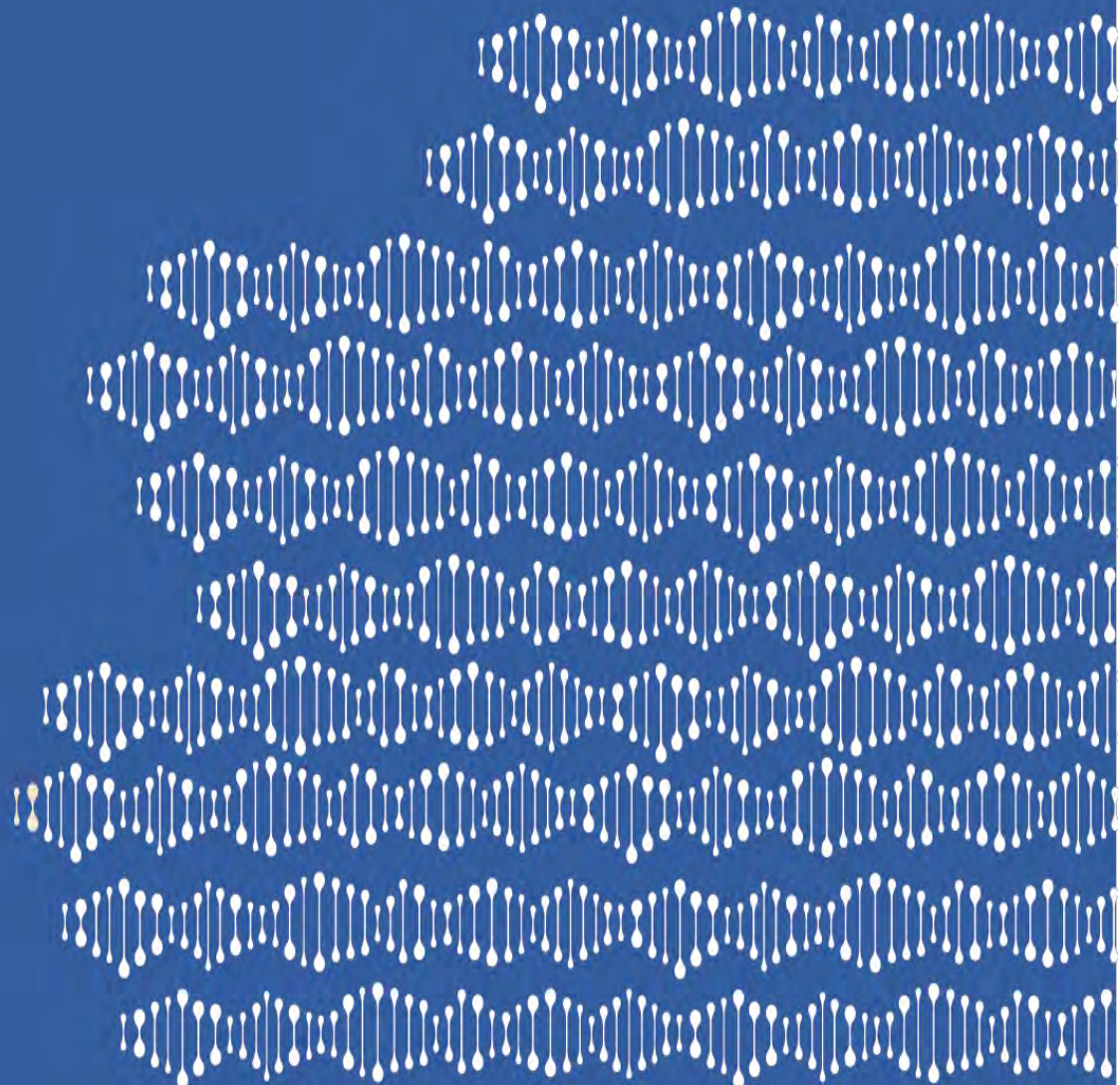




CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Oversight Committee Meeting

August 19, 2020





CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Oversight Committee Meeting Agenda

August 19, 2020
9:00 a.m.

This Meeting Will Be Conducted by Videoconference and Telephonically

In accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.016 Governor Abbott has suspended various provisions that require government officials and members of the public to be physically present at a specified meeting location.

Members of the public may connect to the meeting by going to the URL

<https://zoom.us/j/99814042621?pwd=TVFteXh4QTFKakxqWklnNzh1N1VaQT09>

The public may also join via telephone audio only using the following:

US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 669 900 9128 and entering the Webinar ID of 998 1404 2621 when prompted.

In the event technical issues occur, the agency will resume the meeting using a backup conference bridge line which will be available by calling 1-877-820-7831, participant passcode 4435537. A recording of the meeting will be available after the meeting on CPRIT's public website. CPRIT will provide an electronic copy of the agenda packet at <https://cprit.texas.gov/oversight-committee/meetings/> by August 17.

A member of the public wishing to comment during the meeting must contact Melanie Cleveland (mcleveland@cprit.texas.gov) at least 30 minutes prior to the posted meeting start time. When the Oversight Committee reaches the "Public Comment" agenda item, the Chair will recognize each person requesting to provide public comment by name. The Chair may limit the amount of time a member of the public may speak. CPRIT cannot guarantee that an individual contacting Ms. Cleveland less than 30 minutes before the posted start time may provide public comment.

The Oversight Committee may discuss or act on any item on this agenda, and as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551.001 et seq., may meet in closed session concerning any purpose permitted by the Act.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call/Excused Absences
3. Adoption of Minutes from the May 20 and July 31 meetings Tab 1
4. Public Comment
5. Grantee Presentation Tab 2
6. Chief Executive Officer Report Tab 3
7. Chief Compliance Officer Report and Compliance Certification of Grant Award Process Tab 4
8. Chief Scientific Officer Report Tab 5
 - Grant Award Recommendations
 - RP160015 Grant Award Supplement
9. Chief Prevention Officer Report Tab 6
 - Grant Award Recommendations

- PP170094 Grant Award Supplement
- 10. Chief Product Development Officer Report Tab 7
 - Grant Award Recommendations
- 11. Resolution Transferring Management Authority to the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company Tab 8
- 12. Internal Auditor Report Tab 9
 - Internal Audit Follow-Up Procedures Report over State Reporting
 - FY 2021 Internal Audit Plan
- 13. Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee Appointments Tab 10
- 14. FY 2021 Honoraria Policy Tab 11
- 15. Health & Safety Code Section 102.1062 Waivers Tab 12
- 16. Amendments to 25 T.A.C. Chapter 703 Tab 13
 - Proposed Amendments to Chapter 703 and Authorization to Publish in *Texas Register*
- 17. Chief Operating Officer Report Tab 14
- 18. Contract Approvals Tab 15
 - Economic Assessment of the Cost of Cancer in Texas (contract renewal)
 - Internal Auditor (contract renewal)
 - Strategic Communications (contract renewal)
 - Due Diligence Services (contract renewal)
 - Outside Legal Services (contract renewals)
 - Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company Interagency Contract
- 19. Communications Report Tab 16
- 20. Subcommittee Business Tab 17
 - Subcommittee assignments
- 21. Compliance Investigation Pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 102.2631
- 22. Consultation with General Counsel
- 23. Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items Tab 18
 - FY 2021 Meeting Dates
- 24. Adjourn



Summary Overview of the August 19, 2020 Oversight Committee Meeting

This summary provides an overview of major agenda items and background on key issues for Committee consideration at the August 19, 2020 Oversight Committee meeting.

Grantee Presentation

CPRIT has invited Dr. Rakhshanda Layeequr Rahman, founding executive director of the multi-campus Breast Center of Excellence established in 2010 at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, to present an update on the CPRIT-funded prevention project “Access to Breast and Cervical Care for West Texas (ABC²4WT.)”

CEO Report

Wayne Roberts will present the CEO’s report and address issues including grant funds available for fiscal year 2020, planning for CPRIT 2.0 and fiscal year 2023 program priorities, a COVID-19 update, and other topics as warranted.

Chief Compliance Officer Report

Vince Burgess will report on the status of required grantee reports, financial status report reviews, desk reviews and site visits, annual compliance attestation, single audit tracking, and training.

Chief Scientific Officer Report and Grant Award Recommendations

Dr. Willson will provide an update on the Academic Research Program and present the Program Integration Committee’s (PIC) 52 award recommendations for Individual Investigator Awards, Core Facility Support Awards, Early Clinical Investigator Awards, High-Impact/High-Risk Research Awards, Collaborative Action Program Research Awards, Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members, and Recruitment of Established Investigators totaling \$75,298,095. Dr. Willson will also present the supplemental funding recommendation for RP160015.

CPRIT will not publicly disclose information related to the Academic Research grant applications recommended for funding until the Oversight Committee meeting. The information is available to board members through a secure electronic portal.

Chief Prevention and Communications Officer Report and Grant Award Recommendations

Ms. Magid will update the Oversight Committee on the agency’s prevention activities and present the PIC’s eight award recommendations totaling \$14,063,333. The recommended awards include a Tobacco Control and Lung Cancer Screening award, and Expansion of Cancer Prevention Services to Rural and Medically Underserved Populations awards. Ms. Magid will also present the supplemental funding request for PP170094.

CPRIT will not publicly disclose information related to the Prevention grant applications recommended for funding until the Oversight Committee meeting. The information is available to board members through a secure electronic portal.

Chief Product Development Officer Report and Grant Award Recommendation

Dr. WalkerPeach will provide an update on the Product Development Program. She will also present the PIC's two award recommendations for Texas Company Product Development Research Awards totaling \$25,421,133.

CPRIT will not publicly disclose information related to the Product Development Research grant applications recommended for funding until the Oversight Committee meeting. The information is available to board members through a secure electronic portal.

Resolution Transferring Management Authority to the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company

CPRIT's statute authorizes the agency to transfer asset management to the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company (Trust Company). CPRIT staff recommends transferring the potential assets generated by a potential award contract to the Trust Company on or after August 19. The resolution approves the transfer and delegates authority to CPRIT's CEO to take all actions necessary to complete the transfer.

Internal Auditor Report

Weaver and Tidwell, CPRIT's internal auditor, will provide an internal audit update and present an internal audit report concerning follow-up procedures for state reporting. Weaver will also present the fiscal year 2021 audit plan.

Appointments - Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee

Mr. Roberts has provisionally appointed one new member to CPRIT's Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committees. CPRIT's statute requires the Oversight Committee to approve the CEO's recommendation before the appointment is final. CPRIT has provided the appointee's biographical sketch for the Oversight Committee's consideration.

FY 2021 Honoraria Policy

Mr. Roberts will present CPRIT's fiscal year 2021 honoraria policy for peer reviewers and discuss the proposed honoraria policy changes for each program.

Health & Safety Code § 102.1062 Waivers

Mr. Roberts will present the four conflict of interest waivers pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code 102.1062. The fiscal year 2021 waivers are for Don Brandy, Dr. John Hellerstedt, Dr. Jim Willson, and the Review Council Members. The Oversight Committee approved similar waivers for these four for fiscal year 2020.

Amendments to 25 TAC Chapter 703

Ms. Eckel will present a proposed change to Chapter 703 administrative rules for Oversight Committee consideration and approval to publish in the *Texas Register*.

