



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Award ID:
DP160012

Project Title:
Pelican Therapeutics

Award Mechanism:
New Company Product Development Award

Principal Investigator:
Hornblower, Josiah

Entity:
Pelican Therapeutics

Lay Summary:

Cancer immunotherapy, heralded as "Breakthrough of the Year" by the journal Science in 2013, has enormous potential to improve survival, and even cure, patients with many types of cancer. Pelican Therapeutics is developing PTX-25 as an immunotherapy agent for cancer patients. Studies indicate that PTX-25 is a best-in-class product due to specific activation of killer T cells, the strongest predictor of survival benefit in cancer immunotherapy.

Pelican is applying for a CPRIT New Company Product Development Award to transition to a bricks-and-mortar company in the State of Texas. Under the CPRIT award, Pelican will finalize development of PTX-25 and complete a three-part phase I clinical trial to examine the benefits that PTX-25 provides to patients with several types of cancer, including lymphoma, lung, prostate, pancreatic and ovarian cancer.

Pelican's growth in Texas will require hiring full-time employees to support manufacturing, regulatory filings, clinical development, and clinical trial execution. The expanded staff will manage critical development tasks, including (1) manufacturing PTX-25 in Texas-based facilities, (2) toxicity testing of PTX-25 using Texas-based contract research organizations, and (3) phase I clinical trial development primarily among patients in Texas-based hospitals and clinics. Pelican's development of PTX-25 will stimulate economic development in Texas, with the overall goal of improving outcomes for everyone with deadly cancers.