstration of available matching funds must be made at the time the award contract is executed, and annually thereafter, not when the application is submitted.

## **12. CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **12.1. Helpdesk**

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

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

**Tel:** 866-941-7146

**Email:** [Help@CPRITGrants.org](mailto:Help@CPRITGrants.org)

### **12.2. Scientific and Programmatic Questions**

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

**Tel:** 512-305-8491

**Email:** [research@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:research@cprit.texas.gov)

**Website:** [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov)

# **Third Party Observer Reports**

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**Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**  
**23.2 Academic Research - Texas Regional Excellence in**  
**Cancer (TREC) (23.2 ACR TREC)**  
**Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-06-16 23.2\_ACR\_TREC  
Program Name: Academic Research  
Panel Name: 23.2 Academic Research - Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer  
(TREC) (23.2 \_ACR\_TREC)  
Panel Date: June 16, 2023  
Report Date: June 23, 2023

***BACKGROUND***

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

***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Academic Research - Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer (TREC) (23.2\_ACR\_TREC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Eric Fearon and conducted via videoconference on June 16, 2023.

***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

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

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

### **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Twenty-two (22) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, twelve (12) expert reviewers, and two (2) advocate reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Three (3)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

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


### **CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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



**Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**  
**23.2 Academic Research - Scientific Review Council Meeting**  
**(23.2 SRC)**  
**Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-07-13 23.2\_SRC  
Program Name: Academic Research  
Panel Name: 23.2 Academic Research - Scientific Review Council Meeting (23.2\_SRC)  
Panel Date: July 13, 2023  
Report Date: July 17, 2023

***BACKGROUND***

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

***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Academic Research - Scientific Review Council Meeting (23.2\_SRC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Richard Kolodner and conducted via videoconference on July 13, 2023.

***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

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

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

## **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Nine (9) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, and six (6) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Two (2)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

There were no (0) Conflicts of Interest (COIs) identified prior to and/or during the meeting. The COI was excluded from discussions concerning applications for which there was a conflict.

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

## **CONCLUSION**

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

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



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

With best regards,



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

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

# **Conflicts of Interest Disclosure**

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## Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

### CPRIT Academic Research Cycle 23.2

#### Awards Announced at the August 16, 2023, Oversight Committee Meeting

The table below lists the conflicts of interest (COIs) identified by peer reviewers, Program Integration Committee (PIC) members, and Oversight Committee members on an application-by-application basis. Applications reviewed in Academic Research Cycle 23.2 include: *Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards*; *TREC: Major Instrumentation Award*; *TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award*; and *TREC: Pilot Study Award*.

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

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

Application ID	Principal Investigator	Organization	Conflict Noted by Reviewer
<b>Applications considered by the PIC and Oversight Committee:</b>			
None reported.			
<b>Applications not considered by the PIC or Oversight Committee:</b>			
RP230427	Thrift, Aaron	Baylor College of Medicine	Kobetz, Erin; McGlynn, Katherine

# De-Identified Overall Evaluation Scores

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## TREC: Pilot Study Award

Academic Research Cycle 23.2

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
RP230443*	2.9
RP230454*	2.9
RP230431*	3.2
RP230444*	3.6
RP230451*	3.7
ca	4.4
cb	4.5
cc	5.0
cd	5.4
ce	5.6
cf	5.8
cg	5.8
ch	5.9
ci	6.0

\* Recommended for grant award.

# **Final Overall Evaluation Scores and Rank Order Scores**

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**Ludwig Institute for  
Cancer Research Ltd**

**Richard D. Kolodner  
Ph.D.**

Head, Laboratory of  
Cancer Genetics  
San Diego Branch

Distinguished Professor of  
Cellular & Molecular  
Medicine, University of  
California San Diego School  
of Medicine

[rkolodner@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:rkolodner@health.ucsd.edu)

**San Diego Branch**

UC San Diego School of  
Medicine  
CMM-East / Rm 3058  
9500 Gilman Dr - MC 0660  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0660

**T** 858 534 7804  
**F** 858 534 7750

July 18, 2023

Dr. Mahendra C. Patel  
Oversight Committee Presiding Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [curingkids@gmail.com](mailto:curingkids@gmail.com)

Mr. Wayne R. Roberts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [wroberts@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:wroberts@cprit.texas.gov)

Dear Dr. Patel and Mr. Roberts,

The Scientific Review Council (SRC) is pleased to submit this list of research grant award recommendations for the FY23.2 TREC: Major Instrumentation Awards, TREC:Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award, TREC Pilot Study Awards and FY23 Cycles 23.5 and 23.6 recruitment grant recommendations. The SRC met on May 18, 2023 (Cycle 23.5) and July 13, 2023 (Cycles 23.6 and 23.2 TREC ) to review and finalize applications submitted to CPRIT under the FY23.2 TREC related Request for Applications (RFA) and the Recruitment of Established Investigator and Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members RFA mechanisms.

The SRC recommends 19 applications, which are included on the attached list. The recommended funding amounts and the overall evaluation scores are stated for the grant applications. There were no recommended changes to funding amounts, goals, timelines, or project objectives requested. The total amount for the applications recommended is \$28,544,693.

The recommendations meet the SRC's standards for grant award funding, including selecting recruitment candidates at all career levels that have demonstrated academic excellence, selecting innovative research projects addressing CPRIT's long term goals to select candidates at all career levels that have demonstrated academic excellence achieve a decrease in the burden of cancer in Texas through preventive measures, new diagnostics and treatments, and effective translation of discoveries into products.

Sincerely yours,



Richard D. Kolodner, Ph.D.

Chair, CPRIT Scientific Review Council

Rank	ID	Award Mechanism	Final Overall Score	Application Title	Candidate/PI	Organization	Budget
1	RR230040	RFTFM	1.0	First-Time, Tenure-Track: Dr. Graham Erwin	Graham Erwin	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
2	RR230042	RFTFM	1.0	First-Time Tenure-Track: Dr. Michael Robertson	Michael Robertson	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
3	RR230054	RFTFM	1.1	Nomination of Xiaofeng Qi, Ph.D. for a CPRIT recruitment of a First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Member Award	Xiaofeng Qi	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000
4	RP230446	TRECPDTA	1.1	UTEP Postdoctoral Career Transition Program in Cancer Research	Lu, Weiqin	The University of Texas at El Paso	\$850,000
5	RR230072	RFTFM	1.3	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members - SimonEschweiler	Simon Eschweiler	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$2,000,000
6	RP230447	TRECMIA	1.4	Fluorescence-Activated Cell Sorting: FACSaria Fusion	Kang, Min	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$901,225
7	RR230078	REI	1.5	Recruitment of Established Investigator, Simon Gayther	Simon Gayther	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	\$6,000,000
8	RR230050	RFTFM	1.9	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Zunlong Ke	Zunlong Ke	The University of Texas at Austin	\$2,000,000
9	RR230052	RFTFM	2.0	First-Time, Tenure-Track: Dr. Varun Venkataramani	Varun Venkataramani	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000



10	RR230053	RFTFM	<b>2.0</b>	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Chen Cao	Chen Cao	The University of Texas at Dallas	\$1,800,000
11	RR230066	RFTFM	<b>2.0</b>	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Qian Yin	Qian Yin	The University of Texas at Austin	\$2,000,000
12	RP230449	TRECMIA	<b>2.0</b>	The acquisition of an instrument suite to set up a high-throughput screening core at Texas A&M University	Liu, Wenshe	Texas A&M University	\$995,767
13	RP230445	TRECMIA	<b>2.2</b>	Core Imaging Instrumentation for Cancer Studies in Rodent Models: Acquisition of an IVIS Spectrum/Quantum GX2 optical/microCT Small Animal Imaging System	Becker, Christopher	Baylor University	\$997,701
14	RR230081	RFTFM	<b>2.6</b>	Nomination of Annika Wylie for CPRIT Recruitment of First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Member	Annika Wylie	Southern Methodist University	\$2,000,000
15	RP230443	TRECPSA	<b>2.9</b>	“Click” Assembled Colloidal Molecules with Tunable Plasmon Bands as Novel Agents for Photothermal Tumor Therapy	Liang, Hongjun	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$200,000
16	RP230454	TRECPSA	<b>2.9</b>	Role of transcription factor UBTF in pancreatic cancer	Hafeez, Bilal	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	\$200,000
17	RP230431	TRECPSA	<b>3.2</b>	Unraveling the Therapeutic Potential of Osr1 Overexpression in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Management	Xie, Linglin	Texas A&M University	\$200,000

18	RP230444	TRECPSA	<b>3.6</b>	A Role for PSMD2, PSMD7, and PSMD9 in Drug Resistance of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)	Eiring, Anna	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	\$200,000
19	RP230451	TRECPSA	<b>3.7</b>	The Role of Renal Lipotoxicity in Carcinogenesis	Bobulescu, Ion	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$200,000

RFTFM- Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty

REI- Recruitment of Established Investigators

TREC: MIA - TREC: Major Instrument Award

TREC:PDTA- TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award

TREC:PSA - TREC: Pilot Study Award



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

# **CEO Affidavit Supporting Information**

**Prevention  
FY 2023—Cycle 2  
*Colorectal Cancer Screening  
Coordinating Center***

# Request for Applications

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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**  
**RFA P-23.2-CCC**

**Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating  
Center**

**Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document,  
which will be posted on December 15, 2022**

**Application Receipt Opening Date:** December 15, 2022

**Application Receipt Closing Date:** February 23, 2023

**FY 2023**

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023

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## **RFA VERSION HISTORY**

Rev	11/17/2022	RFA release
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## **1. ABOUT CPRIT**

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

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

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

### **1.1 Prevention Program Priorities**

Legislation from the 83rd Texas Legislature requires that CPRIT's Oversight Committee establish program priorities on an annual basis. The priorities are intended to provide transparency in how the Oversight Committee directs the orientation of the agency's funding portfolio. The Prevention Program's principles and priorities will also guide CPRIT staff and the Prevention Review Council (PRC) on the development and issuance of program-specific Requests for Applications (RFAs) and the evaluation of applications submitted in response to those RFAs.

#### **Established Principles:**

- Fund evidence-based interventions and their dissemination
- Support the prevention continuum of primary, secondary, and tertiary (includes survivorship) prevention interventions

#### **CPRIT's Cross-Program Priorities:**

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



## **Prevention Program Priorities**

- Prioritize populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence
- Prioritize geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence
- Prioritize populations with obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, diagnostic testing, treatment, and survivorship services
- Assess programs to identify best practices, use as a quality improvement tool, and guide future program direction

## **2. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1 Summary**

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the third leading cancer diagnosis in both males and females as well as the third leading cause of cancer mortality, representing 9% of all new malignant cancers diagnosed and 9.7% of cancer deaths. The mortality rate is significantly higher in nonmetro versus metro areas.

The US screening prevalence in 2018 was 69% while the Texas screening rate was 60%. Seven of the 30 US counties with the lowest estimated percentages for being current with any type of CRC screening test were in Texas. Only 32% of uninsured Texans were current with screening in 2020.

Over 20% of colorectal cancers diagnosed were at distant stages when cancer is much more difficult to treat and survival is lowest. The 5-year relative survival is 90% for localized CRC but drops to less than 20% at distant-stage diagnosis.

To significantly reduce the burden of colorectal cancer in Texas, CPRIT seeks to support 1 Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center to establish and oversee a collaborative network of regional CPRIT-funded colorectal cancer screening projects, patients, communities, clinicians, and health care professionals. The Center will build the infrastructure necessary for a coordinated statewide evidence-based colorectal cancer screening initiative among all populations and geographic areas of Texas.

## 2.2 Coordinating Center Description

The Center will serve as a hub of expertise and resources, forge innovative partnerships, catalyze interactions, and enable resource and data sharing among multiple stakeholders across the state to reduce the CRC burden in the state.

The Center will be expected to do the following:

- Facilitate a statewide screening strategy to increase the reach of CRC screening among priority populations throughout the state
- Support the development of clinical networks to ensure a care pathway through CRC treatment in all regions of Texas
- Oversee a statewide steering committee to facilitate communications and interactions to promote sharing of best practices across regional screening projects and stakeholders
- Oversee pilot projects to test pragmatic approaches to implementation and dissemination and to foster evaluation of existing data
- Support advocacy for colorectal cancer screening and treatment in the state
- Convene an annual forum of stakeholders to share expertise and experiences and disseminate best practices
- Monitor the reach of CRC screening initiatives across the state and facilitate implementation in unserved areas
- Conduct a rigorous evaluation that documents successful execution of the implementation strategies and the impact on health outcomes
- Ensure successful statewide implementation activities through provision of hubs or cores of expertise in the following areas:
  - Community outreach and engagement strategies
  - Awareness building and increasing the knowledge of stakeholders, including the public, patients, providers and health care professionals, and community partners
  - Implementation support, project coordination, technical assistance, and capacity building
  - Development and maintenance of a centralized resource for evidence-based strategies and tools and materials such as protocols and materials for outreach, education,

navigation, case management, screening and diagnostic services delivery, treatment access, reporting and evaluation

- Facilitate data collection, harmonization, analysis, sharing and coordination of data, pragmatic research design expertise and evaluation design

## **2.3 Funding Information**

CPRIT plans to make 1 award to a single applicant in response to this RFA.

Applicants may request a maximum of \$3 million in total costs over a period of 5 years.

Requests for funds to support construction or renovation or requests to support lobbying will not be approved under this mechanism.

A portion of the Center's annual direct budget may be used to fund pilot projects.

State law limits the amount of award funding that may be spent on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the **total** award amount.

## **2.4 Eligibility**

- The applicant must be a Texas-based entity, such as a community-based organization, health institution, government organization, public or private company, college or university, or academic health institution.
- The applicant is eligible solely for the grant mechanism specified by the RFA under which the grant application was submitted.
- The designated Project Director (PD) will be responsible for the overall performance of the funded project. The PD must have relevant education and management experience and must reside in Texas during the project performance time.
- The evaluation of the Center's performance must be headed by a professional who has demonstrated expertise in the field and who resides in Texas during the course of the award.
- Subcontracting and collaborating organizations may include public, not-for-profit, and for-profit entities. Such entities may be located outside of the State of Texas, but non-Texas-based organizations are not eligible to receive CPRIT funds.

- An applicant is not eligible to receive a CPRIT grant award if the applicant PD, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's organization or institution is related to a CPRIT Oversight Committee member.
- An applicant organization is eligible to receive a grant award only if the applicant certifies that the applicant organization, including the PD, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's organization (or any person related to 1 or more of these individuals within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity), has not made and will not make a contribution to CPRIT or to any foundation created to benefit CPRIT.
- The applicant must report whether the applicant organization, the PD, or other individuals who contribute to the execution of the proposed project in a substantive, measurable way, (whether slated to receive salary or compensation under the grant award or not), are currently ineligible to receive federal grant funds because of scientific misconduct or fraud or have had a grant terminated for cause within 5 years prior to the submission date of the grant application.
- CPRIT grants will be awarded by contract to successful applicants. CPRIT grants are funded on a reimbursement-only basis. Certain contractual requirements are mandated by Texas law or by administrative rules. Although applicants need not demonstrate the ability to comply with these contractual requirements at the time the application is submitted, applicants should make themselves aware of these standards before submitting a grant application. Significant issues addressed by the CPRIT contract are listed in [section 6](#). All statutory provisions and relevant administrative rules can be found [on the CPRIT website](#).

## 2.5 Resubmission Policy

Because this is a new CPRIT RFA, all applications in response to this RFA will be considered new submissions and a resubmission policy is not applicable.

### 3. KEY DATES

<b>RFA release</b>	November 17, 2022
<b>Online application opens</b>	December 15, 2022, 7 AM central time
<b>Application due</b>	February 23, 2023, 4 PM central time
<b>Application review</b>	March 2023-July 2023
<b>Award notification</b>	August 2023
<b>Anticipated start date</b>	August 31, 2023

### 4. APPLICATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

#### 4.1 *Instructions for Applicants* document

It is **imperative** that applicants read the accompanying instructions document for this RFA that will be available December 15, 2022 (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). Requirements may have changed from previous versions.

#### 4.2 Online Application Receipt System

Applications must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). **Only applications submitted through this portal will be considered eligible for evaluation.** The PD must create a user account in the system to start and submit an application. The Co-PD, if applicable, must also create a user account to participate in the application. Furthermore, the Application Signing Official (a person authorized to sign and submit the application for the organization) and the Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official (an individual who will help manage the grant contract if an award is made) also must create a user account in CARS. Applications will be accepted beginning at 7 AM central time on December 15, 2022, and must be submitted by 4 PM central time on February 23, 2023. Detailed instructions for submitting an application are in the *Instructions for Applicants* document, posted on CARS.

**Submission of an application is considered an acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFA.**

#### 4.3 Submission Deadline Extension

The submission deadline may be extended for grant applications upon a showing of good cause. All requests for extension of the submission deadline must be submitted via email to the CPRIT

[Helpdesk](#) within 24 hours of the submission deadline. Submission deadline extensions, including the reason for the extension, will be documented as part of the grant review process records.

#### **4.4 Application Components**

Applicants are advised to follow all instructions to ensure accurate and complete submission of all components of the application. Refer to the *Instructions for Applicants* document for details.

**Submissions that are missing 1 or more components or do not meet the eligibility requirements may be administratively withdrawn without review.**

##### **4.4.1 Abstract and Significance (5,000 characters)**

Clearly present the organization structure, content expertise, and qualifications that will enable the applicant to meet all the requirements described in [section 2.2](#) for the Coordinating Center. Discuss any special assets that the proposed Center will contribute to the overall mission of a statewide colorectal cancer screening program. Discuss how the Center will serve as a resource hub, forge innovative partnerships and catalyze interactions, and enable resource and data sharing among multiple stakeholders to reduce the CRC burden in the state. If the project is funded, the abstract will be made public; therefore, no proprietary information should be included in this statement.

##### **4.4.2 Goals and Objectives (700 characters each)**

Provide a list of specific goals and objectives for each year of the award. These goals and objectives will also be used in the initial assessment of the Center and in the evaluation of annual progress reports.

##### **4.4.3 Timeline (2 pages)**

Provide an outline (chart) of anticipated major milestones to be tracked and a timeline for achieving full functionality. Use Years 1, 2, 3, and Months 1, 2, 3, etc, as applicable (eg, Year 1, Months 3-5) NOT specific months or years (eg, not May 2023). Month 1 is the first full month of the grant award. Timelines will be reviewed for reasonableness, and adherence to timelines will be a criterion for continued support of successful applications.

##### **4.4.4 Center Description (12 pages; fewer pages permissible)**

**Overview:** Provide an overview of how the Center will facilitate a statewide screening strategy to increase the reach of screening among priority populations. Clearly describe the Coordinating

Center, its structure, key personnel roles, responsibilities, and expertise, and strategies to successfully implement and monitor each of the Center requirements in [section 2.2](#). Highlight any innovative aspects that will strengthen the Coordinating Center and enhance its flexibility and ease-of-use.

**Plans and Approaches to Coordinating Center Functions:** Describe a plan for creation and operation of the Center that addresses all the functions of the Center identified in [section 2.2](#). The plan should address, but is not limited to, the following aspects:

- **Organizational Qualifications and Capabilities:** Describe the organization and its track record and success in providing health programs and services. Describe the role and qualifications of the key collaborators/partners in the project. Include information on the organization's financial stability and viability.
- **Program Coordination:** Describe how the Center will (1) provide organizational and logistical support for steering committee and other meetings; (2) establish collaborations and synergistic partnerships in all regions of the state; and (3) support the development of clinical networks to ensure access to clinical services across all regions of Texas. Demonstrate success in anticipating and solving challenges in ways that promote engagement among all participants and timely accomplishment of objectives.
- **Resource Development and Support:** Describe the plan for developing centralized resources for evidence-based strategies, protocols and materials. Describe how the Center will provide implementation support, technical assistance, and build capacity. Provide a plan for pilot project solicitation, scientific review and oversight of funded projects. It is expected that final selection of projects will be made by the steering committee.
- **Outreach and Engagement:** Describe community outreach and engagement strategies as well as increasing awareness and knowledge of stakeholders.
- **Data Coordination and Management:** Describe the plan for coordinated data sharing, data management, and reporting.
- **Evaluation, and dissemination of findings:** A strong commitment to evaluation is required. Provide a framework for evaluating performance of the Center, including benchmarks. Describe plans for collecting, synthesizing, and disseminating main findings and lessons learned.

#### 4.4.5 References

Provide a concise and relevant list of references cited for the application. The successful applicant will provide referenced evidence and literature support for the proposed services.

#### 4.4.6 CPRIT Grants Summary

Use the template provided on CARS (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). Provide a listing of **all** projects funded by the CPRIT Prevention program for the PD and the Co-PD (if applicable), regardless of their connection to this application.

#### 4.4.7 Budget and Justification

Provide a brief outline and detailed justification of the budget for the entire proposed period of support, including salaries and benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual expenses, services delivery, and other expenses. CPRIT funds will be distributed on a reimbursement basis.

Applications requesting more than the maximum allowed cost (total costs) as specified in [section 2.3](#) will be administratively withdrawn.

Clearly describe any organizational cost sharing or pro bono contributions related to this project, as well as any attempts made or successes to secure other state/federal funds.

- **Personnel:** The individual salary cap for CPRIT awards is \$200,000 per year. Describe the source of funding for all project personnel where CPRIT funds are not requested.
- **Travel:** PDs and related project staff are expected to attend CPRIT's conference. CPRIT funds may be used to send up to 2 people to the conference. Meals are not reimbursable for trips that do not include an overnight stay.
- **Equipment:** Equipment having a useful life of more than 1 year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit must be specifically approved by CPRIT. An applicant does not need to seek this approval prior to submitting the application. Justification must be provided for why funding for this equipment cannot be found elsewhere; CPRIT funding should not supplant existing funds. Cost sharing of equipment purchases is strongly encouraged.
- **Indirect/Shared Costs:** Texas law limits the amount of grant funds that may be spent on indirect/shared expenses to no more than 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the



direct costs). Guidance regarding indirect cost recovery can be found in [CPRIT's Administrative Rules](#).

#### **4.4.8 Current and Pending Support and Sources of Funding**

Use the template provided on the CARS (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). Describe the funding source and duration of **all** current and pending support for the proposed project, including a capitalization table that reflects private investors, if any.

#### **4.4.9 Biographical Sketches**

The designated PD will be responsible for the overall performance of the funded project and must have relevant education and management experience. The PD/Co-PD(s) must provide a biographical sketch that describes his or her education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, and publications and/or involvement in programs relevant to cancer prevention and/or service delivery.

- Use the Co-PD Biographical Sketch section **ONLY** if a Co-PD has been identified.
- The evaluation professional must provide a biographical sketch in the Evaluation Professional Biographical Sketch section.
- Up to 3 additional biographical sketches for key personnel may be provided in the Key Personnel Biographical Sketches section.

Each biographical sketch must not exceed 5 pages and should use either the “Prevention Programs: Biographical Sketch” template provided on the CARS (<https://CPRITGrants.org>) or the NIH Biographical Sketch format. Only biographical sketches will be accepted; do not submit resumes and/or CVs. If a position is not yet filled, please upload a job description.

#### **4.4.10 Personnel and Collaborating Organizations**

List all project personnel, paid or unpaid, named in the application, including key personnel, collaborators, and anyone listed under the Current & Pending Support section. Include all key participating organizations that will partner with the applicant organization to provide 1 or more components essential to the success of the program (eg, evaluation, clinical services, recruitment to screening).

#### 4.4.11 Letters of Commitment (10 pages)

Applicants should provide letters of commitment and/or memoranda of understanding from community organizations, key faculty, or any other component essential to the success of the project. Letters should be specific to the contribution of each organization.

## 5. APPLICATION REVIEW

### 5.1 Review Process Overview

All eligible applications will be reviewed and scored by the CPRIT [PRC](#) based on the criteria in [section 5.2](#) below. PRC members are listed on CPRIT's website. The PRC will review applications and provide an overall evaluation score reflecting their overall impression of the application and responsiveness to the RFA priorities. Additional considerations may include, but are not limited to, geographic distribution, cancer type, population served, and type of program or service.

Applications approved by PRC will be forwarded to the CPRIT Program Integration Committee (PIC) for review. The PIC will consider factors including program priorities set by the Oversight Committee, portfolio balance across programs, and available funding. The CPRIT Oversight Committee will vote to approve each grant award recommendation made by the PIC. The grant award recommendations will be presented at an open meeting of the Oversight Committee and must be approved by two-thirds of the Oversight Committee members present and eligible to vote. The review process is described more fully in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, sections 703.6 to 703.8](#).

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

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

**By submitting a grant application, the applicant agrees and understands that the only basis for reconsideration of a grant application is limited to an undisclosed Conflict of Interest as set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.9](#).**

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

Applicants should note that the CPRIT PIC comprises the CPRIT Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Scientific Officer, the Chief Prevention Officer, the Chief Product Development Officer, and the Commissioner of State Health Services. The prohibition on communication begins on the first day that grant applications for the particular grant mechanism are accepted by CPRIT and extends until the grant applicant receives notice regarding a final decision on the grant application. The prohibition on communication does not apply to the time period when preapplications or letters of interest are accepted. Intentional, serious, or frequent violations of this rule may result in the disqualification of the grant application from further consideration for a grant award.

## **5.2 Review Criteria**

The PRC will review the applications based on the criteria below and will provide an overall evaluation score reflecting their overall impression of the application and responsiveness to the RFA priorities. Additional considerations may include, but are not limited to, geographic distribution, cancer type, population served, and type of program or service.

### **5.2.1 Primary Evaluation Criteria**

#### **Significance and Impact**

- How well does the proposed Coordinating Center address the responsibilities described in the RFA? Is the scope of activities proposed for the Center appropriate to meet these responsibilities?
- Will the Center provide statewide leadership and engage appropriate stakeholders in advancing policies and practices that will impact the colorectal cancer burden in Texas? Does the Center include plans for developing outreach to and engagement of stakeholders whose participation will increase the likelihood of success?
- Will the overall impact of the Center provide a greater impact on the colorectal cancer burden in Texas than the sum of individual colorectal cancer screening projects?

#### **Organizational Qualifications and Capabilities**

- Are the PD(s) and other personnel well suited to their roles in the Coordinating Center?

- Do key personnel have appropriate expertise and training, and have they demonstrated significant experience with coordinating collaborative programs?
- Will the appropriate personnel be recruited to design, implement, and evaluate the necessary components of the Center?
- Is the organization structurally and financially stable and viable?
- Does the applicant describe steps that will be taken toward building capacity and collaborative partnerships?

### **Approach**

- Are the overall strategy, operational plan, and design well reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the goals of the Coordinating Center?
- Does the application include mechanisms for leveraging novel collaboration and communication strategies?
- Are community outreach and engagement strategies well described? Are the plans for increasing awareness and knowledge of stakeholders adequately described?
- Does the application indicate flexibility to innovate on an ongoing basis to increase rates of CRC screening, follow-up, and referral to care?
- Are the proposed objectives and activities feasible within the duration of the award?
- Has the applicant convincingly demonstrated the short- and long-term impacts of the project?

### **Outcomes Evaluation**

- Are the proposed goals and objectives appropriate for development and maintenance of a Coordinating Center?
- Does the application provide a clear and appropriate plan for data collection, harmonization, management, and analyses?
- Is the qualitative analysis of planned policy or system changes described?

### **Dissemination and Replication**

- Are plans for dissemination of the project's findings and outcomes clearly described?
- Are active dissemination strategies included and described in the plan?

## 5.2.2 Secondary Evaluation Criteria

### Budget

- Is the budget appropriate and reasonable for the scope of the proposed work?
- Is the project a good investment of Texas public funds?

### Environment

- Does the team have the needed facilities and access to resources to accomplish all aspects of the Center?
- Are the levels of effort of the key personnel appropriate?

## 6. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

Texas law requires that CPRIT grant awards be made by contract between the applicant and CPRIT. CPRIT grant awards are made to institutions or organizations, not to individuals. Award contract negotiation and execution will commence once the CPRIT Oversight Committee has approved an application for a grant award. CPRIT may require, as a condition of receiving a grant award, that the grant recipient use CPRIT's electronic Grant Management System to exchange, execute, and verify legally binding grant contract documents and grant award reports. Such use shall be in accordance with CPRIT's electronic signature policy as set forth in [chapter 701, section 701.25](#).

Texas law specifies several components that must be addressed by the award contract, including needed compliance and assurance documentation, budgetary review, progress and fiscal monitoring, and terms relating to revenue sharing and intellectual property rights. These contract provisions are specified in [CPRIT's Administrative Rules](#). Applicants are advised to review CPRIT's administrative rules related to contractual requirements associated with CPRIT grant awards and limitations related to the use of CPRIT grant awards as set forth in [chapter 703, sections 703.10, 703.12](#).

Prior to disbursement of grant award funds, the grant recipient organization must demonstrate that it has adopted and enforces a tobacco-free workplace policy consistent with the requirements set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.20](#).

CPRIT requires the PD of the award to submit quarterly, annual, and final progress reports. These reports summarize the progress made toward project goals and address plans for the upcoming year

and performance during the previous year(s). In addition, quarterly fiscal reporting and reporting on selected metrics will be required per the instructions to award recipients. Continuation of funding is contingent upon the timely receipt of these reports. Failure to provide timely and complete reports may waive reimbursement of grant award costs and may result in the termination of the award contract.

## **7. CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **7.1 Helpdesk**

Helpdesk support is available for questions regarding user registration and online submission of applications. Queries submitted via email will be answered within 1 business day. Helpdesk staff are not in a position to answer questions regarding the scope and focus of applications. Before contacting the Helpdesk, please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants* document (posted on December 15, 2022), which provides a step-by-step guide to using CARS.

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

**Tel:** 866-941-7146

**Email:** [Help@CPRITGrants.org](mailto:Help@CPRITGrants.org)

### **7.2 Program Questions**

Questions regarding the CPRIT Prevention program, including questions regarding this or any other funding opportunity, should be directed to the CPRIT Prevention Program Office.

**Tel:** 512-626-2358

**Email:** [prevention@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:prevention@cprit.texas.gov)

**Website:** [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov)

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## **8. REFERENCES**

1. Texas Cancer Registry, Cancer Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Texas Department of State Health Services. <https://www.cancer-rates.info/tx/>

# **Third Party Observer Reports**

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**Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**  
**23.2 Prevention Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating**  
**Center Review (23.2 PRV CCC)**  
**Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-06-19 23.2\_PRV\_CCC  
Program Name: Prevention  
Panel Name: 23.2 Prevention Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center  
Review (23.2\_PRV\_CCC)  
Panel Date: June 19, 2023  
Report Date: June 23, 2023

***BACKGROUND***

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

***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Prevention Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center Review (23.2\_PRV\_CCC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Stephen Wyatt and conducted via videoconference on June 19, 2023.

***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

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

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

### **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

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

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

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


### **CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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



## **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**

### **23.2 Prevention Review Council Programmatic Review**

#### **(23.2 PRV PRC)**

#### **Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-06-19 23.2\_PRV\_PRC  
Program Name: Click or tap here to choose Program Name  
Panel Name: 23.2 Prevention Review Council Programmatic Review (23.2\_PRV\_PRC)  
Panel Date: June 19, 2023  
Report Date: June 23, 2023

### ***BACKGROUND***

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

### ***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Prevention Review Council Programmatic Review (23.2\_PRV\_PRC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Stephen Wyatt and conducted via videoconference on June 19, 2023.

### ***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

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

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

### **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Twenty-two (22) applications were referenced for scoring and eleven (11) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, and two (2) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Two (2)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Two (2)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

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


### **CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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

# Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

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## Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

### CPRIT Prevention Cycle 23.2

#### Awards Announced at the August 16, 2023, Oversight Committee Meeting

The table below lists the conflicts of interest (COIs) identified by peer reviewers, Program Integration Committee (PIC) members, and Oversight Committee members on an application-by-application basis. Applications reviewed in Prevention Cycle 23.2 include: *Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center*; *Cancer Screening and Early Detection*; *Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions*; and *Primary Prevention of Cancer*.

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

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

Application ID	Principal Investigator	Organization	Conflict Noted by Reviewer
<b>Applications considered by the PIC and Oversight Committee:</b>			
PP230061	Grimes, Allison	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Teoh, Deanna
PP230078	Reitzel, Lorraine	The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center	Mahoney, Martin
<b>Applications not considered by the PIC or Oversight Committee:</b>			
PP230075	Chalela, Patricia	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Eriksen, Michael



# De-Identified Overall Evaluation Scores

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## Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center

Prevention Cycle 23.2

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
PP230060*	2.3
da	3.0

\* Recommended for grant award

# **Final Overall Evaluation Scores and Rank Order Scores**

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Dr. Mahendra Patel  
Oversight Committee Presiding Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [curingkids@gmail.com](mailto:curingkids@gmail.com)  
Via email to [kirtikpatel@hotmail.com](mailto:kirtikpatel@hotmail.com)

Wayne R. Roberts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [wroberts@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:wroberts@cprit.texas.gov)

Dear Mr. Roberts and Dr. Patel,

On behalf of the Prevention Review Council (PRC), I am pleased to provide the PRC's recommendations for the FY2023 Cycle 2 Cancer Screening and Early Detection (CSD), Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center (CCC), Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions (DI), and Primary Prevention of Cancer (PPC) grant awards.

The PRC met on June 19, 2023, to review the CCC applications and to consider the applications recommended by the peer review panel following their May 24-25, 2023, meeting. The PRC recommends 9 projects totaling \$13,343,163. Two of the projects, PP230003 and PP230030, were submitted and reviewed in FY2023 Cycle 1.

The projects are numerically ranked in the order the PRC recommends the applications be funded. Recommended funding amounts and the overall evaluation score are stated for each grant application. The PRC made no changes to the goals, project objectives, or timelines of the applications.

Our recommendations meet the PRC's standards for grant award funding of projects that are evidence-based, deliver programs or services to underserved populations, and focus on primary, secondary, or tertiary prevention. In making these recommendations the PRC continued to consider the available funding, the composition of the current portfolio, and the programmatic priorities in the RFA which include potential for impact and return on investment, geographic distribution, cancer type and type of program. All the recommended grants address one or more of the Prevention Program priorities.

Sincerely,  
Stephen W. Wyatt, DMD, MPH  
Chair, CPRIT Prevention Review Council

Attachment



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**Cycle 23.2 Recommended Prevention Program Awards**

App. ID	Mech	Application Title	PD	Organization	Score	Rank Order	Budget
PP230078	DI	Implementation and Dissemination of an Evidence-Based Intervention to Increase Tobacco Treatment Capacity in Opioid Treatment Programs	Reitzel, Lorraine R	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	2.0	1	\$449,776
PP230060	CCC	Coordinating Center for Colorectal Cancer Screening Across Texas (CONNECT)	Shokar, Navkiran K	The University of Texas at Austin	2.3	2	\$3,000,000
PP230074	PPC	Active Living After Cancer: Combining a Physical Activity Program With Survivor Navigation	Basen-Engquist, Karen M	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	2.5	3	\$1,999,989
PP230061	PPC	Expansion of HPV Vaccination Among Survivors of Childhood Cancer	Grimes, Allison	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	3.2	4	\$999,999
PP230059	CSD	De Casa en Casa 4: Cervical Cancer Screening in Underserved Rural and Border Communities Throughout West and South Texas	Molokwu, Jennifer C	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	3.3	5	\$2,499,437
PP230003	DI	Taking Texas Tobacco Free: Dissemination to and Implementation within Centers Serving Texans who Identify as LGBTQ+	Reitzel, Lorraine R	University of Houston	3.3	6	\$448,835
PP230056	PPC	Continuation and Expansion of a Highly Successful Postpartum HPV Vaccination Program	Berenson, Abbey B	The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	3.6	7	\$2,499,207
PP230030	CSD	ACTION for Big Country	Byrd, Theresa L	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	3.7	8	\$997,266
PP230069	DI	Dissemination of the Active Living After Cancer Program	Basen-Engquist, Karen M	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	3.8	9	\$448,654

CCC: Texas Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center

CSD: Cancer Screening and Early Detection

DI: Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions

PPC: Primary Prevention of Cancer



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

# **CEO Affidavit Supporting Information**

**Prevention  
FY 2023—Cycle 2  
*Cancer Screening and Early Detection***

# Request for Applications

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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**  
**RFA P-23.2-CSD**

**Cancer Screening and Early Detection**

**Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document,  
which will be posted on December 15, 2022**

**Application Receipt Opening Date:** December 15, 2022

**Application Receipt Closing Date:** February 23, 2023

**FY 2023**

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023



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## **RFA VERSION HISTORY**

Rev	11/17/2022	RFA release
Rev	12/15/2022	Sections 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.4 and Appendix B <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clarified guidance regarding required navigation goal.</li></ul>

## **1. ABOUT CPRIT**

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

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

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

### **1.1 Prevention Program Priorities**

Legislation from the 83rd Texas Legislature requires that CPRIT's Oversight Committee establish program priorities on an annual basis. The priorities are intended to provide transparency in how the Oversight Committee directs the orientation of the agency's funding portfolio. The Prevention Program's principles and priorities will also guide CPRIT staff and the Prevention Review Council (PRC) on the development and issuance of program-specific Requests for Applications (RFAs) and the evaluation of applications submitted in response to those RFAs.

#### **Established Principles:**

- Fund evidence-based interventions and their dissemination
- Support the prevention continuum of primary, secondary, and tertiary (includes survivorship) prevention interventions

#### **CPRIT's Cross-Program Priorities:**

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

## **Prevention Program Priorities**

- Prioritize populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence
- Prioritize geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence
- Prioritize populations with obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, diagnostic testing, treatment, and survivorship services
- Assess program to identify best practices, use as a quality improvement tool, and guide future program direction

## **2. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1 Summary**

The ultimate goals of the CPRIT Prevention Program are to reduce overall cancer incidence and mortality and to improve the lives of individuals who have survived or are living with cancer. The ability to reduce cancer death rates depends in part on the application of currently available evidence-based technologies and strategies. CPRIT fosters the primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention of cancer in Texas by providing financial support for a wide variety of evidence-based risk reduction, early detection, and survivorship interventions.