Chief Operating Officer Report and Contract Approvals

Ms. McConnell will discuss the operating budget, performance measures, and debt issuance history for the third quarter of fiscal year 2020. She will also present recommendations for contract approvals for the following services: due diligence services, strategic communications, outside legal services, an economic assessment of the cost of cancer in Texas, internal audit, and the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company interagency contract.

Communications Update

Mr. Cutrone will update the Oversight Committee on CPRIT's communication efforts, including coverage of the agency and grantees in earned media, digital media, and social media.

Subcommittee Business

Due to the addition of two new Oversight Committee members since the Oversight Committee approved subcommittee assignments last August, the Oversight Committee will consider new subcommittee assignments for all members for fiscal year 2021.

FY 2021 Meeting Dates

Mr. Roberts will present the proposed dates for the fiscal year 2021 Oversight Committee quarterly meetings and the regular subcommittee meetings for Oversight Committee approval.



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2020**

NOTE: CPRIT conducted this meeting by videoconference in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.016. Governor Abbott suspended various provisions that require government officials and members of the public to be physically present at a specified meeting location. Unless the information is confidential, the reports, presentations, and grant award information referenced in the minutes are available at <http://ocmeetings.cprit.texas.gov> in the "Oversight Committee Board Packet" section for the corresponding meeting date.

Call to Order – Agenda Item 1

A quorum being present, Presiding Officer Dee Margo called the Oversight Committee to order at 10:07 a.m.

Roll Call/Excused Absences – Agenda Item 2

Committee Members Present

David Cummings, M.D.
Ambrosio Hernandez, M.D.
Donald (Dee) Margo
Will Montgomery
Mahendra Patel, M.D.
Cindy Barberio Payne
Bill Rice, M.D.
Craig Rosenfeld, M.D.

Oath of Office for newly appointed Oversight Committee member - Agenda Item 3

Presiding Officer Dee Margo administered the oath of office for Cindy Barberio Payne.

Adoption of Minutes from the February 19, 2020 Meeting – Agenda Item 4 – Tab 1

MOTION:

On a motion by Will Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Hernandez, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the Oversight Committee meeting of February 19, 2020, as presented.

Public Comment – Agenda Item 5

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Mr. Charlie Gagen to speak on behalf of the American Lung Association and the Texas Cancer Partnership. Mr. Gagen recommended that CPRIT reverse course on its decision to suspend FY 2021 award cycles and open requests for applications. Mr. Gagen contended that the benefits of funding outweigh potential cost and a continuity of research funding

is critical. He also observed that CPRIT creates economic growth and jobs and prevention services result in cost savings.

Chief Executive Officer Report – Agenda Item 6, Tab 2

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Executive Officer Wayne Roberts to present the CEO's report. Mr. Roberts reviewed the amount of funds available. He also provided an overview of CPRIT's response to COVID-19, including a dedicated COVID-19 webpage to help grantees and grant applicants, an internal workgroup to quickly respond to grantee issues, a 100% telework policy for CPRIT staff, peer review conducted via videoconference meetings, withdrawn 2021 RFAs, and the cancellation of the CPRIT conference that scheduled for July.

Chief Compliance Officer Report and Compliance Certification for the Proposed Grant Awards – Agenda Item 7, Tab 3

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Compliance Officer Vince Burgess to present the Compliance Report and Compliance Certification of Grant Award Process. Mr. Burgess presented the Compliance Report for the past quarter's activities. He noted that only one delinquent Grant Recipient report was past due. Mr. Burgess recognized the staff who were able to quickly implement second-level reviews of grantee Financial Status Reports reviews electronically due to the COVID-19 work from home orders.

An Oversight Committee member asked Mr. Burgess about the current delinquency rate. Mr. Burgess explained that the typical threshold is 28 delinquent reports per month, about 5% of all reports due. CPRIT is currently well below this threshold.

Mr. Burgess confirmed for another member that the compliance team can perform onsite reviews remotely; however, the compliance team has not yet done so.

Mr. Burgess also presented the Compliance Certification for the proposed academic research and product development research grant awards, confirming that the proposed awards and review process complied with all applicable state and agency requirements.

Chief Scientific Officer Report and Award Recommendations – Agenda Item 8, Tab 4

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Dr. Willson to present the academic research award recommendations and the program update.

Dr. Willson referred members to Tab 4 page 4-1 of the meeting packet and provided an update for the Academic Research Program. He reviewed FY 20.2 application submissions by mechanism and funding requested. He noted that peer reviewers conducted the review of the FY 20.2 applications in April via teleconference.

Dr. Willson referred members a to page 4.13 of the meeting book and presented the proposed FY 2021 CPRIT Scholar requests for applications (RFAs).

Dr. Willson referred members to page 7 of the Proposed Grant Award booklet and presented the recruitment award slates recommended by the Scientific Review Council and the Program Integration Committee (PIC), comprising 13 recommendations for recruitment cycles 20.7, 20.8 and 20.9 totaling \$41,973,674.

Cycles FY 20.7, 20.8 and 20.9 Recommended Recruitment Awards

Rank	App ID	Mechanism	Candidate	Organization	Budget	Overall Score
1	RR200040	RFTFM	Van Nostrand, Eric	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000	1.0
2	RR200050	RFTFM	Cao, Junyue	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000	1.0
3	RR200039	RFTFM	Romero, Liela	Baylor University	\$2,000,000	1.2
4	RR200045	RFTFM	Hillman, Robert	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$2,000,000	1.2
5	RR200057	REI	Felsher, Dean	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$6,000,000	1.2
6	RR200072	REI	Wei, Wenyi	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$6,000,000	1.5
7	RR200065	RFTFM	Lee, Jason	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000	1.8
8	RR200046	REI	Manning, Henry Charles	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$5,000,000	2.0
9	RR200056	RRS	Fedirko, Veronika	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$4,000,000	2.0
10	RR200054	RFTFM	Whisenant, Megan	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	\$500,000	2.0
11	RR200070	RFTFM	Parker, Matthew	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000	2.0
12	RR200059	RFTFM	Fon Tracer, Klementina	Texas Tech University	\$1,400,000	2.2
13	RR200042	RRS	Wang, Ken	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$4,000,000	2.7
14	RR200043	REI	Lele, Tanmay	Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station	\$5,073,674	2.8

REI- Recruitment of Established Investigators, RRS- Recruitment of Rising Stars, RFTFM- Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty Members

Conflict of Interest Notification

Presiding Officer Margo noted for the record that no Oversight Committee members reported conflicts of interest with any proposed academic research awards.

Approval Process – Academic Research Awards

Presiding Officer Margo called for a vote on the award recommendations.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Cummings, Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve the PIC's recommendations for the following Academic Research grant award mechanisms.

- Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members;
- Recruitment of Established Investigators, and;
- Recruitment of Rising Stars

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld, Oversight Committee members voted to approve the delegation of contract negotiation authority to CPRIT's CEO and staff and authorized the CEO to sign the contracts on behalf of CPRIT.

Following the vote on recruitment awards, Presiding Officer Margo called for a vote on the proposed FY 2021 Recruitment RFAs.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld, Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve the proposed FY 2021 Recruitment RFAs as presented by Dr. Willson.

Chief Prevention Officer Report – Agenda Item 9, Tab 5

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid to present the Prevention Program award recommendations and provide an update on the program. Ms. Magid updated members on the Prevention Program activities.

Proposed Plan for RFAs for FY 2021

Ms. Magid presented the FY 2021 RFA release schedule for consideration. The proposed RFAs in the schedule include Evidence-Based Cancer Prevention Services, Expansion of Cancer Prevention Services to Rural and Medically Underserved Populations, Tobacco Control and Lung Cancer Screening, and Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions.

An Oversight Committee member asked CPRIT to clarify the amount of grant funding available for the Prevention program. Mr. Roberts explained that the Prevention Program may award up to 10% of the total amount available for grant funding in a fiscal year.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the Prevention Program's plan for proposed RFAs for FY 2021 as presented by Ms. Magid.

Chief Product Development Officer Report – Agenda Item 10, Tab 6

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Product Development Officer Dr. Cindy WalkerPeach to present the proposed product development research award recommendations and to provide an update on the product development program.

Dr. WalkerPeach presented the PIC’s product development award recommendation for Invectys USA, Inc., totaling \$14,196,990. Invectys is an applicant from the 20.1 review cycle.

Dr. WalkerPeach explained that the Product Development Review Council (PDRC) had not acted on the Invectys application at its January 13, 2020, Product Development Cycle 20.1 diligence meeting pending review of additional information requested from the applicant. Invectys provided the requested information, which the PDRC reviewed at its March 17, 2020, diligence meeting and recommended the company for an award. Dr. WalkerPeach noted that neither the PDRC nor the PIC proposed any changes to the company’s goals and objectives, timeline or budget.

An Oversight Committee member asked whether Invectys has already relocated to Texas. Dr. WalkerPeach responded that CPRIT allows recipients of Company Relocation Product Development Awards up to one year from receiving their first distribution of award funds to relocate to Texas.

An Oversight Committee member asked whether CPRIT requires product development award recipients to make payments back to the state. Dr. WalkerPeach responded that CPRIT’s award contract with a product development award recipient includes revenue-sharing terms that obligate the company to make payments to the state if the company makes money from selling or licensing CPRIT-funded technology.

Compliance Certification

Presiding Officer Margo reminded members that Mr. Burgess previously certified compliance of the product development awards process.

Approval Process – Product Development Research Awards

Rank	App ID	Mechanism (Cycle)	Company Name	Project	Maximum Recommended Budget	Overall Score*
1	DP200034	RELCO (20.1)	Invectys USA Inc.	CARGo: a CAR-T cell program targeting HLA-G - a novel immune checkpoint and tumor specific antigen for advanced clear cell renal and ovarian carcinomas	\$14,196,990	3.3

MOTION:

On a motion made by Dr. Rosenfeld and seconded by Dr. Cummings, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the PIC’s recommendation for Invectys USA.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Cumming, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the delegation of contract negotiation authority to

CPRIT's CEO and staff and authorized the CEO to sign the contract on behalf of CPRIT.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Hernandez, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the disbursement of grant funds via advance payments to Invectys upon execution of the award contract and the successful completion of tranches.

Following the award recommendation, Dr. WalkerPeach updated the Oversight Committee on the status of applications under review in the 20.2 cycle. In addition, Dr. WalkerPeach noted that CPRIT has announced the suspension of the 21.1 review cycle because of budget uncertainties related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and declining oil and gas industry revenues.

Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee Appointments – Agenda Item 11, Tab 7

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Executive Officer Wayne Roberts to present his appointments to the Scientific Research and Prevention Program review panels. Mr. Roberts presented three appointments recommended by the Nominations Subcommittee.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Patel, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the three Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee appointments as presented by Mr. Roberts.

University Advisory Committee Annual Report – Item 12, Tab 8

Dr. Willson introduced Dr. Kent Osborne, Chair of the University Advisory Committee (UAC). Dr. Osborne is the Director of the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center and Professor of Medicine and Molecular and Cellular Biology at Baylor College of Medicine.

Dr. Osborne presented the UAC 2020 annual report and recommendations to the Oversight Committee (behind tab 8 in the meeting packet) and provided an overview of the UACs mission and member representation. He discussed the importance of CPRIT to Texas in reducing morbidity and mortality from cancer through research, education, and prevention and provided specific impact by academic research and prevention awards.

