



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Award ID:
CP130023

Project Title:
Novel Ceramide-modulating Therapeutics for Cancer Use

Award Mechanism:
Company Formation

Principal Investigator:
Love, Richard

Entity:
CerRx, Inc.

Lay Summary:

CerRx is developing drugs to trick cancer cells into overproducing toxic waxes, called ceramides. When the ceramides increase to a certain level, cancer cells die. CerRx has a pipeline of such drugs, including fenretinide and safingol, which work synergistically against many cancer types in laboratory testing. Human testing already shows fenretinide eliminates the cancers of some patients with relapsed lymphomas. CerRx needs funding to advance these drugs to market, specifically for the following clinical trials to be conducted in Texas-based consortia: 1) a larger trial of fenretinide in advanced Peripheral T-cell lymphoma, 2) a larger trial in advanced Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, and 3) a trial combining fenretinide and safingol in advanced solid tumors like colon and small cell lung cancer. If patient responses in these trials confirm the activity observed in early testing, CerRx will have sufficient data to justify expanding these trials, ideally including CTNet, for accelerated FDA product approval for T-cell lymphoma patients in need. If fenretinide + safingol is as tolerable and active as expected, CerRx drugs will lead a revolutionary new treatment approach based on ceramides that is likely effective against many types of cancer resistant to current therapies. These goals are consistent with the CPRIT mission to improve the lives of cancer patients in Texas by supporting innovative, potentially breakthrough therapies, and to create high-quality new jobs in Texas.