Our mission is to expedite discoveries and innovations across Texas to reduce the burden of cancer.
The University of Texas at Austin could be the epicenter for a game-changing cancer-detection technology—the MasSpec Pen—a device that can rapidly identify breast, thyroid, lung, ovarian and brain cancers with more than 96 percent accuracy.

A team of scientists led by Dr. Livia Schiavinato Eberlin is using CPRIT grants totaling $2.2 million to date to push the development of the MasSpec pen forward. The pen enables a controlled and automated delivery of a discrete water droplet to a tissue surface for efficient extraction of biomolecules, which are then delivered to a mass spectrometer for molecular analysis.

In 2016, Dr. Eberlin came to Austin to be an assistant professor in the chemistry department at the University of Texas and is a 2018 MacArthur Foundation “Genius” Awardee.
Building Bridges Between the Private Sector & Academic Institutions

2015
German immunotherapy company Immatics Biotechnologies, one of 32 CPRIT grant recipients, opened a US office in Houston after receiving a grant from CPRIT for $19.7 million. Immatics has matched the award with $40 million in private equity follow-on funding.

2017
Immatics US Inc. President and CEO Harpreet Singh struck up a strategic partnership with MD Anderson Cancer Center’s Division Head of Cancer Medicine Patrick Hwu, who is a recipient of over $4 million in CPRIT Academic Research grants, and CPRIT Scholar Cassian Yee, Director of Solid Tumor Cell Therapy, who was recruited to Texas from the Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Washington. Through this collaboration, Immatics US initiated cutting-edge immunotherapy clinical trials in 2017, working to further develop and potentially commercialize immunotherapy research at MD Anderson.

TODAY
The company has established a state-of-the-art research and development and GMP manufacturing facility at the Life Science Plaza in Houston that currently employs 50 full-time staff. This collaboration contributed to a new partnership with biopharmaceutical giant Amgen, yielding $30 million in additional funding.

Harpreet Singh, President and CEO, Immatics US Inc.
Creating Access to Breast and Cervical Cancer Screenings in West Texas

The Texas Panhandle is largely comprised of rural, medically underserved communities facing socio-economic and geographical barriers that limit access to health care. In 2010, more women on a percentile basis died from breast cancer in the Texas Panhandle than the rest of the state. The 26-county region also has the highest cervical cancer mortality rate in the state.

CPRIT awarded a prevention grant to Dr. Rakhshanda Rahman of the Amarillo Breast Center of Excellence at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center to deliver breast and cervical cancer services in the Texas Panhandle.

The program—Access to Breast and Cervical Care for West Texas—has increased the number of screening mammograms year-over-year by 26 percent since 2009, reducing the percentage of late stage breast cancers from 21.2% to 4.5% in the 26-county region. The annual number of Pap tests increased by 21% since 2013, with the number of HPV vaccinations increasing by an incredible 94%. These efforts are significantly reducing the emotional and economic burden of cancer in the Texas Panhandle.

“I was told about the breast cancer screening funded by the CPRIT project, available for women just like me with no job and no insurance. I was so thankful my cancer was spotted early. Thank you for allowing this true blessing to be available to the patients of the Texas Panhandle and surrounding areas.”

— Martha, patient of Dr. Rahman

Delivered 5 million prevention services to Texans from all 254 counties