Dr. Osborne explained the UAC's recommended priorities for future award mechanisms, which include Recruitment Awards, Core Facilities, Prevention and Screening Programs, Training Next Generation of Scientists and Physicians, and Individual Investigator Awards. In addition, he reports that the UAC recommends that CPRIT develops a clinical trial infrastructure RFA mechanism targeted for rural and underserved catchment areas, that CPRIT avoids focused RFAs, and that CPRIT consider a redesigned strategy for product development.

Clinical Trials Advisory Committee Annual Report - Agenda Item 13, Tab 9

Following Dr. Osborne's presentation for the UAC, Dr. Willson explained that Dr. Osborne also serves as the Chair of the Clinical Trials Advisory Committee (CTAC).

Dr. Osborne presented the CTAC annual report and recommendations to the Oversight Committee (behind tab 9 in the meeting packet) and provided an overview of the Committee's charge and member representation. He provided the CTAC's recommended priorities for future award mechanisms, which include the continuation of the Early Clinical Investigator Award supporting early career clinical researchers who have made a commitment to focus on clinical research, and to increase access to clinical trials for patients in outlying and/or underserved areas by providing personnel and infrastructure to smaller hospitals through a clinical trials network RFA.

Product Development Advisory Committee Annual Report – Agenda Item 14, Tab 10

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Dr. Jonathan MacQuitty to present the Product Development Advisory Committee (PDAC) report behind tab 10 in the meeting packet.

Dr. MacQuitty presented the PDAC's annual report and the committee's recommendations for CPRIT's Product Development Program.

An Oversight Committee member asked Dr. MacQuitty whether the committee has any recommendations for target number goals for patients enrolled in clinical trials that product development grant awards support. Dr. MacQuitty responded that the goal should be to increase the number of awards that CPRIT makes through the Product Development Program. This will improve the odds that one of the funded therapies reaches clinical trials for market launch.

An Oversight Committee member inquired about whether Dr. MacQuitty had any recommendations regarding the number of SEED awards compared to the number of Texas Company or Relocation awards made by the Product Development Program. Dr. MacQuitty replied that PDAC recommends that CPRIT funds more product development applications in general, so CPRIT should make a greater number of both large and small awards overall.

Dr. MacQuitty closed his presentation by noting that his term as Chair of the PDAC will expire soon but that he plans to continue his involvement as a member of the committee. He is honored and delighted to contribute to CPRIT's mission in this manner.

Prevention Advisory Committee – Agenda Item 15, Tab 11

Ms. Magid introduced Dr. Navkiran Shokar, Professor of Family and Community Medicine and Molecular and Translational Medicine, Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, and Director of Cancer Prevention and Control in the Center of Excellence for Cancer at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso, to present the Prevention Advisory Committee's (PAC) recommendations to the Oversight Committee.

Dr. Shokar presented the PAC's report and the committee's recommendations for CPRIT's cancer prevention activities.

Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancer Annual Report - Agenda Item 16, Tab 12

Dr. Willson introduced Dr. Stephen Skapek, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancer (ACCC). Dr Skapek is a Professor of Pediatrics for The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center's Department of Pediatrics and the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Dr. Skapek presented the ACCC's annual report and recommendations (behind tab 9 in the meeting packet) and provided an overview of the Committee's charge and member representation. The ACCC recommends that CPRIT continue the Recruitment RFAs, release a specific Core Facility Support Award (CFSA) RFA that targets childhood cancers, and offer competitive renewals for high performing CFSA's that fill state-wide needs. Dr. Skapek explained that the ACCC also urges CPRIT to expand the childhood cancer control portfolio by creating a Texas Collaborative Action Program (CAP) for Childhood Cancer RFA.

Fiscal Year 2021 Bond Issuance Resolution – Item 21, Tab 17

Taking Agenda Item 21 out of order, Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Operating Officer Heidi McConnell to present the fiscal year 2021 Bond Issuance Resolution. Ms. McConnell explained that the recommended resolution requests that the Texas Public Finance Authority (TPFA) issue debt on CPRIT's behalf during FY2021. She projects that \$260.3 million in bond proceeds will be issued.

MOTION:

On a motion by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the resolution requesting financing for submission to the TPFA to issue debt on CPRIT's behalf in fiscal year 2021.

Contract Approvals – Agenda Item 22, Tab 18

Taking Agenda Item 22 out of order, Presiding Officer Margo recognized Ms. McConnell to explain staff's recommendation to renew the contract for grant management support services. Ms. McConnell reviewed the recommendation to exercise the final renewal option of the grant management support services contract with SRA International, Inc., a CSRA Company (acquired by General Dynamics Information Technology in 2018). The FY 2021 renewal will not exceed \$10,377,105.

MOTION:

On a motion by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the contract renewal with GDIT.

Amendments to 25 T.A.C. Chapter 703 – Item 18, Tab 14

Taking Agenda Item 18 out of order, Presiding Officer Margo recognized CPRIT assistant general counsel Cameron Eckel to discuss the proposed rule amendments. Ms. Eckel presented a final order for rule changes that were initially considered for publication at the February Oversight Committee meeting. No public comments were received.

MOTION:

On a motion by Dr. Rice and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the final order adopting rule changes to the Texas Administrative Code Chapter 703.

Internal Auditor Report – Agenda Item 17, Tab 13

Presiding Officer Margo recognized CPRIT internal auditor Dan Graves with Weaver and Tidwell. Mr. Graves presented the status report. He explained that Weaver delayed some internal audit activities during the prior quarter due to the travel and meeting restrictions caused by COVID-19 pandemic and to allow CPRIT to implement business continuity measures and to focus on customer service.

Communications Report – Agenda Item 19, Tab 15, Chief Operating Officer Report – Agenda Item 20, Tab 16, Compliance Investigation Pursuant to Health & Safety Code 102.2631 Agenda Item 24, Consultation with General Counsel – Agenda Item 25

Presiding Officer Margo noted that the Oversight Committee would not take up Agenda Items 19 and 20 and directed members to the written reports in the meeting book. He also reported that the Oversight Committee would not take up standing Agenda Items 24 and 25.

Subcommittee Business – Agenda Item 23

Presiding Chair Margo proposed that Ms. Barberio Payne join the Audit, Product Development, and Nominations subcommittees.

MOTION:

On a motion by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Patel, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve Ms. Payne’s subcommittee appointments.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items – Agenda Item 26

Presiding Officer Margo reminded members that the Oversight Committee will hold a special meeting on July 31, 2020.

Adjournment – Agenda Item 27

MOTION:

There being no further business, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve a motion to adjourn made by Presiding Officer Margo and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld.

Meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Signature

Date



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
July 31, 2020**

NOTE: CPRIT conducted this meeting by videoconference in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.016. Governor Abbott suspended various provisions that require government officials and members of the public to be physically present at a specified meeting location. Unless the information is confidential, the reports and presentations referenced in the minutes are available at <http://ocmeetings.cprit.texas.gov> in the "Oversight Committee Board Packet" section for the corresponding meeting date.

Call to Order – Agenda Item 1

A quorum being present, Presiding Officer Dee Margo called the Oversight Committee to order at 9:03 a.m.

Roll Call/Excused Absences – Agenda Item 2

Committee Members Present

David Cummings, M.D.
Ambrosio Hernandez, M.D. (joined the meeting in progress at 9:49 a.m.)
Donald (Dee) Margo
Will Montgomery
Mahendra Patel, M.D.
Cindy Barberio Payne
Bill Rice, M.D.
Craig Rosenfeld, M.D.

Public Comment – Agenda Item 3

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Mr. Dana Bacon to speak on behalf of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Mr. Bacon discussed the tremendous medical and economic challenges posed by COVID-19, noting that it is especially disrupting cancer patients who now find it harder to access screening services and treatments. He noted CPRIT funded researchers at UT Health Science Center San Antonio and The University of Texas at Austin announced separate discoveries related to COVID-19 that will help other scientists to develop anti-viral drugs and vaccines. With those contributions and continued work against cancer, Mr. Bacon stated that CPRIT's value to Texas is greater than ever before.

Legislative Appropriations Request for the 2022-23 Biennium - Agenda Item 4, Tab 1

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Operating Officer Heidi McConnell to present the Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) for the 2022-23 Biennium. Ms. McConnell explained that the agency had not yet received instructions from the Governor's Office and the Legislative

Budget Board to complete and submit the request, so CPRIT staff constructed a draft request based on past precedent with the substantive information that CPRIT expects to include in the CPRIT's 2022-2023 LAR.

Ms. McConnell highlighted that CPRIT will be requesting the full \$300 million per year in General Obligation Bond Proceeds for the next biennium.

She presented the first exceptional item necessary to maintain level funding for grant review and award operations, which requires a \$2.7 million annual budget adjustment to address an ongoing annual shortfall for peer review honoraria, product development research grant application due diligence services, outsourced pre- and post-award grant management support services, and grant revenue asset management services. Ms. McConnell noted that the second exceptional item adds 8 new grant program, compliance and accounting support staff totaling about \$600,000 per year to address grant reporting compliance needs. She also discussed the modification of Rider 4 to allow CPRIT to notify the Legislative Budget Board about transfers among budget line items within the limits allowed all other state agencies instead requesting permission to transfer funds among budget line items.

Ms. McConnell responded to an Oversight Committee member's question about whether this was a request for additional money or just the ability to shift how CPRIT uses the bond proceeds. She explained that these requests allow CPRIT to shift how it uses the bond proceeds. She directed members to the meeting packet information demonstrating the shift.

In response to an Oversight Committee member's question, Ms. McConnell explained that "lapsed funds" refers to award funds that CPRIT would have used for awards that are declined by the recipients, such as recruitment offers that are not accepted. The bond funds allocated for declined awards are still available to the agency for other purposes.

Another Oversight Committee asked Ms. McConnell to explain why the administrative budget for FY 2021 did not change even though CPRIT will have fewer review cycles. She responded that while peer review panel meeting costs will not be as much because CPRIT will only hold one major grant cycle for academic research and product development applications in FY 2021, the grants management support contract budget is staying at roughly the same amount as previous years because CPRIT's third party grant management contractors will be implementing and maintaining needed grants management system enhancements.

Mr. Roberts added that there are reductions in some areas while other areas are increasing in cost. He clarified that CPRIT will keep the same number of review cycles for the prevention program and recruitment reviews. Although the number of standard review cycles will decrease for the academic research and product development programs each will have a single "super" cycle and CPRIT expects to fully award all available grant funds appropriated for the year.

Ms. McConnell responded to an Oversight Committee member's question about CPRIT's administrative percentage in the FY 2022-23 biennium, indicating that CPRIT's overhead will be 6.8% of the appropriations. Mr. Roberts explained that for years CPRIT has maintained a low overhead for CPRIT of about 6% of the annual budget. However, considering the overhead costs in the context of the 500+ active grants totaling \$1.4 billion that CPRIT manages, the actual

administrative costs associated with grant management is about 1.3% of the total active award portfolio amount. He explained that CPRIT is using its funding efficiently, but at some point, it is difficult to promote low administrative costs if it is not enough to safeguard CPRIT's grant investments. The additional personnel requests are critical to ensure that CPRIT continues to adequately monitor active grants. He does not anticipate a significant increase in overhead costs.