This award mechanism seeks to support the delivery of evidence-based clinical services to screen for cancer and precancer in priority populations who do not have adequate access to screening and early detection interventions and health care, bringing together networks of public health and community partners to carry out programs tailored for their communities. Projects should identify cancers that cause the most burden in the community, have nationally recommended screening methods, and use evidence-based methods to screen for these cancers. Delivery of clinical services is restricted to residents of Texas.

Partnerships with other organizations that can support and leverage resources are strongly encouraged. A coordinated submission of a collaborative partnership program in which all partners have a substantial role in the proposed project is preferred.

## 2.2 Project Objectives

CPRIT seeks to fund projects that will do the following:

- Deliver comprehensive projects comprising all of the following: public and/or professional education, outreach, delivery of clinical services, follow-up navigation to diagnosis and into cancer treatment, and system and/or policy improvements.
- Offer effective and efficient systems of delivery of screening services based on the existing body of knowledge about and evidence in ways that far exceed current performance in a given service area.
- Implement policy changes and/or system improvements that are sustainable over time (eg, decrease wait times between positive screen and diagnostic tests and treatment through improved navigation, reminder systems)
- Provide tailored, culturally appropriate outreach and accurate information on early detection and prevention to the public and health care professionals that results in a health impact that can be measured.

## 2.3 Award Description

The **Cancer Screening and Early Detection** RFA solicits applications for eligible projects up to 5 years in duration that will deliver evidence-based clinical services in cancer screening for breast, cervical, colorectal, liver, and lung cancers according to established and current national guidelines and criteria. Nonmetropolitan (rural) and/or medically underserved populations must be included in the defined service area.

The following are required components of the project:

- **Geographic Area to be Served:** Clinical service delivery to nonmetropolitan/medically underserved area (MUA) counties must be included in the defined service area. Rural and MUA counties may be identified via web-based tools from the [US Department of Health and Human Services](#). Service to urban/nonmedically underserved counties is allowable if the project proposes to also serve nonmetropolitan/medicallyunderserved counties.
- **Comprehensive Projects:** Comprehensive projects include a continuum of services and systems and policy changes and comprise all of the following: Public and professional education and training, outreach, delivery of screening and diagnostic services, follow-up

navigation to treatment services for those diagnosed with cancer and precancer, data collection and tracking, and systems improvement.

- **Evidence Based:** CPRIT's secondary prevention grants are intended to fund effective and efficient systems of delivery of early detection services based on the existing body of knowledge about and evidence for screening for both primary and secondary cancers in ways that far exceed current performance in a given service area. The provision of clinical services, including rescreening at the appropriate interval, must comply with established and current national guidelines (eg, US Preventive Services Task Force [USPSTF], American Cancer Society [ACS]).

While there are few evidence-based clinical care guidelines for posttreatment survivor care, the National Comprehensive Cancer Network and ACS have developed consensus-based comprehensive survivorship care guidelines. These guidelines provide direction on managing the potential physical and psychosocial long-term impact of cancer/associated treatment and subsequent surveillance for recurrence and screening for second primary cancers for projects focusing on survivor care.

If evidence-based strategies have not been implemented or tested for the specific population or service setting proposed, provide evidence that the proposed service is appropriate for the population and has a high likelihood of success. Baseline data (eg, availability of resources and screening coverage) for the target population and target service region are required. If no baseline data exist, the applicant must present clear plans and describe method(s) of measurement used to collect the data necessary to establish a baseline.

- **Clinical Service and Community Partner Networks:** If applicable to the proposed project, applicants are encouraged to coordinate and describe a collaboration of clinical service providers and community partners that can deliver outreach, education, clinical, and navigation services to the most counties and the most people possible in a selected service region. Applicants should consider providing financial assistance to service providers for navigation services. Partnerships with other organizations that can support and leverage resources (eg, community-based organizations, local and voluntary agencies, nonprofit agencies, groups that represent priority populations) are encouraged. Letters of commitment or memoranda of understanding describing their specific role in the partnership will strengthen the application.

In cases where the project proposes to work with multiple clinical providers, the Program Director (PD) should facilitate the establishment of standard protocols for all clinical service providers in the network as well as standard systems, policies, and procedures for the participating clinical service providers and organizations. These may include, but are not limited to, patient tracking and timely follow-up of all abnormal screening results and/or diagnoses of cancer.

This mechanism will fund case management/patient navigation to screening, to diagnostic testing, and to treatment. Applicants must ensure that there is access to needed diagnostic testing for those with an abnormal screening exam and to treatment services for patients with precancer or cancers that are detected as a result of the project and must describe the process for ensuring access to diagnostic and treatment services.

Applicants should not request funds for any of the above components if these components are already being funded from other sources. If clinical services are being provided and paid by others, the applicant must demonstrate and report on the outcomes and services that are delivered to the people navigated by the program.

CPRIT expects measurable outcomes of supported activities, such as a significant increase over baseline (for the proposed service area) in the provision of evidence-based clinical services, changes in provider practice, systems changes, and cost-effectiveness. Applicants must demonstrate how these outcomes will ultimately impact incidence mortality, morbidity, and disparities.

Under this RFA, CPRIT **will not** consider the following:

- Projects focused solely on metropolitan counties that are not medically underserved.
- **Projects focused solely on primary cancer prevention services.** These applicants should apply under the Primary Prevention of Cancer (PPC) RFA. Primary prevention services are allowable under this RFA if combined with cancer screening/early detection services (eg, hepatitis B vaccination with hepatitis C screening, HPV vaccination with cervical cancer screening).
- Projects focusing solely on systems and/or policy change or solely on education and/or outreach that do not include the navigation to and delivery of cancer screening and early detection services.
- **Projects focusing on screening the general population for genetic disposition to cancer.**



- **Projects focusing solely on case management/patient navigation services.** Case management/patient navigation services must be paired with the delivery of a clinical cancer screening service and reported to CPRIT, including those services delivered by another provider. Furthermore, while navigation to the point of treatment of cancer is required when cancer is discovered through a CPRIT-funded project, applications seeking funds to provide coordination of care while an individual is in treatment are not allowed under this RFA.
- Clinical tests/services proposed as part of the project that do not comply with established and current national guidelines and criteria, have not yet been approved by the FDA, and/or have not been recommended by the USPSTF due to lack of evidence available to draw reliable conclusions about benefits and harms of the tests. These include, but are not limited to, breast self-exams, clinical breast exams, HPV self-sampling tests, and prostate-specific antigen (PSA) tests.
- **Prevention/intervention research projects.** Applicants interested in prevention research should review CPRIT's Academic Research RFAs (available at <http://www.cprit.texas.gov>).
- Resources for the treatment of cancer or viral treatment for hepatitis.

## 2.4 Priorities

**Types of Cancer:** Applications addressing any cancer type(s) that can be prevented or detected early (breast, cervix, colorectal, liver, lung) and are responsive to this RFA will be considered for funding. See [section 2.5](#) for specific areas of emphasis. All services must comply with established and current national guidelines and USPSTF criteria.

Lung cancer screening projects must also meet the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) eligibility criteria for radiologists and facilities. CMS also requires delivery of smoking cessation counseling if low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) screening is offered; for funding through this mechanism, CPRIT requires that robust evidence-based cessation interventions be delivered. Shared decision-making about the eligibility, risks, and benefits of annual lung cancer screening between the health care provider and patient is required.

The Prevention Program's priorities for funding include the following:

**1) Populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence.**

CPRIT-funded programs must address 1 or more of these priority populations:

- Underinsured and uninsured individuals
- Medically underresourced communities
- Racial, ethnic, and cultural minority groups
- Populations with low screening rates, high incidence rates, and high mortality rates, focusing on individuals never before screened or who are significantly out of compliance with nationally recommended screening guidelines (more than 5 years for breast/cervical cancers).

The age of the priority population and frequency of screening/rescreening for provision of clinical services described in the application must comply with established and current national guidelines (eg, USPSTF, ACS). Provide the national guideline that will be followed.

**2) Geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence.**

While disparities and needs exist across the state, CPRIT will also prioritize applications proposing to serve geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence. For this RFA, projects must propose to serve nonmetropolitan and/or medically underresourced areas of the state. In addition, projects addressing areas of emphasis (see [section 2.5](#)) will receive priority consideration.

**Geographic and Population Balance in Current CPRIT portfolio**

At the programmatic level of review conducted by the PRC ([section 5.1](#)), priority will be given to projects that target geographic regions of the state and population subgroups that are not adequately covered by the current CPRIT Prevention project portfolio (see <https://www.cprit.texas.gov/our-programs/prevention/portfolio-maps> and <https://www.cprit.texas.gov/grants-funded?search=prevention>).

## 2.5 Specific Areas of Emphasis

CPRIT has identified the following areas of emphasis for this cycle of awards.

<b><u>Secondary Prevention - Screening and Early Detection Services</u></b>
<b>Breast Cancer</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Decreasing disparities in mortality rates of breast cancer in racial/ethnic populations. The mortality rate is significantly higher in Black women than in other populations.</li><li>Increasing screening/detection rates in medically underserved areas of the state.</li></ul>
<b>Cervical Cancer</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Decreasing disparities in incidence and mortality rates of cervical cancer in racial/ethnic populations. Hispanic women have the highest incidence rates while Black women have the highest mortality rates.</li><li>Increasing screening/detection rates in medically underserved areas of the state.</li></ul>
<b>Colorectal Cancer</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Decreasing disparities in incidence and mortality rates of colorectal cancer in racial/ethnic populations. Blacks have the highest incidence and mortality rates, followed by non-Hispanic Whites and Hispanics.</li><li>Increasing screening/detection rates in Public Health Region (PHR) 1, 2, 4, 5, and 9, where the highest rates of cancer incidence and mortality are found.</li><li>Decreasing incidence and mortality rates in nonmetropolitan counties. Incidence and mortality rates are higher in nonmetropolitan counties compared with metropolitan counties.</li></ul>
<b>Liver Cancer</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Screening for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in populations at high risk of infection.</li><li>Increasing screening rates in PHR 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11. Incidence and mortality rates are highest in PHR 10 and 11.</li></ul>
<b>Lung Cancer</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Decreasing disparities in incidence and mortality rates of lung cancer in racial/ethnic populations. Blacks have higher mortality rates than Hispanics and non-Hispanic Whites.</li><li>Increasing screening/early detection rates in PHR 2, 4, and 5, where the highest rates of cancer incidence and mortality are found.</li></ul>

## 2.6 Outcome Metrics

Applicants are required to clearly describe their assessment and evaluation methodology. The applicant is required to describe final outcome measures for the project. Output measures that are associated with the final outcome measures should be identified in the project plan and will serve as a measure of program effectiveness. Planned policy or system changes/improvements should be identified and the plan for qualitative analysis described. **Baseline data for each measure**

**proposed are required.** In addition, applicants should describe how funds from the CPRIT grant will improve outcomes over baseline. If the applicant is not providing baseline data for a measure, the applicant must provide a well-justified explanation and describe clear plans and method(s) of measurement to collect the data necessary to establish a baseline.

## **Reporting Requirements**

Funded projects are required to report quantitative output and outcome metrics (as appropriate for each project) through the submission of quarterly progress reports, annual reports, and a final report.

If clinical services are being paid for and provided by others, the applicant is required to report on the number of clinical services and outcomes (eg, cancers detected) that are delivered to the people navigated by the program.

## **2.7 Funding Information**

The total amount of funding that applicants may request is dependent on the project type. Use the table below to determine the maximum amount of funding and the maximum number of years that may be requested.

<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Maximum Amount of Total Funding</b>	<b>Maximum Duration</b>
New project	\$1.5 million	3 years
Initial Expansion Project	\$2 million	3 years
Maintenance Expansion Project	\$2.5 million	5 years

A **significant expansion** in the geographic area and/or clinical services provided for the initial expansion, or number of clinical services delivered for any subsequent expansion, as described in [section 2.10](#), is required. Grant funds may be used to pay for clinical services, navigation services, salary and benefits, project supplies, equipment, costs for outreach and education of populations, and travel of project personnel to project site(s). Applicants must ensure that there is access to treatment services for patients with precancers or cancers that are detected as a result of the program and must describe access to treatment services in their application.

Requests for funds to support construction or renovation or requests to support lobbying will not be approved under this mechanism. Cost sharing for equipment purchases is encouraged. Grantees may request funds for travel for 2 project staff to attend CPRIT's conference.

The budget should be proportional to the number of individuals receiving programs and services, and a significant proportion of funds is expected to be used for program delivery as opposed to program development. In addition, CPRIT funding should not be used to replace existing funding, supplant funds that would normally be expended by the applicant's organization, or make up for funding reductions from other sources.

State law limits the amount of award funding that may be spent on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the **total** award amount.

## **2.8 Eligibility**

- The applicant must be a Texas-based entity, such as a community-based organization, health institution, government organization, public or private company, college or university, or academic health institution.
- The applicant is eligible solely for the grant mechanism specified by the RFA under which the grant application was submitted. The designated PD will be responsible for the overall performance of the funded project. The PD must have relevant education and management experience and must reside in Texas during the project performance time.
- The evaluation of the project must be headed by a professional who has demonstrated expertise in the field and who resides in Texas during the time that the project is conducted.
- The applicant may submit more than 1 application, but each application must be for distinctly different services without overlap in the services provided. Applicants who do not meet this criterion will have all applications administratively withdrawn without peer review.
- If an organization has a current CPRIT grant that is the same or similar to the prevention intervention being proposed, the applicant must explain how the projects are nonduplicative or complementary.
- If the applicant or a partner is an existing Department of State Health Services (DSHS) contractor, CPRIT funds may not be used as a match, and the application must explain how this grant complements or leverages existing state and federal funds.
- Collaborations are permitted and encouraged, and collaborators may or may not reside in Texas. However, collaborators who do not reside in Texas are not eligible to receive CPRIT funds. Subcontracting and collaborating organizations may include public, not-for-profit,

and for-profit entities. Such entities may be located outside of the State of Texas, but non-Texas-based organizations are not eligible to receive CPRIT funds.

- An applicant is not eligible to receive a CPRIT grant award if the applicant PD, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's organization or institution is related to a CPRIT Oversight Committee member.
- An applicant organization is eligible to receive a grant award only if the applicant certifies that the applicant organization, including the PD, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's organization (or any person related to 1 or more of these individuals within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity), has not made and will not make a contribution to CPRIT or to any foundation created to benefit CPRIT.
- The applicant must report whether the applicant organization, the PD, or other individuals who contribute to the execution of the proposed project in a substantive, measurable way, (whether slated to receive salary or compensation under the grant award or not), are currently ineligible to receive federal grant funds because of scientific misconduct or fraud or have had a grant terminated for cause within 5 years prior to the submission date of the grant application.
- CPRIT grants will be awarded by contract to successful applicants. CPRIT grants are funded on a reimbursement-only basis. Certain contractual requirements are mandated by Texas law or by administrative rules. Although applicants need not demonstrate the ability to comply with these contractual requirements at the time the application is submitted, applicants should make themselves aware of these standards before submitting a grant application. Significant issues addressed by the CPRIT contract are listed in [section 6](#). All statutory provisions and relevant administrative rules can be found [on the CPRIT website](#).

## 2.9 Resubmission Policy

- **One resubmission** is permitted. An application is considered a resubmission if the proposed project is the same project as presented in the original submission.
- Reviewers of resubmissions are asked to assess whether the resubmission adequately addresses critiques from the previous review. **Applicants should note that addressing**

**previous critiques is advisable; however, it does not guarantee the success of the resubmission.** All resubmitted applications must conform to the structure and guidelines outlined in this RFA.

## **2.10 Expansion Policy**

- Expansion grants are intended to fund expansion of currently or previously funded projects that have demonstrated exemplary success, as evidenced by progress reports and project evaluations, and desire to further enhance their impact on priority populations. Detailed descriptions of **results, barriers, outcomes, and impact of the currently or previously funded project are required** (see outline of Most Recently Funded Project Summary, [section 4.4.12](#)).
- Proposed expansion projects should NOT be new projects but should closely follow the intent and core elements of the currently or previously funded project. Established infrastructure/processes and fully described prior project results are required. Expansion of current projects into geographic areas not well served by the CPRIT Prevention portfolio (see maps at <http://www.cprit.state.tx.us/our-programs/prevention/portfolio-maps>) will receive priority consideration.
- CPRIT expects measurable outcomes of supported activities, such as a significant increase over baseline (for the proposed service area). It is expected that baselines will have already been established and that continued improvement over baseline is demonstrated in the current application. However, in the case of a proposed expansion where no baseline data exist for the priority population, the applicant must present clear plans and describe method(s) of measurement used to collect the data necessary to establish a baseline. Applicants must demonstrate how these outcomes will ultimately impact cancer incidence, mortality, morbidity, or quality of life.
- CPRIT also expects that applications for continuation **will not** require startup time, that applicants can demonstrate that they have overcome barriers encountered, and that applicants have identified **lasting systems changes** that improve results, efficiency, and sustainability. Leveraging of resources and plans for dissemination are expected and should be well described.

## Requirements for Initial and Maintenance Expansion Projects

- **Initial Expansion:** For the first expansion application, eligible applicants should propose to expand their programs to include additional types of prevention clinical services or to expand current clinical services into additional counties. In either case, the expansion must include the delivery of services to nonmetropolitan (rural) and/or medically underserved counties in the state. These may be identified via web-based tools from the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#) and [US Department of Health and Human Services](#).
- **Maintenance Expansion:** For a subsequent expansion, additional clinical services and/or expansion to additional counties is optional; however, the counties and the practices offered in the first expansion should not be decreased. The number of services delivered during the maintenance expansion must be increased substantially such that the cost per clinical service is similar to the initial expansion if no further geographic or preventive service expansion is proposed.

### 3. KEY DATES

<b>RFA release</b>	November 17, 2022
<b>Online application opens</b>	December 15, 2022, 7 AM central time
<b>Application due</b>	February 23, 2023, 4 PM central time
<b>Application review</b>	March-July 2023
<b>Award notification</b>	August 2023
<b>Anticipated start date</b>	August 31, 2023

Applicants will be notified of peer review panel assignment prior to the peer review meeting dates.

### 4. APPLICATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

#### 4.1 *Instructions for Applicants document*

It is **imperative** that applicants read the accompanying instructions document for this RFA that will be available December 15, 2022 (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). Requirements may have changed from previous versions.



## 4.2 Online Application Receipt System

Applications must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). **Only applications submitted through this portal will be considered eligible for evaluation.** The PD must create a user account in the system to start and submit an application. The Co-PD, if applicable, must also create a user account to participate in the application. Furthermore, the Application Signing Official (a person authorized to sign and submit the application for the organization) and the Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official (an individual who will help manage the grant contract if an award is made) also must create a user account in CARS. Applications will be accepted beginning at 7 AM central time on December 15, 2022, and must be submitted by 4 PM central time on February 23, 2023. Detailed instructions for submitting an application are in the *Instructions for Applicants* document, posted on CARS. **Submission of an application is considered an acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFA.**

## 4.3 Submission Deadline Extension

The submission deadline may be extended for grant applications upon a showing of good cause. All requests for extension of the submission deadline must be submitted via email to the CPRIT [Helpdesk](#) within 24 hours of the submission deadline. Submission deadline extensions, including the reason for the extension, will be documented as part of the grant review process records.

## 4.4 Application Components

Applicants are advised to follow all instructions to ensure accurate and complete submission of all components of the application. Refer to the *Instructions for Applicants* document for details.

**Submissions that are missing 1 or more components or do not meet the eligibility requirements may be administratively withdrawn without review.**

### 4.4.1 Abstract and Significance (5,000 characters)

Clearly explain the problem(s) to be addressed, the approach(es) to the solution, and how the application is responsive to this RFA. In the event that the project is funded, the abstract will be made public; therefore, no proprietary information should be included in this statement. Initial compliance decisions are based in part upon review of this statement.

**The abstract format is as follows (use headings as outlined below):**

- **Need:** Include a description of need in the specific service area. Include rates of incidence, mortality, and screening in the service area compared to overall Texas rates. Describe barriers, plans to overcome these barriers, and the priority population to be served.
- **Overall Project Strategy:** Describe the project and how it will address the identified need. Clearly explain what the project is and what it will specifically do, including the services to be provided and the process/system for delivery of services and outreach to the priority population.
- **Specific Goals:** State specifically the overall goals of the proposed project, including the prepopulated navigation into diagnosis and treatment goal; include the estimated overall numbers of clinical services delivered and number of people (public and/or professionals) served.
- **Significance and Impact:** Explain how the proposed project, if successful, will have a major impact on cancer prevention and control for the population proposed to be served and for the State of Texas.

#### **4.4.2 Goals and Objectives (700 characters each)**

List only major **outcome goals** and **measurable objectives** for each year of the project. **Do not include process objectives**; these should be described in the project plan only. Include the proposed metric within both the stated Objective **and** the Measure sections (eg, Measure: 1,500 individuals, ages 45-75, will be screened for colorectal cancer during the grant period).

Applications may be returned for revision if the proposed metric is not included within the Measure section. Refer to the Instructions for Applicants document for details.

One goal with 2 objectives addressing navigation into diagnosis and into treatment is required for all proposals and will be prepopulated into the application. This goal is not modifiable by the applicant. Applicants may add a maximum of 3 additional goals with 3 outcome objectives each. Projects will be evaluated annually on progress toward **all** outcome goals and objectives. See [appendix B](#) for instructions on writing outcome goals and objectives.

A baseline and method(s) of measurement are required for each objective. Provide both raw numbers and percent changes for the baseline and target. If a baseline has not been defined,

applicants are required to explain plans to establish baseline and describe method(s) of measurement.

#### **4.4.3 Project Timeline (2 pages)**

Provide a project timeline for project activities that includes deliverables and dates. Use Years 1, 2, 3 and Months 1, 2, 3, etc, as applicable (eg, Year 1, Months 3-5), NOT specific months or years (eg, not May 2023). Month 1 is the first full month of the grant award.

#### **4.4.4 Project Plan (12 pages; fewer pages permissible)**

*The required project plan format follows. Applicants must use the headings outlined below.*

**Background:** Briefly present the rationale behind the proposed services, emphasizing the critical barriers to current service delivery that will be addressed. Identify the evidence-based service to be implemented for the priority population. Describe the race, ethnicity, age, and other defining characteristics of the population to be served.

If evidence-based strategies have not been implemented or tested for the specific population or service setting proposed, provide evidence that the proposed service is appropriate for the population and has a high likelihood of success. Baseline data for the priority population and target service area are required where applicable.

Reviewers will be aware of national and state statistics, and these should be used only to compare rates for the proposed service area. Describe the geographic region of the state that the project will serve; maps are encouraged.

**Goals and Objectives:** Process objectives should be included in the project plan, including the process of achieving the prepopulated navigation into diagnosis and treatment goal. Outcome goals and objectives will be entered in separate fields in CARS. However, if desired, outcome goals and objectives may be fully repeated or briefly summarized here. See [appendix B](#) for instructions on writing goals and objectives.

**Components of the Project:** Clearly describe the need, delivery method, and evidence base (provide references) for the services, as well as anticipated results. Be explicit about the base of evidence and any necessary adaptations for the proposed project. If an organization has a current CPRIT grant that is the same or similar to the prevention intervention being proposed, the applicant must explain how the projects are nonduplicative or complementary.

It is important to distinguish between Texas counties where the project proposes to deliver services and counties of residence of population served (see [appendix A](#) for definitions and *Instructions for Applicants*). Only counties with service delivery should be listed in the Geographic Area to be Served section of the application. Projecting counties of residence of population served is not required but may be described in the project plan.

Clearly demonstrate the ability to provide the proposed service and describe how results will be improved over baseline and the ability to reach the priority population. Describe the method(s) that will be used to recall for appropriate rescreening those individuals who have been screened through this project.

If clinical services are being paid for and provided by others, the applicant must explain and report on the number of clinical services and outcomes (eg, screenings/diagnostics, vaccinations, cancer precursors, cancers detected) that are delivered to the people navigated by the program. Applicants must also clearly describe **access to treatment services** should precancer or cancer be detected. Include how and by whom any positive screening results will be delivered to a program participant.

**Evaluation Strategy:** A strong commitment to evaluation of the project is required. Describe the plan for outcome and output measurements, including qualitative analysis of policy and system changes. Describe data collection and management methods, data analyses, and anticipated results. Evaluation and reporting of results should be headed by a professional who has demonstrated expertise in the field. If needed, applicants may want to consider seeking expertise at Texas-based academic cancer centers, schools/programs of public health, or the like. Applicants should budget accordingly for the evaluation activity and should involve that professional during grant application preparation to ensure, among other things, that the evaluation plan is linked to the proposed goals and objectives.

**Organizational Qualifications and Capabilities:** Describe the organization and its track record and success in providing health programs and services. Describe the role and qualifications of the key collaborators/partners in the project. Include information on the organization's financial stability and viability. The applicant should demonstrate how the organizational environment will contribute to a successful project. If equipment or physical resources are required to carry out the project, the applicant should describe the availability of these resources and the organizational capacity to use equipment. To ensure access to preventive services and reporting of services

outcomes, applicants should demonstrate that they have provider partnerships and agreements (via memoranda of understanding) or commitments (via letters of commitment) in place.

CPRIT acknowledges that full maintenance and sustainability of projects when CPRIT funding ends may not be feasible, especially in cases involving the delivery of clinical services. However, it is important to consider sustainability early in the life cycle of a project, particularly regarding organizational characteristics and processes that are modifiable.

Washington University in St Louis has developed a useful tool ([Program Sustainability Assessment Tool](#)) to assess program capacity for sustainability. The tool assesses several factors that contribute to program sustainability. These factors include environmental support, funding stability, partnerships, organizational capacity, program evaluation, program adaptation, communication, and strategic planning. Applicants are not required to use this tool; however, it provides practical guidance on factors that should be considered and should be included in the application to describe a program's organizational capacity for sustainability.

It is expected that steps toward building capacity for the program will be taken and plans for such be briefly described in the application. The applicant should describe the factors that will contribute to the organization's capacity to facilitate sustainability.

**Dissemination and Replication:** Dissemination of project results and outcomes, including barriers encountered and successes achieved, is critical to building the evidence base for cancer prevention and control efforts in the state. Dissemination efforts should consider the message, source, audience, and channel (Brownson, RC, et al. [J Pub Health Manag Pract. 2018;24\(2\):102-111](#)). Dissemination methods may include, but are not limited to, presentations at workshops and seminars, one-on-one meetings, publications, news media, social media, etc.

While passive dissemination methods are common (eg, publications, presentations at professional meetings), plans should include some active dissemination methods (eg, meetings with stakeholders, blogs, social media). Applicants should describe their dissemination plans. The plans should include the kinds of audiences to be targeted and methods for reaching the targeted audiences.

Replication by others is an additional way to disseminate the project. For applicable components, describe how the project or components of the project lend themselves to application by other

communities and/or organizations in the state or expansion in the same communities. Describe what components of this project can be adapted to a larger or lower resource setting. Note that some programs may have unique resources and may not lend themselves to replication by others.

#### **4.4.5 People Reached (Indirect Contact)**

Provide the estimated overall number of people (members of the public and professionals) to be reached by the funded project. The applicant is required to itemize separately the types of indirect noninteractive education and outreach activities, with estimates, that led to the calculation of the overall estimates provided. Refer to [appendix A](#) for definitions.

#### **4.4.6 Number of Services Delivered (Direct Contact)**

Provide the estimated overall number of services directly delivered to members of the public and to professionals by the funded project. Each individual service should be counted, regardless of the number of services 1 person receives. The applicant is required to itemize separately the education, navigation, and clinical activities/services, with estimates, that led to the calculation of the overall estimate provided. Refer to [appendix A](#) for definitions.

#### **4.4.7 Number of Clinical Services Delivered**

Provide the estimated overall number of clinical services directly delivered to members of the public by the funded project. Each individual clinical service should be counted, regardless of the number of services 1 person receives. Separately itemize the clinical services, with estimates, that led to the calculation of the overall estimate provided. Refer to [appendix A](#) for definitions.

#### **4.4.8 Number of Unique People Served (Direct Contact)**

Provide the estimated overall number of unique members of the public and professionals served by the funded project. One person may receive multiple services but should only be counted once here. Refer to [appendix A](#) for definitions.

#### **4.4.9 References**

Provide a concise and relevant list of references cited for the application. The successful applicant will provide referenced evidence and literature support for the proposed services.

#### **4.4.10 Resubmission Summary**

Use the template provided on CARS (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). Describe the approach to the resubmission and how reviewers' comments were addressed. Clearly indicate to reviewers how the application has been improved in response to the critiques. Refer the reviewers to specific sections of other documents in the application where further detail on the points in question may be found.

When a resubmission is evaluated, responsiveness to previous critiques is assessed.

The summary statement of the original application review, if previously prepared, will be automatically appended to the resubmission; the applicant is not responsible for providing this document.

#### **4.4.11 Most Recently Funded Relevant Project Summary (only if applicable) (3 pages)**

Upload a summary that outlines the progress made with the applicant's most recently funded relevant CPRIT Award. Applicants must describe results and outcomes of the most recently funded award and demonstrate why further funding is warranted.

Please note that a different set of reviewers from those assigned to the previously funded application may evaluate this application. Applicants should make it easy for reviewers to compare the most recently funded project with the proposed project.

In the description, include the following:

- Describe the evidence-based intervention, its purpose, and how it was implemented in the priority population. Describe any adaptations made for the population served.
- List approved goals and objectives of the most recently funded grant.
- For each objective, provide milestones/target dates and target metrics as compared to actual completion dates and metrics.
- Include a discussion of objectives not fully met. Explain any barriers encountered and strategies used to overcome these.
- For the most recently funded project, describe major activities; significant results, including major findings, developments or conclusions (both positive and negative); and key outcomes.
- Describe steps taken toward sustainability for components of the project. Fully describe systems or policy improvements and enhancements.
- Describe how project results were disseminated or plans for future dissemination of results.

#### 4.4.12 CPRIT Grants Summary

Use the template provided on CARS (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). Provide a listing of **all** projects funded by the CPRIT Prevention program for the PD and the Co-PD, regardless of their connection to this application.

#### 4.4.13 Budget and Justification

Provide a brief outline and detailed justification of the budget for the entire proposed period of support, including salaries and benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual expenses, services delivery, and other expenses. CPRIT funds will be distributed on a reimbursement basis.

Applications requesting more than the maximum allowed cost (total costs) as specified in [section 2.7](#) will be administratively withdrawn.

Clearly describe any organizational cost sharing or pro bono contributions related to this project, as well as any attempts made or successes to secure other state/federal funds.

- **Average Cost per Person:** The average cost per person will be automatically calculated from the total cost of the project divided by the total number of unique people served (refer to [appendix A](#)).
- **Average Cost per Service:** The average cost per service will be automatically calculated from the total cost of the project divided by the total number of services delivered (refer to [appendix A](#)). A significant proportion of funds is expected to be used for program delivery as opposed to program development and organizational infrastructure.
- **Average Cost per Clinical Service:** The average cost per clinical service will be automatically calculated from the total cost of the project divided by the total number of clinical services delivered (refer to [appendix A](#)).
- **Personnel:** The individual salary cap for CPRIT awards is \$200,000 per year. Describe the source of funding for all project personnel where CPRIT funds are not requested.
- **Travel:** PDs and related project staff are expected to attend CPRIT's conference. CPRIT funds may be used to send up to 2 people to the conference. Meals are not reimbursable for trips that do not include an overnight stay.
- **Equipment:** Equipment having a useful life of more than 1 year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit must be specifically approved by CPRIT. An applicant does not



need to seek this approval prior to submitting the application. Justification must be provided for why funding for this equipment cannot be found elsewhere; CPRIT funding should not supplant existing funds. Cost sharing of equipment purchases is strongly encouraged.

- **Services Costs:**

- CPRIT reimburses for services using Medicare reimbursement rates. Describe the source of funding for all services where CPRIT funds are not requested. If clinical services are being paid for and provided by others, the applicant is required to explain and report on the number of clinical services and outcomes (eg, screenings/diagnostics, vaccinations, cancer precursors, cancers detected) that are delivered to the people navigated by the program.
- CPRIT does not allow recovery of costs related to tests that have not been recommended by the USPSTF. In several cases (eg, breast self-exams, clinical breast exams, PSA tests), the Task Force has concluded there is not enough evidence available to draw reliable conclusions about the additional benefits and harms of these tests. (See <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/>)

- **Other Expenses:**

- **Incentives:** Use of incentives or positive rewards to change or elicit behavior is allowed; however, incentives may only be used based on strong evidence of their effectiveness for the purpose and in the priority population identified by the applicant. CPRIT will not fund cash incentives. The maximum dollar value allowed for an incentive per person, per activity or session, is \$25.
- **Costs Not Related to Cancer Prevention and Control:** CPRIT does not allow recovery of any costs for services not related to cancer (eg, health physicals, HIV testing) other than those required prior to the clinical services proposed in the project.

- **Indirect/Shared Costs:** Texas law limits the amount of grant funds that may be spent on indirect/shared expenses to no more than 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs). Guidance regarding indirect cost recovery can be found in [CPRIT's Administrative Rules](#).

#### **4.4.14 Current and Pending Support and Sources of Funding**

Use the template provided on the CARS (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). Describe the funding source and duration of **all** current and pending support for the proposed project, including a capitalization table that reflects private investors, if any.

#### **4.4.15 Biographical Sketches**

The designated PD will be responsible for the overall performance of the funded project and must have relevant education and management experience. The PD/Co-PD(s) must provide a biographical sketch that describes his or her education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, and publications and/or involvement in programs relevant to cancer prevention and/or service delivery.

- Use the Co-PD Biographical Sketch section **ONLY** if a Co-PD has been identified.
- The evaluation professional must provide a biographical sketch in the Evaluation Professional Biographical Sketch section.
- Up to 3 additional biographical sketches for key personnel may be provided in the Key Personnel Biographical Sketches section.

Each biographical sketch must not exceed 5 pages and should use either the “Prevention Programs: Biographical Sketch” template provided on the CARS (<https://CPRITGrants.org>) or the NIH Biographical Sketch format. Only biographical sketches will be accepted; do not submit resumes and/or CVs. If a position is not yet filled, please upload a job description.

#### **4.4.16 Personnel and Collaborating Organizations**

List all project personnel, paid or unpaid, named in the application, including key personnel, collaborators, and anyone listed under the Current & Pending Support section. List all key participating organizations that will partner with the applicant organization to provide 1 or more components essential to the success of the program (eg, evaluation, clinical services, recruitment to screening).

#### **4.4.17 Letters of Commitment (10 pages)**

Applicants should provide letters of commitment and/or memoranda of understanding from community organizations, key faculty, or any other component essential to the success of the program. Letters should be specific to the contribution of each organization.

## 5. APPLICATION REVIEW

### 5.1 Review Process Overview

All eligible applications will be reviewed using a 2-stage peer review process: (1) evaluation of applications by peer review panels and (2) prioritization of grant applications by the PRC. In the first stage, applications will be evaluated by an independent review panel using the criteria listed below. In the second stage, applications judged to be meritorious by review panels will be evaluated by the PRC and recommended for funding based on comparisons with applications from all of the review panels and programmatic priorities.

Programmatic considerations may include, but are not limited to, geographic distribution, cancer type, population served, and type of program or service. The peer review scores are only 1 factor considered during programmatic review. At the programmatic level of review, priority will be given to proposed projects that target geographic regions of the state or population subgroups that are not well represented in the current CPRIT Prevention project portfolio.

Applications approved by PRC will be forwarded to the CPRIT Program Integration Committee (PIC) for review. The PIC will consider factors including program priorities set by the Oversight Committee, portfolio balance across programs, and available funding. The CPRIT Oversight Committee will vote to approve each grant award recommendation made by the PIC. The grant award recommendations will be presented at an open meeting of the Oversight Committee and must be approved by two-thirds of the Oversight Committee members present and eligible to vote. The review process is described more fully in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, sections 703.6 to 703.8](#).

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

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

An applicant will be notified regarding the peer review panel assigned to review the grant application. Peer Review Panel members are listed by panel on CPRIT's website.

**By submitting a grant application, the applicant agrees and understands that the only basis for reconsideration of a grant application is limited to an undisclosed Conflict of Interest as set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.9](#).**

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

Applicants should note that the CPRIT PIC comprises the CPRIT Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Scientific Officer, the Chief Prevention Officer, the Chief Product Development Officer, and the Commissioner of State Health Services. The prohibition on communication begins on the first day that grant applications for the particular grant mechanism are accepted by CPRIT and extends until the grant applicant receives notice regarding a final decision on the grant application. The prohibition on communication does not apply to the time period when preapplications or letters of interest are accepted. Intentional, serious, or frequent violations of this rule may result in the disqualification of the grant application from further consideration for a grant award.

## **5.2 Review Criteria**

Peer review of applications will be based on primary scored criteria and secondary unscored criteria, identified below. Review panels consisting of experts in the field and advocates will evaluate and score each primary criterion and subsequently assign an overall score that reflects an overall assessment of the application. The overall evaluation score will not be an average of the scores of individual criteria; rather, it will reflect the reviewers' overall impression of the application and responsiveness to the RFA priorities.

### **5.2.1 Primary Evaluation Criteria**

#### **Impact**

- Do the proposed services address an important problem or need in cancer prevention and control? Do the proposed project strategies support desired outcomes in cancer incidence, morbidity, and/or mortality? Do the proposed project strategies reach a priority population (eg, low income, minority, rural) at high risk of cancer?
- Will the project reach and serve/impact an appropriate number of people based on the budget allocated to providing services and the cost of providing services?

- If applicable, have partners demonstrated that the collaborative effort will provide a greater impact on cancer prevention and control than the applicant organization's effort separately?
- Does the program address adaptation, if applicable, of the evidence-based intervention to the priority population? Is the base of evidence clearly explained and referenced?