Mr. Roberts explained the request for a 10% increase to the Chief Scientific Officer exempt position cap from \$553,500 to \$608,850.

MOTION:

On a motion by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee voted 6 to 1 to approve the Legislative Appropriations Request for the 2022-23 Biennium subject to final review by the Audit Subcommittee, if necessary. Dr. Cummings voted against the motion. Dr. Hernandez was not present at the meeting when the Board voted on this item.

Academic Research Program – Agenda Item 5, Tab 2

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Dr. Willson to present the Academic Research Program's proposed FY 2021 grant award plan and timeline, including proposed FY 2021 requests for applications.

Dr. Willson referred members to Tab 2 pages 2-4 of the meeting packet and presented the proposed Academic Research Program RFAs for FY 2021. He noted that CPRIT has previously issued three of the proposed FY 2021 RFA mechanisms - Core Facility Support Awards, High Impact/High Risk Research Awards and Early Clinical Investigator Awards. However, CPRIT has never released three of the proposed FY 2021 RFAs - Clinical Trials Network Award, Texas Clinical Trials Participation Program Award and the Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer Award. Dr. Willson provided an overview of each RFA mechanism.

An Oversight Committee member asked if the Clinical Trials Network Award RFA would duplicate funds already supported by other entities such as the NCI Cooperative Groups. Dr. Willson responded that the CTNA is designed to provide oncologists and their patients who currently have limited access to cancer therapeutic trials with opportunities to participate in cancer trials and that access to trials sponsored by the NCI Cooperative Group trials does not reach the oncology practices and patients that the CTNA program targets.

Several Oversight Committee members commented that the CTNA grant mechanism addresses an important need in Texas and supported the RFA.

Approval Process – Academic Research Proposed FY 2021 RFAs

Presiding Officer Margo called for a vote on the proposed FY 2021 RFAs for the Academic Research Program. Dr. Rosenfeld requested that the Oversight Committee vote separately on the Clinical Trials Network Award RFA.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Patel, Oversight Committee members voted 7 to 1 to approve the Clinical Trials Network Award RFA. Dr. Rosenfeld voted against the motion.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve the following proposed FY 2021 RFAs: Core Facility Support Awards, Early Clinical Investigator Award, High Impact/High Risk Research Awards, Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer Award and the Texas Clinical Trials Participation Award.

Product Development Research Program – Agenda Item 6, Tab 3

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Product Development Officer Dr. Cindy WalkerPeach to present the Product Development Program’s plan for FY 2021 grant awards and timeline. Dr. WalkerPeach presented the updated timeline and the FY 2021 Product Development Program RFAs. Dr. WalkerPeach noted that the Oversight Committee did not need to take any action because they had previously approved the FY 2021 RFAs. There were no questions.

Prevention Program – Agenda Item 7, Tab 4

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid to present the Prevention Program’s plan for FY 2021 grant awards and timeline.

Ms. Magid presented the updated timelines and the FY 2021 Prevention Program RFAs. Ms. Magid explained that the Oversight Committee already approved the FY 2021 prevention RFAs at its February meeting. There were no questions.

FY 2022 Program Priorities and CPRIT 2.0 Planning – Agenda Item 8, Tab 5

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Executive Officer Wayne Roberts to present the revised project timeline for the FY 2022 program priorities and the CPRIT 2.0 plan. Mr. Roberts reviewed the revised timeline with members. There were no questions.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items – Agenda Item 11, Tab 6

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Executive Officer Wayne Roberts to provide an update regarding CPRIT’s next Oversight Committee on August 19. Mr. Roberts asked the members to allot up to 5 hours for a full agenda and large number of awards and contracts.

Consultation with General Counsel – Agenda Item 10

Presiding Officer Margo asked Mr. Roberts, Ms. Doyle, and Dr. WalkerPeach to join the Oversight Committee in closed session via a secure video channel to take up agenda item 10. Presiding Officer Margo moved into closed session pursuant to Texas Open Meetings Act Section 551.071 to seek

advice from counsel and convened the closed session at 10:18 a.m. He reconvened the open meeting at 10:30 a.m. The Oversight Committee did not act on this agenda item.

Adjournment – Agenda Item 12

MOTION:

There being no further business, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve a motion to adjourn made by Presiding Officer Margo and seconded by Mr. Montgomery.

Meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Signature

Date



Dr. Rahman joined Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in 2009, and is the founding executive director of the multi-campus Breast Center of Excellence established in 2010. She spearheaded the development of the first breast center of excellence in west Texas accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC). She is currently the director of UMC Cancer Center that is home to nationally accredited breast, and lung centers of excellence and is developing GI center of excellence. Her outreach program funded by CPRIT called Access to Breast and Cervical Care for West Texas (ABC²WT) project provides breast and cervical cancer education and screening across the 60 counties of Texas Panhandle, South Plains and Central West Texas. She maintains an active clinical research, educational and leadership portfolio and serves on several local, regional and national boards and committees including American Society of Breast Surgeons and National Consortium of Breast Centers. Her research interest include cryoablative therapy for breast cancers, tumor infiltrating lymphocytes, circulatory tumor cells and aromatase related pathways in breast cancer.

She graduated from the Aga Khan University Medical College in Karachi, Pakistan, where she completed her internship and residency. She then spent several years furthering her studies, completing fellowships in breast and general surgery in 2001 at Aga Khan, followed by Breast subspecialty fellowship at the University of Arkansas for the Medical Sciences.

Dr. Rahman is the recipient of several awards and honors including the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM), Professional Breast Health Champion, Texans Caring for Texans Award, and Amarillo Women's Network Career Achievement Award.

Access to Breast and Cervical Care for West Texas (ABC²4WT)

2010 - 2020



Breast Center *of Excellence*
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH 2-2
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

ABC²4WT Goals

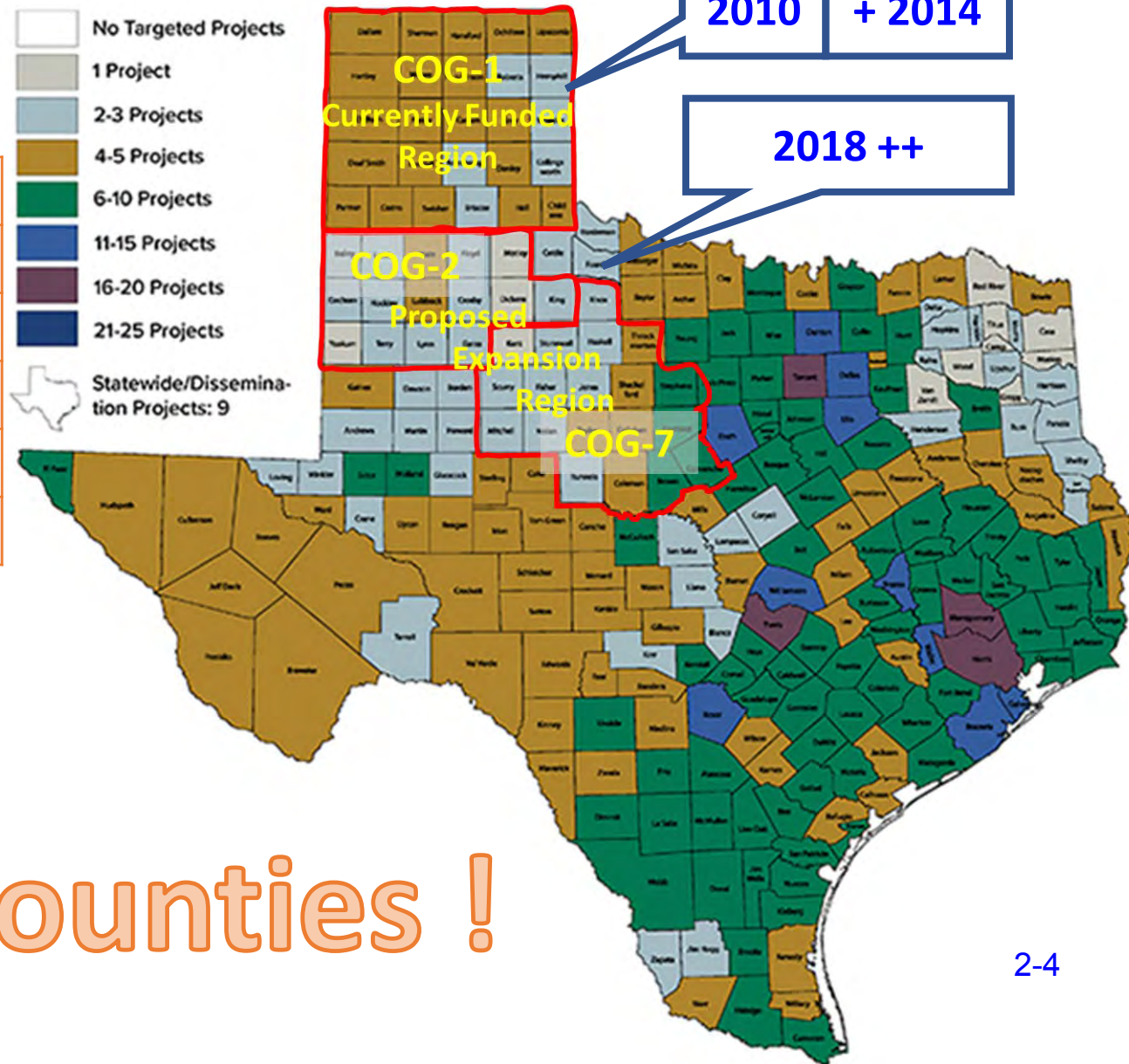
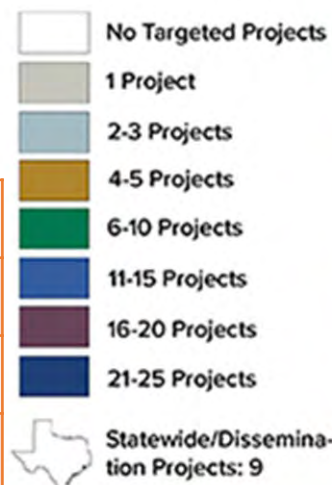
- **GOAL 1:** Increase the breast cancer screening rate in the target population
- **GOAL 2:** Increase the cervical cancer screening rate in the target population
- **GOAL 3:** Increase the rate of HPV vaccination for prevention of cervical cancer in the target population



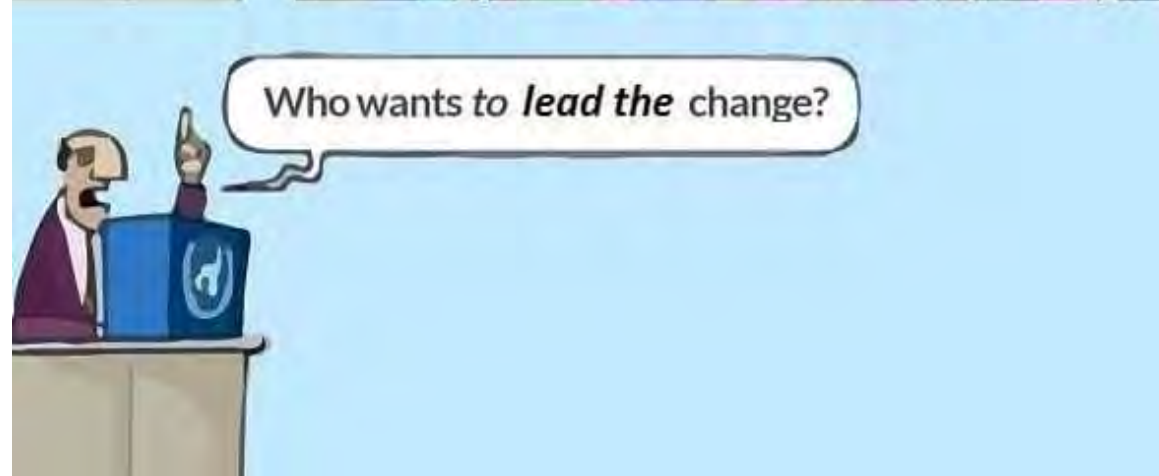
Table-1: Disease Burden of Breast and Cervical Cancer in Target Areas compared to Texas

	BREAST CANCER		CERVIX CANCER	
	Incidence*	Mortality*	Incidence*	Mortality*
COG-1	119.2	22.8	10.6	3.4
COG-2	107.6	21.2	9.6	3.6
COG-7	135.5	30.0	8.8	4.0
Texas	117.2	20.6	9.1	2.9

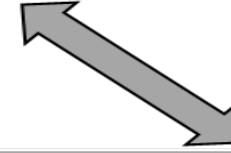
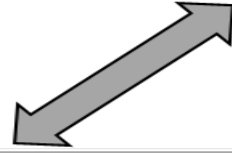
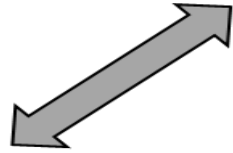
* Per 100,000 women



Now Serving 60 Counties !



ABC²4WT Project Team at TTUHSC - BCE COG-1



Service Providers

Role: Provide screening services

Mammogram Facilities:
- 7 Hospitals in COG-1

Mobile Mammography:
- Harrington Cancer Center

Pap Smear Clinics:
- 6 Clinics in COG-1

Community Organizations

Role: Enhance access to target population

Outreach Organizations:
- Panhandle Breast Health
- Haven Health
- Heal The City
- Komen Foundation

Volunteers
- Health Sciences Center
- Nursing Schools
- School of Pharmacy
- Panhandle Breast Health



Community Venues

Role: Provide venues for outreach activities

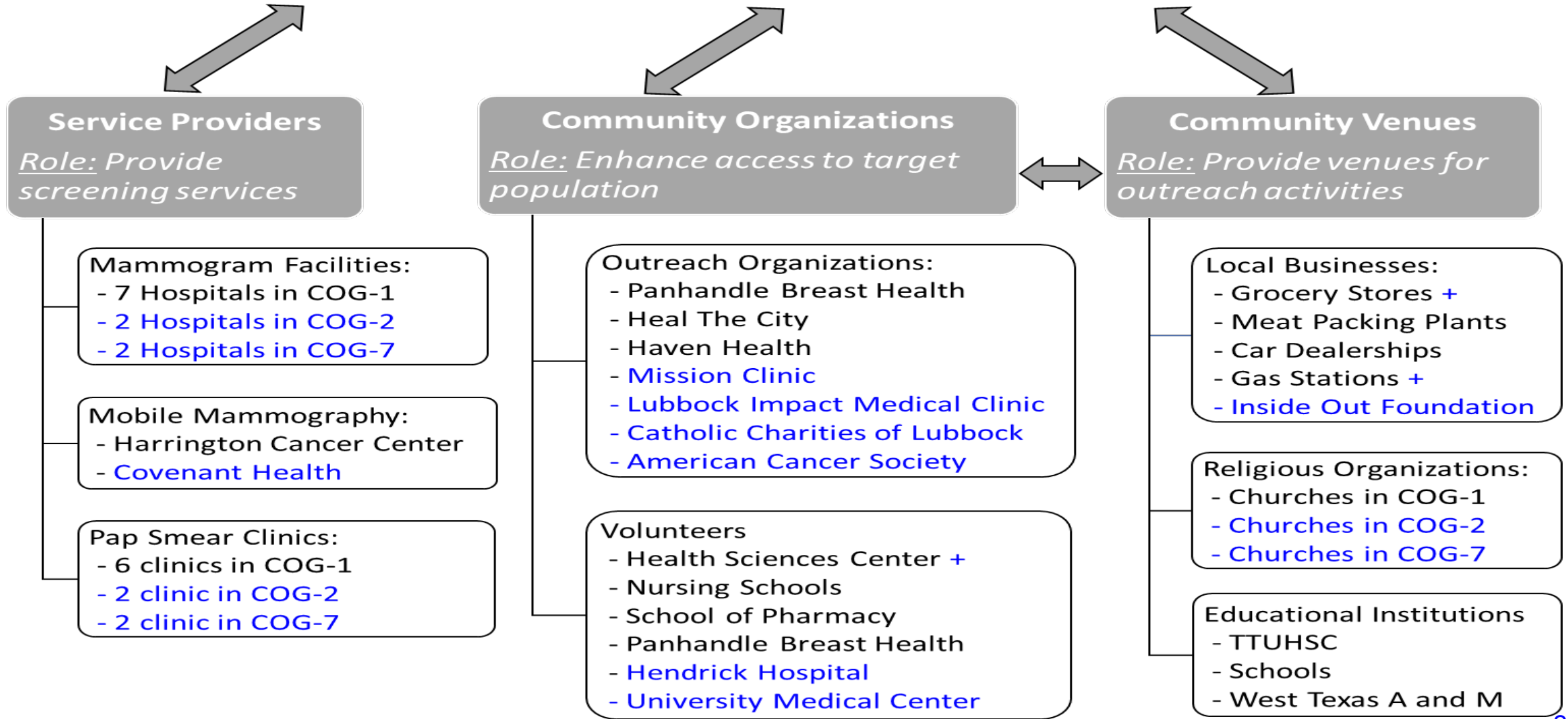
Local Businesses:
- Grocery Stores
- Meat Packing Plants
- Car Dealerships
- Gas Stations

Religious Organizations:
- Churches in COG-1

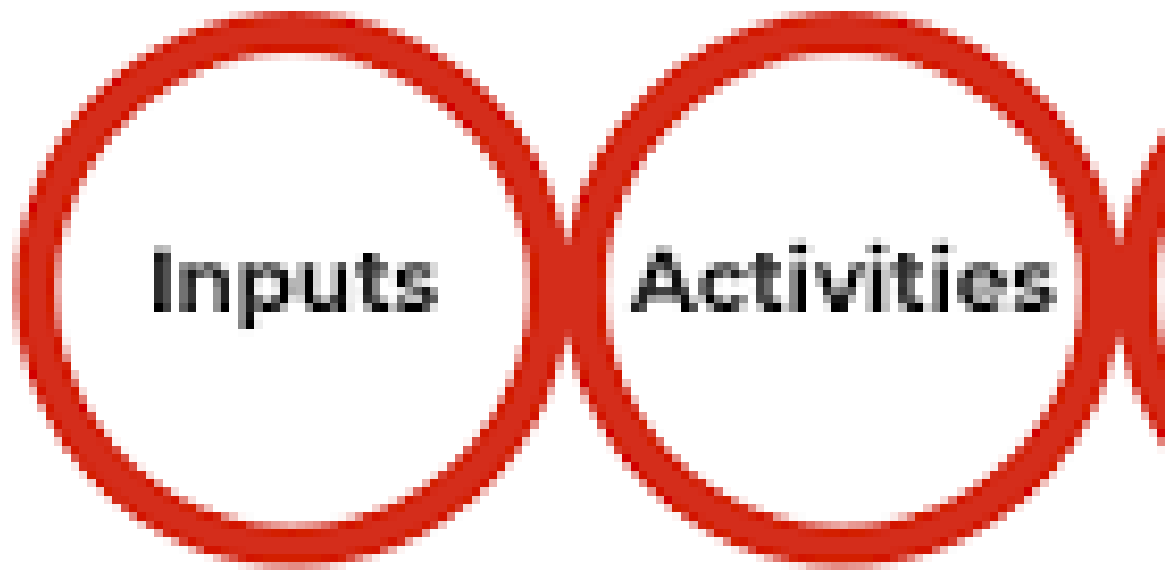
Educational Institutions
- TTUHSC
- Schools
- West Texas A and M