### **Project Strategy and Feasibility**

- Does the proposed project provide services specified in the RFA?
- Are the overall program approach, strategy, and design clearly described and supported by established theory and practice? Are the proposed objectives and activities feasible within the duration of the award? Has the applicant convincingly demonstrated the short- and long-term impacts of the project?
- Has the applicant proposed policy changes and/or system improvements?
- Are possible barriers addressed and approaches for overcoming them proposed?
- Are the priority population and culturally appropriate methods to reach the priority population clearly described?
- If applicable, does the application demonstrate the availability of resources and expertise to provide case management, including follow-up for abnormal results and access to treatment?
- Does the program leverage partners and resources to maximize the reach of the services proposed? Does the program leverage and complement other state, federal, and nonprofit grants?

### **Outcomes Evaluation**

- Are specific goals and measurable objectives for each year of the project provided?
- Are the proposed outcome measures appropriate for the services provided, and are the expected changes clinically significant?
- If clinical services are being paid for and provided by others, does the applicant explain the methods used to collect data and report on these clinical services and outcomes?
- Does the application provide a clear and appropriate plan for data collection and management and data analyses?

- Are clear baseline data provided for the priority population, or are clear plans included to collect baseline data?
- If an evidence-based intervention is being adapted in a population where it has not been implemented or tested, are plans for evaluation of barriers, effectiveness, and fidelity to the model described?
- Is the qualitative analysis of planned policy or system changes described?

### **Organizational Qualifications and Capabilities**

- Do the organization and its collaborators/partners demonstrate the ability to provide the proposed preventive services?
- Does the described role of each collaborating organization make it clear that each organization adds value to the project and is committed to working together to implement the project?
- Have the appropriate personnel been recruited to design, implement, evaluate, and complete the project?
- Is the organization structurally and financially stable and viable?
- Does the applicant describe the program's organizational capacity for sustainability?
- Does the applicant describe steps that will be taken toward building internal capacity and partnerships?
- Does the applicant describe a plan for systems changes that are sustainable over time (eg, improve results, provider practice, efficiency, cost-effectiveness)?

### **5.2.2 Secondary Evaluation Criteria**

#### **Budget**

- Is the budget appropriate and reasonable for the scope and services of the proposed work?
- Is the cost per person served appropriate and reasonable?
- Is the proportion of the funds allocated for direct services reasonable?
- Is the project a good investment of Texas public funds?

#### **Dissemination and Replication**

- Are plans for dissemination of the project's results and outcomes, including target audiences and methods, clearly described?

- Are active dissemination strategies included and described in the plan?
- Does the applicant describe whether and/or how the project lends itself to replication of all or some components of the project by others in the state?

## **6. AWARD ADMINISTRATION**

Texas law requires that CPRIT grant awards be made by contract between the applicant and CPRIT. CPRIT grant awards are made to institutions or organizations, not to individuals. Award contract negotiation and execution will commence once the CPRIT Oversight Committee has approved an application for a grant award. CPRIT may require, as a condition of receiving a grant award, that the grant recipient use CPRIT's electronic Grant Management System to exchange, execute, and verify legally binding grant contract documents and grant award reports. Such use shall be in accordance with CPRIT's electronic signature policy as set forth in [Chapter 701, Section 701.25](#).

Texas law specifies several components that must be addressed by the award contract, including needed compliance and assurance documentation, budgetary review, progress and fiscal monitoring, and terms relating to revenue sharing and intellectual property rights. These contract provisions are specified in [CPRIT's Administrative Rules](#). Applicants are advised to review CPRIT's administrative rules related to contractual requirements associated with CPRIT grant awards and limitations related to the use of CPRIT grant awards as set forth in [chapter 703, sections 703.10, 703.12](#).

Prior to disbursement of grant award funds, the grant recipient organization must demonstrate that it has adopted and enforces a tobacco-free workplace policy consistent with the requirements set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.20](#).

CPRIT requires the PD of the award to submit quarterly, annual, and final progress reports. These reports summarize the progress made toward project goals and address plans for the upcoming year and performance during the previous year(s). In addition, quarterly fiscal reporting and reporting on selected metrics will be required per the instructions to award recipients. Continuation of funding is contingent upon the timely receipt of these reports. Failure to provide timely and complete reports may waive reimbursement of grant award costs and may result in the termination of the award contract.

## 7. CONTACT INFORMATION

### 7.1 Helpdesk

Helpdesk support is available for questions regarding user registration and online submission of applications. Queries submitted via email will be answered within 1 business day. Helpdesk staff are not in a position to answer questions regarding the scope and focus of applications. Before contacting the Helpdesk, please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants* document (posted on December 15, 2022), which provides a step-by-step guide to using CARS.

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

**Tel:** 866-941-7146

**Email:** [Help@CPRITGrants.org](mailto:Help@CPRITGrants.org)

### 7.2 Program Questions

Questions regarding the CPRIT Prevention program, including questions regarding this or any other funding opportunity, should be directed to the CPRIT Prevention Program Office.

**Tel:** 512-626-2358

**Email:** [prevention@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:prevention@cprit.texas.gov)

**Website:** [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov)



## 8. RESOURCES

- The Texas Cancer Registry. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/tcr> or contact the Texas Cancer Registry at the Department of State Health Services.
- The Community Guide. <https://www.thecommunityguide.org/>
- Cancer Control P.L.A.N.E.T. <https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov>
- Guide to Clinical Preventive Services: Recommendations of the US Preventive Services Task Force. <http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/clinicians-providers/guidelines-recommendations/guide/>
- Brownson, RC, Colditz GA, and Proctor, EK. (Editors). *Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health: Translating Science to Practice*. Oxford University Press, March 2012.
- Program Sustainability Assessment Tool, copyright 2012, Washington University, St Louis, MO. <https://www.sustaintool.org/about-us/>
- Getting the Word Out: New Approaches for Disseminating Public Health Science. Ross C. Brownson, RC; Eyler, AA; Harris, JK; Moore, JB; Tabak, RG. *Journal of Public Health Management & Practice*. 2018;24(2):102-111.  
([https://journals.lww.com/jphmp/Fulltext/2018/03000/Getting\\_the\\_Word\\_Out\\_New\\_Approaches\\_for.4.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/jphmp/Fulltext/2018/03000/Getting_the_Word_Out_New_Approaches_for.4.aspx))
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: The Program Sustainability Assessment Tool: A New Instrument for Public Health Programs.  
[http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2014/13\\_0184.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2014/13_0184.htm)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Using the Program Sustainability Tool to Assess Plan for Sustainability. [http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2014/13\\_0185.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2014/13_0185.htm)
- Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network: Putting Public Health Evidence in Action Training Workshop. <http://cpcrn.org/pub/evidence-in-action/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Distinguishing Public Health Research and Public Health Nonresearch. <https://www.cdc.gov/os/integrity/docs/cdc-policy-distinguishing-public-health-research-nonresearch.pdf>

## 9. REFERENCES

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/answering-questions.html>
2. Texas Cancer Registry, Cancer Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Texas Department of State Health Services. <https://www.cancer-rates.info/tx/>

## APPENDIX A: KEY TERMS

- **Activities:** A listing of the “who, what, when, where, and how” for each objective that will be accomplished
- **Capacity Building:** Any activity (eg, training, identification of alternative resources, building internal assets) that builds durable resources and enables the grantee’s setting or community to continue the delivery of some or all components of the evidence-based intervention
- **Clinical Services:** Number of clinical services such as screenings, diagnostic tests, vaccinations, counseling sessions, or other evidence-based preventive services delivered by a health care practitioner in an office, clinic, or health care system. Other examples include genetic testing or assessments, physical rehabilitation, tobacco cessation counseling or nicotine replacement therapy, case management, clinical assessments, and family history screening.
- **Counties of Residence of Population Served:** Counties where the project does not plan to have a physical presence but people who live in these counties have received services. This includes counties of residence of people or places of business of professionals who participate in or receive education, navigation or clinical services. Examples include people traveling to receive services as a result of marketing and programs accessible via the website or social media. These counties may be described in the project plan and must be reported in the quarterly progress report.
- **Counties with Service Delivery:** Counties where an activity or service will occur and the project has a physical presence for the services provided. Examples include onsite outreach and educational activities and delivery of clinical services through clinics, mobile vans, or telemedicine consults. These counties must be entered in the Geographic Area to be Served section of the application.
- **Education Services:** Number of evidence-based, culturally appropriate cancer prevention and control education and outreach services delivered to the public and to health care professionals. Examples include education or training sessions (group or individual), focus groups, and knowledge assessments. One individual may receive multiple education services.

- **Evidence-Based Program:** A program that is validated by some form of documented research or applied evidence. CPRIT’s website provides links to resources for evidence-based strategies, programs, and clinical recommendations for cancer prevention and control. To access this information, visit <https://www.cprit.state.tx.us/our-programs/prevention>.
- **Goals:** Broad statements of general purpose to guide planning. Outcome goals should be few in number and focus on aspects of highest importance to the project ([appendix B](#)).
- **Integration:** The extent the evidence-based intervention is integrated within the culture of the grantee’s setting or community through policies and practice.
- **Navigation Services:** Number of activities/services that offer assistance to help overcome health care system barriers in a timely and informative manner and facilitate cancer screening and diagnosis to improve health care access and outcomes. Examples include patient reminders, transportation assistance, and appointment scheduling assistance. One individual may receive multiple navigation services.
- **Number of Clinical Services:** Number of [clinical services](#) delivered directly to members of the public by the funded project. One individual may receive multiple clinical services.
- **Number of Services (Direct Contact):** Number of services delivered directly to members of the public and/or professionals—direct, interactive public or professional education, outreach, training, navigation service, or clinical service, such as live educational and/or training sessions, vaccine administration, screening, diagnostics, case management/navigation services, and physician consults. One individual may receive multiple services.
- **Objectives:** Specific, **measurable**, actionable, realistic, and timely projections for outcomes; example: “Increase screening service provision in X population from Y% to Z% by 20xx.” Baseline data for the priority population must be included as part of each objective ([appendix B](#)). The proposed metric should be included in **both** the objective and the measure.
- **People Reached (Indirect Contact):** Number of members of the public and/or professionals reached via indirect noninteractive public or professional education and outreach activities, such as mass media efforts, brochure distribution, public service announcements, newsletters, and journals. (This category includes individuals who would

be reached through activities that are directly funded by CPRIT as well as individuals who would be reached through activities that occur as a direct consequence of the CPRIT-funded project's leveraging of other resources/funding to implement the CPRIT-funded project).

- **Unique People Served (Direct Contact):** Number of unique members of the public and/or professionals served via direct, interactive public or professional education, outreach, training, navigation service, or clinical service. This category includes individuals who would be served through activities that are directly funded by CPRIT as well as individuals who would be served through activities that occur as a direct consequence of the CPRIT-funded project's leveraging of other resources/funding to implement the CPRIT-funded project.

## APPENDIX B: WRITING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

List only major **outcome goals** and **measurable objectives** for each year of the project. **Do not include process objectives**; these should be described in the project plan only. Include the proposed metric within **both** the stated Objective and the Measure sections (eg, Measure: 2,000 individuals, ages 9-12, will initiate HPV vaccination during the grant period).

One goal with 2 objectives addressing navigation into diagnosis and into treatment is required for all proposals and will be prepopulated into the application. This goal is not modifiable by the applicant. As with other proposed goals and objectives, the applicant is expected to explain plans to establish a baseline and describe method(s) of measurement, if a baseline is not defined.

Applicants may add a maximum of 3 additional goals with 3 outcome objectives each.

Projects will be evaluated annually on progress toward **outcome** goals and objectives.

**The following has been adapted with permission from Appalachia Community Cancer Network, NIH Grant U54 CA 153604:**

### **Develop well-defined goals and objectives.**

**Goals** provide a roadmap or plan for where a group wants to go. Goals can be long term (over several years) or short term (over several months). Goals should be based on needs of the community and evidence-based data.

Goals should be:

- Believable – situations or conditions that the group believes can be achieved
- Attainable – possible within a designated time
- Tangible – capable of being understood or realized
- On a timetable – with a completion date
- Win-Win – beneficial to individual members and the coalition

**Objectives** are measurable steps toward achieving the goal. They are clear statements of specific activities required to achieve the goal. The best objectives have several characteristics in common—

S.M.A.R.T. + C:

- Specific – they tell how much (number or percent), who (participants), what (action or activity), and by when (date)
  - Example: 115 uninsured individuals age 50 and older will complete colorectal cancer screening by March 31, 2018.

- Measurable – specific measures that can be collected, detected, or obtained to determine successful attainment of the objective
  - Example: How many screened at an event? How many completed pre/post assessment?
- Achievable – not only are the objectives themselves possible, it is likely that your organization will be able to accomplish them
- Relevant to the mission – your organization has a clear understanding of how these objectives fit in with the overall vision and mission of the group
- Timed – developing a timeline is important for when your task will be achieved
- Challenging – objectives should stretch the group to aim on significant improvements that are important to members of the community

### **Evaluate and refine your objectives**

Review your developed objectives and determine the type and level of each using the following information:

#### **There are 2 types of objectives:**

- Outcome objectives – measure the “what” of a program; should be in the Goals and Objectives form (see [section 4.4.2](#))
- Process objectives – measure the “how” of a program; should be in the project plan only (see [section 4.4.4](#))

#### **There are 3 levels of objectives:**

- Community-level – objectives measure the planned community change
- Program impact – objectives measure the impact the program will have on a specific group of people
- Individual – objectives measures participant changes resulting from a specific program, using these factors:
  - Knowledge – understanding (know screening guidelines; recall the number to call for screening)
  - Attitudes – feeling about something (will consider secondhand smoke dangerous; believe eating 5 or more fruits and vegetable is important)
  - Skills – the ability to do something (complete fecal occult blood test)

- Intentions – regarding plan for future behavior (will agree to talk to the doctor, will plan to schedule a Pap test)
- Behaviors (past or current) – to act in a particular way (will exercise 30+ minutes a day, will have a mammogram)

**Well-defined outcome goals and objectives can be used to track, measure, and report progress toward achievement.**

### Summary Table

	Outcome – Use in Goals and Objectives	Process – Use in Project Plan only
<b>Community-level</b>	<p>WHAT will change in a community</p> <p><i><b>Example:</b> As a result of CPRIT funding, fecal immunochemical tests (FIT) will be available to 1,500 uninsured individuals age 50 and over through 10 participating local clinics and doctors.</i></p>	<p>HOW the community change will come about</p> <p><i><b>Example:</b> Contracts will be signed with participating local providers to enable uninsured individuals over age 50 have access to free colorectal cancer screening in their communities.</i></p>
<b>Program impact</b>	<p>WHAT will change in the target group as a result of a particular program</p> <p><i><b>Example:</b> As a result of this project, 200 uninsured women between 40 and 49 will receive free breast and cervical cancer screening.</i></p>	<p>HOW the program will be implemented to affect change in a group/population</p> <p><i><b>Example:</b> 2,000 female clients, between 40 and 49, will receive a letter inviting them to participate in breast and cervical cancer screening.</i></p>



<p><b>Individual</b></p>	<p>WHAT an individual will learn as a result of a particular program, or WHAT change an individual will make as a result of a particular program</p> <p><i><b>Example:</b> As a result of one-to-one education of 500 individuals, at least 20% of participants will participate in a smoking cessation program to quit smoking.</i></p>	<p>HOW the program will be implemented to affect change in an individual's knowledge or actions</p> <p><i><b>Example:</b> As a result of one-to-one counseling, all participants will identify at least 1 smoking cessation service and 1 smoking cessation aid.</i></p>
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# **Third Party Observer Reports**

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## **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**

### **23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2 PRV-PP1 – Day 1)**

#### **Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-05-24 23.2\_PRV-PP1 – Day 1  
Program Name: Prevention  
Panel Name: 23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2 \_PRV-PP1 – Day 1)  
Panel Date: May 24, 2023  
Report Date: May 30, 2023

#### ***BACKGROUND***

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

#### ***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2\_PRV-PP1 – Day 1) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Nancy Lee and conducted via videoconference on May 24, 2023.

#### ***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

- CPRIT's established procedure for panelists who have declared a conflict of interest is followed during the meeting (e.g., reviewers hang up from the teleconference or leave the room when an application with which there is a conflict is discussed);
- CPRIT program staff participation at meetings is limited to offering general points of information;
- CPRIT program staff do not engage in the panel's discussion on the merits of applications; and
- The panel focused on the established scoring criteria and/or making recommendations.

## **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Eleven (11) applications were discussed and seven (7) applications were not discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, nine (9) expert reviewers, and two (2) advocate reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Two (2)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

There were three (3) Conflicts of Interest (COIs) identified prior to and/or during the meeting. The COI was excluded from discussions concerning applications for which there was a conflict.

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


## **CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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

## **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**

### **23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2 PRV-PP1 – Day 2)**

#### **Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-05-25 23.2\_PRV-PP1 – Day 2  
Program Name: Prevention  
Panel Name: 23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2 \_PRV-PP1 – Day 2)  
Panel Date: May 25, 2023  
Report Date: May 30, 2023

#### ***BACKGROUND***

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

#### ***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2\_PRV-PP1 – Day 2) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Nancy Lee and conducted via videoconference on May 25, 2023.

#### ***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

- CPRIT's established procedure for panelists who have declared a conflict of interest is followed during the meeting (e.g., reviewers hang up from the teleconference or leave the room when an application with which there is a conflict is discussed);
- CPRIT program staff participation at meetings is limited to offering general points of information;
- CPRIT program staff do not engage in the panel's discussion on the merits of applications; and
- The panel focused on the established scoring criteria and/or making recommendations.

## ***SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS***

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Two (2) applications were discussed and sixteen (16) applications were not discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, nine (9) expert reviewers, and two (2) advocate reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Two (2)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

There were three (3) Conflicts of Interest (COI) identified prior to and/or during the meeting. The COI was excluded from discussions concerning applications for which there was a conflict.

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

## ***CONCLUSION***

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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





## **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**

### **23.2 Prevention Review Council Programmatic Review**

#### **(23.2 PRV PRC)**

#### **Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-06-19 23.2\_PRV\_PRC  
Program Name: Click or tap here to choose Program Name  
Panel Name: 23.2 Prevention Review Council Programmatic Review (23.2\_PRV\_PRC)  
Panel Date: June 19, 2023  
Report Date: June 23, 2023

### ***BACKGROUND***

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

### ***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Prevention Review Council Programmatic Review (23.2\_PRV\_PRC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Stephen Wyatt and conducted via videoconference on June 19, 2023.

### ***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

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

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

### **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Twenty-two (22) applications were referenced for scoring and eleven (11) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, and two (2) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Two (2)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Two (2)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

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


### **CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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

# **Conflicts of Interest Disclosure**

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## Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

### CPRIT Prevention Cycle 23.2

#### Awards Announced at the August 16, 2023, Oversight Committee Meeting

The table below lists the conflicts of interest (COIs) identified by peer reviewers, Program Integration Committee (PIC) members, and Oversight Committee members on an application-by-application basis. Applications reviewed in Prevention Cycle 23.2 include: *Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center*; *Cancer Screening and Early Detection*; *Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions*; and *Primary Prevention of Cancer*.

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

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

Application ID	Principal Investigator	Organization	Conflict Noted by Reviewer
Applications considered by the PIC and Oversight Committee:			
PP230061	Grimes, Allison	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Teoh, Deanna
PP230078	Reitzel, Lorraine	The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center	Mahoney, Martin
Applications not considered by the PIC or Oversight Committee:			
PP230075	Chalela, Patricia	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Eriksen, Michael

# De-Identified Overall Evaluation Scores

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## Cancer Screening and Early Detection

Prevention Cycle 23.2

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
PP230059*	3.3
PP230030*	3.7
ea	4.9
eb	5.3
ec	5.8

\* Recommended for grant award

# **Final Overall Evaluation Scores and Rank Order Scores**

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Dr. Mahendra Patel  
Oversight Committee Presiding Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [curingkids@gmail.com](mailto:curingkids@gmail.com)  
Via email to [kirtikpatel@hotmail.com](mailto:kirtikpatel@hotmail.com)

Wayne R. Roberts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [wroberts@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:wroberts@cprit.texas.gov)

Dear Mr. Roberts and Dr. Patel,

On behalf of the Prevention Review Council (PRC), I am pleased to provide the PRC's recommendations for the FY2023 Cycle 2 Cancer Screening and Early Detection (CSD), Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center (CCC), Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions (DI), and Primary Prevention of Cancer (PPC) grant awards.

The PRC met on June 19, 2023, to review the CCC applications and to consider the applications recommended by the peer review panel following their May 24-25, 2023, meeting. The PRC recommends 9 projects totaling \$13,343,163. Two of the projects, PP230003 and PP230030, were submitted and reviewed in FY2023 Cycle 1.

The projects are numerically ranked in the order the PRC recommends the applications be funded. Recommended funding amounts and the overall evaluation score are stated for each grant application. The PRC made no changes to the goals, project objectives, or timelines of the applications.

Our recommendations meet the PRC's standards for grant award funding of projects that are evidence-based, deliver programs or services to underserved populations, and focus on primary, secondary, or tertiary prevention. In making these recommendations the PRC continued to consider the available funding, the composition of the current portfolio, and the programmatic priorities in the RFA which include potential for impact and return on investment, geographic distribution, cancer type and type of program. All the recommended grants address one or more of the Prevention Program priorities.

Sincerely,  
Stephen W. Wyatt, DMD, MPH  
Chair, CPRIT Prevention Review Council

Attachment



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**Cycle 23.2 Recommended Prevention Program Awards**

App. ID	Mech	Application Title	PD	Organization	Score	Rank Order	Budget
PP230078	DI	Implementation and Dissemination of an Evidence-Based Intervention to Increase Tobacco Treatment Capacity in Opioid Treatment Programs	Reitzel, Lorraine R	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	2.0	1	\$449,776
PP230060	CCC	Coordinating Center for Colorectal Cancer Screening Across Texas (CONNECT)	Shokar, Navkiran K	The University of Texas at Austin	2.3	2	\$3,000,000
PP230074	PPC	Active Living After Cancer: Combining a Physical Activity Program With Survivor Navigation	Basen-Engquist, Karen M	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	2.5	3	\$1,999,989
PP230061	PPC	Expansion of HPV Vaccination Among Survivors of Childhood Cancer	Grimes, Allison	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	3.2	4	\$999,999
PP230059	CSD	De Casa en Casa 4: Cervical Cancer Screening in Underserved Rural and Border Communities Throughout West and South Texas	Molokwu, Jennifer C	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	3.3	5	\$2,499,437
PP230003	DI	Taking Texas Tobacco Free: Dissemination to and Implementation within Centers Serving Texans who Identify as LGBTQ+	Reitzel, Lorraine R	University of Houston	3.3	6	\$448,835
PP230056	PPC	Continuation and Expansion of a Highly Successful Postpartum HPV Vaccination Program	Berenson, Abbey B	The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	3.6	7	\$2,499,207
PP230030	CSD	ACTION for Big Country	Byrd, Theresa L	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	3.7	8	\$997,266
PP230069	DI	Dissemination of the Active Living After Cancer Program	Basen-Engquist, Karen M	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	3.8	9	\$448,654

CCC: Texas Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center

CSD: Cancer Screening and Early Detection

DI: Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions

PPC: Primary Prevention of Cancer



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

# **CEO Affidavit Supporting Information**

**Prevention  
FY 2023—Cycle 2  
*Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer  
Control Interventions***

# Request for Applications

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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**  
**RFA P-23.2-DI**

**Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer  
Control Interventions**

**Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document,  
which will be posted on December 15, 2022**

**Application Receipt Opening Date:** December 15, 2022

**Application Receipt Closing Date:** February 23, 2023

**FY 2023**

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023

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## **RFA VERSION HISTORY**

Rev    11/17/2022    RFA release

## **1. ABOUT CPRIT**

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

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

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

### **1.1 Prevention Program Priorities**

Legislation from the 83rd Texas Legislature requires that CPRIT's Oversight Committee establish program priorities on an annual basis. The priorities are intended to provide transparency in how the Oversight Committee directs the orientation of the agency's funding portfolio. The Prevention Program's principles and priorities will also guide CPRIT staff and the Prevention Review Council (PRC) on the development and issuance of program-specific Requests for Applications (RFAs) and the evaluation of applications submitted in response to those RFAs.

#### **Established Principles**

- Fund evidence-based interventions and their dissemination
- Support the prevention continuum of primary, secondary, and tertiary (includes survivorship) prevention interventions

#### **Prevention Program Priorities**

- Prioritize populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence
- Prioritize geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence
- Prioritize populations with obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, diagnostic testing, treatment, and survivorship services



- Assess programs to identify best practices, use as a quality improvement tool, and guide future program direction

## 2. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary

The ultimate goals of the CPRIT Prevention Program are to reduce overall cancer incidence and mortality and to improve the lives of individuals who have survived or are living with cancer. The ability to reduce cancer death rates depends in part on the application of currently available evidence-based technologies and strategies. CPRIT will foster the primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention of cancer in Texas by providing financial support for a wide variety of evidence-based risk reduction, early detection, and survivorship interventions.

The **Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions (DI)** award mechanism seeks to fund programs that facilitate the sharing of successful CPRIT Prevention Program projects and uptake of CPRIT-supported project findings and products through their dissemination and implementation across Texas. **This award mechanism is open only to previously or currently funded CPRIT Prevention Program projects.** Applicants may request any amount of funding up to a maximum of \$450,000 in total funding over a maximum of 36 months.

The proposed program should describe and package strategies or approaches for dissemination to other settings and populations in the state. The proposed program would introduce, modify, and implement previously funded CPRIT evidence-based cancer prevention and control interventions. To be eligible, the applicant should be in a position to develop 1 or more “products” based on the results of a previously CPRIT-funded intervention project. Of particular interest is the dissemination of “products” that address the unique challenges to program implementation in resource-limited settings, particularly in nonmetropolitan and medically underserved areas of the state.

The proposed projects should outline the partner organizations, communities, etc, that would be the target recipients for the packaged strategies/products and how they would assist these targets in preparing to implement the intervention and/or preparing to apply for grant funding, if needed or appropriate.

The **Dissemination and Implementation Models in Health Research and Practice** [website](#) defines active and passive dissemination strategies as follows: “Dissemination strategies describe mechanisms and approaches that are used to communicate and spread information about interventions to targeted users. Dissemination strategies are concerned with the packaging of the information about the intervention and the communication channels that are used to reach potential target audiences. **Passive dissemination** strategies are largely ineffective and include mass mailings, publication of information including practice guidelines, and untargeted presentations to heterogeneous groups. **Active dissemination** strategies include hands on technical assistance, replication guides, point-of-decision prompts for use, and mass media campaigns. It is consistently stated in the literature that dissemination strategies are necessary but not sufficient to ensure wide-spread use of an intervention.

## 2.2 Project Objectives

CPRIT seeks to fund projects that will provide 1 or more of the following:

- Dissemination of intervention implementation resources to public health professionals, health care practitioners, health planners, policymakers, and advocacy groups;
- Dissemination of implementation plans, products, materials, and other resources about an intervention that would provide recipients with the strategies necessary to implement in other settings/systems (eg, quality improvement strategies in a health care system, changes in standards of care);
- Dissemination or scaling up of best practices (infrastructure and project resources) and evidence-based interventions for implementation (eg, implementation guides).

## 2.3 Award Description

The **Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions** RFA solicits applications from currently or previously funded CPRIT Prevention Program projects that have demonstrated exemplary success and have materials, policies, and other resources that have been successfully implemented and evaluated and could be scaled up and/or applied to other systems and settings. The ultimate goal is to expand successful models for the delivery of prevention interventions all across the state through adaptation or replication.

Applicants to this RFA should outline specific implementation strategies they will utilize with targeted recipients to replicate or adapt projects to other settings or populations. Implementation strategies are described as the processes, activities, and resources that are used to integrate interventions into usual settings. Core implementation components can be staff selection, preservice and in-service training, ongoing consultation and coaching, staff and program evaluation, and systems interventions. (See <https://dissemination-implementation.org/tool/measure/>)

This award will support both passive and active dissemination strategies but must include 2 or more active dissemination strategies. This award will also support implementation strategies in the form of technical assistance, coaching, and consultation within the time period of the grant. CPRIT recognizes that there are limits to the amount of technical assistance or coaching that can be accomplished within the grant period; however, priority will be given to those projects that identify and assist potential target partners/audiences in preparing to implement the intervention and/or preparing to apply for grant funding. Examples of active dissemination strategies and implementation strategies follow.

### **Tools/Models**

- Toolkits with materials, sample policies, and procedures for implementation of CPRIT-funded programs.
- Interactive websites that provide target audiences with key information on how to implement CPRIT-related interventions.
- Approaches for dissemination of project implementation strategies/resources via nontraditional channels (eg, social media).
- User-friendly summaries—short issue or policy briefs that tell a story for local decision makers based on CPRIT project findings.
- Brief, user-friendly case studies from program developers and recipients to illustrate key issues.

### **Implementation Guides**

- Targeted communication materials emphasizing how to disseminate project components to different populations, systems, and settings.

- Step-by-step implementation guides that describe how to translate an evidence-based intervention/program to broader settings. These would include guidelines for retaining core elements of the interventions or programs while offering suggested adaptations for elements that would enhance the adoption and sustainability of the programs in different populations, settings, or circumstances. (See Partnership for Prevention examples: <https://innovations.ahrq.gov/qualitytools/community-health-promotion-handbook-action-guides-improve-community-health>).

### **Training/Technical Assistance**

- Provision of training and technical assistance to guide target partners/audiences in developing their plans to adapt, refine, and implement their projects.

In addition, target partners/audiences should be provided a discussion of barriers to dissemination; a description of personnel and necessary resources to overcome barriers to implementation of the project; a description of expected outcomes; evaluation strategies with a sample evaluation plan; any project-specific platforms; and suggestions or ideas for project sustainability.

A priority for this RFA is the dissemination of resources and products to audiences other than researchers. Some examples of potential partners/audiences as dissemination recipients are health departments, community-based organizations, and health systems to serve as recipients. To facilitate this dissemination, audience segmentation is a strategy based on identifying subgroups within a broader target audience to disseminate more tailored messaging resulting in greater uptake of innovations. As an example, the following are relevant characteristics of public health practitioners that should be taken into account in dissemination activities.

Segment	Relevant Characteristics	Messages	Channels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public health practitioners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High commitment</li> <li>• Wide range of professional backgrounds</li> <li>• Access to summaries of evidence but often not the original research</li> <li>• Time urgency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make a difference in society</li> <li>• Improve health equity</li> <li>• Enhance resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership meetings</li> <li>• Professional associations</li> <li>• Brief summaries of evidence</li> </ul>

The applicant should develop and implement a step-by-step dissemination plan that includes: (1) an introduction; (2) data showing the effectiveness of the underlying intervention (to justify dissemination); (3) relevance to priority populations and settings for dissemination; (4) target partners or strategies they will utilize to identify these critical partners; (5) dissemination framework and methods; (5) approaches for retaining core elements of the interventions or programs while offering suggested adaptations for the elements that would enhance the adoption and sustainability of the programs in different populations, settings, or circumstances; (6) procedures to assess dissemination effectiveness (evaluation plan); and (7) options/plans to help sustain effective dissemination approaches beyond the funding period.

Within the evaluation plan (#6 in the paragraph above and [section 4.4.4](#)), the applicant should state the overall goal and objectives of the evaluation, describe rigorous evaluation methods, and describe key variables to be measured (eg, awareness, knowledge, motivation to act, changes in practice). Measures may be short term, medium term, and long term. Long-term measures may be outside the scope of the 3-year funding period. The applicant is expected to publish the results of the evaluation in a peer-reviewed journal.

Under this RFA, CPRIT **will not** consider the following:

- Applications to disseminate projects not previously or currently funded by CPRIT's Prevention Program;
- Projects solely involving prevention/intervention research.

Applicants interested in prevention research should review CPRIT's Academic Research RFAs (available at <http://www.cprit.texas.gov>).

## **2.4 Priorities**

### **Types of Cancer:**

Applications addressing any cancer type(s) that are responsive to this RFA will be considered for funding. See [section 2.5](#) for specific areas of emphasis. Priority will be given to applications to disseminate and replicate projects that when implemented can address the following program priorities set by the CPRIT Oversight Committee:

- Prioritize populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence

- Prioritize geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence
- Prioritize underserved populations

### **Priority Populations**

Priority populations are subgroups that are underserved and disproportionately affected by cancer. Insured populations are not the priority of CPRIT's programs; however, some health promotion and education activities may include insured individuals as well as those who are underinsured or uninsured.

CPRIT-funded efforts must address 1 or more of these priority populations:

- Underinsured and uninsured individuals
- Geographically or culturally isolated populations
- Medically unserved or underserved populations
- Populations with low health literacy skills
- Racial, ethnic, and cultural minority populations, or
- Other populations with low screening rates, high incidence rates, and high mortality rates, focusing on individuals never before screened or who are significantly out of compliance with nationally recommended screening guidelines

## **2.5 Specific Areas of Emphasis**

Applications will be considered that propose dissemination of any previously funded CPRIT Prevention Program project delivering an evidence-based preventive service or education and outreach program that includes navigation to services that is responsive to this RFA. However, CPRIT has identified the following area of emphasis for this cycle of awards:

- Dissemination of the programs that address the unique challenges to program implementation in resource-limited settings and populations experiencing cancer disparities.

## 2.6 Outcome Metrics

The applicant is required to describe how the goals and objectives for each year of the project as well as the final outcomes will be measured. The applicant should provide a clear and appropriate plan for data collection and interpretation of results to report against goals and objectives.

### Reporting Requirements

Funded projects are required to report quantitative output and outcome metrics (as appropriate for each project) through the submission of quarterly progress reports, annual reports, and a final report.

- Quarterly progress report sections include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Narrative on project progress, including the number and description of all active and passive dissemination and implementation activities undertaken
- Annual and final progress report sections include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Key accomplishments, including discussion of barriers to dissemination
  - Progress toward goals and objectives
  - Materials produced, presentations, publications, etc
  - Economic impact of the project

## 2.7 Funding Information

Applicants may request any amount of funding up to a maximum of \$450,000 in total funding over a maximum of 36 months. Grant funds may be used to pay for salary and benefits, project supplies, equipment, costs for outreach and education, and travel of project personnel to project site(s).

Requests for funds to support construction, renovation, or any other infrastructure needs or requests to support lobbying will not be approved under this mechanism. Grantees may request funds for travel for 2 project staff to attend CPRIT's conference.

The budget should be well justified. In addition, CPRIT seeks to fill gaps in funding rather than replace existing funding, supplant funds that would normally be expended by the applicant's organization, or make up for funding reductions from other sources.

State law limits the amount of award funding that may be spent on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the **total** award amount.

## 2.8 Eligibility

- The applicant must be a Texas-based entity, such as a community-based organization, health institution, government organization, public or private company, college or university, or academic health institution.
- The applicant is eligible solely for the grant mechanism specified by the RFA under which the grant application was submitted.
- The designated Program Director (PD) will be responsible for the overall performance of the funded project. The PD must have relevant education and management experience and must reside in Texas during the project performance time.
- The applicant may submit more than 1 application, but each application must be for distinctly different projects without overlap in the projects. Applicants who do not meet this criterion will have all applications administratively withdrawn without peer review.
- Collaborations are permitted and encouraged, and collaborators may or may not reside in Texas. However, collaborators who do not reside in Texas are not eligible to receive CPRIT funds. Subcontracting and collaborating organizations may include public, not-for-profit, and for-profit entities. Such entities may be located outside of the State of Texas, but non-Texas-based organizations are not eligible to receive CPRIT funds.
- An applicant organization is eligible to receive a grant award only if the applicant certifies that the applicant organization, including the PD, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's organization (or any person related to 1 or more of these individuals within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity), has not made and will not make a contribution to CPRIT or to any foundation created to benefit CPRIT.
- An applicant is not eligible to receive a CPRIT grant award if the applicant PD, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's organization or institution is related to a CPRIT Oversight Committee member.
- The applicant must report whether the applicant organization, the PD, or other individuals who contribute to the execution of the proposed project in a substantive, measurable way (whether slated to receive salary or compensation under the grant award or not) are



currently ineligible to receive federal grant funds because of scientific misconduct or fraud or have had a grant terminated for cause within 5 years prior to the submission date of the grant application.

- CPRIT grants will be awarded by contract to successful applicants. CPRIT grants are funded on a reimbursement-only basis. Certain contractual requirements are mandated by Texas law or by administrative rules. Although applicants need not demonstrate the ability to comply with these contractual requirements at the time the application is submitted, applicants should make themselves aware of these standards before submitting a grant application. Significant issues addressed by the CPRIT contract are listed in [section 6](#). All statutory provisions and relevant administrative rules can be found [on the CPRIT website](#).

## 2.9 Resubmission Policy

- **One resubmission** is permitted. An application is considered a resubmission if the proposed project is the same project as presented in the original submission. A change in the identity of the PD for a project or a change of title for a project that was previously submitted to CPRIT does not constitute a new application; the application would be considered a resubmission.
- Reviewers of resubmissions are asked to assess whether the resubmission adequately addresses critiques from the previous review. **Applicants should note that addressing previous critiques is advisable; however, it does not guarantee the success of the resubmission.** All resubmitted applications must conform to the structure and guidelines outlined in this RFA.

## 3. KEY DATES

<b>RFA release</b>	November 17, 2022
<b>Online application opens</b>	December 15, 2022, 7 AM central time
<b>Application due</b>	February 23, 2023, 4 PM central time
<b>Application review</b>	March-July 2023
<b>Award notification</b>	August 2023
<b>Anticipated start date</b>	August 31, 2023

Applicants will be notified of peer review panel assignment prior to the peer review meeting dates.

## 4. APPLICATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

### 4.1 *Instructions for Applicants* document

It is imperative that applicants read the accompanying instructions document for this RFA that will be available December 15, 2022 (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). Requirements may have changed from previous versions.