Established Infrastructure for ABC²4WT Project in COG-1

ABC²4WT Project Team at TTUHSC - BCE
COG-1, COG-2 and COG-7



Expanded Infrastructure for ABC²4WT Expansion Project



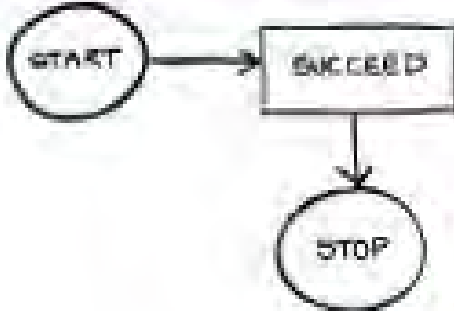
Measures of implementation



Measures of change

Measures of attributions of change

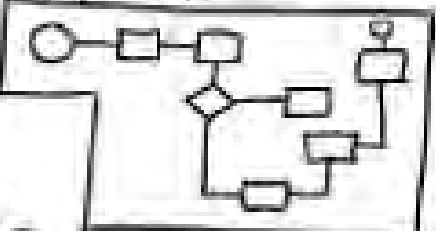
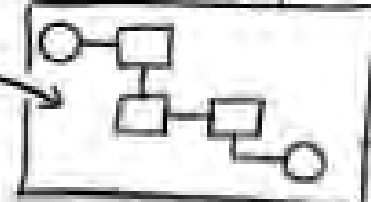
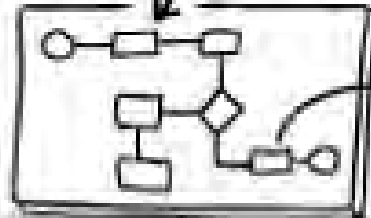
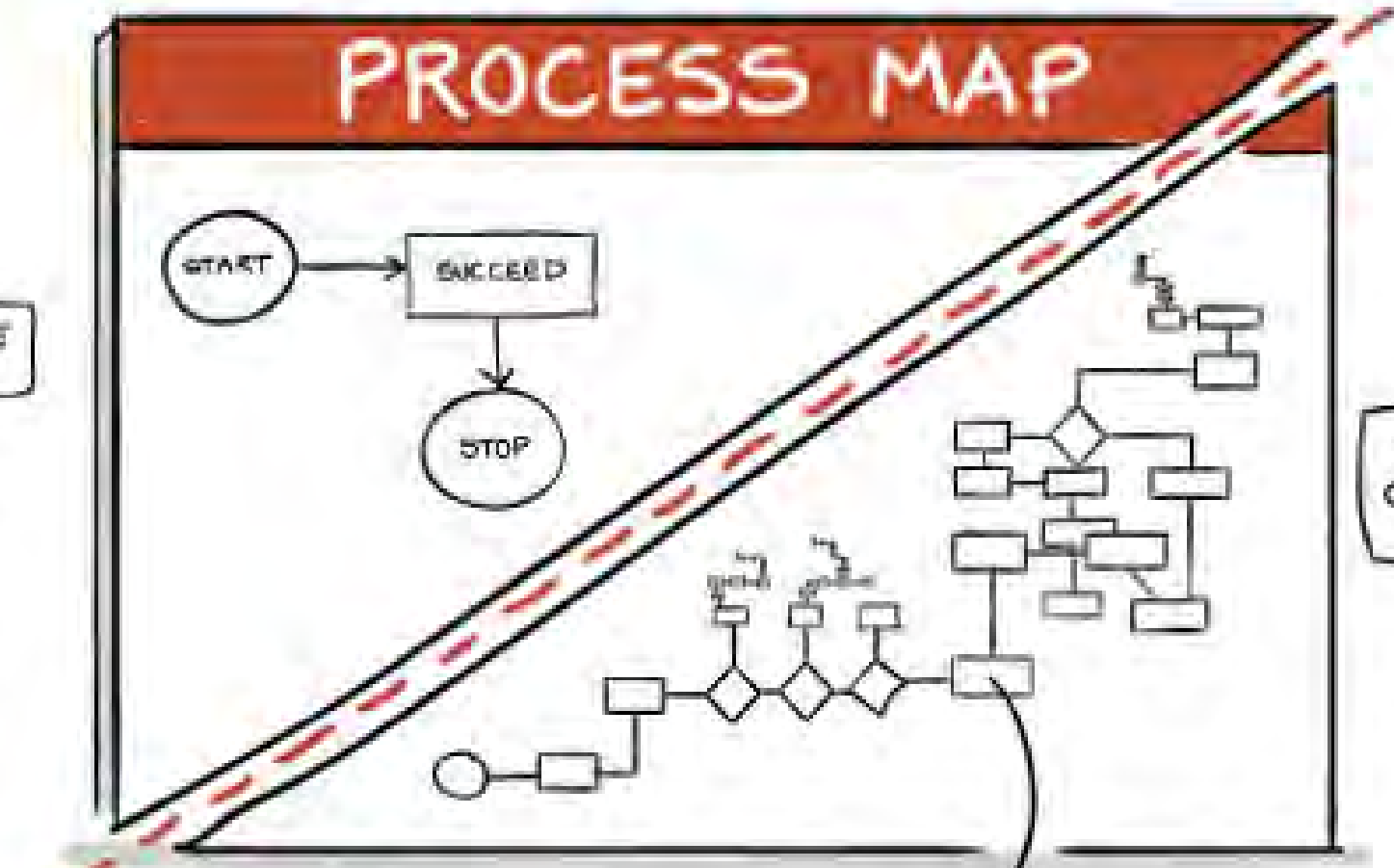
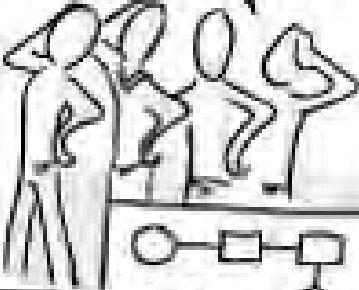
PROCESS MAP



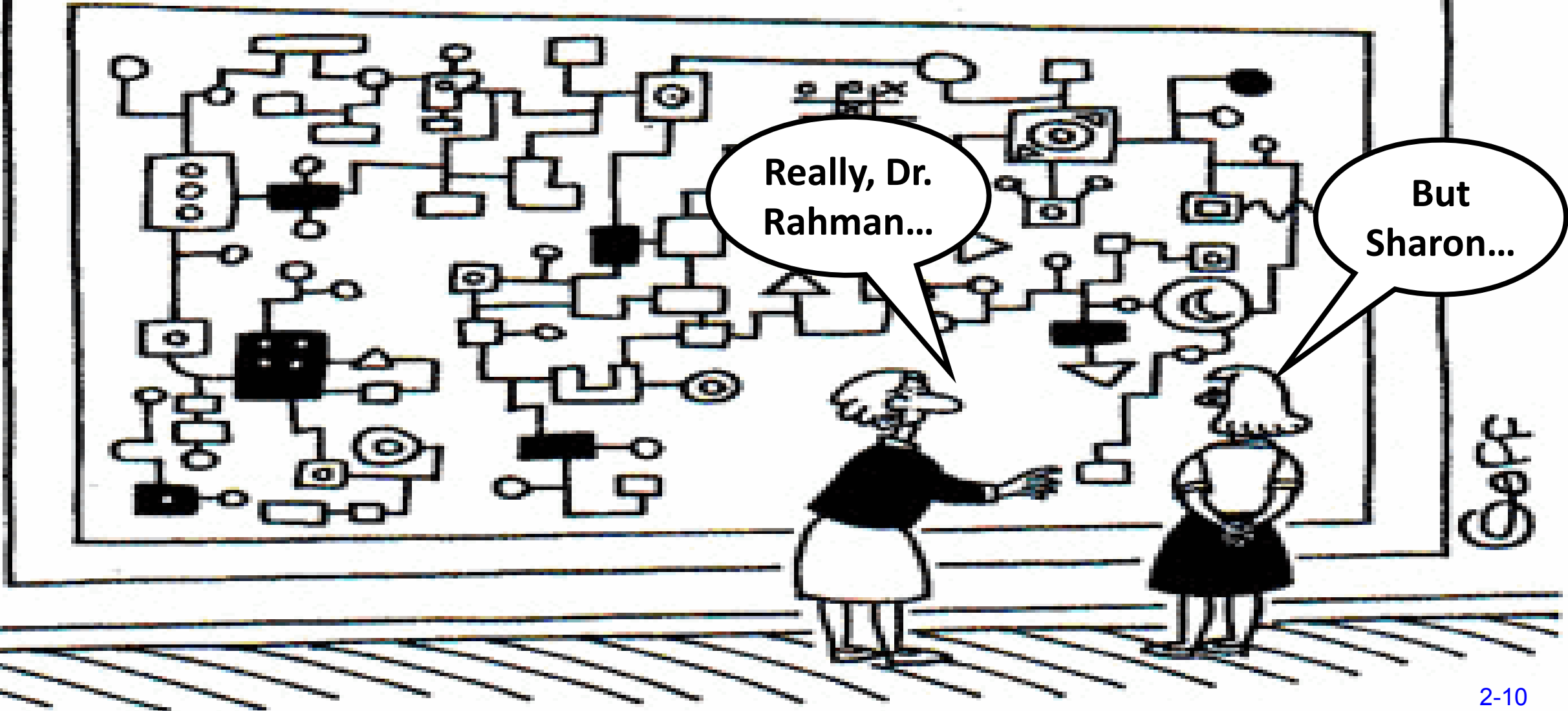
WHERE'S THE DETAIL?



IT'S SO COMPLICATED!



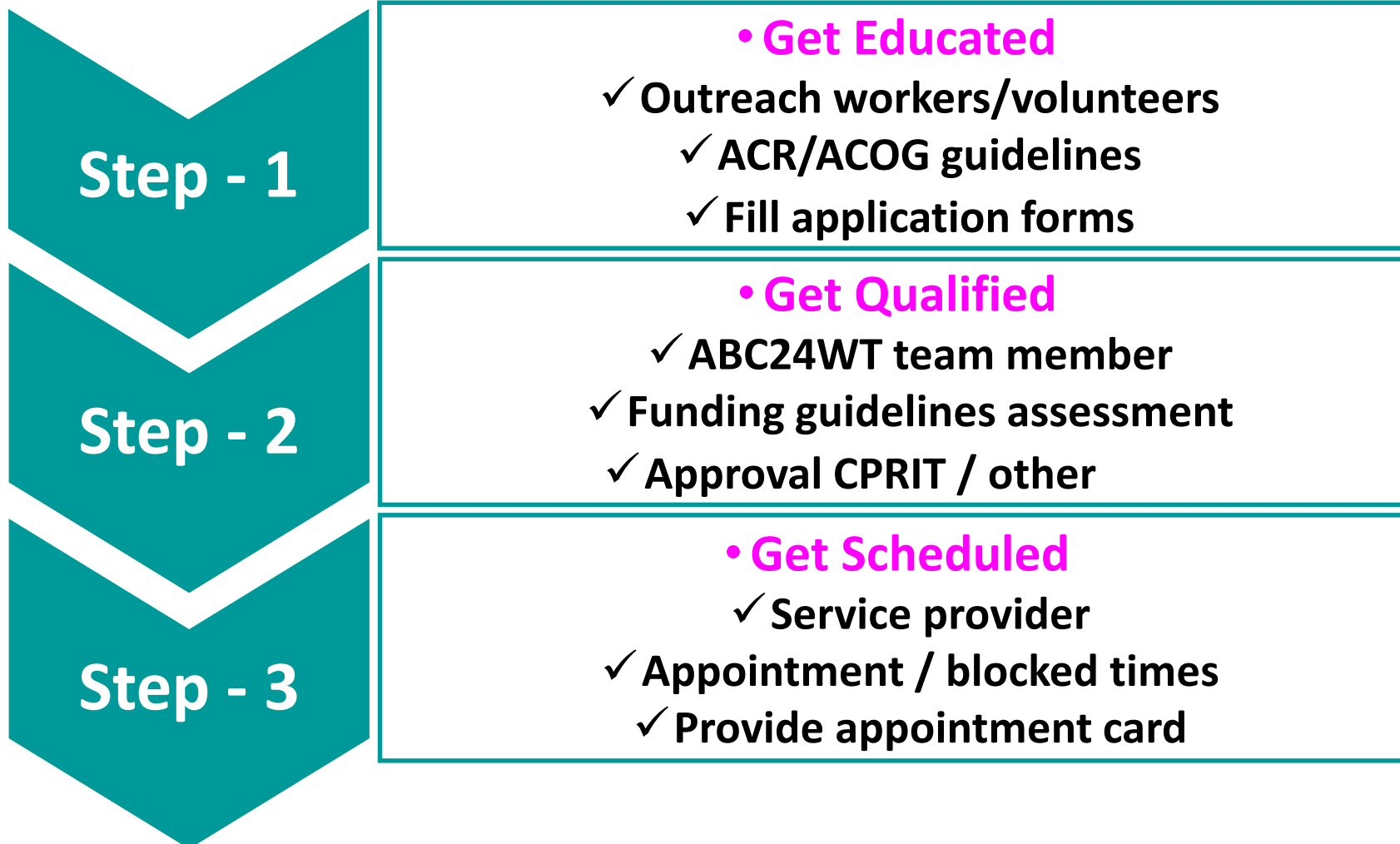
WORKFLOW REDESIGN



This is where ABC²4WT workflow redesign team went insane !