### 4.2 Online Application Receipt System

Applications must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). **Only applications submitted through this portal will be considered eligible for evaluation.** The PD must create a user account in the system to start and submit an application. The Co-PD, if applicable, must also create a user account to participate in the application. Furthermore, the Application Signing Official (a person authorized to sign and submit the application for the organization) and the Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official (an individual who will help manage the grant contract if an award is made) also must create a user account in CARS. Applications will be accepted beginning at 7 AM central time on December 15, 2022, and must be submitted by 4 PM central time on February 23, 2023. Detailed instructions for submitting an application are in the *Instructions for Applicants* document, posted on CARS. **Submission of an application is considered an acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFA.**

### 4.3 Submission Deadline Extension

The submission deadline may be extended for 1 or more grant applications upon a showing of good cause. All requests for extension of the submission deadline must be submitted via email to the [CPRIT Helpdesk](#) within 24 hours of the submission deadline. Submission deadline extensions, including the reason for the extension, will be documented as part of the grant review process records.

### 4.4 Application Components

Applicants are advised to follow all instructions to ensure accurate and complete submission of all components of the application. Refer to the *Instructions for Applicants* document for details.

**Submissions that are missing 1 or more components or do not meet the eligibility requirements may be administratively withdrawn without review.**

#### 4.4.1 Abstract and Significance (5,000 characters)

Clearly explain the problem(s) to be addressed, the approach(es) to the solution, and how the application is responsive to this RFA. In the event that the project is funded, the abstract will be made public; therefore, no proprietary information should be included in this statement. Initial compliance decisions are based in part upon review of this statement.

**The abstract format is as follows (use headings as outlined below):**

- **Need:** Include a description of need for the proposed project.
- **Overall Project Strategy:** Describe the project and how it will address the identified need.
- **Specific Goals:** State specifically the overall goals of the proposed project.
- **Significance and Impact:** Explain how the proposed project, if successful, will have a unique and major impact on cancer prevention and control and for the State of Texas.

#### 4.4.2 Goals and Objectives (700 characters each)

List only major **outcome** goals and **measurable** objectives for each year of the project. **Do not include process objectives**; these should be described in the project plan only. Include the proposed metric within both the stated Objective **and** the Measure sections (eg, Measure: Number of lesson plans, handout and other materials posted online or delivered in person). Applications may be returned for revision if the proposed metric is not included within the Measure section. Refer to the *Instructions for Applicants* document for details.

The maximum number is 3 outcome goals with 3 objectives each. Projects will be evaluated annually on progress toward **outcome** goals and objectives. See [appendix](#) for instructions on writing **outcome** goals and objectives.

A baseline and method(s) of measurement are required for each objective. Provide both raw numbers and percent changes for the baseline and target. If a baseline has not yet been defined, applicants are required to explain plans to establish baseline and describe method(s) of measurement.

#### 4.4.3 Project Timeline (2 pages)

Provide a project timeline for project activities that includes deliverables and dates. Use Years 1 and 2 and Months 1, 2, 3, etc, as applicable (eg, Year 1, Months 3-5), NOT specific months or years (eg, not May 2023). Month 1 is the first full month of the grant award.

#### 4.4.4 Project Plan (12 pages; fewer pages permissible)

*The required project plan format follows. Applicants must use the headings outlined below.*

**Background:** Describe the findings or products to be disseminated and how and why it lends itself to replication and scalability. Describe the effectiveness of the intervention that is being proposed for replication/dissemination and the expected short- and long-term impacts of the project.

**Goals and Objectives:** Process objectives should be included in the project plan. Outcome goals and objectives will be entered in separate fields in CARS. However, if desired, outcome goals and objectives may be fully repeated or briefly summarized here. See [appendix](#) for instructions on writing goals and objectives.

**Components of the Project:** Clearly describe the data demonstrating success of the CPRIT Prevention Program-funded project that justifies dissemination. Describe components of the proposed dissemination project and the dissemination approach, strategy (eg, passive and active dissemination and implementation strategies), and the products being designed or packaged. The dissemination approach and strategy should also consider the message, source, audience, and channel (Brownson, RC, et al. [J Pub Health Manag Pract. 2018;24\(2\):102-111](#)). Clearly describe the established theory and practice that support the proposed approach or strategy. Describe parameters of the CPRIT Prevention Program-funded project that may affect its dissemination and replication, such as target audience for which it was designed, specialized resources that may be needed, or geographic considerations.

**Evaluation Strategy:** Describe the evaluation plan and methodology to assess dissemination effectiveness (eg, include short-term and intermediate impact of dissemination activities, knowledge and behavior change among the audience likely to adopt the project). Describe a clear and appropriate plan for data collection and interpretation of results to report against goals and objectives. If needed, applicants may want to consider seeking expertise at Texas-based academic cancer centers, schools/programs of public health, prevention research centers, or the like.

Applicants should budget accordingly for the evaluation activity and should ensure, among other things, that the evaluation plan is linked to the proposed goals and objectives.

**Organizational Qualifications and Capabilities:** Describe the organization and its qualifications and capabilities to deliver the proposed project. Describe the role and qualifications of key collaborating organizations/partners (if applicable) and how they add value to the project and demonstrate commitment to working together to implement the project. Describe the key personnel who are in place or will be recruited to implement, evaluate, and complete the project.

#### **4.4.5 References**

Provide a concise and relevant list of references cited for the application. The successful applicant will provide referenced evidence and literature support for the proposed project.

#### **4.4.6 Resubmission Summary**

Use the template provided on the CARS (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). Describe the approach to the resubmission and how reviewers' comments were addressed. Clearly indicate to reviewers how the application has been improved in response to the critiques. Refer the reviewers to specific sections of other documents in the application where further detail on the points in question may be found. When a resubmission is evaluated, responsiveness to previous critiques is assessed.

The overall summary statement of the original application review, if previously prepared, will be automatically appended to the resubmission; the applicant is not responsible for providing this document.

#### **4.4.7 CPRIT Grants Summary**

Use the template provided on the CARS (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). Provide a listing of **all** projects funded by the CPRIT Prevention program for the PD and the Co-PD, regardless of their connection to this application.

#### **4.4.8 Budget and Justification**

Provide a brief outline and detailed justification of the budget for the entire proposed period of support, including salaries and benefits, travel, supplies, contractual expenses, and other expenses. CPRIT funds will be distributed on a reimbursement basis. Applications requesting more than the maximum allowed cost (total costs) as specified in [section 2.7](#) will be administratively withdrawn.

- **Personnel:** The individual salary cap for CPRIT awards is \$200,000 per year. Describe the source of funding for all project personnel where CPRIT funds are not requested.
- **Travel:** PDs and related project staff are expected to attend CPRIT's conference. CPRIT funds may be used to send up to 2 people to the conference. Meals are not reimbursable for trips that do not include an overnight stay.
- **Indirect/Shared Costs:** Texas law limits the amount of grant funds that may be spent on indirect/shared expenses to no more than 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs). Guidance regarding indirect cost recovery can be found in [CPRIT's Administrative Rules](#).

#### 4.4.9 Current and Pending Support and Sources of Funding

Use the template provided on the CARS (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). Describe the funding source and duration of **all** current and pending support for the proposed project, including a capitalization table that reflects private investors, if any. Information for the initial funded project need not be included.

#### 4.4.10 Biographical Sketches

The designated PD will be responsible for the overall performance of the funded project and must have relevant education and management experience. The PD/Co-PDs must provide a biographical sketch that describes his or her education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, and publications and/or involvement in programs relevant to cancer prevention and/or service delivery.

- Use the Co-PD Biographical Sketch section **ONLY** if a Co-PD has been identified.
- Up to 3 additional biographical sketches for key personnel may be provided. The evaluation professional biographical sketch (see Evaluation Strategy, [section 4.4.4](#)) is optional and will count as 1 of the 3 additional biosketches in the Key Personnel Biographical Sketches section.

Each biographical sketch must not exceed 5 pages and must use the “Prevention Programs: Biographical Sketch” template provided on the CARS (<https://CPRITGrants.org>) or the NIH Biographical Sketch format. Only biographical sketches will be accepted; do not submit resumes and/or CVs. If a position is not yet filled, please upload a job description.

#### **4.4.11 Personnel and Collaborating Organizations**

List all project personnel, paid or unpaid, named in the application, including key personnel, collaborators, and anyone listed under the Current & Pending Support section. Include all key participating organizations that will partner with the applicant organization to provide 1 or more components essential to the success of the program (eg, evaluation).

#### **4.4.12 Letters of Commitment (10 pages)**

Applicants may provide optional letters of commitment and/or memoranda of understanding from community organizations, key faculty, or any other component essential to the success of the program.

### **5. APPLICATION REVIEW**

#### **5.1 Review Process Overview**

All eligible applications will be reviewed using a 2-stage peer review process: (1) evaluation of applications by peer review panels and (2) prioritization of grant applications by the PRC. In the first stage, applications will be evaluated by an independent review panel using the criteria listed below. In the second stage, applications judged to be meritorious by review panels will be evaluated by the PRC and recommended for funding based on comparisons with applications from all of the review panels and programmatic priorities.

Programmatic considerations may include, but are not limited to, geographic distribution, cancer type, population served, and type of program or service. The peer review scores are only 1 factor considered during programmatic review. At the programmatic level of review, priority will be given to proposed projects that target geographic regions of the state or population subgroups that are not well represented in the current CPRIT Prevention project portfolio.

Applications approved by the PRC will be forwarded to the CPRIT Program Integration Committee (PIC) for review. The PIC will consider factors including program priorities set by the Oversight Committee, portfolio balance across programs, and available funding. The CPRIT Oversight Committee will vote to approve each grant award recommendation made by the PIC. The grant award recommendations will be presented at an open meeting of the Oversight Committee and must be approved by two-thirds of the Oversight Committee members present and

eligible to vote. The review process is described more fully in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, sections 703.6 through 703.8](#).

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

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

**By submitting a grant application, the applicant agrees and understands that the only basis for reconsideration of a grant application is limited to an undisclosed Conflict of Interest as set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.9](#).**

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

Applicants should note that the CPRIT PIC comprises the CPRIT Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Scientific Officer, the Chief Prevention and Communications Officer, the Chief Product Development Officer, and the Commissioner of State Health Services. The prohibition on communication begins on the first day that grant applications for the particular grant mechanism are accepted by CPRIT and extends until the grant applicant receives notice regarding a final decision on the grant application. The prohibition on communication does not apply to the time period when preapplications or letters of interest are accepted. Intentional, serious, or frequent violations of this rule may result in the disqualification of the grant application from further consideration for a grant award.

## **5.2 Review Criteria**

Peer review of applications will be based on primary scored criteria and secondary unscored criteria, identified below. Review committees will evaluate and score each primary criterion and subsequently assign an overall score that reflects an overall assessment of the application. The



overall evaluation score will not be an average of the scores of individual criteria; rather, it will reflect the reviewers' overall impression of the application and responsiveness to the RFA.

### **5.2.1 Primary Evaluation Criteria**

#### **Impact**

- Does the applicant describe the project to be disseminated and how and why it lends itself to replication and scalability?
- Does the applicant outline the target metrics established for the CPRIT Prevention Program-funded project and describe the effectiveness of the intervention that is being proposed for replication/dissemination?
- Do the data (results) demonstrate success of the CPRIT Prevention Program-funded project and justify dissemination?
- Has the applicant convincingly demonstrated the short- and long-term impacts of the project?

#### **Project Strategy and Feasibility**

- Does the proposed project address the requirements of the RFA? Does it include a step-by-step implementation guide in Year 1?
- Are the overall project dissemination approach, strategy, and design clearly described and supported by established theory and practice and likely to result in successful dissemination and adoption? Are 2 or more active dissemination strategies described?
- Are the proposed objectives and activities feasible within the duration of the award?
- If the CPRIT Prevention Program-funded project is to be adapted for different populations and settings, are specific adaptations and evaluation strategies clearly outlined as a part of the project?
- Does the project identify and assist potential target audiences in preparing to implement the intervention and/or preparing to apply for grant funding?

#### **Evaluation**

- Are specific goals and measurable objectives for each year of the project provided?
- Are the proposed measures appropriate for the project?

- Does the application provide a clear and appropriate plan for data collection and interpretation of results to report against goals and objectives?

### **Organizational Qualifications and Capabilities**

- Do the organization and its collaborators/partners (if applicable) demonstrate the ability to deliver the proposed project?
- Are the appropriate personnel in place or have they been recruited to develop, evaluate, and complete the project?

## **5.2.2 Secondary Evaluation Criteria**

### **Budget**

- Is the budget appropriate and reasonable for the scope of the proposed work?
- Are all costs well justified?
- Is the project a good investment of Texas public funds?

## **6. AWARD ADMINISTRATION**

Texas law requires that CPRIT grant awards be made by contract between the applicant and CPRIT. CPRIT grant awards are made to institutions or organizations, not to individuals. Award contract negotiation and execution will commence once the CPRIT Oversight Committee has approved an application for a grant award. CPRIT may require, as a condition of receiving a grant award, that the grant recipient use CPRIT's electronic Grant Management System to exchange, execute, and verify legally binding grant contract documents and grant award reports. Such use shall be in accordance with CPRIT's electronic signature policy as set forth in [chapter 701, section 701.25](#).

Texas law specifies several components that must be addressed by the award contract, including needed compliance and assurance documentation, budgetary review, progress and fiscal monitoring, and terms relating to revenue sharing and intellectual property rights. These contract provisions are specified in CPRIT's [Administrative Rules](#). Applicants are advised to review CPRIT's administrative rules related to contractual requirements associated with CPRIT grant awards and limitations related to the use of CPRIT grant awards as set forth in [chapter 703, sections 703.10, 703.12](#).

Prior to disbursement of grant award funds, the grant recipient organization must demonstrate that it has adopted and enforces a tobacco-free workplace policy consistent with the requirements set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.20](#).

CPRIT requires the PD of the award to submit quarterly, annual, and final progress reports. These reports summarize the progress made toward project goals and address plans for the upcoming year and performance during the previous year(s). In addition, quarterly fiscal reporting and reporting on selected metrics will be required per the instructions to award recipients. Continuation of funding is contingent upon the timely receipt of these reports. Failure to provide timely and complete reports may waive reimbursement of grant award costs and may result in the termination of the award contract.

## **7. CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **7.1 Helpdesk**

Helpdesk support is available for questions regarding user registration and online submission of applications. Queries submitted via email will be answered within 1 business day. Helpdesk staff are not in a position to answer questions regarding the scope and focus of applications. Before contacting the helpdesk, please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants* document (posted on December 15, 2022), which provides a step-by-step guide to using CARS.

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

**Tel:** 866-941-7146

**Email:** [Help@CPRITGrants.org](mailto:Help@CPRITGrants.org)

### **7.2 Program Questions**

Questions regarding the CPRIT Prevention program, including questions regarding this or any other funding opportunity, should be directed to the CPRIT Prevention Program Office.

**Tel:** 512-626-2358

**Email:** [prevention@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:prevention@cprit.texas.gov)

**Website:** [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov)

## 8. RESOURCES

- The Texas Cancer Registry. <http://www.dshs.texas.gov/tcr> or contact the Texas Cancer Registry at the Department of State Health Services.
- The Community Guide. <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/>
- Cancer Control P.L.A.N.E.T. <https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/>
- Guide to Clinical Preventive Services: Recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. <http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/clinicians-providers/guidelines-recommendations/guide/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: The Program Sustainability Assessment Tool: A New Instrument for Public Health Programs  
[http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2014/13\\_0184.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2014/13_0184.htm)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Using the Program Sustainability Tool to Assess and Plan for Sustainability. [http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2014/13\\_0185.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2014/13_0185.htm)
- Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network: Putting Public Health Evidence in Action Training Workshop. <http://cpcrn.org/pub/evidence-in-action/>
- Slater MD, Kelly KJ, Thackeray R. Segmentation on a shoestring: health audience segmentation in limited-budget and local social marketing interventions. *Health Promot Pract.* 2006;7(2):170-173.
- Brownson RC, Eyer AA, Harris JK, Moore JB, Tabak RG. Getting the Word Out: New Approaches for Disseminating Public Health Science. *J Public Health Manag Pract.* 2018;24(2):102-111.  
[https://journals.lww.com/jphmp/Fulltext/2018/03000/Getting\\_the\\_Word\\_Out\\_New\\_Approaches\\_for.4.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/jphmp/Fulltext/2018/03000/Getting_the_Word_Out_New_Approaches_for.4.aspx)

## 9. REFERENCES

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/answering-questions.html>
2. Texas Cancer Registry, Cancer Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Texas Department of State Health Services. <https://www.cancer-rates.info/tx/>

## APPENDIX: WRITING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

List only major **outcome goals** and **measurable objectives** for each year of the project. **Do not include process objectives**; these should be described in the project plan only. Include the proposed metric within **both** the stated Objective and the Measure sections (eg, Measure: Number of lesson plans, handout and other materials posted online or delivered in person). The maximum number is 3 goals with 3 objectives each. Projects will be evaluated annually on progress toward **outcome** goals and objectives.

**The following has been adapted with permission from Appalachia Community Cancer Network, NIH Grant U54 CA 153604:**

### **Develop well-defined goals and objectives**

**Goals** provide a roadmap or plan for where a group wants to go. Goals can be long term (over several years) or short term (over several months). Goals should be based on needs of the community and evidence-based data.

Goals should be

- Believable – situations or conditions that the group believes can be achieved
- Attainable – possible within a designated time
- Tangible – capable of being understood or realized
- On a timetable – with a completion date
- Win-Win – beneficial to individual members and the coalition

**Objectives** are measurable steps toward achieving the goal. They are clear statements of specific activities required to achieve the goal. The best objectives have several characteristics in common—S.M.A.R.T. + C:

- Specific – they tell how much (number or percent), who (participants), what (action or activity), and by when (date)  
Example: 115 uninsured individuals age 50 and older will complete colorectal cancer screening by March 31, 2019.
- Measurable – specific measures that can be collected, detected, or obtained to determine successful attainment of the objective  
Example: How many screened at an event? How many completed pre/post assessment?

- Achievable – not only are the objectives themselves possible, it is likely that your organization will be able to accomplish them
- Relevant to the mission – your organization has a clear understanding of how these objectives fit in with the overall vision and mission of the group
- Timed – developing a timeline is important for when your task will be achieved
- Challenging – objectives should stretch the group to aim on significant improvements that are important to members of the community

### **Evaluate and refine your objectives**

Review your developed objectives and determine the type and level of each using the following information:

#### **There are 2 types of objectives:**

- Outcome objectives – measure the “what” of a program; should be in the Goals and Objectives form (see [section 4.4.2](#))
- Process objectives – measure the “how” of a program; should be in the project plan (see [section 4.4.4](#))

#### **There are 3 levels of objectives:**

- Community-level – objectives measure the planned community change
- Program impact – objectives measure the impact the program will have on a specific group of people
- Individual – objectives measure participant changes resulting from a specific program, using these factors:
  - Knowledge – understanding (know screening guidelines; recall the number to call for screening)
  - Attitudes – feelings about something (will consider secondhand smoke dangerous; believe eating 5 or more fruits and vegetables is important)
  - Skills – the ability to do something (complete fecal occult blood test)
  - Intentions – regarding plan for future behavior (will agree to talk to the doctor, will plan to schedule a Pap test)
  - Behaviors (past or current) – to act in a particular way (will exercise 30+ minutes a day, will have a mammogram)

Well-defined goals and objectives can be used to track, measure, and report progress toward achievement.

### Summary Table

	Outcome – Use in Goals and Objectives	Process – Use in Project Plan only
<b>Community-level</b>	<p>WHAT will change in a community</p> <p><i>Example: As a result of CPRIT funding, fecal immunochemical tests (FIT) will be available to 1,500 uninsured individuals age 50 and over through 10 participating local clinics and doctors.</i></p>	<p>HOW the community change will come about</p> <p><i>Example: Contracts will be signed with participating local providers to enable uninsured individuals over age 50 to have access to free colorectal cancer screening in their communities.</i></p>
<b>Program Impact</b>	<p>WHAT will change in the target group as a result of a particular program</p> <p><i>Example: As a result of this project, 200 uninsured women between 40 and 49 will receive free breast and cervical cancer screening.</i></p>	<p>HOW the program will be implemented to affect change in a group/population</p> <p><i>Example: 2,000 female clients, between 40 and 49, will receive a letter inviting them to participate in breast and cervical cancer screening.</i></p>
<b>Individual</b>	<p>WHAT an individual will learn as a result of a particular program, or WHAT change an individual will make as a result of a particular program</p> <p><i>Example: As a result of one-to-one education of 500 individuals, at least 20% of participants will participate in a smoking cessation program to quit smoking.</i></p>	<p>HOW the program will be implemented to affect change in an individual's knowledge or actions</p> <p><i>Example: As a result of one-to-one counseling, all participants will identify at least 1 smoking cessation service and 1 smoking cessation aid.</i></p>



# **Third Party Observer Reports**

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## **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**

### **23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2 PRV-PP1 – Day 1)**

#### **Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-05-24 23.2\_PRV-PP1 – Day 1  
Program Name: Prevention  
Panel Name: 23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2 \_PRV-PP1 – Day 1)  
Panel Date: May 24, 2023  
Report Date: May 30, 2023

#### ***BACKGROUND***

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

#### ***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2\_PRV-PP1 – Day 1) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Nancy Lee and conducted via videoconference on May 24, 2023.

#### ***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

- CPRIT's established procedure for panelists who have declared a conflict of interest is followed during the meeting (e.g., reviewers hang up from the teleconference or leave the room when an application with which there is a conflict is discussed);
- CPRIT program staff participation at meetings is limited to offering general points of information;
- CPRIT program staff do not engage in the panel's discussion on the merits of applications; and
- The panel focused on the established scoring criteria and/or making recommendations.

## ***SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS***

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Eleven (11) applications were discussed and seven (7) applications were not discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, nine (9) expert reviewers, and two (2) advocate reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Two (2)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

There were three (3) Conflicts of Interest (COIs) identified prior to and/or during the meeting. The COI was excluded from discussions concerning applications for which there was a conflict.

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

## ***CONCLUSION***

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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



## **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**

### **23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2 PRV-PP1 – Day 2)**

#### **Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-05-25 23.2\_PRV-PP1 – Day 2  
Program Name: Prevention  
Panel Name: 23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2 \_PRV-PP1 – Day 2)  
Panel Date: May 25, 2023  
Report Date: May 30, 2023

#### ***BACKGROUND***

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

#### ***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2\_PRV-PP1 – Day 2) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Nancy Lee and conducted via videoconference on May 25, 2023.

#### ***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

- CPRIT's established procedure for panelists who have declared a conflict of interest is followed during the meeting (e.g., reviewers hang up from the teleconference or leave the room when an application with which there is a conflict is discussed);
- CPRIT program staff participation at meetings is limited to offering general points of information;
- CPRIT program staff do not engage in the panel's discussion on the merits of applications; and
- The panel focused on the established scoring criteria and/or making recommendations.

## ***SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS***

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Two (2) applications were discussed and sixteen (16) applications were not discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, nine (9) expert reviewers, and two (2) advocate reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Two (2)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

There were three (3) Conflicts of Interest (COI) identified prior to and/or during the meeting. The COI was excluded from discussions concerning applications for which there was a conflict.

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


## ***CONCLUSION***

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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



## **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**

### **23.2 Prevention Review Council Programmatic Review**

#### **(23.2 PRV PRC)**

#### **Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-06-19 23.2\_PRV\_PRC  
Program Name: Click or tap here to choose Program Name  
Panel Name: 23.2 Prevention Review Council Programmatic Review (23.2\_PRV\_PRC)  
Panel Date: June 19, 2023  
Report Date: June 23, 2023

### ***BACKGROUND***

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

### ***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Prevention Review Council Programmatic Review (23.2\_PRV\_PRC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Stephen Wyatt and conducted via videoconference on June 19, 2023.

### ***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

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



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

### **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Twenty-two (22) applications were referenced for scoring and eleven (11) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, and two (2) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Two (2)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Two (2)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

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

### **CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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

# **Conflicts of Interest Disclosure**

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## Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

### CPRIT Prevention Cycle 23.2

#### Awards Announced at the August 16, 2023, Oversight Committee Meeting

The table below lists the conflicts of interest (COIs) identified by peer reviewers, Program Integration Committee (PIC) members, and Oversight Committee members on an application-by-application basis. Applications reviewed in Prevention Cycle 23.2 include: *Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center*; *Cancer Screening and Early Detection*; *Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions*; and *Primary Prevention of Cancer*.

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

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

Application ID	Principal Investigator	Organization	Conflict Noted by Reviewer
<b>Applications considered by the PIC and Oversight Committee:</b>			
PP230061	Grimes, Allison	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Teoh, Deanna
PP230078	Reitzel, Lorraine	The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center	Mahoney, Martin
<b>Applications not considered by the PIC or Oversight Committee:</b>			
PP230075	Chalela, Patricia	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Eriksen, Michael

# De-Identified Overall Evaluation Scores

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## Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions

### Prevention Cycle 23.2

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
PP230078*	2.0
PP230003*	3.3
PP230069*	3.8

\* Recommended for grant award

# **Final Overall Evaluation Scores and Rank Order Scores**

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Dr. Mahendra Patel  
Oversight Committee Presiding Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [curingkids@gmail.com](mailto:curingkids@gmail.com)  
Via email to [kirtikpatel@hotmail.com](mailto:kirtikpatel@hotmail.com)

Wayne R. Roberts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [wroberts@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:wroberts@cprit.texas.gov)

Dear Mr. Roberts and Dr. Patel,

On behalf of the Prevention Review Council (PRC), I am pleased to provide the PRC's recommendations for the FY2023 Cycle 2 Cancer Screening and Early Detection (CSD), Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center (CCC), Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions (DI), and Primary Prevention of Cancer (PPC) grant awards.

The PRC met on June 19, 2023, to review the CCC applications and to consider the applications recommended by the peer review panel following their May 24-25, 2023, meeting. The PRC recommends 9 projects totaling \$13,343,163. Two of the projects, PP230003 and PP230030, were submitted and reviewed in FY2023 Cycle 1.

The projects are numerically ranked in the order the PRC recommends the applications be funded. Recommended funding amounts and the overall evaluation score are stated for each grant application. The PRC made no changes to the goals, project objectives, or timelines of the applications.

Our recommendations meet the PRC's standards for grant award funding of projects that are evidence-based, deliver programs or services to underserved populations, and focus on primary, secondary, or tertiary prevention. In making these recommendations the PRC continued to consider the available funding, the composition of the current portfolio, and the programmatic priorities in the RFA which include potential for impact and return on investment, geographic distribution, cancer type and type of program. All the recommended grants address one or more of the Prevention Program priorities.

Sincerely,  
Stephen W. Wyatt, DMD, MPH  
Chair, CPRIT Prevention Review Council

Attachment





CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**Cycle 23.2 Recommended Prevention Program Awards**

App. ID	Mech	Application Title	PD	Organization	Score	Rank Order	Budget
PP230078	DI	Implementation and Dissemination of an Evidence-Based Intervention to Increase Tobacco Treatment Capacity in Opioid Treatment Programs	Reitzel, Lorraine R	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	2.0	1	\$449,776
PP230060	CCC	Coordinating Center for Colorectal Cancer Screening Across Texas (CONNECT)	Shokar, Navkiran K	The University of Texas at Austin	2.3	2	\$3,000,000
PP230074	PPC	Active Living After Cancer: Combining a Physical Activity Program With Survivor Navigation	Basen-Engquist, Karen M	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	2.5	3	\$1,999,989
PP230061	PPC	Expansion of HPV Vaccination Among Survivors of Childhood Cancer	Grimes, Allison	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	3.2	4	\$999,999
PP230059	CSD	De Casa en Casa 4: Cervical Cancer Screening in Underserved Rural and Border Communities Throughout West and South Texas	Molokwu, Jennifer C	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	3.3	5	\$2,499,437
PP230003	DI	Taking Texas Tobacco Free: Dissemination to and Implementation within Centers Serving Texans who Identify as LGBTQ+	Reitzel, Lorraine R	University of Houston	3.3	6	\$448,835
PP230056	PPC	Continuation and Expansion of a Highly Successful Postpartum HPV Vaccination Program	Berenson, Abbey B	The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	3.6	7	\$2,499,207
PP230030	CSD	ACTION for Big Country	Byrd, Theresa L	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	3.7	8	\$997,266
PP230069	DI	Dissemination of the Active Living After Cancer Program	Basen-Engquist, Karen M	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	3.8	9	\$448,654

CCC: Texas Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center

CSD: Cancer Screening and Early Detection

DI: Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions

PPC: Primary Prevention of Cancer



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

# **CEO Affidavit Supporting Information**

**Prevention**  
**FY 2023—Cycle 2**  
*Primary Prevention of Cancer*

# Request for Applications

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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**  
**RFA P-23.2-PPC**

**Primary Prevention of Cancer**

**Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document,  
which will be posted on December 15, 2022**

**Application Receipt Opening Date:** December 15, 2022

**Application Receipt Closing Date:** February 23, 2023

**FY 2023**

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023

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## **RFA VERSION HISTORY**

Rev	11/17/2022	RFA release
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## **1. ABOUT CPRIT**

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

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

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

### **1.1 Prevention Program Priorities**

Legislation from the 83rd Texas Legislature requires that CPRIT's Oversight Committee establish program priorities on an annual basis. The priorities are intended to provide transparency in how the Oversight Committee directs the orientation of the agency's funding portfolio. The Prevention Program's principles and priorities will also guide CPRIT staff and the Prevention Review Council (PRC) on the development and issuance of program-specific Requests for Applications (RFAs) and the evaluation of applications submitted in response to those RFAs.

#### **Established Principles:**

- Fund evidence-based interventions and their dissemination
- Support the prevention continuum of primary, secondary, and tertiary (includes survivorship) prevention interventions

#### **CPRIT's Cross-Program Priorities:**

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



### **Prevention Program Priorities:**

- Prioritize populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence
- Prioritize geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence
- Prioritize populations with obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, diagnostic testing, treatment, and survivorship service
- Assess programs to identify best practices, use as a quality improvement tool, and guide future program direction

## **2. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1 Summary**

The ultimate goals of the CPRIT Prevention Program are to reduce cancer incidence and mortality, reduce cancer disparities, and improve the lives of cancer survivors. More than half of cancers can be prevented by applying prevention knowledge we already have about modifiable causes of cancer. We can prevent some cancers by promoting and providing hepatitis B and HPV vaccines, supporting environmental approaches that make healthy choices easier, and empowering people to make healthy lifestyle choices related to tobacco use, nutrition, physical activity, and sun safety. This failure to address prevention is particularly impactful for those experiencing cancer disparities (eg, minority population groups, low-income populations). When prevention programs are comprehensive and maximize the ability for all populations to participate, major changes in behaviors and morbidity and mortality can be achieved. (Colditz GA, Emmons KM. Accelerating the Pace of Cancer Prevention-Right Now. [Cancer Prev Res \[Phila\]](#). 2018;11[4]:171-184)

There is increasing focus on multilevel interventions for cancer prevention. (Clauser SB, Taplin SH, Foster MK, Fagan P, Kaluzny AD. Multilevel Intervention Research: Lessons Learned and Pathways Forward. [J Natl Cancer Inst Monogr](#). 2012;44:127-133) A multilevel intervention seeks to influence more than 1 contextual level, ie, individual, group, organization, and community. Multilevel interventions require action targeting 2 or more levels of influence at the same time or in close temporal proximity. Multilevel interventions may involve policy, systems, and

environmental change as a way of modifying the environment to make healthy choices practical and available to all community members.

The **Primary Prevention of Cancer (PPC)** award mechanism focuses on increasing implementation of evidence-based strategies to ensure that all Texans benefit from the cancer prevention knowledge that we currently have. CPRIT seeks to fund multilevel interventions to reduce cancer risk, disease burden, and cancer disparities for priority populations, including cancer survivors. Modifiable risk behaviors include tobacco use, obesity, physical inactivity, unhealthy eating, alcohol use, sun exposure, HPV vaccination, hepatitis B vaccination, and environmental/occupational cancer exposures.

Applications should also assess and address social determinants that contribute to cancer burden and disparities (eg, cultural factors, unmet needs, access barriers). Interventions and communications should be structured to address the unique circumstances of the population to be served.

Eligible applications must include the delivery of interventions to nonmetropolitan (rural) and/or medically underserved counties in the state. For example, cigarette smoking and smokeless tobacco use are more prevalent in rural populations. Higher rates of obesity, lower rates of physical activity, and poor diets contribute to cancer-related health disparities in rural populations and high-risk urban populations.

Partnerships with other organizations that can support, and leverage resources are strongly encouraged. A coordinated submission of a collaborative partnership program in which all partners have a substantial role in the proposed project is preferred.

## **2.2 Project Objectives**

CPRIT seeks to reduce modifiable risk behaviors via projects that will do 1 or more of the following:

- Establish collaborations and partnerships with communities to deliver multilevel, evidence-based projects to reduce disparities and achieve health equity
- Deliver multilevel, evidence-based projects that include public and/or professional education, outreach, navigation to and delivery of primary prevention interventions

- /Implement policy, systems and environmental changes that are sustainable over time (See <https://www.cccnationalpartners.org/new-resource-policy-systems-and-environmental-change-resource-guide>); examples include the following:
  - Advocating for/supporting structures that provide shade, sidewalks, paths, and recreation areas in community design
  - Implementing Farm to School programs (See <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/>)
  - Increasing availability of healthy food choices in restaurants or cafeterias
  - Advocating for/supporting policies for smoke-free zones and public events
  - Implementing programs that result in sustained smoking cessation.

## 2.3 Award Description

The **Primary Prevention of Cancer** RFA solicits applications for eligible projects up to 36 months in duration that will deliver multilevel, evidence-based interventions that improve cancer-related health behaviors. Interventions may address tobacco use, obesity, physical inactivity, unhealthy eating, alcohol use, HPV vaccination, hepatitis B vaccination, and environmental/occupational cancer exposures. Nonmetropolitan (rural) and/or medically underserved populations must be included in the defined service area.

The following are required components of the project:

- **Evidence-Based:** CPRIT's primary prevention grants are intended to fund culturally appropriate, effective, and efficient systems of delivery of preventive services based on the existing body of knowledge about and evidence for cancer prevention. Evidence-based and promising interventions can be identified via the [Community Guide](#), [What Works for Health](#), [National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program](#), [NCI Evidence-Based Cancer Control Programs](#), and other sources.

While there are few evidence-based clinical care guidelines for posttreatment survivor care, the National Comprehensive Cancer Network and the American Cancer Society have developed consensus-based comprehensive survivorship care guidelines. These guidelines provide direction on managing the potential physical and psychosocial long-term impact of cancer/associated treatment and subsequent surveillance for recurrence and screening for second primary cancers for projects focusing on survivor care.

- If evidence-based interventions have not been implemented or evaluated for the specific population or setting proposed, provide evidence that the proposed intervention is appropriate for the population and has a high likelihood of success (ie, an evidence-informed practice). In cases where the evidence base is still developing, the applicant should provide a strong and comprehensive evaluation plan allowing for documentation of new evidence over the life of the project.
- **Multilevel Interventions:** Health behaviors have multiple levels of influences, often including individual, group, organization, and community determinants. Influences on behaviors interact across these different levels, and multilevel interventions are the most effective in changing behavior (See <http://medbox.iab.me/modules/en-cdc/www.cdc.gov/cancer/crccp/sem.htm>).
- **Geographic Area to be Served:** Preventive service delivery to nonmetropolitan/medically underserved area (MUA) counties must be included in the defined service area. Rural and MUA counties may be identified via web-based tools from the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#) and [US Department of Health and Human Services](#). Service to urban counties that are not medically underserved is allowable as long as the project proposes to also serve nonmetropolitan counties that are medically underserved.
- **Community Partner Networks:** Applicants are strongly encouraged to coordinate and describe a collaboration of community partners that can deliver services to the most counties and the most people possible in a selected service region. Partnerships with other organizations that can support and leverage resources (eg, community-based organizations, local and voluntary agencies, nonprofit agencies, groups that represent priority populations) are encouraged. Letters of commitment or memoranda of understanding describing their specific role in the partnership will strengthen the application.

CPRIT expects measurable outcomes of supported activities, such as a significant increase over baseline (for the proposed service area) in the provision of evidence-based interventions to modify cancer risk factors, changes in provider practice, and systems changes. Applicants must demonstrate how these outcomes will ultimately impact incidence, mortality, morbidity, disparities, or quality of life.

Under this RFA, CPRIT **will not** consider the following:

- Projects focused solely on metropolitan/non-medically underserved counties.
- Projects focusing solely on systems and/or policy change or solely on education and/or outreach that do not include the navigation to and delivery of multilevel interventions to reduce cancer risk.
- Projects focusing solely on case management/patient navigation services. Case management/patient navigation services must be paired with the delivery of a cancer prevention service, including those practices delivered by another provider.
- Cancer preventive services proposed as part of the project that do not comply with established and current national guidelines
- Projects involving prevention/intervention research. Applicants interested in prevention research should review CPRIT's Academic Research RFAs (available at <http://www.cprit.texas.gov>).

## **2.4 Priorities**

The Prevention Program's priorities for funding include the following:

### **(1) Populations disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence.**

CPRIT-funded programs must address 1 or more of these priority populations:

- Medically underresourced communities
- Racial, ethnic, and cultural minority groups
- Underinsured and uninsured individuals

### **(2) Geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence.**

While disparities and needs exist across the state, CPRIT will also prioritize applications proposing to serve geographic areas of the state disproportionately affected by cancer incidence, mortality, or cancer risk prevalence. While it is permissible to serve metropolitan areas, projects must propose to also serve nonmetropolitan and/or MUAs of the state.

—

## **Geographic and Population Balance in Current CPRIT Portfolio**

At the programmatic level of review conducted by the PRC ([section 5.1](#)), priority will be given to projects that target geographic regions of the state and population subgroups that are not adequately covered by the current CPRIT Prevention project portfolio (see <https://www.cprit.texas.gov/our-programs/prevention/portfolio-maps> and <https://www.cprit.texas.gov/grants-funded?search=prevention>).

## **2.5 Outcome Metrics**

Applicants are required to clearly describe their assessment and evaluation methodology. Mixed-methods evaluations are encouraged (eg, qualitative, quality improvement methods). The applicant is required to describe final outcome measures for the project. These measures should be identified in the project plan (including a logic model) and will serve as a measure of program effectiveness. Planned policy, system, or environmental changes should be identified. In addition, applicants should describe how funds from the CPRIT grant will improve outcomes over baseline. If the applicant is not providing baseline data for a measure, the applicant must provide a well-justified explanation and describe clear plans and method(s) of measurement to collect the data necessary to conduct a meaningful evaluation.

### **Reporting Requirements**

Funded projects are required to report quantitative output and outcome metrics (as appropriate for each project) through the submission of quarterly progress reports, annual reports, and a final report.

If services are being paid for and provided by others, the applicant is required to report on the number of preventive services that are delivered.

## **2.6 Funding Information**

The amount of total funding that applicants may request is dependent on the primary focus of the project and on the type of project: New, Initial Expansion, or Maintenance Expansion (see Expansion Policy, [section 2.9](#)). Use the table below to determine the maximum amount of funding and the maximum number of years that may be requested.

<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Maximum Amount of Total Funding</b>	<b>Maximum Duration</b>
<b>New Project</b>	\$1 million	3 years
<b>Initial Expansion</b>	\$1 million	3 years
<b>Initial Expansion – Vaccination/Tobacco Cessation (Adults)</b>	\$1.5 million	3 years
<b>Maintenance Expansion</b>	\$2 million	5 years
<b>Maintenance Expansion – Vaccination/Tobacco Cessation (Adults)</b>	\$2.5 million	5 years

The funding amount is inclusive of both direct and indirect costs. Grant funds may be used to pay for preventive services, navigation services, project staff salary and benefits, project supplies, equipment, costs for outreach and education of populations, and travel of project personnel to project site(s).

Requests for funds to support construction, renovation, or any other infrastructure needs or requests to support lobbying will not be approved under this mechanism. Grantees may request funds for travel for 2 project staff to attend CPRIT's conference.

The budget should be proportional to the number of individuals receiving programs and services, and a significant proportion of funds is expected to be used for program delivery as opposed to program development. In addition, CPRIT seeks to fill gaps in funding rather than replace existing funding, supplant funds that would normally be expended by the applicant's organization, or make up for funding reductions from other sources.

State law limits the amount of award funding that may be spent on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the **total** award amount.

## **2.7 Eligibility**

- The applicant must be a Texas-based entity, such as a community-based organization, health institution, government organization, public or private company, college or university, or academic health institution.
- The applicant is eligible solely for the grant mechanism specified by the RFA under which the grant application was submitted.
- The designated Program Director (PD) will be responsible for the overall performance of the funded project. The PD must have relevant education and management experience and must reside in Texas during the project performance time.

- The evaluation of the project must be headed by a professional who has demonstrated expertise in the field and who resides in Texas during the time that the project is conducted.
- The applicant may submit more than 1 application, but each application must be for distinctly different services without overlap in the services provided. Applicants who do not meet this criterion will have all applications administratively withdrawn without peer review.
- If an organization has a current CPRIT grant that is the same or similar to the prevention intervention being proposed, the applicant must explain how the projects are nonduplicative or complementary.
- Collaborations are permitted and encouraged, and collaborators may or may not reside in Texas. However, collaborators who do not reside in Texas are not eligible to receive CPRIT funds. Collaborators should have specific and well-defined roles. Subcontracting and collaborating organizations may include public, not-for-profit, and for-profit entities. Such entities may be located outside of the State of Texas, but non-Texas-based organizations are not eligible to receive CPRIT funds.
- An applicant is not eligible to receive a CPRIT grant award if the applicant PD, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's organization or institution is related to a CPRIT Oversight Committee member.
- An applicant organization is eligible to receive a grant award only if the applicant certifies that the applicant organization, including the PD, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's organization (or any person related to 1 or more of these individuals within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity), has not made and will not make a contribution to CPRIT or to any foundation created to benefit CPRIT.
- The applicant must report whether the applicant organization, the PD, or other individuals who contribute to the execution of the proposed project in a substantive, measurable way, (whether slated to receive salary or compensation under the grant award or not), are currently ineligible to receive federal grant funds because of scientific misconduct or fraud or have had a grant terminated for cause within 5 years prior to the submission date of the grant application.



- CPRIT grants will be awarded by contract to successful applicants. CPRIT grants are funded on a reimbursement-only basis. Certain contractual requirements are mandated by Texas law or by administrative rules. Although applicants need not demonstrate the ability to comply with these contractual requirements at the time the application is submitted, applicants should make themselves aware of these standards before submitting a grant application. Significant issues addressed by the CPRIT contract are listed in [section 6](#). All statutory provisions and relevant administrative rules can be found on the CPRIT website.

## 2.8 Resubmission Policy

- **One resubmission** is permitted. An application is considered a resubmission if the proposed project is the same project as presented in the original submission.
- Reviewers of resubmissions are asked to assess whether the resubmission adequately addresses critiques from the previous review. **Applicants should note that addressing previous critiques is advisable; however, it does not guarantee the success of the resubmission.** All resubmitted applications must conform to the structure and guidelines outlined in this RFA.

## 2.9 Expansion Policy

- Expansion grants are intended to fund expansion of currently or previously funded projects that have demonstrated exemplary success, as evidenced by progress reports and project evaluations, and desire to further enhance their impact on priority populations. Detailed descriptions of **results, barriers, outcomes, and impact of the currently or previously funded project are required** (see outline of Most Recently Funded Project Summary, [section 4.4.12](#)).
- Proposed expansion projects should NOT be new projects but should closely follow the intent and core elements of the currently or previously funded project. Established infrastructure/processes and fully described prior project results are required. Expansion of current projects into geographic areas not well served by the CPRIT Prevention portfolio (see maps at [http:// www.cprit.state.tx.us/our-programs/prevention/portfolio-maps](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us/our-programs/prevention/portfolio-maps)) will receive priority consideration.
- CPRIT expects measurable outcomes of supported activities, such as a significant increase over baseline (for the proposed service area). It is expected that baselines will have already

been established and that continued improvement over baseline is demonstrated in the current application. However, in the case of a proposed expansion where no baseline data exist for the priority population, the applicant must present clear plans and describe method(s) of measurement used to collect the data necessary to establish a baseline. Applicants must demonstrate how these outcomes will ultimately impact cancer incidence, mortality, morbidity, or quality of life.

- CPRIT also expects that applications for continuation **will not** require startup time, that applicants can demonstrate that they have overcome barriers encountered, and that applicants have identified **lasting systems changes** that improve results, efficiency, and sustainability. Leveraging of resources and plans for dissemination are expected and should be well described.

### **Requirements for Initial and Maintenance Expansion Projects**

**Initial Expansion:** For the first expansion application, eligible applicants should propose to expand their programs to include additional types of primary preventive practices or to expand current practices into additional counties. In either case, the expansion must include the delivery of services to nonmetropolitan (rural) and/or medically underserved counties in the state. These may be identified via web-based tools from the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#) and [US Department of Health and Human Services](#).

**Maintenance Expansion:** For a subsequent expansion, additional primary preventive practices and/or expansion to additional counties are optional; however, the counties and the practices offered in the first expansion should not be decreased. The number of services delivered during the maintenance expansion must be increased substantially if no further geographic or preventive service expansion is proposed.

## **3. KEY DATES**

<b>RFA release</b>	November 17, 2022
<b>Online application opens</b>	December 15, 2022, 7 AM central time
<b>Application due</b>	February 23, 2023, 4 PM central time
<b>Application review</b>	March-July 2023
<b>Award notification</b>	August 2023
<b>Anticipated start date</b>	August 31, 2023

Applicants will be notified of peer review panel assignment prior to the peer review meeting dates.

## 4. APPLICATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

### 4.1 Instructions for Applicants document

It is **imperative** that applicants read the accompanying instructions document for this RFA that will be available December 15, 2022 (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). Requirements may have changed from previous versions.

### 4.2 Online Application Receipt System

Applications must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). **Only applications submitted through this portal will be considered eligible for evaluation.** The PD must create a user account in the system to start and submit an application. The Co-PD, if applicable, must also create a user account to participate in the application. Furthermore, the Application Signing Official (a person authorized to sign and submit the application for the organization) and the Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official (an individual who will help manage the grant contract if an award is made) also must create a user account in CARS. Applications will be accepted beginning at 7 AM central time on December 15, 2022, and must be submitted by 4 PM central time on February 23, 2023. Detailed instructions for submitting an application are in the *Instructions for Applicants* document, posted on CARS. **Submission of an application is considered an acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFA.**

### 4.3 Submission Deadline Extension

The submission deadline may be extended for 1 or more grant applications upon a showing of good cause. All requests for extension of the submission deadline must be submitted via email to the CPRIT [Helpdesk](#) within 24 hours of the submission deadline. Submission deadline extensions, including the reason for the extension, will be documented as part of the grant review process records.

### 4.4 Application Components

Applicants are advised to follow all instructions to ensure accurate and complete submission of all components of the application. Refer to the *Instructions for Applicants* document for details.

**Submissions that are missing 1 or more components or do not meet the eligibility requirements may be administratively withdrawn without review.**

#### **4.4.1 Abstract and Significance (5,000 characters)**

Clearly explain the problem(s) to be addressed, the approach(es) to the solution, and how the application is responsive to this RFA. If the project is funded, the abstract will be made public; therefore, no proprietary information should be included in this statement. Initial compliance decisions are based in part upon review of this statement.

**The abstract format is as follows (use headings as outlined below):**

- **Need:** Include a description of need in the specific service area. Include rates of incidence, mortality, and screening in the service area compared to overall Texas rates. Describe barriers, plans to overcome these barriers, and the priority population to be served.
- **Overall Project Strategy:** Describe the project and how it will address the identified need. Clearly explain what the project is and what it will specifically do, including the services to be provided and the process/system for delivery of services and outreach to the priority population.
- **Specific Goals:** State specifically the overall goals of the proposed project; include the estimated overall numbers of preventive services to be delivered and number of people (public and/or professionals) to be served.
- **Significance and Impact:** Explain how the proposed project, if successful, will have a major impact on cancer prevention and control for the population proposed to be served and for the State of Texas.

#### **4.4.2 Goals and Objectives (700 characters each)**

List only major **outcome goals** and **measurable objectives** for each year of the project. **Do not include process objectives**; these should be described in the project plan only. Include the proposed metric within both the stated Objective **and** the Measure sections (eg, Measure: 2,000 individuals, ages 9-12, will initiate HPV vaccination during the grant period). Refer to the *Instructions for Applicants* document for details.

The maximum number is 3 goals with 3 outcome objectives each. Projects will be evaluated annually on progress toward outcome goals and objectives. See [appendix B](#) for instructions on writing outcome goals and objectives.

A baseline and method(s) of measurement are required for each objective. Provide both raw numbers and percent changes for the baseline and target. If a baseline has not been defined, applicants are required to explain plans to establish baseline and describe method(s) of measurement.

#### **4.4.3 Project Timeline (2 pages)**

Provide a project timeline for project activities that includes deliverables and dates. Use Years 1, 2, 3, and Months 1, 2, 3, etc., as applicable (eg, Year 1, Months 3-5), NOT specific months or years (eg, not May 2023). Month 1 is the first full month of the grant award.

#### **4.4.4 Project Plan (12 pages; fewer pages permissible)**

*The required project plan format follows. Applicants must use the headings outlined below.*

**Background:** Briefly present the rationale behind the proposed services, emphasizing the critical barriers to current service delivery that will be addressed. Identify the evidence-based service to be implemented for the priority population. Describe the race, ethnicity, age, and other defining characteristics of the population to be served.

If evidence-based strategies have not been implemented or tested for the specific population or service setting proposed, provide evidence that the proposed service is appropriate for the population and has a high likelihood of success. Baseline data for the priority population and target service area are required where applicable.

Reviewers will be aware of national and state statistics, and these should be used only to compare rates for the proposed service area. Describe the geographic region of the state that the project will serve; maps are encouraged.

**Goals and Objectives:** Process objectives should be included in the project plan. Outcome goals and objectives will be entered in separate fields in CARS. However, if desired, outcome goals and objectives may be fully repeated or briefly summarized here. See [appendix B](#) for instructions on writing goals and objectives.

**Components of the Project:** Clearly describe the need, delivery method, and evidence base (provide references) for the services, as well as anticipated results. Be explicit about the base of evidence and any necessary adaptations for the proposed project. Describe why this project is nonduplicative. If an organization has a current CPRIT grant that is the same or similar to the prevention intervention being proposed, the applicant must explain how the projects are nonduplicative or complementary.

It is important to distinguish between Texas counties where the project proposes to deliver services and counties of residence of population served (see [appendix A](#) for definitions and *Instructions for Applicants*). Only counties where service delivery occurs should be listed in the Geographic Area to be Served section of the application. Projecting counties of residence of population served is not required but may be described in the project plan.

Clearly demonstrate the ability to provide the proposed service and describe how results will be improved over baseline and the ability to reach the priority population.

If preventive services are being paid for and provided by others, the applicant must explain and report on the number of these services and outcomes.

**Evaluation Strategy:** A strong commitment to evaluation of the project is required. Describe the plan for outcome and output measurements, including qualitative analysis of policy and system changes. Describe data collection and management methods, data analyses, and anticipated results. Evaluation and reporting of results should be headed by a professional who has demonstrated expertise in the field. If needed, applicants may want to consider seeking expertise at Texas-based academic cancer centers, schools/programs of public health, or the like. Applicants should budget accordingly for the evaluation activity and should involve that professional during grant application preparation to ensure, among other things, that the evaluation plan is linked to the proposed goals and objectives.

**Organizational Qualifications and Capabilities:** Describe the organization and its track record and success in providing health programs and services. Describe the role and qualifications of the key collaborators/partners in the project. Include information on the organization's financial stability and viability. The applicant should demonstrate how the organizational environment will contribute to a successful project. If equipment or physical resources are required to carry out the project, the applicant should describe the availability of these resources and the organizational capacity to use equipment. To ensure access to preventive services and reporting of services outcomes, applicants should demonstrate that they have provider partnerships and agreements (via memoranda of understanding) or commitments (via letters of commitment) in place.

CPRIT acknowledges that full maintenance and sustainability of projects when CPRIT funding ends may not be feasible, especially in cases involving the delivery of preventive services. However, it is important to consider sustainability early in the life cycle of a project, particularly regarding organizational characteristics and processes that are modifiable.

Washington University in St Louis has developed a useful tool ([Program Sustainability Assessment Tool](#)) to assess program capacity for sustainability. The tool assesses several factors that contribute to program sustainability. These factors include environmental support, funding stability, partnerships, organizational capacity, program evaluation, program adaptation, communication, and strategic planning. Applicants are not required to use this tool; however, it provides practical guidance on factors that should be considered and should be included in the application to describe a program's organizational capacity for sustainability.

It is expected that steps toward building capacity for the program will be taken and plans for such will be briefly described in the application. The applicant should describe the factors that will contribute to the organization's capacity to facilitate sustainability.

**Dissemination and Replication:** Dissemination of project results and outcomes, including barriers encountered and successes achieved, is critical to building the evidence base for cancer prevention and control efforts in the state. Dissemination efforts should consider the message, source, audience, and channel (Brownson, RC, et al. [J Pub Health Manag Pract. 2018;24\[2\]:102-111](#)).

Dissemination methods may include, but are not limited to, presentations at workshops and seminars, one-on-one meetings, publications, news media, social media, etc.

While passive dissemination methods are common (eg, publications, presentations at professional meetings), plans should include some active dissemination methods (eg, meetings with stakeholders, blogs, social media). Applicants should describe their dissemination plans. The plans should include the kinds of audiences to be targeted and methods for reaching the targeted audiences.

Replication by others is an additional way to disseminate the project. For applicable components, describe how the project or components of the project lend themselves to application by other communities and/or organizations in the state or expansion in the same communities. Describe what components of this project can be adapted to a larger or lower resource setting. Note that some programs may have unique resources and may not lend themselves to replication by others.

#### **4.4.5 People Reached (Indirect Contact)**

Provide the estimated overall number of people (members of the public and professionals) to be reached by the funded project. The applicant is required to itemize separately the types of indirect noninteractive education and outreach activities, with estimates, that led to the calculation of the overall estimates provided. Refer to [appendix A](#) for definitions.

#### **4.4.6 Number of Services Delivered (Direct Contact)**

Provide the estimated overall number of services directly delivered to members of the public and to professionals by the funded project. Each individual service should be counted, regardless of the number of services 1 person receives. The applicant is required to itemize separately the education, navigation, and cancer prevention activities/services, with estimates, that led to the calculation of the overall estimate provided. Refer to [appendix A](#) for definitions.

#### **4.4.7 Number of Preventive Services Delivered**

Provide the estimated overall number of services directly delivered to members of the public by the funded project. Each individual clinical service should be counted, regardless of the number of services 1 person receives. Separately itemize the services, with estimates, that led to the calculation of the overall estimate provided. Refer to [appendix A](#) for definitions.

#### **4.4.8 Number of Unique People Served (Direct Contact)**

Provide the estimated overall number of unique members of the public and professionals served by the funded project. One person may receive multiple services but should only be counted once here. Refer to [appendix A](#) for definitions.

#### **4.4.9 References**

Provide a concise and relevant list of references cited for the application. The successful applicant will provide referenced evidence and literature support for the proposed services.

#### **4.4.10 Resubmission Summary**

Use the template provided on CARS (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). Describe the approach to the resubmission and how reviewers' comments were addressed. Clearly indicate to reviewers how the application has been improved in response to the critiques. Refer the reviewers to specific sections



of other documents in the application where further detail on the points in question may be found. When a resubmission is evaluated, responsiveness to previous critiques is assessed.

The summary statement of the original application review, if previously prepared, will be automatically appended to the resubmission; the applicant is not responsible for providing this document.

#### **4.4.11 Most Recently Funded Relevant Project Summary (only if applicable) (3 pages)**

Upload a summary that outlines the progress made with the applicant's most recently funded relevant CPRIT Prevention Award. Applicants must describe results and outcomes of the most recently funded award and demonstrate why further funding is warranted.

Please note that a different set of reviewers from those assigned to the previously funded application may evaluate this application. Applicants should make it easy for reviewers to compare the most recently funded project with the proposed project.

In the description, include the following:

- Describe the evidence-based intervention, its purpose, and how it was implemented in the priority population. Describe any adaptations made for the population served.
- List approved goals and objectives of the most recently funded grant.
- For each objective, provide milestones/target dates and target metrics as compared to actual completion dates and metrics.
- Include a discussion of objectives not fully met. Explain any barriers encountered and strategies used to overcome these.
- For the most recently funded project, describe major activities; significant results, including major findings, developments or conclusions (both positive and negative); and key outcomes.
- Describe steps taken toward sustainability for components of the project. Fully describe systems or policy improvements and enhancements.
- Describe how project results were disseminated or plans for future dissemination of results.

#### **4.4.12 CPRIT Grants Summary**

Use the template provided on CARS (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). Provide a listing of **all** projects funded by the CPRIT Prevention program for the PD and the Co-PD, regardless of their connection to this application.

#### 4.4.13 Budget and Justification

Provide a brief outline and detailed justification of the budget for the entire proposed period of support, including salaries and benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual expenses, services delivery, and other expenses. CPRIT funds will be distributed on a reimbursement basis.

Applications requesting more than the maximum allowed cost as specified in [section 2.6](#) will be administratively withdrawn.

Clearly describe any organizational cost sharing or pro bono contributions related to this project, as well as any attempts made or successes to secure other state/federal funds.

- **Average Cost per Person:** The average cost per person will be automatically calculated from the total cost of the project divided by the total number of unique people served (refer to [appendix A](#)).
- **Average Cost per Service:** The average cost per service will be automatically calculated from the total cost of the project divided by the total number of services delivered (refer to [appendix A](#)). A significant proportion of funds is expected to be used for program delivery as opposed to program development and organizational infrastructure.
- **Average Cost per Preventive Service:** The average cost per clinical service will be automatically calculated from the total cost of the project divided by the total number of services delivered (refer to [appendix A](#)).
- **Personnel:** The individual salary cap for CPRIT awards is \$200,000 per year. Describe the source of funding for all project personnel where CPRIT funds are not requested.
- **Travel:** PDs and related project staff are expected to attend CPRIT's conference. CPRIT funds may be used to send up to 2 people to the conference. Meals are not reimbursable for trips that do not include an overnight stay.
- **Equipment:** Equipment having a useful life of more than 1 year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit must be specifically approved by CPRIT. An applicant does not need to seek this approval prior to submitting the application. Cost sharing of equipment purchases is strongly encouraged.
- **Services Costs:** CPRIT reimburses for services using Medicare reimbursement rates. Describe the source of funding for all services where CPRIT funds are not requested. If preventive services are being paid for and provided by others, the applicant is required to

explain and report on the number of services and outcomes that are delivered to the people navigated by the program.

- **Other Expenses:**
  - **Incentives:** Use of incentives or positive rewards to change or elicit behavior is allowed; however, incentives may only be used based on strong evidence of their effectiveness for the purpose and in the priority population identified by the applicant. CPRIT will not fund cash incentives. The maximum dollar value allowed for an incentive per person, per activity or session, is \$25.
- **Indirect/Shared Costs:** Texas law limits the amount of grant funds that may be spent on indirect/shared expenses to no more than 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs). Guidance regarding indirect cost recovery can be found in [CPRIT's Administrative Rules](#).

#### 4.4.14 Current and Pending Support and Sources of Funding

Use the template provided on the CARS (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). Describe the funding source and duration of **all** current and pending support for the proposed project.

#### 4.4.15 Biographical Sketches

The designated PD will be responsible for the overall performance of the funded project and must have relevant education and management experience. The PD/Co-PD(s) must provide a biographical sketch that describes his or her education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, and publications and/or involvement in programs relevant to cancer prevention and/or service delivery.

- Use the Co-PD Biographical Sketch section **ONLY** if a Co-PD has been identified.
- The evaluation professional must provide a biographical sketch in the Evaluation Professional Biographical Sketch section.
- Up to 3 additional biographical sketches for key personnel may be provided in the Key Personnel Biographical Sketches section.

Each biographical sketch must not exceed 5 pages and should use either the “Prevention Programs: Biographical Sketch” template provided on the CARS (<https://CPRITGrants.org>) or the NIH Biographical Sketch format. If a position is not yet filled, please upload a job description.

#### **4.4.16 Personnel and Collaborating Organizations**

List all project personnel, paid or unpaid, named in the application, including key personnel, collaborators, and anyone listed under the Current & Pending Support section. Include all key participating organizations that will partner with the applicant organization to provide 1 or more components essential to the success of the program (eg, evaluation, preventive practices/services, recruitment to screening).

#### **4.4.17 Letters of Commitment (10 pages)**

Applicants should provide letters of commitment and/or memoranda of understanding from community organizations, key faculty, or any other component essential to the success of the program. Letters should be specific to the contribution of each organization.

### **5. APPLICATION REVIEW**

#### **5.1 Review Process Overview**

All eligible applications will be reviewed using a 2-stage peer review process: (1) evaluation of applications by peer review panels and (2) prioritization of grant applications by the PRC. In the first stage, applications will be evaluated by an independent review panel using the criteria listed below. In the second stage, applications judged to be meritorious by review panels will be evaluated by the PRC and recommended for funding based on comparisons with applications from all of the review panels and programmatic priorities.

Programmatic considerations may include, but are not limited to, geographic distribution, cancer type, population served, and type of program or service. The peer review scores are only 1 factor considered during programmatic review. At the programmatic level of review, priority will be given to proposed projects that target geographic regions of the state or population subgroups that are not well represented in the current CPRIT Prevention project portfolio.

Applications approved by PRC will be forwarded to the CPRIT Program Integration Committee (PIC) for review. The PIC will consider factors including program priorities set by the Oversight Committee, portfolio balance across programs, and available funding. The CPRIT Oversight Committee will vote to approve each grant award recommendation made by the PIC. The grant award recommendations will be presented at an open meeting of the Oversight Committee and

must be approved by two-thirds of the Oversight Committee members present and eligible to vote. The review process is described more fully in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, sections 703.6 to 703.8](#).

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

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

An applicant will be notified regarding the peer review panel assigned to review the grant application. Peer Review Panel members are listed by panel on CPRIT's website.

**By submitting a grant application, the applicant agrees and understands that the only basis for reconsideration of a grant application is limited to an undisclosed Conflict of Interest as set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.9](#).**

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

Applicants should note that the CPRIT PIC comprises the CPRIT Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Scientific Officer, the Chief Prevention Officer, the Chief Product Development Officer, and the Commissioner of State Health Services. The prohibition on communication begins on the first day that grant applications for the particular grant mechanism are accepted by CPRIT and extends until the grant applicant receives notice regarding a final decision on the grant application. The prohibition on communication does not apply to the time period prior to the opening of CARS. Intentional, serious, or frequent violations of this rule may result in the disqualification of the grant application from further consideration for a grant award.

## **5.2 Review Criteria**

Peer review of applications will be based on primary scored criteria and secondary unscored criteria, identified below. Review committees will evaluate and score each primary criterion and

subsequently assign an overall score that reflects an overall assessment of the application. The overall evaluation score will not be an average of the scores of individual criteria; rather, it will reflect the reviewers' overall impression of the application and responsiveness to the RFA.

### **5.2.1 Primary Evaluation Criteria**

#### **Impact**

- Do the proposed approaches address an important problem or need in primary prevention of cancer? Do the proposed project strategies support desired outcomes in cancer risk and equity? Do the proposed project strategies reach a priority population (eg, low income, minority, rural) at high risk of cancer?
- Will the project reach and serve/impact an appropriate number of people based on the budget allocated?
- If applicable, have partners demonstrated that the collaborative effort will provide a greater impact on cancer prevention and control than the applicant organization's effort separately?
- Does the program address adaptation, if applicable, of the evidence-based intervention to the priority population? Is the base of evidence clearly explained and referenced?

#### **Project Strategy and Feasibility**

- Does the proposed project provide preventive practices specified in the RFA?
- Are the overall program approach, strategy, and design clearly described and supported by established theory and practice? Are the proposed objectives and activities feasible within the duration of the award? Has the applicant convincingly demonstrated the short- and long-term impacts of the project?
- Has the applicant proposed policy changes and/or system improvements?
- Are possible barriers addressed and approaches for overcoming them proposed?
- Are the priority population and culturally appropriate methods to reach the priority population clearly described?
- Does the program leverage partners and resources to maximize the reach of the practices proposed? Does the program leverage and complement other state, federal, and nonprofit grants?

## **Outcomes Evaluation**

- Are specific goals and measurable objectives for each year of the project provided?
- Are the proposed outcome measures appropriate for the preventive practices provided, and are the expected changes clinically significant?
- Does the application provide a clear and appropriate plan for data collection and management and data analyses?
- Are clear baseline data provided for the priority population, or are clear plans included to collect baseline data?
- If an evidence-based intervention is being adapted in a population where it has not been implemented or tested, are plans for evaluation of barriers, effectiveness, and fidelity to the model described?
- Is the qualitative analysis of planned policy or system changes described?

## **Organizational Qualifications and Capabilities**

- Do the organization and its collaborators/partners demonstrate the ability to provide the proposed preventive practices?
- Does the described role of each collaborating organization make it clear that each organization adds value to the project and is committed to working together to implement the project?
- Have the appropriate personnel been recruited to design, implement, evaluate, and complete the project?
- Is the organization structurally and financially stable and viable?
- Does the applicant describe the program's organizational capacity for sustainability?
- Does the applicant describe steps that will be taken toward building internal capacity and partnerships?
- Does the applicant describe a plan for systems changes that are sustainable over time (eg, improve results, provider practice, efficiency, cost-effectiveness)?

## 5.2.2 Secondary Evaluation Criteria

### Budget

- Is the budget appropriate and reasonable for the scope and preventive practices of the proposed work?
- Is the cost per person served appropriate and reasonable?
- Is the project a good investment of Texas public funds?

### Dissemination and Replication

- Are plans for dissemination of the project's results and outcomes, including target audiences and methods, clearly described?
- Are active dissemination strategies included and described in the plan?
- Does the applicant describe whether and/or how the project lends itself to replication of all or some components of the project by others in the state?

## 6. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

Texas law requires that CPRIT grant awards be made by contract between the applicant and CPRIT. CPRIT grant awards are made to institutions or organizations, not to individuals. Award contract negotiation and execution will commence once the CPRIT Oversight Committee has approved an application for a grant award. CPRIT may require, as a condition of receiving a grant award, that the grant recipient use CPRIT's electronic Grant Management System to exchange, execute, and verify legally binding grant contract documents and grant award reports. Such use shall be in accordance with CPRIT's electronic signature policy as set forth in Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, chapters 701 to 703. Texas law specifies several components that must be addressed by the award contract, including needed compliance and assurance documentation, budgetary review, progress and fiscal monitoring, and terms relating to revenue sharing and intellectual property rights. These contract provisions are specified in [CPRIT's Administrative Rules](#). Applicants are advised to review CPRIT's administrative rules related to contractual requirements associated with CPRIT grant awards and limitations related to the use of CPRIT grant awards as set forth in Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, chapters 701 to 703.

Prior to disbursement of grant award funds, the grant recipient organization must demonstrate that it has adopted and enforces a tobacco-free workplace policy consistent with the requirements set



forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, chapters 701 to 703.

CPRIT requires award recipients to submit quarterly, annual, and final progress reports. These reports summarize the progress made toward project goals and address plans for the upcoming year. In addition, quarterly fiscal reporting and reporting on selected metrics will be required per the instructions to award recipients. Continuation of funding is contingent upon the timely receipt of these reports. Failure to provide timely and complete reports may waive reimbursement of grant award costs and may result in the termination of the award contract.

## 7. CONTACT INFORMATION

### 7.1 Helpdesk

Helpdesk support is available for questions regarding user registration and online submission of applications. Queries submitted via email will be answered within 1 business day. Helpdesk staff are not in a position to answer questions regarding the scope and focus of applications. Before contacting the Helpdesk, please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants* document (posted on December 15, 2022), which provides a step-by-step guide to using CARS.

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

**Tel:** 866-941-7146

**Email:** [Help@CPRITGrants.org](mailto:Help@CPRITGrants.org)

### 7.2 Program Questions

Questions regarding the CPRIT Prevention program, including questions regarding this or anyother funding opportunity, should be directed to the CPRIT Prevention Program Office.

**Tel:** 512-626-2358

**Email:** [prevention@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:prevention@cprit.texas.gov)

**Website:** [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov)

## 8. RESOURCES

- Department of State Health Services. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/tcr/data/modifiable-risk-factors.aspx>
- The Community Guide. <https://www.thecommunityguide.org/>
- Implementing Farm to School Programs. <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/>
- What Works for Health. <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/what-works-for-health>
- National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program. <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/ncccp/index.htm>
- NCI Evidence-Based Cancer Control Program. <https://ebccp.cancercontrol.cancer.gov/index.do>
- Cancer Control P.L.A.N.E.T. <https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov>
- Comprehensive Cancer Control. Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change Resource Guide. <https://www.cccnationalpartners.org/new-resource-policy-systems-and-environmental-change-resource-guide>
- Colorectal Cancer Control Program. Social Ecological Model. <http://medbox.iiab.me/modules/en-cdc/www.cdc.gov/cancer/crccp/sem.htm>
- Guide to Clinical Preventive Services: Recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. <http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/clinicians-providers/guidelines-recommendations/guide/>
- Program Sustainability Assessment Tool, copyright 2012, Washington University, St Louis, MO, <https://www.sustaintool.org/about-us/>
- Getting the Word Out: New Approaches for Disseminating Public Health Science. Ross C. Brownson, RC; Eyler, AA; Harris, JK; Moore, JB; Tabak, RG. *Journal of Public Health Management & Practice*. 2018;24(2):102-111. [https://journals.lww.com/jphmp/Fulltext/2018/03000/Getting\\_the\\_Word\\_Out\\_New\\_Approaches\\_for.4.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/jphmp/Fulltext/2018/03000/Getting_the_Word_Out_New_Approaches_for.4.aspx)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: The Program Sustainability Assessment Tool: A New Instrument for Public Health Programs. [http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2014/13\\_0184.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2014/13_0184.htm)

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Using the Program Sustainability Tool to Assess and Plan for Sustainability. [http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2014/13\\_0185.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2014/13_0185.htm)
- Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network: Putting Public Health Evidence in Action Training Workshop. <http://cpcrn.org/pub/evidence-in-action/>
- Environmental and Occupational Interventions for Primary Prevention of Cancer: A Cross-Sectorial Policy Framework. [https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/ehp.1205897?url\\_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr\\_id=ori:rid:crossref.org&rfr\\_dat=cr\\_pub%20%20pubmed](https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/ehp.1205897?url_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr_id=ori:rid:crossref.org&rfr_dat=cr_pub%20%20pubmed)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Distinguishing Public Health Research and Public Health Nonresearch. <https://www.cdc.gov/os/integrity/docs/cdc-policy-distinguishing-public-health-research-nonresearch.pdf>

## 9. REFERENCES

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/answering-questions.html>
2. Texas Cancer Registry, Cancer Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Texas Department of State Health Services. <https://www.cancer-rates.info/tx/>
3. Colditz GA, Emmons KM. Accelerating the Pace of Cancer Prevention- Right Now. [\*Cancer Prev Res \(Phila\)\*](#). 2018;11(4):171-184
4. Clauser SB, Taplin SH, Foster MK, Fagan P, Kaluzny AD. Multilevel intervention research: lessons learned and pathways forward. [\*J Natl Cancer Inst Monogr\*](#). 2012;(44):127-133

## APPENDIX A: KEY TERMS

- **Activities:** A listing of the “who, what, when, where, and how” for each objective that will be accomplished
- **Capacity Building:** Any activity (eg, training, identification of alternative resources, building internal assets) that builds durable resources and enables the grantee’s setting or community to continue the delivery of some or all components of the evidence-based intervention
- **Preventive Practices/Services:** Number of evidence-based preventive services delivered by a health care practitioner in an office, clinic, or health care system. Examples include, but are not limited to vaccinations, physical rehabilitation, tobacco cessation counseling or nicotine replacement therapy, case management, primary prevention clinical assessments and services.
- **Counties of Residence of Population Served:** Counties where the project does not plan to have a physical presence but people who live in these counties have received services. This includes counties of residence of people or places of business of professionals who participate in or receive education, navigation or preventive practices/services. Examples include people traveling to receive services as a result of marketing and programs accessible via the website or social media. These counties may be described in the project plan and must be reported in the quarterly progress report.
- **Counties with Service Delivery:** Counties where an activity or service will occur and the project has a physical presence for the services provided. Examples include onsite outreach and educational activities and delivery of services through clinics, mobile vans, or telemedicine consults. These counties must be entered in the Geographic Area to be Served section of the application.
- **Education Services:** Number of evidence-based, culturally appropriate cancer prevention and control education and outreach services delivered to the public and to health care professionals. Examples include education or training sessions (group or individual), focus groups, and knowledge assessments. One individual may receive multiple education services.

- **Evidence-Based Program:** A program that is validated by some form of documented research or applied evidence.
- **Goals:** Broad statements of general purpose to guide planning. Outcome goals should be few in number and focus on aspects of highest importance to the project ([appendix B](#)).
- **Integration:** The extent the evidence-based intervention is integrated within the culture of the grantee's setting or community through policies and practice.
- **Navigation Services:** Number of activities/services that offer assistance to help overcome health care system barriers in a timely and informative manner to improve health care access and outcomes. Examples include patient reminders, transportation assistance, and appointment scheduling assistance. One individual may receive multiple navigation services.
- **Number of Preventive Services/Practices:** Number of [preventive services](#) delivered directly to members of the public by the funded project. One individual may receive multiple clinical services.
- **Number of Services (Direct Contact):** Number of services delivered directly to members of the public and/or professionals—direct, interactive public or professional education, outreach, training, navigation service, or clinical service, such as live educational and/or training sessions, vaccine administration, case management/navigation services, and physician consults. One individual may receive multiple services.
- **Objectives:** Specific, **measurable**, actionable, realistic, and timely projections for outcomes; example: “Increase screening service provision in X population from Y% to Z% by 20xx.” Baseline data for the priority population must be included as part of each objective ([appendix B](#)). The proposed metric should be included in **both** the objective and the measure.
- **People Reached (Indirect Contact):** Number of members of the public and/or professionals reached via indirect noninteractive public or professional education and outreach activities, such as mass media efforts, brochure distribution, public service announcements, newsletters, and journals. (This category includes individuals who would be reached through activities that are directly funded by CPRIT as well as individuals who would be reached through activities that occur as

a direct consequence of the CPRIT- funded project's leveraging of other resources/funding to implement the CPRIT-funded project).

- **Unique People Served (Direct Contact):** Number of unique members of the public and/or professionals served via direct, interactive public or professional education, outreach, training, navigation service, or clinical service. This category includes individuals who would be served through activities that are directly funded by CPRIT as well as individuals who would be served through activities that occur as a direct consequence of the CPRIT-funded project's leveraging of other resources/funding to implement the CPRIT-funded project.



## APPENDIX B: WRITING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

List only major **outcome goals** and **measurable objectives** for each year of the project. **Do not include process objectives**; these should be described in the project plan only. Include the proposed metric within **both** the stated Objective and the Measure sections (eg, Measure: 2,000 individuals, ages 9-12, will initiate HPV vaccination during the grant period).

The maximum number is 3 goals with 3 objectives each. Projects will be evaluated annually on progress toward **outcome** goals and objectives.

**The following has been adapted with permission from Appalachia Community Cancer Network, NIH Grant U54 CA 153604:**

**Develop well-defined goals and objectives.**

**Goals** provide a roadmap or plan for where a group wants to go. Goals can be long term (over several years) or short term (over several months). Goals should be based on needs of the community and evidence-based data.