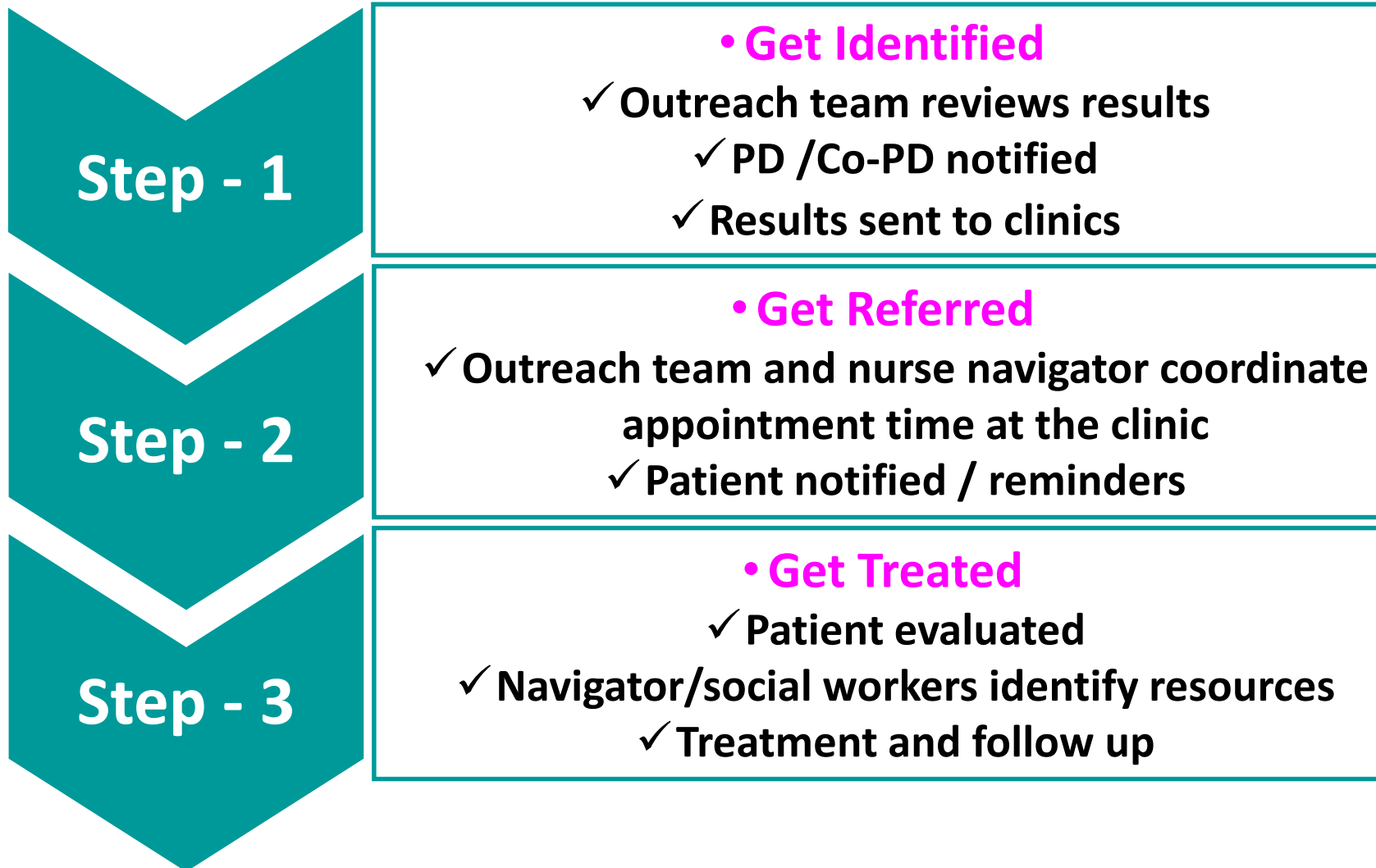
PROCESS MAPS FOR ABC²4WT

Outreach Events



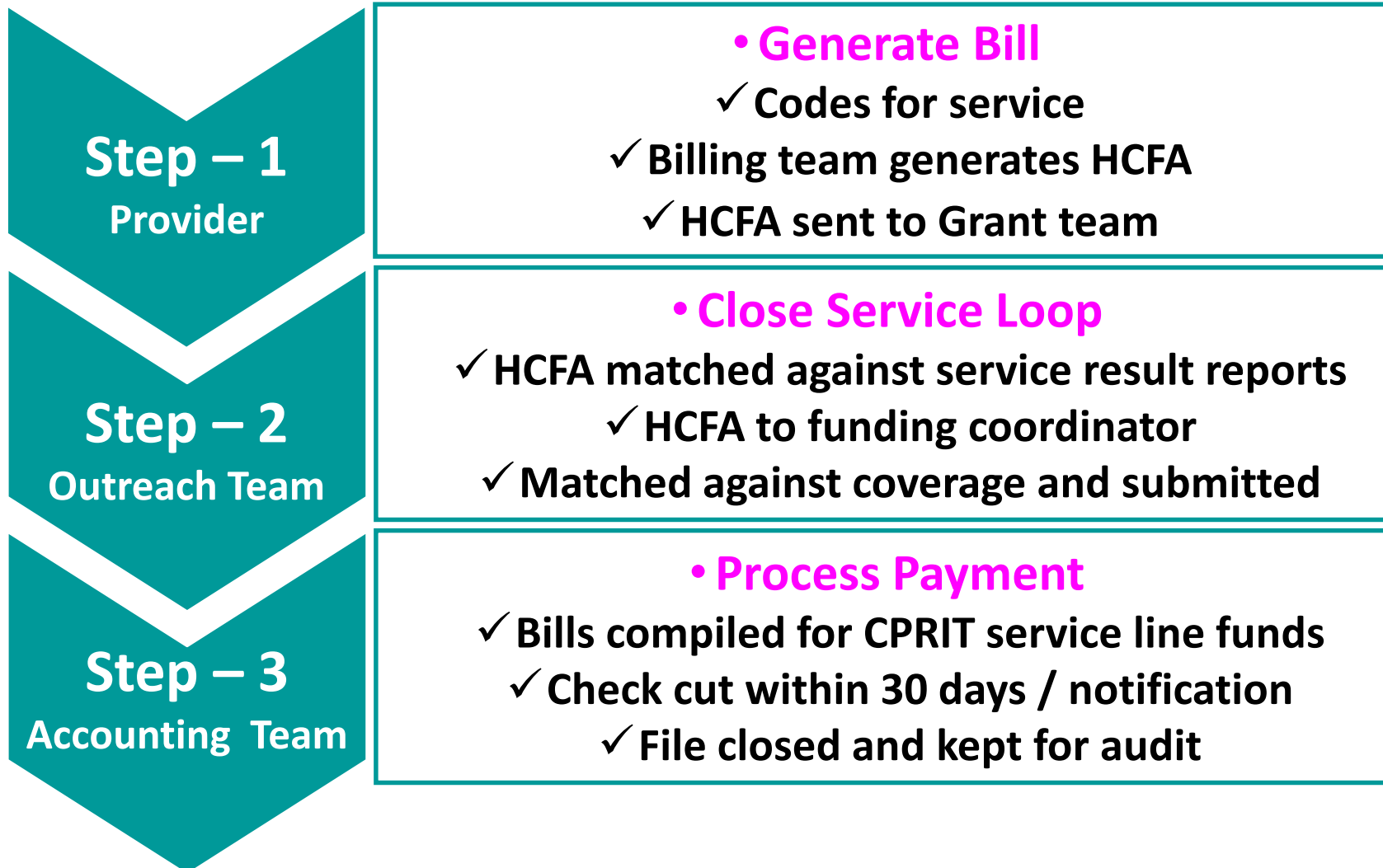
PROCESS MAPS FOR ABC²4WT

Continuum of Care



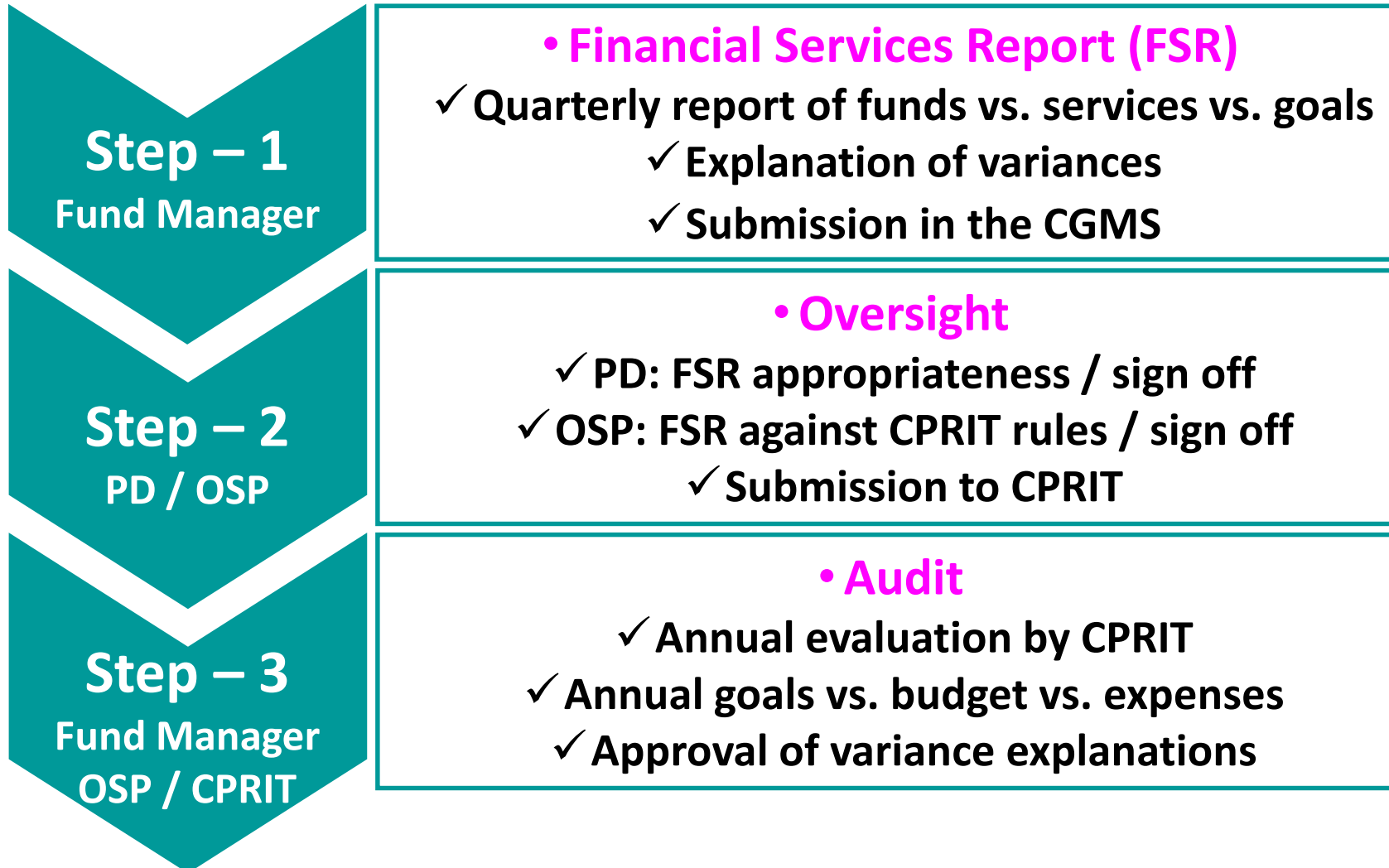
PROCESS MAPS FOR ABC²4WT

Service Reimbursement



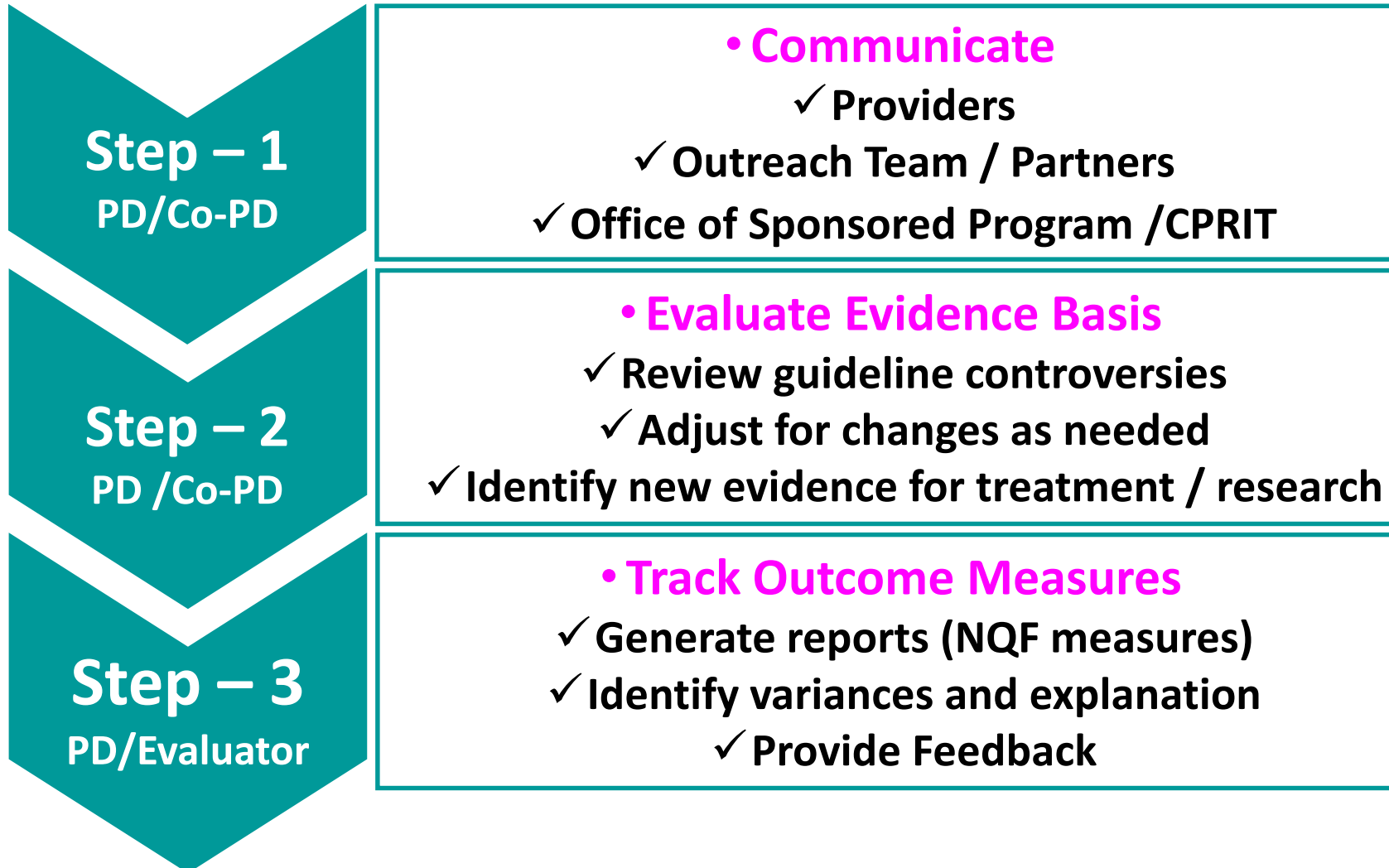