Goals should be:

- Believable – situations or conditions that the group believes can be achieved
- Attainable – possible within a designated time
- Tangible – capable of being understood or realized
- On a timetable – with a completion date
- Win-Win – beneficial to individual members and the coalition

**Objectives** are measurable steps toward achieving the goal. They are clear statements of specific activities required to achieve the goal. The best objectives have several characteristics in common – S.M.A.R.T. + C:

- Specific – they tell how much (number or percent), who (participants), what (action or activity), and by when (date)
  - Example: 115 uninsured individuals age 50 and older will complete colorectal cancer screening by March 31, 2018.
- Measurable – specific measures that can be collected, detected, or obtained to determine successful attainment of the objective

- Example: How many screened at an event? How many completed pre/post assessment?
- Achievable – not only are the objectives themselves possible, it is likely that your organization will be able to accomplish them
- Relevant to the mission – your organization has a clear understanding of how these objectives fit in with the overall vision and mission of the group
- Timed – developing a timeline is important for when your task will be achieved
- Challenging – objectives should stretch the group to aim on significant improvements that are important to members of the community

### **Evaluate and refine your objectives**

Review your developed objectives and determine the type and level of each using the following information:

#### **There are 2 types of objectives:**

- Outcome objectives – measure the “what” of a program; should be in the Goals and Objectives form (see [section 4.4.2](#))
- Process objectives – measure the “how” of a program; should be in the project plan only (see [section 4.4.4](#))

#### **There are 3 levels of objectives:**

- Community-level – objectives measure the planned community change
- Program impact – objectives measure the impact the program will have on a specific group of people
- Individual – objectives measures participant changes resulting from a specific program, using these factors:
  - Knowledge – understanding (know screening guidelines; recall the number to call for screening)
  - Attitudes – feeling about something (will consider secondhand smoke dangerous; believe eating 5 or more fruits and vegetable is important)
  - Skills – the ability to do something (complete fecal occult blood test)
  - Intentions – regarding plan for future behavior (will agree to talk to the doctor, will plan to schedule a Pap test)

- Behaviors (past or current) – to act in a particular way (will exercise 30+ minutes a day, will have a mammogram)

**Well-defined outcome goals and objectives can be used to track, measure, and report progress toward achievement.**

### Summary Table

	Outcome – Use in Goals and Objectives	Process – Use in Project Plan only
<b>Community-level</b>	<p>WHAT will change in a community</p> <p><i><b>Example:</b> As a result of CPRIT funding, fecal immunochemical tests (FIT) will be available to 1,500 uninsured individuals age 50 and over through 10 participating local clinics and doctors.</i></p>	<p>HOW the community change will come about</p> <p><i><b>Example:</b> Contracts will be signed with participating local providers to enable uninsured individuals over age 50 to have access to free colorectal cancer screening in their communities.</i></p>
<b>Program impact</b>	<p>WHAT will change in the target group as a result of a particular program</p> <p><i><b>Example:</b> As a result of this project, 200 uninsured women between 40 and 49 will receive free breast and cervical cancer screening.</i></p>	<p>HOW the program will be implemented to affect change in a group/population</p> <p><i><b>Example:</b> 2,000 female clients, between 40 and 49, will receive a letter inviting them to participate in breast and cervical cancer screening.</i></p>
<b>Individual</b>	<p>WHAT an individual will learn as a result of a particular program, or WHAT change an individual will make as a result of a particular program</p> <p><i><b>Example:</b> As a result of one-to-one education of 500 individuals, at least 20% of participants will participate in a smoking cessation program to quit smoking.</i></p>	<p>HOW the program will be implemented to affect change in an individual's knowledge or actions</p> <p><i><b>Example:</b> As a result of one-to-one counseling, all participants will identify at least 1 smoking cessation service and 1 smoking cessation aid.</i></p>

# **Third Party Observer Reports**

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## **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**

### **23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2 PRV-PP1 – Day 1)**

#### **Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-05-24 23.2\_PRV-PP1 – Day 1  
Program Name: Prevention  
Panel Name: 23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2 \_PRV-PP1 – Day 1)  
Panel Date: May 24, 2023  
Report Date: May 30, 2023

#### ***BACKGROUND***

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

#### ***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2\_PRV-PP1 – Day 1) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Nancy Lee and conducted via videoconference on May 24, 2023.

#### ***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

- CPRIT's established procedure for panelists who have declared a conflict of interest is followed during the meeting (e.g., reviewers hang up from the teleconference or leave the room when an application with which there is a conflict is discussed);
- CPRIT program staff participation at meetings is limited to offering general points of information;
- CPRIT program staff do not engage in the panel's discussion on the merits of applications; and
- The panel focused on the established scoring criteria and/or making recommendations.

## ***SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS***

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Eleven (11) applications were discussed and seven (7) applications were not discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, nine (9) expert reviewers, and two (2) advocate reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Four (4)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Two (2)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

There were three (3) Conflicts of Interest (COIs) identified prior to and/or during the meeting. The COI was excluded from discussions concerning applications for which there was a conflict.

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


## ***CONCLUSION***

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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



## **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**

### **23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2 PRV-PP1 – Day 2)**

#### **Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-05-25 23.2\_PRV-PP1 – Day 2  
Program Name: Prevention  
Panel Name: 23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2 \_PRV-PP1 – Day 2)  
Panel Date: May 25, 2023  
Report Date: May 30, 2023

#### ***BACKGROUND***

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

#### ***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Prevention Panel-1 (23.2\_PRV-PP1 – Day 2) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Nancy Lee and conducted via videoconference on May 25, 2023.

#### ***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

- CPRIT's established procedure for panelists who have declared a conflict of interest is followed during the meeting (e.g., reviewers hang up from the teleconference or leave the room when an application with which there is a conflict is discussed);
- CPRIT program staff participation at meetings is limited to offering general points of information;
- CPRIT program staff do not engage in the panel's discussion on the merits of applications; and
- The panel focused on the established scoring criteria and/or making recommendations.



## **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Two (2) applications were discussed and sixteen (16) applications were not discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, nine (9) expert reviewers, and two (2) advocate reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Two (2)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

There were three (3) Conflicts of Interest (COI) identified prior to and/or during the meeting. The COI was excluded from discussions concerning applications for which there was a conflict.

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

## **CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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



## **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**

### **23.2 Prevention Review Council Programmatic Review**

#### **(23.2 PRV PRC)**

#### **Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-06-19 23.2\_PRV\_PRC  
Program Name: Click or tap here to choose Program Name  
Panel Name: 23.2 Prevention Review Council Programmatic Review (23.2\_PRV\_PRC)  
Panel Date: June 19, 2023  
Report Date: June 23, 2023

### ***BACKGROUND***

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

### ***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.2 Prevention Review Council Programmatic Review (23.2\_PRV\_PRC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Stephen Wyatt and conducted via videoconference on June 19, 2023.

### ***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

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

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

### **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Twenty-two (22) applications were referenced for scoring and eleven (11) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, and two (2) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Two (2)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Two (2)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

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


### **CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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

# **Conflicts of Interest Disclosure**

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## Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

### CPRIT Prevention Cycle 23.2

#### Awards Announced at the August 16, 2023, Oversight Committee Meeting

The table below lists the conflicts of interest (COIs) identified by peer reviewers, Program Integration Committee (PIC) members, and Oversight Committee members on an application-by-application basis. Applications reviewed in Prevention Cycle 23.2 include: *Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center*; *Cancer Screening and Early Detection*; *Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions*; and *Primary Prevention of Cancer*.

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

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

Application ID	Principal Investigator	Organization	Conflict Noted by Reviewer
<b>Applications considered by the PIC and Oversight Committee:</b>			
PP230061	Grimes, Allison	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Teoh, Deanna
PP230078	Reitzel, Lorraine	The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center	Mahoney, Martin
<b>Applications not considered by the PIC or Oversight Committee:</b>			
PP230075	Chalela, Patricia	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Eriksen, Michael

# De-Identified Overall Evaluation Scores

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## Primary Prevention of Cancer

Prevention Cycle 23.2

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
PP230074*	2.5
PP230061*	3.2
PP230056*	3.6
fa	4.2
fb	4.4
fc	4.8
fd	4.8
fe	4.9
ff	5.5
fg	5.8
fh	6.0
fi	6.8

\* Recommended for grant award

# **Final Overall Evaluation Scores and Rank Order Scores**

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Dr. Mahendra Patel  
Oversight Committee Presiding Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [curingkids@gmail.com](mailto:curingkids@gmail.com)  
Via email to [kirtikpatel@hotmail.com](mailto:kirtikpatel@hotmail.com)

Wayne R. Roberts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [wroberts@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:wroberts@cprit.texas.gov)

Dear Mr. Roberts and Dr. Patel,

On behalf of the Prevention Review Council (PRC), I am pleased to provide the PRC's recommendations for the FY2023 Cycle 2 Cancer Screening and Early Detection (CSD), Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center (CCC), Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions (DI), and Primary Prevention of Cancer (PPC) grant awards.

The PRC met on June 19, 2023, to review the CCC applications and to consider the applications recommended by the peer review panel following their May 24-25, 2023, meeting. The PRC recommends 9 projects totaling \$13,343,163. Two of the projects, PP230003 and PP230030, were submitted and reviewed in FY2023 Cycle 1.

The projects are numerically ranked in the order the PRC recommends the applications be funded. Recommended funding amounts and the overall evaluation score are stated for each grant application. The PRC made no changes to the goals, project objectives, or timelines of the applications.

Our recommendations meet the PRC's standards for grant award funding of projects that are evidence-based, deliver programs or services to underserved populations, and focus on primary, secondary, or tertiary prevention. In making these recommendations the PRC continued to consider the available funding, the composition of the current portfolio, and the programmatic priorities in the RFA which include potential for impact and return on investment, geographic distribution, cancer type and type of program. All the recommended grants address one or more of the Prevention Program priorities.

Sincerely,  
Stephen W. Wyatt, DMD, MPH  
Chair, CPRIT Prevention Review Council

Attachment



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**Cycle 23.2 Recommended Prevention Program Awards**

App. ID	Mech	Application Title	PD	Organization	Score	Rank Order	Budget
PP230078	DI	Implementation and Dissemination of an Evidence-Based Intervention to Increase Tobacco Treatment Capacity in Opioid Treatment Programs	Reitzel, Lorraine R	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	2.0	1	\$449,776
PP230060	CCC	Coordinating Center for Colorectal Cancer Screening Across Texas (CONNECT)	Shokar, Navkiran K	The University of Texas at Austin	2.3	2	\$3,000,000
PP230074	PPC	Active Living After Cancer: Combining a Physical Activity Program With Survivor Navigation	Basen-Engquist, Karen M	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	2.5	3	\$1,999,989
PP230061	PPC	Expansion of HPV Vaccination Among Survivors of Childhood Cancer	Grimes, Allison	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	3.2	4	\$999,999
PP230059	CSD	De Casa en Casa 4: Cervical Cancer Screening in Underserved Rural and Border Communities Throughout West and South Texas	Molokwu, Jennifer C	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	3.3	5	\$2,499,437
PP230003	DI	Taking Texas Tobacco Free: Dissemination to and Implementation within Centers Serving Texans who Identify as LGBTQ+	Reitzel, Lorraine R	University of Houston	3.3	6	\$448,835
PP230056	PPC	Continuation and Expansion of a Highly Successful Postpartum HPV Vaccination Program	Berenson, Abbey B	The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	3.6	7	\$2,499,207
PP230030	CSD	ACTION for Big Country	Byrd, Theresa L	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	3.7	8	\$997,266
PP230069	DI	Dissemination of the Active Living After Cancer Program	Basen-Engquist, Karen M	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	3.8	9	\$448,654

CCC: Texas Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center

CSD: Cancer Screening and Early Detection

DI: Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions

PPC: Primary Prevention of Cancer



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

# **CEO Affidavit Supporting Information**

**Academic Research Recruitment  
FY 2023—Cycles 5 and 6**  
*Recruitment of Established Investigators*

# Request for Applications

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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**  
**RFA R-23.1-REI**

**Recruitment of Established Investigators**

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

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

**Application Receipt Dates:**

June 21, 2022-June 20, 2023

**FY 2023**

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023

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## **RFA VERSION HISTORY**

6/21/22      RFA release

## **1. ABOUT CPRIT**

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

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

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

### **1.1. Academic Research Program Priorities**

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

Established Principles:

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

#### **Priorities Across CPRIT's 3 Programs:**

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

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

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

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

## **2. RATIONALE**

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

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

## **3. RECRUITMENT OBJECTIVES**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **4. INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT**

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

#### **5. FUNDING INFORMATION**

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

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

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

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

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

## **6. ELIGIBILITY**

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

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

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

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

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

## **7. RESUBMISSION POLICY**

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



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

## 8. RESPONDING TO THIS RFA

### 8.1. Application Submission Guidelines

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

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

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

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

## **8.2. Application Components**

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

### **8.2.1. Summary of Nomination (2,500 characters)**

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

### **8.2.2. Institutional Commitment (3 pages)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Example of an acceptable Institutional Commitment table:***

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

Total =

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **8.2.4. Curriculum Vitae (CV)**

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

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

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

#### **8.2.6. Research (4 pages)**

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

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

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

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

#### **8.2.7. Publications/References (1 Page)**

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

#### **8.2.8. Research Collaboration/Synergy Plan (2 pages)**

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

#### **8.2.9. Publications**

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

#### **8.2.10. Timeline (1 page)**

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

#### **8.2.11. Current and Pending Support**

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

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

#### **8.2.12. Research Environment (1 page)**

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

#### **8.2.13. Descriptive Biography (Up to 2 pages)**

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

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

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

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

## **9. APPLICATION REVIEW**

### **9.1. Review Process**

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

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

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

#### **9.1.1. Confidentiality of Review**

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

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

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

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

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



## 9.2. Review Criteria

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

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

Questions to be considered by the reviewers are as follows:

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

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

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

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

## 10. KEY DATES

### RFA

RFA Release                      June 21, 2022

### Application Receipt and Review Timeline

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

## 11. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

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

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

provisions are specified in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, which are available at [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov).

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

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

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

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

## 12. REQUIREMENT TO DEMONSTRATE AVAILABLE FUNDS

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

## 13. CONTACT INFORMATION

### 13.1. Helpdesk

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

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

**Tel:** 866-941-7146

**Email:** [Help@CPRITGrants.org](mailto:Help@CPRITGrants.org)

### 13.2. Scientific and Programmatic Questions

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

**Email:** [Research@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:Research@cprit.texas.gov)

**Website:** [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov)

# **Third Party Observer Reports**

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**Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**  
**23.5 Academic Research Recruitment Review Panel**  
**(REC\_23.5)**  
**Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-05-18 23.5\_REC\_23.5  
Program Name: Academic Research  
Panel Name: 23.5 Academic Research Recruitment Review Panel (REC\_23.5)  
Panel Date: May 18, 2023  
Report Date: May 22, 2023

***BACKGROUND***

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

***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.5 Academic Research Recruitment Review Panel (REC\_23.5) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Richard Kolodner and conducted via videoconference on May 18, 2023.

***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

- CPRIT's established procedure for panelists who have declared a conflict of interest is followed during the meeting (e.g., reviewers hang up from the teleconference or leave the room when an application with which there is a conflict is discussed);
- CPRIT program staff participation at meetings is limited to offering general points of information;
- CPRIT program staff do not engage in the panel's discussion on the merits of applications; and

- The panel focused on the established scoring criteria and/or making recommendations.

## **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Ten (10) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, and eight (8) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Three (3)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

There were three (3) Conflicts of Interest (COIs) identified prior to and/or during the meeting. The COIs were excluded from discussions concerning applications for which there was a conflict.

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

## **CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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





**Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**  
**23.6 Academic Research Review Panel - Recruitment Review**  
**Panel-23.6 (23.6 SRC REC)**  
**Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-07-13 23.6\_SRC\_REC  
Program Name: Academic Research  
Panel Name: 23.6 Academic Research Review Panel - Recruitment Review  
Panel-23.6 (23.6\_SRC\_REC)  
Panel Date: July 13, 2023  
Report Date: July 17, 2023

***BACKGROUND***

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

***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.6 Academic Research Review Panel - Recruitment Review Panel-23.6 (23.6\_SRC\_REC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Richard Kolodner and conducted via videoconference on July 13, 2023.

***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

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

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

### **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Eleven (11) applications were discussed and one (1) application was not discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, and seven (7) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Two (2)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

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


### **CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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

# **Conflicts of Interest Disclosure**

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## Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

CPRIT Academic Research Recruitment Cycles 23.5 – 23.6

Awards Announced at the August 16, 2023, Oversight Committee Meeting

The table below lists the conflicts of interest (COIs) identified by peer reviewers, Program Integration Committee (PIC) members, and Oversight Committee members on an application-by-application basis. Applications reviewed in Academic Research Recruitment Cycles 23.5 through 23.6 include: *Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members* and *Recruitment of Established Investigators*.

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

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

Application ID	Principal Investigator	Organization	Conflict Noted by Reviewer
<b>Applications considered by the PIC and Oversight Committee:</b>			
RR230066	Bonnecaze, Roger	The University of Texas at Austin	Pomper, Martin
<b>Applications not considered by the PIC or Oversight Committee:</b>			
RR230044	Berk, Steven	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	O'Reilly, Richard
RR230045	Lee, W. P. Andrew	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	Kolodner, Richard
RR230051	Matousche, Andreas	The University of Texas at Austin	O'Reilly, Richard

# De-Identified Overall Evaluation Scores

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## Recruitment of Established Investigators

Academic Research Recruitment Cycles 23.5 – 23.6

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
<b>RR230078*</b>	1.5
<b>ha</b>	2.9
<b>hb</b>	3.2
hc	4.2
<b>hd</b>	4.8

\* Recommended for grant award.

# **Final Overall Evaluation Scores and Rank Order Scores**

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**Ludwig Institute for  
Cancer Research Ltd**

**Richard D. Kolodner  
Ph.D.**

Head, Laboratory of  
Cancer Genetics  
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July 18, 2023

Dr. Mahendra C. Patel  
Oversight Committee Presiding Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [curingkids@gmail.com](mailto:curingkids@gmail.com)

Mr. Wayne R. Roberts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [wroberts@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:wroberts@cprit.texas.gov)

Dear Dr. Patel and Mr. Roberts,

The Scientific Review Council (SRC) is pleased to submit this list of research grant award recommendations for the FY23.2 TREC: Major Instrumentation Awards, TREC:Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award, TREC Pilot Study Awards and FY23 Cycles 23.5 and 23.6 recruitment grant recommendations. The SRC met on May 18, 2023 (Cycle 23.5) and July 13, 2023 (Cycles 23.6 and 23.2 TREC ) to review and finalize applications submitted to CPRIT under the FY23.2 TREC related Request for Applications (RFA) and the Recruitment of Established Investigator and Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members RFA mechanisms.

The SRC recommends 19 applications, which are included on the attached list. The recommended funding amounts and the overall evaluation scores are stated for the grant applications. There were no recommended changes to funding amounts, goals, timelines, or project objectives requested. The total amount for the applications recommended is \$28,544,693.

The recommendations meet the SRC's standards for grant award funding, including selecting recruitment candidates at all career levels that have demonstrated academic excellence, selecting innovative research projects addressing CPRIT's long term goals to select candidates at all career levels that have demonstrated academic excellence achieve a decrease in the burden of cancer in Texas through preventive measures, new diagnostics and treatments, and effective translation of discoveries into products.

Sincerely yours,



Richard D. Kolodner, Ph.D.

Chair, CPRIT Scientific Review Council

Rank	ID	Award Mechanism	Final Overall Score	Application Title	Candidate/PI	Organization	Budget
1	RR230040	RFTFM	1.0	First-Time, Tenure-Track: Dr. Graham Erwin	Graham Erwin	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
2	RR230042	RFTFM	1.0	First-Time Tenure-Track: Dr. Michael Robertson	Michael Robertson	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
3	RR230054	RFTFM	1.1	Nomination of Xiaofeng Qi, Ph.D. for a CPRIT recruitment of a First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Member Award	Xiaofeng Qi	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000
4	RP230446	TRECPDTA	1.1	UTEP Postdoctoral Career Transition Program in Cancer Research	Lu, Weiqin	The University of Texas at El Paso	\$850,000
5	RR230072	RFTFM	1.3	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members - SimonEschweiler	Simon Eschweiler	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$2,000,000
6	RP230447	TRECMIA	1.4	Fluorescence-Activated Cell Sorting: FACS Aria Fusion	Kang, Min	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$901,225
7	RR230078	REI	1.5	Recruitment of Established Investigator, Simon Gayther	Simon Gayther	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	\$6,000,000
8	RR230050	RFTFM	1.9	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Zunlong Ke	Zunlong Ke	The University of Texas at Austin	\$2,000,000
9	RR230052	RFTFM	2.0	First-Time, Tenure-Track: Dr. Varun Venkataramani	Varun Venkataramani	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000

10	RR230053	RFTFM	<b>2.0</b>	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Chen Cao	Chen Cao	The University of Texas at Dallas	\$1,800,000
11	RR230066	RFTFM	<b>2.0</b>	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Qian Yin	Qian Yin	The University of Texas at Austin	\$2,000,000
12	RP230449	TRECMIA	<b>2.0</b>	The acquisition of an instrument suite to set up a high-throughput screening core at Texas A&M University	Liu, Wenshe	Texas A&M University	\$995,767
13	RP230445	TRECMIA	<b>2.2</b>	Core Imaging Instrumentation for Cancer Studies in Rodent Models: Acquisition of an IVIS Spectrum/Quantum GX2 optical/microCT Small Animal Imaging System	Becker, Christopher	Baylor University	\$997,701
14	RR230081	RFTFM	<b>2.6</b>	Nomination of Annika Wylie for CPRIT Recruitment of First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Member	Annika Wylie	Southern Methodist University	\$2,000,000
15	RP230443	TRECPSA	<b>2.9</b>	“Click” Assembled Colloidal Molecules with Tunable Plasmon Bands as Novel Agents for Photothermal Tumor Therapy	Liang, Hongjun	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$200,000
16	RP230454	TRECPSA	<b>2.9</b>	Role of transcription factor UBTF in pancreatic cancer	Hafeez, Bilal	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	\$200,000
17	RP230431	TRECPSA	<b>3.2</b>	Unraveling the Therapeutic Potential of Osr1 Overexpression in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Management	Xie, Linglin	Texas A&M University	\$200,000

18	RP230444	TRECPSA	<b>3.6</b>	A Role for PSMD2, PSMD7, and PSMD9 in Drug Resistance of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)	Eiring, Anna	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	\$200,000
19	RP230451	TRECPSA	<b>3.7</b>	The Role of Renal Lipotoxicity in Carcinogenesis	Bobulescu, Ion	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$200,000

RFTFM- Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty

REI- Recruitment of Established Investigators

TREC: MIA - TREC: Major Instrument Award

TREC:PDTA- TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award

TREC:PSA - TREC: Pilot Study Award



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

# **CEO Affidavit Supporting Information**

**Academic Research Recruitment  
FY 2023—Cycles 5 and 6**

***Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track  
Faculty Members***

# Request for Applications

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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**  
**RFA R-23.1-RFT**

**Recruitment of First-Time Tenure-Track  
Faculty Members**

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

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

**Application Receipt Dates:**

June 21, 2022-June 20, 2023

**FY 2023**

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023

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## **RFA VERSION HISTORY**

6/21/22      RFA release

## **1. ABOUT CPRIT**

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

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

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

### **1.1. Academic Research Program Priorities**

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

Established Principles:

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

#### **Priorities Across CPRIT's 3 Programs:**

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

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

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

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

## 2. RATIONALE

The aim of this award mechanism is to bolster cancer research in Texas by providing financial support to attract very promising investigators who are pursuing their first faculty appointment at the level of assistant professor (first-time, tenure-track faculty members). These individuals must have demonstrated academic excellence, innovation during predoctoral and/or postdoctoral research training, commitment to pursuing cancer research, and exceptional potential for achieving future impact in basic, translational, population-based, or clinical research. Awards are intended to provide institutions with a competitive edge in recruiting the world's best talent in cancer research, thereby advancing cancer research and prevention efforts and promoting economic development in the State of Texas.

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

## 3. RECRUITMENT OBJECTIVES

The goal of this award mechanism is to recruit exceptional faculty to universities and/or cancer research institutions in the State of Texas. All candidates are expected to have completed their

doctoral and fellowship training and to have clearly demonstrated truly superior ability as evidenced by their accomplishments during training, proposed research plan, publication record, and letters of recommendation. This CPRIT-supported initiative is designed to enhance innovative programs of excellence by providing research support for promising, early-stage investigators **seeking their first tenure-track position.**

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

Applications nominating individuals who are well prepared to pursue careers in patient-oriented research and who have demonstrated exceptional potential to lead innovative discovery campaigns through conduct of clinical trials are appropriate for this mechanism and encouraged.

Additionally, population research that addresses the burden of cancer in Texas is a priority for CPRIT. Applications nominating individuals who have demonstrated exceptional ability to lead innovative research programs involving any component across the continuum of cancer prevention and control research are appropriate for this mechanism and are highly encouraged.

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

## 4. INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT

CPRIT recruitment awards are intended to provide institutions with a competitive edge in recruiting the world's best talent in cancer research to Texas. The funds provided by CPRIT for the recruitment of a first-time, tenure-track faculty must therefore be complemented by a strong institutional commitment to the candidate's career development that includes financial commitments that are in addition to the CPRIT award. The institutional commitment should be clearly documented in the application (see [section 8.2.2](#)) and include the amount and sources of salary support and all additional financial support that will be available to the candidate's research program through the course of the CPRIT award. The financial commitments made to the candidate for his or her research program by the recruiting institution are required to be equal to or exceed 50% of the proposed CPRIT award across the course of the CPRIT award.

## 5. FUNDING INFORMATION

This award is up to 5 years and is not renewable, although individuals may apply for other future CPRIT funding as appropriate. Grant funds of up to \$2,000,000 (total costs) for the 5-year period may be requested. Applicants are encouraged to tailor the budget as appropriate to the exigencies of the project; grant funds totaling less than \$2,000,000 for the term of the award are acceptable if warranted by the scope of the research. Funding is to be used by the candidate to support his or her research program. The award request may include indirect costs of up to 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs). CPRIT will make every effort to be flexible in the timing for disbursement of funds; recipients will be asked at the beginning of each year for an estimate of their needs for the year. Funds may not be carried over beyond 5 years except under extraordinary circumstances with strong justification for a no-cost extension. In addition, funds for extraordinary equipment needs may be awarded in the first year of the grant if very well justified and a detailed justification is provided along with an institutional plan should the additional funds not be approved. Scholars may request funds for travel for 2 project staff to attend CPRIT's conference.

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

**Note:** Depending on the availability of funds, nominations submitted in response to this Request for Applications (RFA) during the current receipt period may be announced and awarded either

in the current fiscal year (prior to August 31, 2023) or in the first quarter of the next fiscal year (starting September 1, 2023).

## 6. ELIGIBILITY

- The applicant must be a Texas-based entity. Any not-for-profit institution that conducts research is eligible to apply for funding under this award mechanism. A public or private company is not eligible for funding under this award mechanism.
- Candidates must be nominated by the president, provost, vice president for research, or appropriate dean of a Texas-based public or private institution of higher education, including academic health institutions. The application must be submitted on behalf of a specific candidate.
- A candidate may be nominated by only 1 institution. If more than 1 institution is interested in a given candidate, negotiations as to which institution will nominate him or her must be concluded before the nomination is made.
- An institution is allowed to submit **only 6** Recruitment applications (either a Recruitment of Established Investigator, or a Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member) **during the FY23 application receipt period**. An exception will be made for **up to 3** additional submissions of a Recruitment of Established Investigator application, if the application involves a meaningful collaboration with a Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer eligible institution (see eligible Universities in IFA). Applications that exceed these limits will be returned. Institutions may use their own discretion as to the timing of submission of applications in FY23, with the understanding that the limit of 6 applications per FY23 receipt period will be strictly upheld (with the exception noted above).
- A candidate who has already accepted a position as assistant professor tenure track at the recruiting institution prior to the time that the Scientific Review Council reviews the candidate for a recruitment award is not eligible for a recruitment award, as an investment by CPRIT is obviously not necessary. No award is final until approved by the Oversight Committee at a public meeting. However, in recognition of the timeline involved with recruiting highly sought-after candidates who are often considering multiple offers, CPRIT's Academic Research program staff will notify the nominating

institution of the Scientific Review Council's review decision following the Scientific Review Council meeting. If a position is offered to the candidate during the period following the Scientific Review Council's review decision but prior to the Oversight Committee's final approval, the institution does so at its own risk. There is no guarantee that the recruitment award will be approved by the Oversight Committee.

- The candidate must have a doctoral degree, including MD, PhD, DDS, DMD, DrPH, DO, DVM, or equivalent, **and reside in Texas for the duration of the appointment.** The candidate must devote at least 70% time to research activities. Candidates whose major responsibilities are clinical care, teaching, or administration are not eligible.
- At the time of the application, the candidate must **not** hold an appointment at the rank of assistant professor or above (or equivalent) at an accredited academic institution, research institution, industry, government agency, or private foundation. Candidates holding non-tenure-track appointments at the rank of assistant professor are **not** eligible for this award. Examples of such appointments include research assistant professor, adjunct research assistant professor, assistant professor (non-tenure track).
- The candidate may or may not reside in Texas at the time the application is submitted and may be nominated for a faculty position at the Texas institution where he or she is completing postdoctoral training or at another Texas institution.
- Applications nominating a candidate for a faculty position at the Texas institution where he or she is completing postdoctoral training that do not clearly demonstrate a subsequent career pathway to independence for the candidate will not be looked upon with favor.
- Successful candidates will be offered tenure-track academic positions at the rank of assistant professor.
- An applicant is eligible to receive a grant award only if the applicant certifies that the applicant institution or organization, including the nominator, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's institution or organization (or any person related to 1 or more of these individuals within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity), has not made and will not make a contribution to CPRIT or to any foundation specifically created to benefit CPRIT.
- An applicant is not eligible to receive a CPRIT grant award if the applicant nominator, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or

director of the grant applicant's institution or organization is related to a CPRIT Oversight Committee member.

- The applicant must report whether the applicant institution or organization, the nominator, or other individuals who contribute to the execution of the proposed project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not the individuals will receive salary or compensation under the grant award, are currently ineligible to receive federal grant funds or have had a grant terminated for cause within 5 years prior to the submission date of the grant application.

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

## **7. RESUBMISSION POLICY**

Resubmissions will not be accepted for the Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members award mechanism. Any nomination for the Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members that was previously submitted to CPRIT and reviewed but was not recommended for funding may not be resubmitted. If a nomination was administratively rejected prior to review, it can be resubmitted in the following cycles.

## **8. RESPONDING TO THIS RFA**

### **8.1. Application Submission Guidelines**

Applications must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). **Only applications submitted through this portal will be considered eligible for evaluation.** The applicant is eligible solely for the grant mechanism specified by the RFA under which the grant application is submitted. Candidates must be nominated by the institution's president, provost, vice president for research, or appropriate dean.



The individual submitting the application (Nominator) must create a user account in the system (which includes the Nominator's credentials and email address) to start and submit an application. Furthermore, the Application Signing Official, who is the person authorized to sign and submit the application for the organization, and the Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official, who is the individual who will manage the grant contract if an award is made, also must create a user account in CARS.

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

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

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

## **8.2. Application Components**

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

### **8.2.1. Summary of Nomination (2,000 characters)**

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

### **8.2.2. Institutional Commitment (3 pages)**

CPRIT recruitment awards are intended to provide institutions with a competitive edge in recruiting the world's best talent in cancer research to Texas. The funds provided by CPRIT for the recruitment of a first-time, tenure-track faculty must therefore be complemented by a strongly documented institutional commitment to the candidate's career development that includes financial commitments that are in addition to the CPRIT award.

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

- The institutional commitment should be clearly documented in the form of a letter signed by the applicant institution's president, provost, or appropriate dean and include the amount and sources of salary support and all additional financial support that will be available to the candidate's research program through the course of the CPRIT award. The financial commitments made to the candidate by the recruiting institution are required to be equal to or exceed 50% of the proposed CPRIT award across the course of the CPRIT award.
- The institutional commitment letter must include the following statement regarding the institution's financial commitment required to meet the 50% match.
  - This institutional financial commitment will not be offset by funds from a career transition award (K99/R00) or an investigator-initiated award received by the candidate. If an award dictates that such funds must be used for salary, the corresponding amount of institutional funds committed to pay the candidate's salary will be redirected to allow the candidate to use them for program support.
- Institutional commitment as described above must be presented in a table (example below) that clearly identifies the salary amount, sources of salary, and any additional research support from institutional sources over the course of the CPRIT award. Sources

of support for the candidate’s full salary, including summer salary, for the duration of the award must be documented. If the candidate is expected to provide salary support from grants during the award period, the institutional commitment must identify the source for salary support in the event grant support is not available. Note that a federal indirect cost rate credit cannot be used to demonstrate an institutional commitment to the candidate.

- Include a brief job description for the candidate should recruitment be successful.
- Describe the institutional environment and any professional commitments to the candidate including, but not limited to, dedicated personnel, access to students, space assignment, and access to shared equipment, and discuss all other agreements between the institution and the candidate.
- Institutions may provide additional information in support of a candidate’s research plan to demonstrate how the institutional commitment through development of strategic collaborations will foster a candidate’s cancer research. This additional information is highly encouraged when proposing a candidate with exceptional expertise and/or talent that can be directed to cancer research such as a computational biologist, chemist, etc, whose prior experience has not been directly focused on cancer research.
- Note that Texas law allows an institution of higher learning to use its federal indirect cost rate credit to comply with the requirement to demonstrate that it has an amount of funds equal to one-half of the CPRIT funding dedicated to the research that is the subject of the award (see [section 12](#)). However, a federal indirect cost rate credit cannot be used to demonstrate an institutional commitment to the candidate.

***Example of an acceptable Institutional Commitment table:***

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

Total =

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

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

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

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

**Caliber of Candidate:** The letter should include a description of the caliber of the candidate and justification of the nomination of the candidate by the institution. CPRIT recognizes that there is variability in the metrics of impact applicable across the continuum of cancer research. For example, in some disciplines, research findings—although highly impactful on the field—are less likely to be published in the highest ranked journals, ie, *Science*, *Cell*, or *Nature* series. Thus, it is incumbent on the institution to describe the impact of a nominee's work, including paradigm-shifting, practice-changing, or influence on public policy, population health behavior, or cancer disparities.

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

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

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

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

#### **8.2.4. Curriculum Vitae (CV)**

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

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

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

#### **8.2.6. Research (4 pages)**

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

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

“I understand that I do not need to have made a commitment to <nominating institution> before this application has been submitted. However, I also understand that only 1 Texas institution may nominate me for a CPRIT Recruitment Award, and this is the nomination that I have endorsed. I understand that requests to change the recruiting institution during the recruitment process are not allowed after the application is submitted to CPRIT.”

#### **8.2.7. Publications/References (1 page)**

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

#### **8.2.8. Research Collaboration/Synergy Plan (2 pages)**

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

#### **8.2.9. Publications**

Provide the 3 most significant publications that have resulted from the candidate's research efforts. Publications should be uploaded as PDFs of full-text articles. Only articles that have been published or that have been accepted for publication ("in press") should be submitted.

#### **8.2.10. Timeline (1 page)**

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

#### **8.2.11. Current and Pending Support**

State the funding source, duration, and title of all current and pending research support held by the candidate. If the candidate has no current or pending funding, a document stating this must be submitted. Refer to the sample current and pending support document located in [Current Funding Opportunities](#) for Academic Research in CARS.

### 8.2.12. Letters of Recommendation

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

### 8.2.13. Research Environment (1 page)

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

### 8.2.14. Descriptive Biography (Up to 2 pages)

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

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

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

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

## 9. APPLICATION REVIEW

### 9.1. Review Process

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

the CPRIT Oversight Committee for approval and funding. Approval is based on an application receiving a positive vote from at least two-thirds of the members of the Oversight Committee. The review process is described more fully in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, Texas [Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapters 701 to 703](#).

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

### **9.1.1. Confidentiality of Review**

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

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

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

Communication regarding the substance of a pending application is prohibited between the grant applicant (or someone on the grant applicant's behalf) and the following individuals: an Oversight Committee member, a PIC member, or a Scientific Review Council member. Applicants should note that the CPRIT PIC comprises the CPRIT Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Scientific Officer, the Chief Prevention and Communications Officer, the Chief Product Development Officer, and the Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services. The prohibition on communication begins on the first day that grant applications for the particular grant mechanism are accepted by CPRIT and extends until the grant applicant receives notice regarding a final decision on the grant application. Intentional, serious, or frequent violations of



this rule may result in the disqualification of the grant applicant from further consideration for a grant award.

## 9.2. Review Criteria

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

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

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

**Scientific Merit of Proposed Research:** Is the research plan comprehensive and well thought out? Does the proposed research program demonstrate innovation, creativity, and feasibility? Will it have a significant impact on the field of cancer research? Will the proposed research generate preliminary data that can be used for the preparation of applications for future independent research project grants?

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

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

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

## 10. KEY DATES

### RFA

RFA Release                  June 21, 2022

### Application Receipt and Review Timeline

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

## 11. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

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

Texas law specifies several components that must be addressed by the award contract, including needed compliance and assurance documentation, budgetary review, progress and fiscal monitoring, and terms relating to revenue sharing and intellectual property rights. These contract provisions are specified in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, which are available at [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov).

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

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

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

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

## 12. REQUIREMENT TO DEMONSTRATE AVAILABLE FUNDS

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

## 13. CONTACT INFORMATION

### 13.1. Helpdesk

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

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

**Tel:** 866-941-7146

**Email:** [Help@CPRITGrants.org](mailto:Help@CPRITGrants.org)

### 13.2. Scientific and Programmatic Questions

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

**Email:** [Research@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:Research@cprit.texas.gov)

**Website:** [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov)

# **Third Party Observer Reports**

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**Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**  
**23.5 Academic Research Recruitment Review Panel**  
**(REC\_23.5)**  
**Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-05-18 23.5\_REC\_23.5  
Program Name: Academic Research  
Panel Name: 23.5 Academic Research Recruitment Review Panel (REC\_23.5)  
Panel Date: May 18, 2023  
Report Date: May 22, 2023

***BACKGROUND***

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

***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.5 Academic Research Recruitment Review Panel (REC\_23.5) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Richard Kolodner and conducted via videoconference on May 18, 2023.

***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

- CPRIT's established procedure for panelists who have declared a conflict of interest is followed during the meeting (e.g., reviewers hang up from the teleconference or leave the room when an application with which there is a conflict is discussed);
- CPRIT program staff participation at meetings is limited to offering general points of information;
- CPRIT program staff do not engage in the panel's discussion on the merits of applications; and

- The panel focused on the established scoring criteria and/or making recommendations.

## **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Ten (10) applications were discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, and eight (8) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Three (3)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

There were three (3) Conflicts of Interest (COIs) identified prior to and/or during the meeting. The COIs were excluded from discussions concerning applications for which there was a conflict.

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

## **CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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





**Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**  
**23.6 Academic Research Review Panel - Recruitment Review**  
**Panel-23.6 (23.6 SRC REC)**  
**Observation Report**

Report No. 2023-07-13 23.6\_SRC\_REC  
Program Name: Academic Research  
Panel Name: 23.6 Academic Research Review Panel - Recruitment Review  
Panel-23.6 (23.6\_SRC\_REC)  
Panel Date: July 13, 2023  
Report Date: July 17, 2023

***BACKGROUND***

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

***INTRODUCTION***

The subject of this report is the 23.6 Academic Research Review Panel - Recruitment Review Panel-23.6 (23.6\_SRC\_REC) meeting. The meeting was chaired by Richard Kolodner and conducted via videoconference on July 13, 2023.

***PANEL OBSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE***

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

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

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

## **SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION RESULTS**

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

The independent observers noted the following during the meeting:

- Number (#) of applications: Eleven (11) applications were discussed and one (1) application was not discussed
- Panelists: One (1) panel chair, and seven (7) expert reviewers
- Panelists' discussions were limited to the application evaluation criteria
- GDIT staff employees: Three (3)
- GDIT staff did not participate in discussions concerning the merits of applications
- CPRIT staff employees: Two (2)
- CPRIT program staff participation was limited to reviewing and clarifying policies, and answering procedural questions

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

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


## **CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

With best regards,



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

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

# Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

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## Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

CPRIT Academic Research Recruitment Cycles 23.5 – 23.6

Awards Announced at the August 16, 2023, Oversight Committee Meeting

The table below lists the conflicts of interest (COIs) identified by peer reviewers, Program Integration Committee (PIC) members, and Oversight Committee members on an application-by-application basis. Applications reviewed in Academic Research Recruitment Cycles 23.5 through 23.6 include: *Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members* and *Recruitment of Established Investigators*.

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

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

Application ID	Principal Investigator	Organization	Conflict Noted by Reviewer
<b>Applications considered by the PIC and Oversight Committee:</b>			
RR230066	Bonnecaze, Roger	The University of Texas at Austin	Pomper, Martin
<b>Applications not considered by the PIC or Oversight Committee:</b>			
RR230044	Berk, Steven	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	O'Reilly, Richard
RR230045	Lee, W. P. Andrew	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	Kolodner, Richard
RR230051	Matousche, Andreas	The University of Texas at Austin	O'Reilly, Richard

# De-Identified Overall Evaluation Scores

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## Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members

Academic Research Recruitment Cycles 23.5 – 23.6

Application ID	Final Overall Evaluation Score
RR230040*	1.0
RR230042*	1.0
RR230054*	1.1
RR230072*	1.3
RR230050*	1.9
RR230052*	2.0
RR230053*	2.0
RR230066*	2.0
RR230081*	2.6
ga	2.9
gb	3.0
gc	3.5
gd	4.0
ge	4.6
gf	4.9
gg	5.3
gh	6.0

\* Recommended for grant award.

# **Final Overall Evaluation Scores and Rank Order Scores**

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**Ludwig Institute for  
Cancer Research Ltd**

**Richard D. Kolodner  
Ph.D.**

Head, Laboratory of  
Cancer Genetics  
San Diego Branch

Distinguished Professor of  
Cellular & Molecular  
Medicine, University of  
California San Diego School  
of Medicine

[rkolodner@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:rkolodner@health.ucsd.edu)

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**T** 858 534 7804  
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July 18, 2023

Dr. Mahendra C. Patel  
Oversight Committee Presiding Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [curingkids@gmail.com](mailto:curingkids@gmail.com)

Mr. Wayne R. Roberts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Via email to [wroberts@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:wroberts@cprit.texas.gov)

Dear Dr. Patel and Mr. Roberts,

The Scientific Review Council (SRC) is pleased to submit this list of research grant award recommendations for the FY23.2 TREC: Major Instrumentation Awards, TREC:Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award, TREC Pilot Study Awards and FY23 Cycles 23.5 and 23.6 recruitment grant recommendations. The SRC met on May 18, 2023 (Cycle 23.5) and July 13, 2023 (Cycles 23.6 and 23.2 TREC ) to review and finalize applications submitted to CPRIT under the FY23.2 TREC related Request for Applications (RFA) and the Recruitment of Established Investigator and Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members RFA mechanisms.

The SRC recommends 19 applications, which are included on the attached list. The recommended funding amounts and the overall evaluation scores are stated for the grant applications. There were no recommended changes to funding amounts, goals, timelines, or project objectives requested. The total amount for the applications recommended is \$28,544,693.

The recommendations meet the SRC's standards for grant award funding, including selecting recruitment candidates at all career levels that have demonstrated academic excellence, selecting innovative research projects addressing CPRIT's long term goals to select candidates at all career levels that have demonstrated academic excellence achieve a decrease in the burden of cancer in Texas through preventive measures, new diagnostics and treatments, and effective translation of discoveries into products.

Sincerely yours,



Richard D. Kolodner, Ph.D.

Chair, CPRIT Scientific Review Council

Rank	ID	Award Mechanism	Final Overall Score	Application Title	Candidate/PI	Organization	Budget
1	RR230040	RFTFM	1.0	First-Time, Tenure-Track: Dr. Graham Erwin	Graham Erwin	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
2	RR230042	RFTFM	1.0	First-Time Tenure-Track: Dr. Michael Robertson	Michael Robertson	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000
3	RR230054	RFTFM	1.1	Nomination of Xiaofeng Qi, Ph.D. for a CPRIT recruitment of a First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Member Award	Xiaofeng Qi	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000
4	RP230446	TRECPDTA	1.1	UTEP Postdoctoral Career Transition Program in Cancer Research	Lu, Weiqin	The University of Texas at El Paso	\$850,000
5	RR230072	RFTFM	1.3	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members - SimonEschweiler	Simon Eschweiler	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$2,000,000
6	RP230447	TRECMIA	1.4	Fluorescence-Activated Cell Sorting: FACS Aria Fusion	Kang, Min	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$901,225
7	RR230078	REI	1.5	Recruitment of Established Investigator, Simon Gayther	Simon Gayther	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	\$6,000,000
8	RR230050	RFTFM	1.9	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Zunlong Ke	Zunlong Ke	The University of Texas at Austin	\$2,000,000
9	RR230052	RFTFM	2.0	First-Time, Tenure-Track: Dr. Varun Venkataramani	Varun Venkataramani	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000

10	RR230053	RFTFM	<b>2.0</b>	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Chen Cao	Chen Cao	The University of Texas at Dallas	\$1,800,000
11	RR230066	RFTFM	<b>2.0</b>	Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Qian Yin	Qian Yin	The University of Texas at Austin	\$2,000,000
12	RP230449	TRECMIA	<b>2.0</b>	The acquisition of an instrument suite to set up a high-throughput screening core at Texas A&M University	Liu, Wenshe	Texas A&M University	\$995,767
13	RP230445	TRECMIA	<b>2.2</b>	Core Imaging Instrumentation for Cancer Studies in Rodent Models: Acquisition of an IVIS Spectrum/Quantum GX2 optical/microCT Small Animal Imaging System	Becker, Christopher	Baylor University	\$997,701
14	RR230081	RFTFM	<b>2.6</b>	Nomination of Annika Wylie for CPRIT Recruitment of First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Member	Annika Wylie	Southern Methodist University	\$2,000,000
15	RP230443	TRECPSA	<b>2.9</b>	“Click” Assembled Colloidal Molecules with Tunable Plasmon Bands as Novel Agents for Photothermal Tumor Therapy	Liang, Hongjun	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$200,000
16	RP230454	TRECPSA	<b>2.9</b>	Role of transcription factor UBTF in pancreatic cancer	Hafeez, Bilal	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	\$200,000
17	RP230431	TRECPSA	<b>3.2</b>	Unraveling the Therapeutic Potential of Osr1 Overexpression in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Management	Xie, Linglin	Texas A&M University	\$200,000

18	RP230444	TRECPSA	<b>3.6</b>	A Role for PSMD2, PSMD7, and PSMD9 in Drug Resistance of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)	Eiring, Anna	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	\$200,000
19	RP230451	TRECPSA	<b>3.7</b>	The Role of Renal Lipotoxicity in Carcinogenesis	Bobulescu, Ion	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$200,000

RFTFM- Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty

REI- Recruitment of Established Investigators

TREC: MIA - TREC: Major Instrument Award

TREC:PDTA- TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award

TREC:PSA - TREC: Pilot Study Award



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application PP230003**  
**Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded**  
**Cancer Control Interventions**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to *Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions* for Applications (RFA). Cumulatively in FY2023, CPRIT received nine applications in response to this RFA, including two applications that were withdrawn. This application was assigned to the Prevention Panel 1 for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.

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

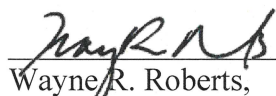
- The applicable Request for Applications (RFA) for this grant cycle
- An overview of the conflict of interest process, including any conflict of interest waivers granted
- The third-party observer report(s) documenting that CPRIT’s grant review processes were followed by the review panel evaluating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

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

This application was initially reviewed during cycle 23.1; however, the Prevention Review Council (PRC) took no action on it earlier in the fiscal year. The PRC recommended this application with the cycle 23.2 awards at their June 19, 2023, meeting.

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

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



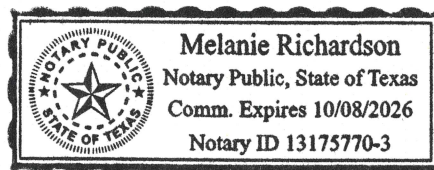
Wayne R. Roberts,  
CEO, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.



Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas





# CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:24 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 1  
PROGRAM: Prevention  
MECHANISM: Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions  
APPLICATION ID: PP230003  
APPLICATION TITLE: Taking Texas Tobacco Free: Dissemination to and Implementation within Centers Serving Texans who Identify as LGBTQ+  
APPLICANT NAME: Reitzel, Lorraine R  
ORGANIZATION: University of Houston  
PANEL NAME: 23.1\_Prevention DI

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CPO	05/04/2022	01/16/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	05/06/2022	01/16/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	06/02/2022	01/16/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	08/31/2022	01/16/2023
	Date application submitted	08/02/2022	01/16/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	01/16/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	01/16/2023
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	N/A	01/16/2023
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	N/A	01/16/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	01/16/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	01/16/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	10/28/2022	01/16/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	N/A	01/17/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	10/22/2022	01/16/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	10/22/2022	01/16/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	N/A	01/16/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 COI signed	N/A	01/16/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	12/14/2022	01/16/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	12/04/2022	01/16/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	N/A	01/16/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 critique submitted	N/A	01/16/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	01/16/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	01/16/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	01/16/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	01/06/2023	01/16/2023
	Post review statements signed	01/06/2023	01/16/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	01/12/2023	01/17/2023
	Score report delivered to CPO	01/10/2023	01/16/2023
	Recommended for PRC review	YES	01/16/2023
Final PRC Recommendation	COI indicated by PRC member	NONE	01/16/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	01/16/2023
	PRC Meeting	01/13/2023	01/17/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	01/19/2023	01/20/2023
	Recommended for grant award	Other: No Action	01/16/2023
	PRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	01/18/2023	01/18/2023
	COI indicated by PRC member (2nd Meeting)	NONE	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation (2nd Meeting)	N/A	08/02/2023
	2nd PRC Meeting	06/19/2023	08/02/2023
	Third Party Observer Report (2nd Meeting)	06/23/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
	PRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC (2nd Meeting)	06/28/2023	08/02/2023
PIC Review	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application PP230030**  
**Cancer Screening and Early Detection**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to *Cancer Screening and Early Detection* Request for Applications (RFA). Cumulatively in FY2023, CPRIT received 14 applications in response to this RFA, including three applications that were withdrawn. This application was assigned to the Prevention Panel 1 for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.

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

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




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

This application was initially reviewed during cycle 23.1; however, the Prevention Review Council (PRC) took no action on it earlier in the fiscal year. The PRC recommended this application with the cycle 23.2 awards at their June 19, 2023, meeting.


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

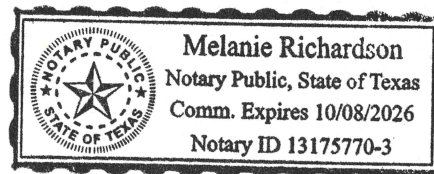
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



# CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:24 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 1  
PROGRAM: Prevention  
MECHANISM: Cancer Screening and Early Detection  
APPLICATION ID: PP230030  
APPLICATION TITLE: ACTION for Big Country  
APPLICANT NAME: Byrd, Theresa L  
ORGANIZATION: Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center  
PANEL NAME: 23.1\_Prevention Panel-1

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CPO	05/04/2022	01/17/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	05/06/2022	01/17/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	06/02/2022	01/17/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	08/31/2022	01/17/2023
	Date application submitted	08/31/2022	01/17/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	01/17/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	01/17/2023
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	N/A	01/17/2023
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	N/A	01/17/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	09/16/2022	01/17/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	01/17/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	09/29/2022	01/17/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	09/28/2022	01/17/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	09/20/2022	01/17/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 COI signed	09/23/2022	01/17/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	09/20/2022	01/17/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 COI signed	09/20/2022	01/17/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	11/23/2022	01/17/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 critique submitted	11/28/2022	01/17/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	11/28/2022	01/17/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 critique submitted	11/23/2022	01/17/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	01/17/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	01/17/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	01/17/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	12/05/2022	01/17/2023
	Post review statements signed	12/06/2022	01/17/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	12/13/2022	01/17/2023
	Score report delivered to CPO	12/14/2022	01/17/2023
	Recommended for PRC review	YES	01/17/2023
Final PRC Recommendation	COI indicated by PRC member	NONE	01/17/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	01/17/2023
	PRC Meeting	01/13/2023	01/17/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	01/19/2023	01/20/2023
	Recommended for grant award	Other: No Action	01/17/2023
	PRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	01/18/2023	01/18/2023
	COI indicated by PRC member (2nd Meeting)	NONE	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation (2nd Meeting)	N/A	08/02/2023
	2nd PRC Meeting	06/19/2023	08/02/2023
	Third Party Observer Report (2nd Meeting)	06/23/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
	PRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC (2nd Meeting)	06/28/2023	08/02/2023
PIC Review	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application PP230056**  
**Primary Prevention of Cancer**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to the *Primary Prevention of Cancer* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 15 applications in response to this RFA, including three applications that were withdrawn. This application was assigned to the Prevention Panel 1 for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.

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

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




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

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

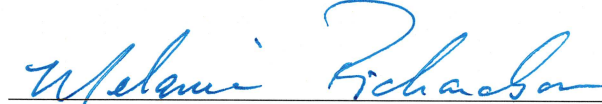
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

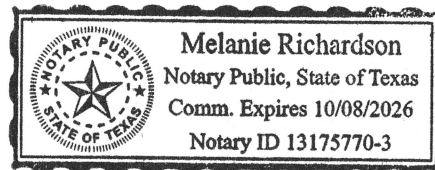
This statement is true."

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:24 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 2  
PROGRAM: Prevention  
MECHANISM: Primary Prevention of Cancer  
APPLICATION ID: PP230056  
APPLICATION TITLE: Continuation and expansion of a highly successful postpartum HPV vaccination program  
APPLICANT NAME: Berenson, Abbey B  
ORGANIZATION: The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston  
PANEL NAME: 23.2\_Prevention Panel-1

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CPO	11/14/2022	07/05/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	11/17/2022	07/05/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	12/15/2022	07/05/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	02/23/2023	07/05/2023
	Date application submitted	02/21/2023	07/05/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	07/05/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	07/05/2023
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	N/A	07/05/2023
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	N/A	07/05/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	07/05/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	07/05/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	03/24/2023	07/05/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	03/23/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	03/15/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 COI signed	03/15/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	03/21/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 COI signed	03/23/2023	07/05/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	05/15/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 critique submitted	05/09/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	05/13/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 critique submitted	04/28/2023	07/05/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	07/05/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/05/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	07/05/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	05/24/2023	07/05/2023
	Peer Review Meeting end date	05/25/2023	07/05/2023
	Post review statements signed	05/25/2023	07/05/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	05/30/2023	07/05/2023
	Score report delivered to CPO	06/02/2023	07/05/2023
	Recommended for PRC review	YES	07/05/2023

CPRIT retains the identity of the attesting party.

Final PRC Recommendation	COI indicated by PRC member	NONE	07/05/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/05/2023
	PRC Meeting	06/19/2023	07/05/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	06/23/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/05/2023
	PRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	06/28/2023	07/24/2023
PIC Review	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application PP230059**  
**Cancer Screening and Early Detection**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to *Cancer Screening and Early Detection* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received five applications in response to this RFA, including one application that was withdrawn. This application was assigned to the Prevention Panel 1 for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.

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


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



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


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

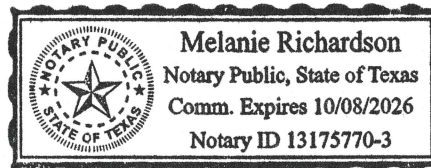
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas





# CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:25 AM CT

**FY:** 2023  
**CYCLE:** 2  
**PROGRAM:** Prevention  
**MECHANISM:** Cancer Screening and Early Detection  
**APPLICATION ID:** PP230059  
**APPLICATION TITLE:** De Casa en Casa 4: Cervical Cancer Screening in Underserved Rural and Border Communities throughout West and South Texas.  
**APPLICANT NAME:** Molokwu, Jennifer C  
**ORGANIZATION:** Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso  
**PANEL NAME:** 23.2\_Prevention Panel-1

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CPO	11/14/2022	07/05/2023
	RFA Approved by CPO (revised)	12/14/2022	07/05/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	11/17/2022	07/05/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	12/15/2022	07/05/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	02/23/2023	07/05/2023
	Date application submitted	02/22/2023	07/05/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	07/05/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	07/05/2023
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	N/A	07/05/2023
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	N/A	07/05/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	07/05/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	07/05/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	03/24/2023	07/05/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	03/23/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	03/21/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 COI signed	03/15/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	03/23/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 COI signed	03/15/2023	07/05/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	05/12/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 critique submitted	05/09/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	05/12/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 critique submitted	05/16/2023	07/05/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	07/05/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/05/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	07/05/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	05/24/2023	07/05/2023
	Peer Review Meeting end date	05/25/2023	07/05/2023
	Post review statements signed	05/25/2023	07/05/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	05/30/2023	07/05/2023
	Score report delivered to CPO	06/02/2023	07/05/2023
	Recommended for PRC review	YES	07/05/2023
Final PRC Recommendation	COI indicated by PRC member	NONE	07/05/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/05/2023
	PRC Meeting	06/19/2023	07/05/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	06/23/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/05/2023
	PRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	06/28/2023	07/24/2023
PIC Review	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application PP230060**  
**Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to *Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received two applications in response to this RFA. This application was assigned to the Prevention Review Council (PRC) for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.


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

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

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

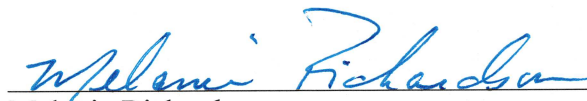
In addition to the CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information that is applicable to all applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA and recommended for grant awards this cycle, I have also reviewed the application's grant pedigree. The grant pedigree for the application listed above has been attached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

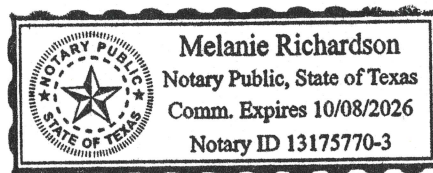
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas





# CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:25 AM CT

**FY:** 2023  
**CYCLE:** 2  
**PROGRAM:** Prevention  
**MECHANISM:** Colorectal Cancer Screening Coordinating Center  
**APPLICATION ID:** PP230060  
**APPLICATION TITLE:** Coordinating Center for Colorectal Cancer Screening Across Texas (CONNECT)  
**APPLICANT NAME:** Shokar, Navkiran K  
**ORGANIZATION:** The University of Texas at Austin  
**PANEL NAME:** 23.2\_Prevention CCC

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CPO	11/14/2022	07/05/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	11/17/2022	07/05/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	12/15/2022	07/05/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	02/23/2023	07/05/2023
	Date application submitted	02/23/2023	07/05/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	07/05/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	07/05/2023
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	N/A	07/05/2023
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	N/A	07/05/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	07/05/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	07/05/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	03/28/2023	07/05/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	N/A	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	03/14/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	03/13/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 COI signed	N/A	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	03/15/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 COI signed	N/A	07/05/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	03/31/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	05/29/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	06/12/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 critique submitted	N/A	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	N/A	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 critique submitted	N/A	07/05/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	07/05/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/05/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	07/05/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	06/19/2023	07/05/2023
	Post review statements signed	06/19/2023	07/05/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	06/23/2023	07/11/2023
	Score report delivered to CPO	06/22/2023	07/05/2023
	Recommended for PRC review	YES	07/05/2023
Final PRC Recommendation	COI indicated by PRC member	NONE	07/05/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/05/2023
	PRC Meeting	06/19/2023	07/06/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	06/23/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/05/2023
	PRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	06/28/2023	07/24/2023
PIC Review	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application PP230061**  
**Primary Prevention of Cancer**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to the *Primary Prevention of Cancer* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 15 applications in response to this RFA, including three applications that were withdrawn. This application was assigned to the Prevention Panel 1 for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.


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

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

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

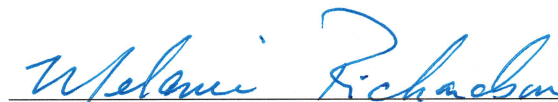
In addition to the CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information that is applicable to all applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA and recommended for grant awards this cycle, I have also reviewed the application's grant pedigree. The grant pedigree for the application listed above has been attached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

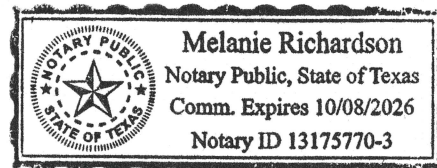
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:25 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 2  
PROGRAM: Prevention  
MECHANISM: Primary Prevention of Cancer  
APPLICATION ID: PP230061  
APPLICATION TITLE: Expansion of HPV Vaccination Among Survivors of Childhood Cancer  
APPLICANT NAME: Grimes, Allison  
ORGANIZATION: The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  
PANEL NAME: 23.2\_Prevention Panel-1

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CPO	11/14/2022	07/05/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	11/17/2022	07/05/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	12/15/2022	07/05/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	02/23/2023	07/05/2023
	Date application submitted	02/23/2023	07/05/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	07/05/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	07/05/2023
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	N/A	07/05/2023
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	N/A	07/05/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	03/13/2023	07/05/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	07/05/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	03/24/2023	07/05/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	03/23/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	03/21/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 COI signed	03/17/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	03/16/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 COI signed	03/15/2023	07/05/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	05/12/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 critique submitted	05/22/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	05/16/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 critique submitted	05/16/2023	07/05/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	Deanna Teoh	07/05/2023
	COI recused from participation	YES	07/05/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	07/05/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	05/24/2023	07/05/2023
	Peer Review Meeting end date	05/25/2023	07/05/2023
	Post review statements signed	05/25/2023	07/05/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	05/30/2023	07/05/2023
	Score report delivered to CPO	06/02/2023	07/05/2023
	Recommended for PRC review	YES	07/05/2023

CPRIT retains the identity of the attesting party.



Final PRC Recommendation	COI indicated by PRC member	NONE	07/05/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/05/2023
	PRC Meeting	06/19/2023	07/05/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	06/23/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/05/2023
	PRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	06/28/2023	07/24/2023
PIC Review	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	





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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application PP230069**  
**Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded**  
**Cancer Control Interventions**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to *Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions* for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received three applications in response to this cycle RFA, including one application that was withdrawn. This application was assigned to the Prevention Panel 1 for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.


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

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

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

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

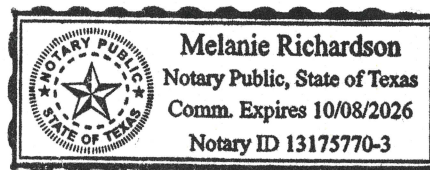
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



# CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:25 AM CT

**FY:** 2023  
**CYCLE:** 2  
**PROGRAM:** Prevention  
**MECHANISM:** Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions  
**APPLICATION ID:** PP230069  
**APPLICATION TITLE:** Dissemination of the Active Living After Cancer Program  
**APPLICANT NAME:** Basen-Engquist, Karen M  
**ORGANIZATION:** The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
**PANEL NAME:** 23.2\_Prevention Panel-1

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CPO	11/14/2022	07/05/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	11/17/2022	07/05/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	12/15/2022	07/05/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	02/23/2023	07/05/2023
	Date application submitted	02/21/2023	07/05/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	07/05/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	07/05/2023
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	N/A	07/05/2023
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	N/A	07/05/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	07/05/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	07/05/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	03/24/2023	07/05/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	03/23/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	03/15/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 COI signed	03/17/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	N/A	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	03/23/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 COI signed	03/16/2023	07/05/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	05/17/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 critique submitted	05/14/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	N/A	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	05/10/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 critique submitted	05/19/2023	07/05/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	07/05/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/05/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	07/05/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	05/24/2023	07/05/2023
	Peer Review Meeting end date	05/25/2023	07/05/2023
	Post review statements signed	05/25/2023	07/05/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	05/30/2023	07/05/2023
	Score report delivered to CPO	06/02/2023	07/05/2023
	Recommended for PRC review	YES	07/05/2023
Final PRC Recommendation	COI indicated by PRC member	NONE	07/05/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/05/2023
	PRC Meeting	06/19/2023	07/05/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	06/23/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/05/2023
	PRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	06/28/2023	07/24/2023
PIC Review	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	





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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application PP230074**  
**Primary Prevention of Cancer**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to the *Primary Prevention of Cancer* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 15 applications in response to this RFA, including three applications that were withdrawn. This application was assigned to the Prevention Panel 1 for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.

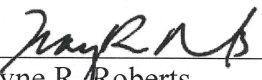
CPRIT staff and CPRIT’s third-party grants management vendor have recorded information and prepared documents during the course of their employment that are related to CPRIT’s grant review process described by Health & Safety Code Chapter 102. I have reviewed the information prepared by CPRIT staff and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

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

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

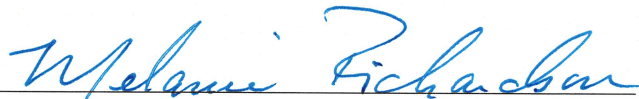
In addition to the CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information that is applicable to all applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA and recommended for grant awards this cycle, I have also reviewed the application's grant pedigree. The grant pedigree for the application listed above has been attached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

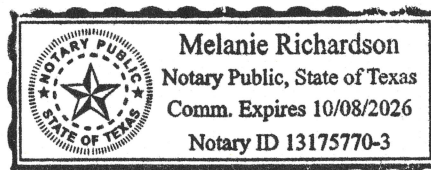
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:25 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 2  
PROGRAM: Prevention  
MECHANISM: Primary Prevention of Cancer  
APPLICATION ID: PP230074  
APPLICATION TITLE: Active Living After Cancer: Combining a Physical Activity Program with Survivor Navigation  
APPLICANT NAME: Basen-Engquist, Karen M  
ORGANIZATION: The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
PANEL NAME: 23.2\_Prevention Panel-1

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CPO	11/14/2022	07/05/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	11/17/2022	07/05/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	12/15/2022	07/05/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	02/23/2023	07/05/2023
	Date application submitted	02/22/2023	07/05/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	07/05/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	07/05/2023
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	N/A	07/05/2023
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	N/A	07/05/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	07/05/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	07/05/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	03/24/2023	07/05/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	03/23/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	03/17/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 COI signed	03/17/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	03/19/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 COI signed	03/15/2023	07/05/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	05/15/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 critique submitted	05/14/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	05/13/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 critique submitted	04/25/2023	07/05/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	07/05/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/05/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	07/05/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	05/24/2023	07/05/2023
	Peer Review Meeting end date	05/25/2023	07/05/2023
	Post review statements signed	05/25/2023	07/05/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	05/30/2023	07/05/2023
	Score report delivered to CPO	06/02/2023	07/05/2023
	Recommended for PRC review	YES	07/05/2023

CPRIT retains the identity of the attesting party.

Final PRC Recommendation	COI indicated by PRC member	NONE	07/05/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/05/2023
	PRC Meeting	06/19/2023	07/05/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	06/23/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/05/2023
	PRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	06/28/2023	07/24/2023
PIC Review	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	





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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application PP230078**  
**Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded**  
**Cancer Control Interventions**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to *Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions* for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received three applications in response to this cycle RFA, including one application that was withdrawn. This application was assigned to the Prevention Panel 1 for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.

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


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



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


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

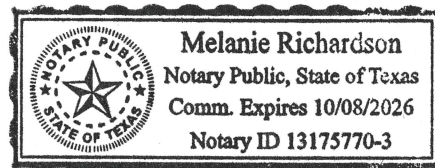
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



# CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:25 AM CT

**FY:** 2023  
**CYCLE:** 2  
**PROGRAM:** Prevention  
**MECHANISM:** Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions  
**APPLICATION ID:** PP230078  
**APPLICATION TITLE:** Implementation and Dissemination of an Evidence-Based Intervention to Increase Tobacco Treatment Capacity in Opioid Treatment Programs  
**APPLICANT NAME:** Reitzel, Lorraine R  
**ORGANIZATION:** The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
**PANEL NAME:** 23.2\_Prevention Panel-1

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CPO	11/14/2022	07/05/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	11/17/2022	07/05/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	12/15/2022	07/05/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	02/23/2023	07/05/2023
	Date application submitted	02/21/2023	07/05/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	07/05/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	07/05/2023
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	N/A	07/05/2023
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	N/A	07/05/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	07/05/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	07/05/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	03/24/2023	07/05/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	03/23/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	03/15/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 COI signed	03/15/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	N/A	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	03/19/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 COI signed	03/15/2023	07/05/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	05/05/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 2 critique submitted	05/11/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	N/A	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	05/01/2023	07/05/2023
	Primary Reviewer 4 critique submitted	05/16/2023	07/05/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	Martin Mahoney	07/05/2023
	COI recused from participation	YES	07/05/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	07/05/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	05/24/2023	07/05/2023
	Peer Review Meeting end date	05/25/2023	07/05/2023
	Post review statements signed	05/25/2023	07/05/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	05/30/2023	07/05/2023
	Score report delivered to CPO	06/02/2023	07/05/2023
	Recommended for PRC review	YES	07/05/2023
Final PRC Recommendation	COI indicated by PRC member	NONE	07/05/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/05/2023
	PRC Meeting	06/19/2023	07/05/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	06/23/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/05/2023
	PRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	06/28/2023	07/24/2023
PIC Review	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RP230426**  
**Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to the *Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received four applications in response to this RFA. This application was assigned to the Cancer Prevention Research (Connect) Panel for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.

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

- The applicable Request for Applications (RFA) for this grant cycle
- An overview of the conflict of interest process, including any conflict of interest waivers granted


*There was an investigation into a potential undisclosed conflict of interest during the panel’s review of this grant mechanism; however, the investigation resulted in a finding of no such conflict of interest.*



- The third-party observer report(s) documenting that CPRIT's grant review processes were followed by the review panel evaluating the applications in this grant cycle
- A de-identified list of the overall evaluation scores for applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA for this grant cycle
- A final overall evaluation score and rank order score submitted by the SRPP committees for the grant applications recommended by the PIC in this cycle


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

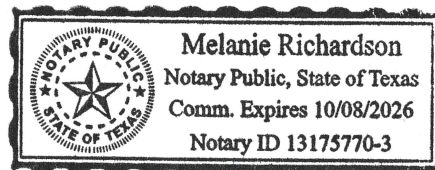
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:25 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 2  
PROGRAM: Research  
MECHANISM: Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards  
APPLICATION ID: RP230426  
APPLICATION TITLE: Baylor Scott and White Health Texas Connect for Cancer Prevention Cohort  
APPLICANT NAME: Sanchez, Katherine  
ORGANIZATION: Baylor Research Institute  
PANEL NAME: 23.2 Texas CONNECT for Cancer Prevention Study Awards

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	01/17/2023	06/28/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	01/17/2023	06/28/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	01/25/2023	06/28/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	04/18/2023	06/28/2023
	Date application submitted	04/18/2023	06/29/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	06/29/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	06/29/2023
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	N/A	06/29/2023
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	N/A	06/29/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	06/29/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	06/29/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/05/2023	06/29/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	04/26/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/30/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/29/2023
Preliminary Evaluation	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 COI signed	04/28/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	N/A	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	N/A	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	N/A	06/29/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 critique submitted	N/A	06/29/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	N/A	06/29/2023
	Preliminary Evaluation score summary sent to Chair	N/A	06/29/2023
	Recommended for full review	N/A	06/29/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Applicant notified of outcome	N/A	06/29/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/05/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/30/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 COI signed	04/28/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	06/13/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	06/11/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	06/10/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 critique submitted	06/09/2023	06/29/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	06/29/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/29/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	06/29/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	06/13/2023	06/29/2023
	Post review statements signed	06/13/2023	06/29/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	06/19/2023	06/29/2023
	Score report delivered to CSO	06/28/2023	06/29/2023
	Recommended for SRC review	YES	06/29/2023
Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	SRC Meeting	07/26/2023	07/27/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	07/28/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/26/2023	07/26/2023
PIC Review	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RP230431**  
**TREC: Pilot Study Award**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to the *TREC: Pilot Study Award* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 14 applications in response to this RFA. This application was assigned to the Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer (TREC) Panel for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.


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

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



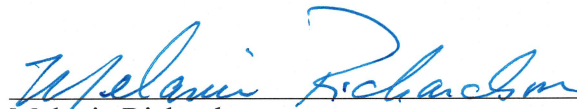
In addition to the CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information that is applicable to all applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA and recommended for grant awards this cycle, I have also reviewed the application's grant pedigree. The grant pedigree for the application listed above has been attached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

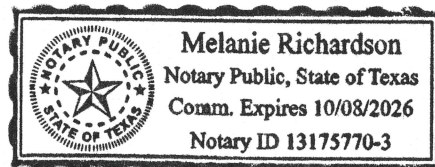
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 11:36 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 2  
PROGRAM: Research  
MECHANISM: TREC Pilot Study Award  
APPLICATION ID: RP230431  
APPLICATION TITLE: Unraveling the Therapeutic Potential of Osr1 Overexpression in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Management  
APPLICANT NAME: Xie, Linglin  
ORGANIZATION: Texas A&M University  
PANEL NAME: 23.2 TREC

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	01/15/2023	06/28/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	01/17/2023	06/28/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	01/25/2023	06/28/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	04/18/2023	06/28/2023
	Date application submitted	04/18/2023	06/30/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	06/30/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	06/30/2023
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	N/A	06/30/2023
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	N/A	06/30/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	06/30/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	06/30/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/05/2023	06/30/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	04/26/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
Preliminary Evaluation	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	N/A	06/30/2023
	Preliminary Evaluation score summary sent to Chair	N/A	06/30/2023
	Recommended for full review	N/A	06/30/2023
	Applicant notified of outcome	N/A	06/30/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/05/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	06/07/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	05/25/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	06/07/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 critique submitted	05/22/2023	06/30/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	06/30/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/30/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	06/30/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	06/16/2023	06/30/2023
	Post review statements signed	06/19/2023	06/29/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	06/23/2023	07/11/2023
	Score report delivered to CSO	06/28/2023	06/29/2023
	Recommended for SRC review	YES	06/30/2023
Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	07/17/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/17/2023
	SRC Meeting	07/13/2023	07/17/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	07/17/2023	07/21/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/17/2023
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
PIC Review	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/04/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/04/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/04/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/04/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	





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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RP230443**  
**TREC: Pilot Study Award**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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


My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to the *TREC: Pilot Study Award* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 14 applications in response to this RFA. This application was assigned to the Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer (TREC) Panel for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.

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

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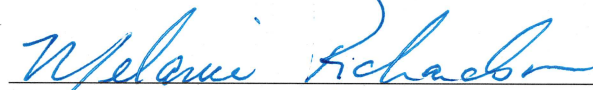
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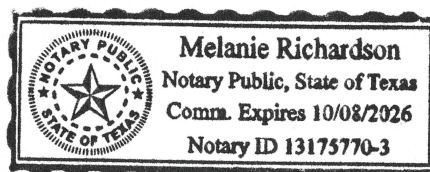
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CEO, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

State of Texas  
County of Travis

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the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 11:37 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 2  
PROGRAM: Research  
MECHANISM: TREC Pilot Study Award  
APPLICATION ID: RP230443  
APPLICATION TITLE: “Click” Assembled Colloidal Molecules with Tunable Plasmon Bands as Novel Agents for Photothermal Tumor Therapy  
APPLICANT NAME: Liang, Hongjun  
ORGANIZATION: Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center  
PANEL NAME: 23.2 TREC

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	01/15/2023	06/28/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	01/17/2023	06/28/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	01/25/2023	06/28/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	04/18/2023	06/28/2023
	Date application submitted	04/14/2023	06/30/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	06/30/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	06/30/2023
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	N/A	06/30/2023
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	N/A	06/30/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	06/30/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	06/30/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/05/2023	06/30/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	04/26/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	05/03/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
Preliminary Evaluation	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	N/A	06/30/2023
	Preliminary Evaluation score summary sent to Chair	N/A	06/30/2023
	Recommended for full review	N/A	06/30/2023
	Applicant notified of outcome	N/A	06/30/2023
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	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	05/03/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	06/07/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	05/31/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	06/08/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 critique submitted	05/22/2023	06/30/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	06/30/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/30/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	06/30/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	06/16/2023	06/30/2023
	Post review statements signed	06/19/2023	06/29/2023
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	Score report delivered to CSO	06/28/2023	06/29/2023
	Recommended for SRC review	YES	06/30/2023
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	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/17/2023
	SRC Meeting	07/13/2023	07/17/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	07/17/2023	07/21/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/17/2023
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
PIC Review	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/04/2023
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Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	





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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RP230444**  
**TREC: Pilot Study Award**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

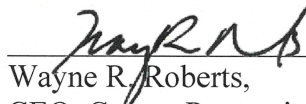
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- A final overall evaluation score and rank order score submitted by the SRPP committees for the grant applications recommended by the PIC in this cycle


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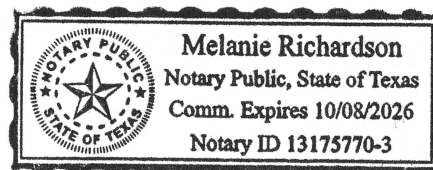
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Wayne R. Roberts,  
CEO, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 11:37 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 2  
PROGRAM: Research  
MECHANISM: TREC Pilot Study Award  
APPLICATION ID: RP230444  
APPLICATION TITLE: A Role for PSMD2, PSMD7, and PSMD9 in Drug Resistance of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)  
APPLICANT NAME: Eiring, Anna M  
ORGANIZATION: Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso  
PANEL NAME: 23.2 TREC

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	01/15/2023	06/28/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	01/17/2023	06/28/2023
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	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
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	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	06/11/2023	06/30/2023
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	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 critique submitted	06/07/2023	06/30/2023
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	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	





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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RP230445**  
**TREC: Major Instrumentation Award**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to the *TREC: Major Instrumentation Award* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received five applications in response to this RFA. This application was assigned to the Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer (TREC) Panel for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.

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


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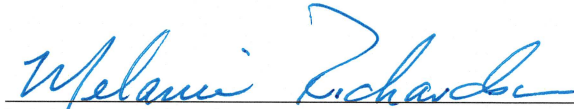
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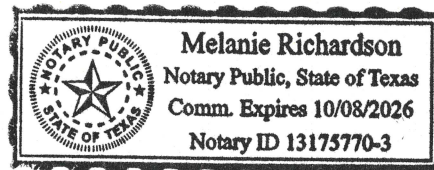
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County of Travis

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Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas





CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:25 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 2  
PROGRAM: Research  
MECHANISM: TREC Major Instrumentation Award  
APPLICATION ID: RP230445  
APPLICATION TITLE: Core Imaging Instrumentation for Cancer Studies in Rodent Models: Acquisition of an IVIS Spectrum/Quantum GX2 optical/microCT Small Animal Imaging System  
APPLICANT NAME: Becker, Christopher  
ORGANIZATION: Baylor University  
PANEL NAME: 23.2 TREC

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	01/15/2023	06/28/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	01/17/2023	06/28/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	01/25/2023	06/28/2023
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	Method of submission	CARS	06/30/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	06/30/2023
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	N/A	06/30/2023
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	N/A	06/30/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	06/30/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	06/30/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/05/2023	06/30/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	04/26/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/28/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/30/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
Preliminary Evaluation	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	N/A	06/30/2023
	Preliminary Evaluation score summary sent to Chair	N/A	06/30/2023
	Recommended for full review	N/A	06/30/2023
	Applicant notified of outcome	N/A	06/30/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/05/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/28/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/30/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	06/08/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	06/05/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	06/08/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 critique submitted	05/22/2023	06/30/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	06/30/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/30/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	06/30/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	06/16/2023	06/30/2023
	Post review statements signed	06/19/2023	06/29/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	06/23/2023	07/11/2023
	Score report delivered to CSO	06/28/2023	06/29/2023
	Recommended for SRC review	YES	06/30/2023
Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	07/17/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/17/2023
	SRC Meeting	07/13/2023	07/17/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	07/17/2023	07/21/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/17/2023
PIC Review	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RP230446**  
**TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to the *TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received three applications in response to this RFA. This application was assigned to the Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer (TREC) Panel for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.

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


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

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

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

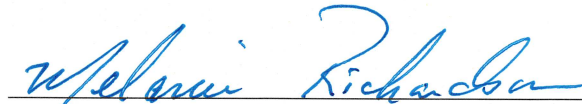
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

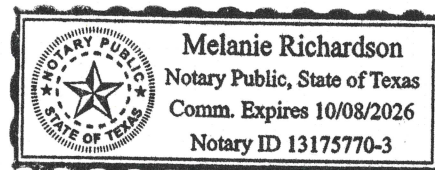
This statement is true."

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas





CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 11:37 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 2  
PROGRAM: Research  
MECHANISM: TREC Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award  
APPLICATION ID: RP230446  
APPLICATION TITLE: UTEP Postdoctoral Career Transition Program in Cancer Research  
APPLICANT NAME: Lu, Weiqin  
ORGANIZATION: The University of Texas at El Paso  
PANEL NAME: 23.2 TREC

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	01/15/2023	06/28/2023
	RFA Approved by CSO (revised)	03/30/2023	06/28/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	01/17/2023	06/28/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	01/25/2023	06/28/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	04/18/2023	06/28/2023
	Date application submitted	04/17/2023	06/30/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	06/30/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	06/30/2023
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	N/A	06/30/2023
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	N/A	06/30/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	06/30/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	06/30/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/05/2023	06/30/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	04/26/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/30/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
Preliminary Evaluation	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
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	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	N/A	06/30/2023
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	Recommended for full review	N/A	06/30/2023
	Applicant notified of outcome	N/A	06/30/2023
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	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/30/2023
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	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	06/07/2023	06/30/2023
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	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	06/30/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/30/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	06/30/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	06/16/2023	06/30/2023
	Post review statements signed	06/19/2023	06/29/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	06/23/2023	07/11/2023
	Score report delivered to CSO	06/28/2023	06/29/2023
	Recommended for SRC review	YES	06/30/2023
Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	07/17/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/17/2023
	SRC Meeting	07/13/2023	07/17/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	07/17/2023	07/21/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/17/2023
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
PIC Review	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/04/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/04/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/04/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/04/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RP230447**  
**TREC: Major Instrumentation Award**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to the *TREC: Major Instrumentation Award* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received five applications in response to this RFA. This application was assigned to the Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer (TREC) Panel for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.


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

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

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

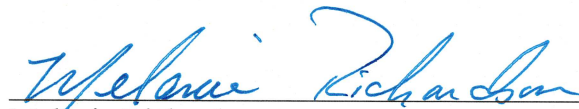
In addition to the CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information that is applicable to all applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA and recommended for grant awards this cycle, I have also reviewed the application's grant pedigree. The grant pedigree for the application listed above has been attached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

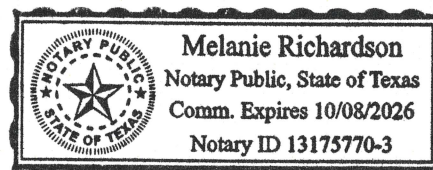
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas





CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:25 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 2  
PROGRAM: Research  
MECHANISM: TREC Major Instrumentation Award  
APPLICATION ID: RP230447  
APPLICATION TITLE: Fluorescence-Activated Cell Sorting: FACSria Fusion  
APPLICANT NAME: Kang, Min H  
ORGANIZATION: Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center  
PANEL NAME: 23.2 TREC

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	01/15/2023	06/28/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	01/17/2023	06/28/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	01/25/2023	06/28/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	04/18/2023	06/28/2023
	Date application submitted	04/14/2023	06/30/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	06/30/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	06/30/2023
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	N/A	06/30/2023
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	N/A	06/30/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	06/30/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	06/30/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/05/2023	06/30/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	04/26/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
Preliminary Evaluation	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	N/A	06/30/2023
	Preliminary Evaluation score summary sent to Chair	N/A	06/30/2023
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	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	06/05/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	06/11/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	06/07/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 critique submitted	05/22/2023	06/30/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	06/30/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/30/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	06/30/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	06/16/2023	06/30/2023
	Post review statements signed	06/19/2023	06/29/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	06/23/2023	07/11/2023
	Score report delivered to CSO	06/28/2023	06/29/2023
	Recommended for SRC review	YES	06/30/2023
Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	07/17/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/17/2023
	SRC Meeting	07/13/2023	07/17/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	07/17/2023	07/21/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/17/2023
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
PIC Review	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RP230449**  
**TREC: Major Instrumentation Award**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

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- The applicable Request for Applications (RFA) for this grant cycle
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- A de-identified list of the overall evaluation scores for applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA for this grant cycle



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

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

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


This statement is true."

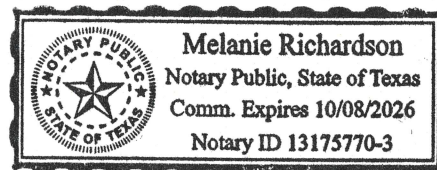
  
Wayne R. Roberts,

CEO, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:25 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 2  
PROGRAM: Research  
MECHANISM: TREC Major Instrumentation Award  
APPLICATION ID: RP230449  
APPLICATION TITLE: The acquisition of an instrument suite to set up a high-throughput screening core at Texas A&M University  
APPLICANT NAME: Liu, Wenshe R  
ORGANIZATION: Texas A&M University  
PANEL NAME: 23.2 TREC

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	01/15/2023	06/28/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	01/17/2023	06/28/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	01/25/2023	06/28/2023
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	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/30/2023
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Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	07/17/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/17/2023
	SRC Meeting	07/13/2023	07/17/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	07/17/2023	07/21/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/17/2023
PIC Review	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RP230451**  
**TREC: Pilot Study Award**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to the *TREC: Pilot Study Award* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 14 applications in response to this RFA. This application was assigned to the Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer (TREC) Panel for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.


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

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



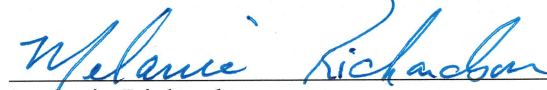
In addition to the CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information that is applicable to all applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA and recommended for grant awards this cycle, I have also reviewed the application's grant pedigree. The grant pedigree for the application listed above has been attached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

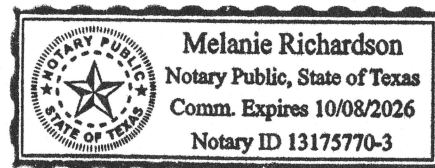
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:25 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 2  
PROGRAM: Research  
MECHANISM: TREC Pilot Study Award  
APPLICATION ID: RP230451  
APPLICATION TITLE: The Role of Renal Lipotoxicity in Carcinogenesis  
APPLICANT NAME: Bobulescu, Ion A  
ORGANIZATION: Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center  
PANEL NAME: 23.2 TREC

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	01/15/2023	06/28/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	01/17/2023	06/28/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	01/25/2023	06/28/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	04/18/2023	06/28/2023
	Date application submitted	04/14/2023	06/30/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	06/30/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	06/30/2023
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	N/A	06/30/2023
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	N/A	06/30/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	06/30/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	06/30/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/05/2023	06/30/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	04/26/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
Preliminary Evaluation	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	N/A	06/30/2023
	Preliminary Evaluation score summary sent to Chair	N/A	06/30/2023
	Recommended for full review	N/A	06/30/2023
	Applicant notified of outcome	N/A	06/30/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/05/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	05/25/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	06/11/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	05/30/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 critique submitted	05/22/2023	06/30/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	06/30/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/30/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	06/30/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	06/16/2023	06/30/2023
	Post review statements signed	06/19/2023	06/29/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	06/23/2023	07/11/2023
	Score report delivered to CSO	06/28/2023	06/29/2023
	Recommended for SRC review	YES	06/30/2023
Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	07/17/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/17/2023
	SRC Meeting	07/13/2023	07/17/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	07/17/2023	07/21/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/17/2023
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
PIC Review	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	



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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RP230454**  
**TREC: Pilot Study Award**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to the *TREC: Pilot Study Award* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 14 applications in response to this RFA. This application was assigned to the Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer (TREC) Panel for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.

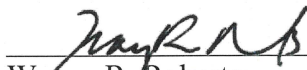
CPRIT staff and CPRIT’s third-party grants management vendor have recorded information and prepared documents during the course of their employment that are related to CPRIT’s grant review process described by Health & Safety Code Chapter 102. I have reviewed the information prepared by CPRIT staff and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

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



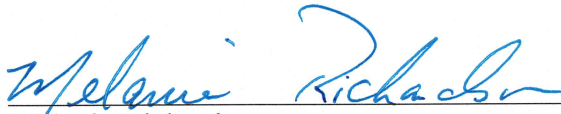
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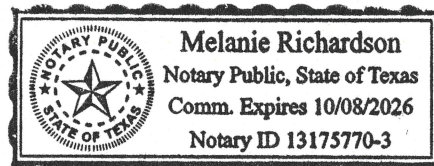
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:25 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 2  
PROGRAM: Research  
MECHANISM: TREC Pilot Study Award  
APPLICATION ID: RP230454  
APPLICATION TITLE: Role of transcription factor UBTF in pancreatic cancer  
APPLICANT NAME: Hafeez, Bilal  
ORGANIZATION: The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
PANEL NAME: 23.2 TREC

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	01/15/2023	06/28/2023
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	01/17/2023	06/28/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) opened	01/25/2023	06/28/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) closed	04/18/2023	06/28/2023
	Date application submitted	04/18/2023	06/30/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	06/30/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	06/30/2023
	Request for extension to submit application after CARS closed	N/A	06/30/2023
	Request for extension for late application submission accepted	N/A	06/30/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	06/30/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	06/30/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/05/2023	06/30/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	04/26/2023	06/29/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	05/03/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
Preliminary Evaluation	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 critique submitted	N/A	06/30/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	N/A	06/30/2023
	Preliminary Evaluation score summary sent to Chair	N/A	06/30/2023
	Recommended for full review	N/A	06/30/2023
	Applicant notified of outcome	N/A	06/30/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/05/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 COI signed	05/03/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	06/07/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	05/25/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary Reviewer 3 critique submitted	06/08/2023	06/30/2023
	Primary (Advocate) Reviewer 4 critique submitted	05/22/2023	06/30/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	06/30/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/30/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	06/30/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	06/16/2023	06/30/2023
	Post review statements signed	06/19/2023	06/29/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	06/23/2023	07/11/2023
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	Recommended for SRC review	YES	06/30/2023
Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	07/17/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/17/2023
	SRC Meeting	07/13/2023	07/17/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	07/17/2023	07/21/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/17/2023
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
PIC Review	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	





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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RR230040**  
**Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members**  
**Nomination of Dr. Graham S. Erwin**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

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- A de-identified list of the overall evaluation scores for applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA for this grant cycle

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


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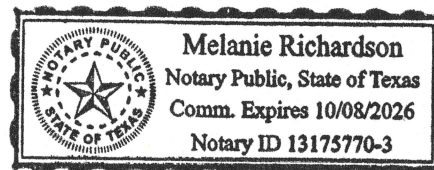
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



# CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:26 AM CT

**FY:** 2023  
**CYCLE:** 1  
**PROGRAM:** Recruitment  
**MECHANISM:** Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members  
**APPLICATION ID:** RR230040  
**APPLICATION TITLE:** First-Time, Tenure-Track: Dr. Graham Erwin  
**APPLICANT NAME:** Erwin, Graham  
**ORGANIZATION:** Baylor College of Medicine  
**PANEL NAME:** Recruitment FY23\_Cycle 5

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	02/22/2022	06/06/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	04/20/2023	06/06/2023
	Date application submitted	04/19/2023	06/06/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	06/06/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	06/06/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	04/28/2023	06/06/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	06/06/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/02/2023	06/06/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	N/A	06/06/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/25/2023	06/06/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/26/2023	06/06/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	05/12/2023	06/06/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	05/09/2023	06/06/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	06/06/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/06/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	06/06/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	05/18/2023	06/06/2023
	Post review statements signed	05/18/2023	06/06/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	05/22/2023	06/06/2023
	Score report delivered to CSO	05/23/2023	06/06/2023
	Recommended for SRC review	YES	06/06/2023
Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	06/06/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/06/2023
	SRC Meeting	05/18/2023	06/06/2023

CPRIT retains the identity of the attesting party.

	Third Party Observer Report	05/22/2023	06/06/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	06/06/2023
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
PIC Review	Candidate not accepted asst. prof. tenure track position prior to SRC date	YES	08/02/2023
	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	NO	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	





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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RR230042**  
**Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members**  
**Nomination of Dr. Michael Robertson**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

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- A de-identified list of the overall evaluation scores for applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA for this grant cycle

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


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

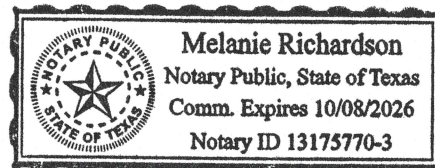
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



# CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:26 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 1  
PROGRAM: Recruitment  
MECHANISM: Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members  
APPLICATION ID: RR230042  
APPLICATION TITLE: First-Time Tenure-Track: Dr. Michael Robertson  
APPLICANT NAME: Robertson, Michael  
ORGANIZATION: Baylor College of Medicine  
PANEL NAME: Recruitment FY23\_Cycle 5

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	02/22/2022	06/06/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	04/20/2023	06/06/2023
	Date application submitted	04/19/2023	06/06/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	06/06/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	06/06/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	06/06/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	06/06/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/02/2023	06/06/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	N/A	06/06/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/25/2023	06/06/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/25/2023	06/06/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	05/15/2023	06/06/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	05/12/2023	06/06/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	06/06/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/06/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	06/06/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	05/18/2023	06/06/2023
	Post review statements signed	05/18/2023	06/06/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	05/22/2023	06/06/2023
	Score report delivered to CSO	05/23/2023	06/06/2023
	Recommended for SRC review	YES	06/06/2023
Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	06/06/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/06/2023
	SRC Meeting	05/18/2023	06/06/2023

CPRIT retains the identity of the attesting party.

	Third Party Observer Report	05/22/2023	06/06/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	06/06/2023
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
PIC Review	Candidate not accepted asst. prof. tenure track position prior to SRC date	YES	08/02/2023
	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	NO	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	





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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RR230050**  
**Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members**  
**Nomination of Dr. Zunlong Ke**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to *Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 17 applications in response to the cycle 23.5 and 23.6 RFA. This application was assigned to the Scientific Review Council (SRC) for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.

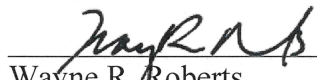
CPRIT staff and CPRIT’s third-party grants management vendor have recorded information and prepared documents during the course of their employment that are related to CPRIT’s grant review process described by Health & Safety Code Chapter 102. I have reviewed the information prepared by CPRIT staff and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

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

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

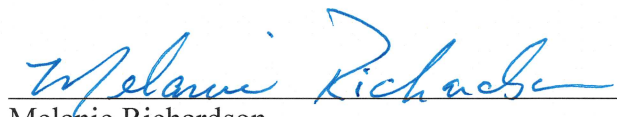
In addition to the CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information that is applicable to all applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA and recommended for grant awards this cycle, I have also reviewed the application's grant pedigree. The grant pedigree for the application listed above has been attached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

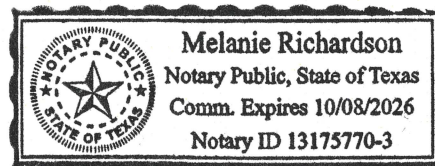
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



# CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:26 AM CT

**FY:** 2023  
**CYCLE:** 1  
**PROGRAM:** Recruitment  
**MECHANISM:** Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members  
**APPLICATION ID:** RR230050  
**APPLICATION TITLE:** Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Zunlong Ke  
**APPLICANT NAME:** Ke, Zunlong  
**ORGANIZATION:** The University of Texas at Austin  
**PANEL NAME:** Recruitment FY23\_Cycle 5

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	02/22/2022	06/06/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	04/20/2023	06/06/2023
	Date application submitted	04/19/2023	06/06/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	06/06/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	06/06/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	06/06/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	06/06/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/02/2023	06/06/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	N/A	06/06/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/25/2023	06/06/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	05/15/2023	06/06/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	05/16/2023	06/06/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	05/15/2023	06/06/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	06/06/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/06/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	06/06/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	05/18/2023	06/06/2023
	Post review statements signed	05/18/2023	06/06/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	05/22/2023	06/06/2023
	Score report delivered to CSO	05/23/2023	06/06/2023
	Recommended for SRC review	YES	06/06/2023
Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	06/06/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/06/2023
	SRC Meeting	05/18/2023	06/06/2023

CPRIT retains the identity of the attesting party.

	Third Party Observer Report	05/22/2023	06/06/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	06/06/2023
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
PIC Review	Candidate not accepted asst. prof. tenure track position prior to SRC date	YES	08/02/2023
	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	NO	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	





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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RR230052**  
**Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members**  
**Nomination of Varun Venkataramani, M.D., Ph.D.**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to *Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 17 applications in response to the cycle 23.5 and 23.6 RFA. This application was assigned to the Scientific Review Council (SRC) for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.

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


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

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

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

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

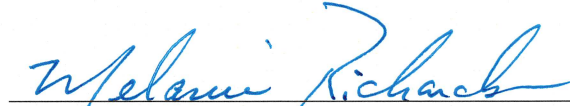
This statement is true."

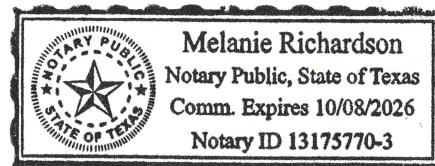
  
Wayne R. Roberts,

CEO, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



# CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:26 AM CT

**FY:** 2023  
**CYCLE:** 1  
**PROGRAM:** Recruitment  
**MECHANISM:** Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members  
**APPLICATION ID:** RR230052  
**APPLICATION TITLE:** First-Time, Tenure-Track: Dr. Varun Venkataramani  
**APPLICANT NAME:** Venkataramani, Varun  
**ORGANIZATION:** Baylor College of Medicine  
**PANEL NAME:** Recruitment FY23\_Cycle 5

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	02/22/2022	06/06/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	04/20/2023	06/06/2023
	Date application submitted	04/20/2023	06/06/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	06/06/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	06/06/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	06/06/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	06/06/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/02/2023	06/06/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	N/A	06/06/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/25/2023	06/06/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/27/2023	06/06/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	05/15/2023	06/06/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	05/16/2023	06/06/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	06/06/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/06/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	06/06/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	05/18/2023	06/06/2023
	Post review statements signed	05/18/2023	06/06/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	05/22/2023	06/06/2023
	Score report delivered to CSO	05/23/2023	06/06/2023
	Recommended for SRC review	YES	06/06/2023
Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	06/06/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/06/2023
	SRC Meeting	05/18/2023	06/06/2023

CPRIT retains the identity of the attesting party.

	Third Party Observer Report	05/22/2023	06/06/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	06/06/2023
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
PIC Review	Candidate not accepted asst. prof. tenure track position prior to SRC date	YES	08/02/2023
	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	NO	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	





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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RR230053**  
**Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members**  
**Nomination of Chen Cao, Ph.D.**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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- A de-identified list of the overall evaluation scores for applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA for this grant cycle

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


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

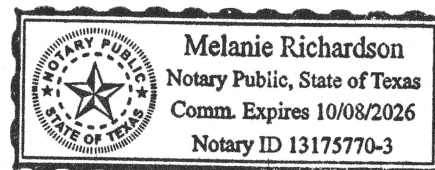
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CEO, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

State of Texas  
County of Travis

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the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



# CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:26 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 1  
PROGRAM: Recruitment  
MECHANISM: Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members  
APPLICATION ID: RR230053  
APPLICATION TITLE: Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Chen Cao  
APPLICANT NAME: Cao, Chen  
ORGANIZATION: The University of Texas at Dallas  
PANEL NAME: Recruitment FY23\_Cycle 6

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	04/21/2022	07/18/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	06/20/2023	07/18/2023
	Date application submitted	06/15/2023	07/18/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	07/18/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	07/18/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	06/28/2023	07/18/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	07/18/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	07/03/2023	07/18/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	N/A	07/18/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	07/03/2023	07/18/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	06/25/2023	07/18/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	07/12/2023	07/18/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	07/12/2023	07/18/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	07/18/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/18/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	07/18/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	07/13/2023	07/18/2023
	Post review statements signed	07/27/2023	07/28/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	07/13/2023	07/25/2023
	Score report delivered to CSO	07/18/2023	07/18/2023
	Recommended for SRC review	YES	07/18/2023
Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	07/18/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/18/2023
	SRC Meeting	07/13/2023	07/18/2023

CPRIT retains the identity of the attesting party.

	Third Party Observer Report	07/13/2023	07/25/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/18/2023
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
PIC Review	Candidate not accepted asst. prof. tenure track position prior to SRC date	YES	08/02/2023
	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	NO	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	





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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RR230054**  
**Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members**  
**Nomination of Dr. Xiaofeng Qi**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

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- A de-identified list of the overall evaluation scores for applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA for this grant cycle

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

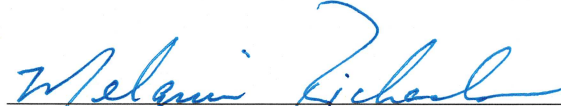
In addition to the CEO Affidavit-Supporting Information that is applicable to all applications submitted pursuant to the applicable RFA and recommended for grant awards this cycle, I have also reviewed the application's grant pedigree. The grant pedigree for the application listed above has been attached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

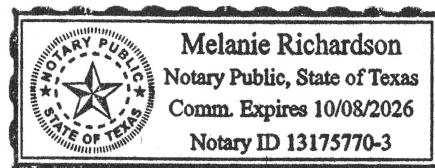
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



# CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:26 AM CT

**FY:** 2023  
**CYCLE:** 1  
**PROGRAM:** Recruitment  
**MECHANISM:** Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members  
**APPLICATION ID:** RR230054  
**APPLICATION TITLE:** Nomination of Xiaofeng Qi, Ph.D. for a CPRIT recruitment of a First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Member Award  
**APPLICANT NAME:** Qi, Xiaofeng  
**ORGANIZATION:** The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
**PANEL NAME:** Recruitment FY23\_Cycle 5

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	02/22/2022	06/06/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	04/20/2023	06/06/2023
	Date application submitted	04/20/2023	06/06/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	06/06/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	06/06/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	06/06/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	06/06/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	05/02/2023	06/06/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	N/A	06/06/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	04/25/2023	06/06/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	04/25/2023	06/06/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	05/12/2023	06/06/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	05/12/2023	06/06/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	06/06/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/06/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	06/06/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	05/18/2023	06/06/2023
	Post review statements signed	05/18/2023	06/06/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	05/22/2023	06/06/2023
	Score report delivered to CSO	05/23/2023	06/06/2023
	Recommended for SRC review	YES	06/06/2023
Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	06/06/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	06/06/2023
	SRC Meeting	05/18/2023	06/06/2023

CPRIT retains the identity of the attesting party.

	Third Party Observer Report	05/22/2023	06/06/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	06/06/2023
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
PIC Review	Candidate not accepted asst. prof. tenure track position prior to SRC date	YES	08/02/2023
	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	NO	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	





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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RR230066**  
**Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members**  
**Nomination of Dr. Qian Yin**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to *Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 17 applications in response to the cycle 23.5 and 23.6 RFA. This application was assigned to the Scientific Review Council (SRC) for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.


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

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

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


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

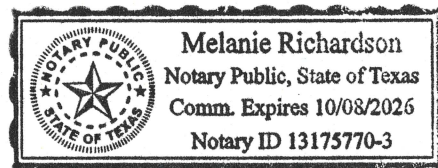
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Wayne R. Roberts,  
CEO, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



# CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:26 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 1  
PROGRAM: Recruitment  
MECHANISM: Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members  
APPLICATION ID: RR230066  
APPLICATION TITLE: Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member - Dr. Qian Yin  
APPLICANT NAME: Yin, Qian  
ORGANIZATION: The University of Texas at Austin  
PANEL NAME: Recruitment FY23\_Cycle 6

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	04/21/2022	07/18/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	06/20/2023	07/18/2023
	Date application submitted	06/20/2023	07/18/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	07/18/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	07/18/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	06/28/2023	07/18/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	07/18/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	07/03/2023	07/18/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	N/A	07/18/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	06/26/2023	07/18/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	07/03/2023	07/18/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	07/12/2023	07/18/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	07/12/2023	07/18/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	Martin Pomper	07/18/2023
	COI recused from participation	YES	07/18/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	07/18/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	07/13/2023	07/18/2023
	Post review statements signed	07/27/2023	07/28/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	07/13/2023	07/25/2023
	Score report delivered to CSO	07/18/2023	07/18/2023
	Recommended for SRC review	YES	07/18/2023
Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	Martin Pomper	07/18/2023
	COI recused from participation	YES	07/18/2023
	SRC Meeting	07/13/2023	07/18/2023

CPRIT retains the identity of the attesting party.

	Third Party Observer Report	07/13/2023	07/25/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/18/2023
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
PIC Review	Candidate not accepted asst. prof. tenure track position prior to SRC date	YES	08/02/2023
	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	NO	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	





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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RR230072**  
**Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members**  
**Nomination of Dr. Simon Eschweiler**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to *Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received 17 applications in response to the cycle 23.5 and 23.6 RFA. This application was assigned to the Scientific Review Council (SRC) for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.

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

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

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

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

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


This statement is true."

  
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Wayne R. Roberts,

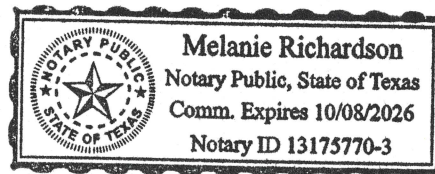
CEO, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Richardson

Notary Public, State of Texas



# CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:26 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 1  
PROGRAM: Recruitment  
MECHANISM: Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members  
APPLICATION ID: RR230072  
APPLICATION TITLE: Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members - Simon Eschweiler  
APPLICANT NAME: Eschweiler, Simon  
ORGANIZATION: The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
PANEL NAME: Recruitment FY23\_Cycle 6

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	04/21/2022	07/18/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	06/20/2023	07/18/2023
	Date application submitted	06/16/2023	07/18/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	07/18/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	07/18/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	N/A	07/18/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	07/18/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	07/03/2023	07/18/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	N/A	07/18/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	06/24/2023	07/18/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	06/26/2023	07/18/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	07/09/2023	07/18/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	07/12/2023	07/18/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	07/18/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/18/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	07/18/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	07/13/2023	07/18/2023
	Post review statements signed	07/27/2023	07/28/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	07/13/2023	07/25/2023
	Score report delivered to CSO	07/18/2023	07/18/2023
	Recommended for SRC review	YES	07/18/2023
Final SRC Recommendation	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	07/18/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/18/2023
	SRC Meeting	07/13/2023	07/18/2023

CPRIT retains the identity of the attesting party.

	Third Party Observer Report	07/13/2023	07/25/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/18/2023
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
PIC Review	Candidate not accepted asst. prof. tenure track position prior to SRC date	YES	08/02/2023
	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	NO	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	





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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RR230078**  
**Recruitment of Established Investigators**  
**Nomination of Dr. Simon Gayther**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

My affidavit addresses the grant review process for the application stated above that is recommended for a CPRIT grant award by the Program Integration Committee (PIC). This application was submitted pursuant to *Recruitment of Established Investigators* Request for Applications (RFA). CPRIT received five applications in response to the cycle 23.5 and 23.6 RFA. This application was assigned to the Scientific Review Council (SRC) for review. A preliminary evaluation process as described by 25 T.A.C. § 703.6(e)(1) was not used for applications in this cycle.

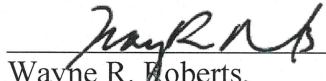
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- The applicable Request for Applications (RFA) for this grant cycle
- An overview of the conflict of interest process, including any conflict of interest waivers granted
- The third-party observer report(s) documenting that CPRIT’s grant review processes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

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


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

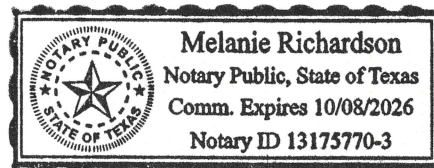
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



# CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:26 AM CT

FY: 2023  
CYCLE: 1  
PROGRAM: Recruitment  
MECHANISM: Recruitment of Established Investigators  
APPLICATION ID: RR230078  
APPLICATION TITLE: Recruitment of Established Investigator, Simon Gayther  
APPLICANT NAME: Gayther, Simon  
ORGANIZATION: The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  
PANEL NAME: Recruitment FY23\_Cycle 6

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	04/21/2022	07/18/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	06/20/2023	07/18/2023
	Date application submitted	06/20/2023	07/18/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	07/18/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	07/18/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	06/28/2023	07/18/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	07/18/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	07/03/2023	07/18/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	N/A	07/18/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	06/24/2023	07/18/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	06/26/2023	07/18/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	07/10/2023	07/18/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	07/12/2023	07/18/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	07/18/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/18/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	07/18/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	07/13/2023	07/18/2023
	Post review statements signed	07/27/2023	07/28/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	07/13/2023	07/25/2023
	Score report delivered to CSO	07/18/2023	07/18/2023
Final SRC Recommendation	Recommended for SRC review	YES	07/18/2023
	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	07/18/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/18/2023
	SRC Meeting	07/13/2023	07/18/2023

CPRIT retains the identity of the attesting party.

	Third Party Observer Report	07/13/2023	07/25/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/18/2023
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
PIC Review	Candidate not accepted position prior to SRC date	YES	08/02/2023
	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	NO	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	





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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**CEO AFFIDAVIT**  
**Application RR230081**  
**Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members**  
**Nomination of Dr. Annika Wylie**

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

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

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

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

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


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

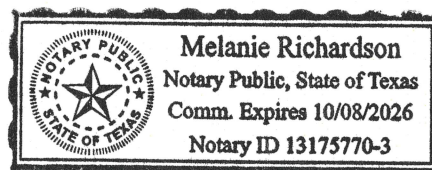
I personally reviewed the information for the grant application listed above and referenced herein. Based upon my review of the information and to the best of my knowledge, I swear or affirm that the peer review process for the grant application was consistent, in all material aspects, with the process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

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

State of Texas  
County of Travis

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on  
the 3 day of August, 2023,  
by WAYNE R. ROBERTS.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Richardson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



# CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

## APPLICATION PEDIGREE

Date and time exported: 08/04/2023 09:26 AM CT

**FY:** 2023  
**CYCLE:** 1  
**PROGRAM:** Recruitment  
**MECHANISM:** Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members  
**APPLICATION ID:** RR230081  
**APPLICATION TITLE:** Nomination of Annika Wylie for CPRIT Recruitment of First-Time Tenure-Track Faculty Member  
**APPLICANT NAME:** Wylie, Annika  
**ORGANIZATION:** Southern Methodist University  
**PANEL NAME:** Recruitment FY23\_Cycle 6

Category	Compliance Requirement	Information	Attestation Date
Pre-Receipt	RFA Approved by CSO	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	RFA published in Texas.gov eGrants	06/21/2022	10/07/2022
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle opened	04/21/2022	07/18/2023
	CPRIT Application Receipt Cycle closed	06/20/2023	07/18/2023
	Date application submitted	06/20/2023	07/18/2023
	Method of submission	CARS	07/18/2023
	Within receipt period	YES	07/18/2023
Receipt, Referral, and Assignment	Administrative review notification	06/28/2023	07/18/2023
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	NO	07/18/2023
	Assigned to primary reviewers	07/03/2023	07/18/2023
	Applicant notified of review panel assignment	N/A	07/18/2023
	Primary Reviewer 1 COI signed	06/23/2023	07/18/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 COI signed	06/26/2023	07/18/2023
Peer Review Meeting	Primary Reviewer 1 critique submitted	07/10/2023	07/18/2023
	Primary Reviewer 2 critique submitted	07/12/2023	07/18/2023
	COI indicated by non-primary reviewer	NONE	07/18/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/18/2023
	Discussed at Peer Review Meeting	YES	07/18/2023
	Peer Review Meeting	07/13/2023	07/18/2023
	Post review statements signed	07/27/2023	07/28/2023
	Third Party Observer Report	07/13/2023	07/25/2023
	Score report delivered to CSO	07/18/2023	07/18/2023
Final SRC Recommendation	Recommended for SRC review	YES	07/18/2023
	COI indicated by SRC member	NONE	07/18/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	07/18/2023
	SRC Meeting	07/13/2023	07/18/2023

CPRIT retains the identity of the attesting party.

	Third Party Observer Report	07/13/2023	07/25/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	07/18/2023
	SRC Chair Notification to PIC and OC	07/19/2023	07/21/2023
PIC Review	Candidate not accepted asst. prof. tenure track position prior to SRC date	YES	08/02/2023
	COI indicated by PIC member	None	08/02/2023
	COI recused from participation	N/A	08/02/2023
	PIC Review Meeting	08/02/2023	08/02/2023
	Recommended for grant award	YES	08/02/2023
Oversight Committee Approval	CEO Notification to Oversight Committee	N/A	
	COI Indicated by Oversight Committee member	N/A	
	COI Recused from participation	N/A	
	Donation(s) made to CPRIT / foundation	N/A	
	Presented to CPRIT Oversight Committee	N/A	
	Award approved by Oversight Committee	NO	
	Authority to advance funds requested	N/A	
	Advance authority approved by Oversight Committee	N/A	