PROCESS MAPS FOR ABC²4WT

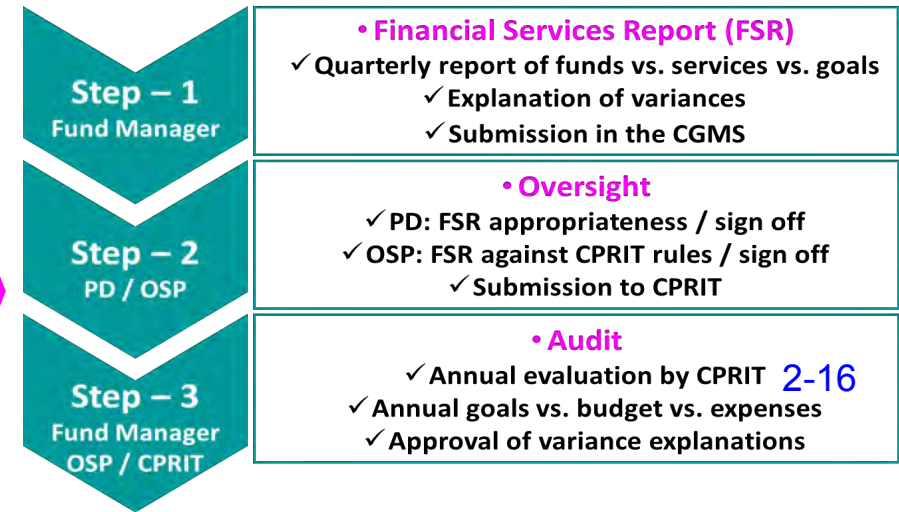
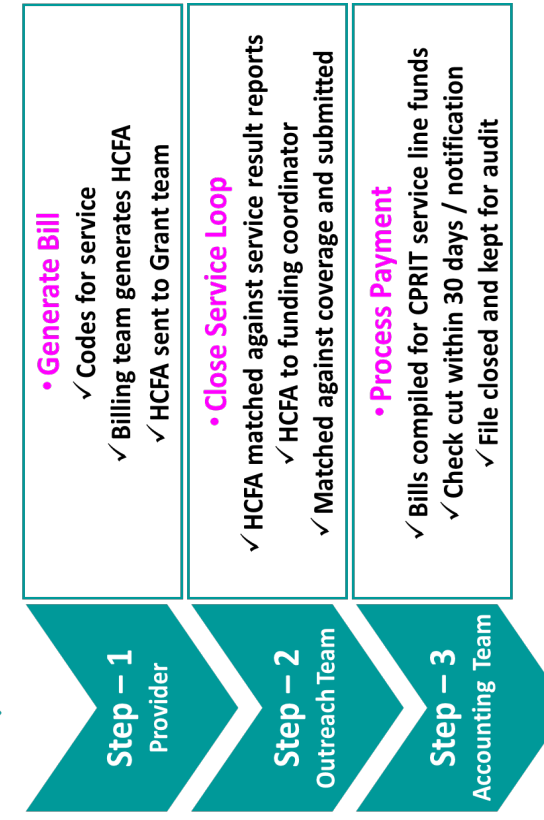
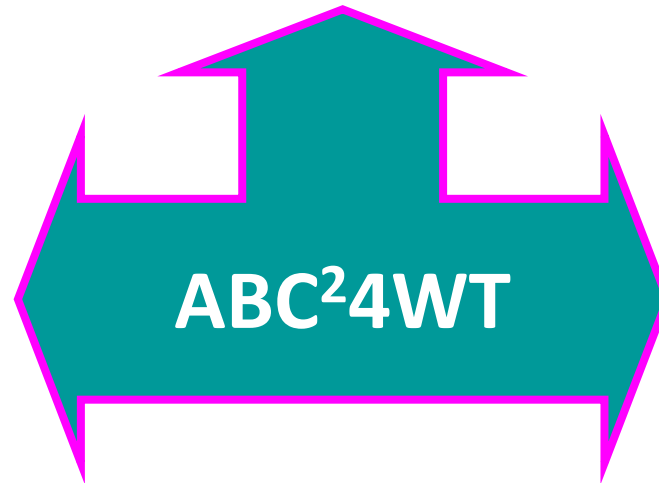
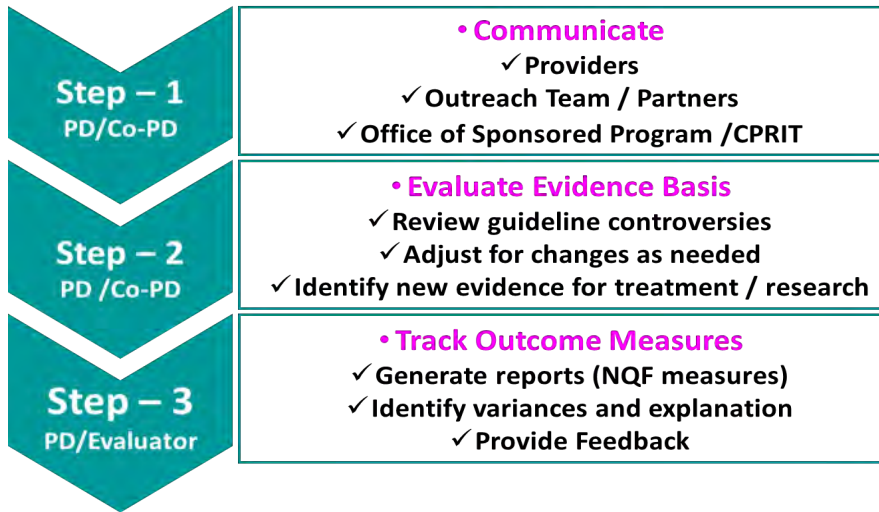
Stewardship



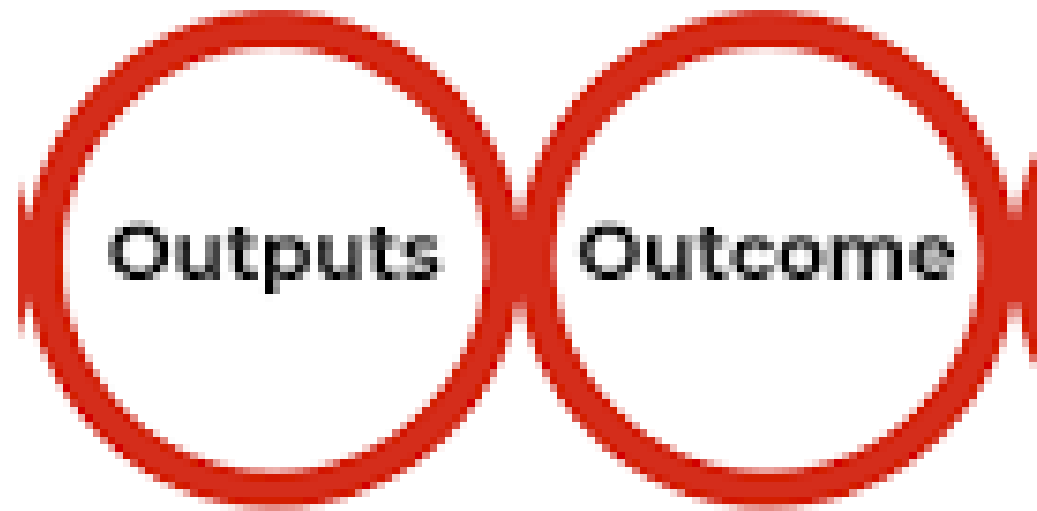
PROCESS MAPS FOR ABC²4WT

Quality Assurance





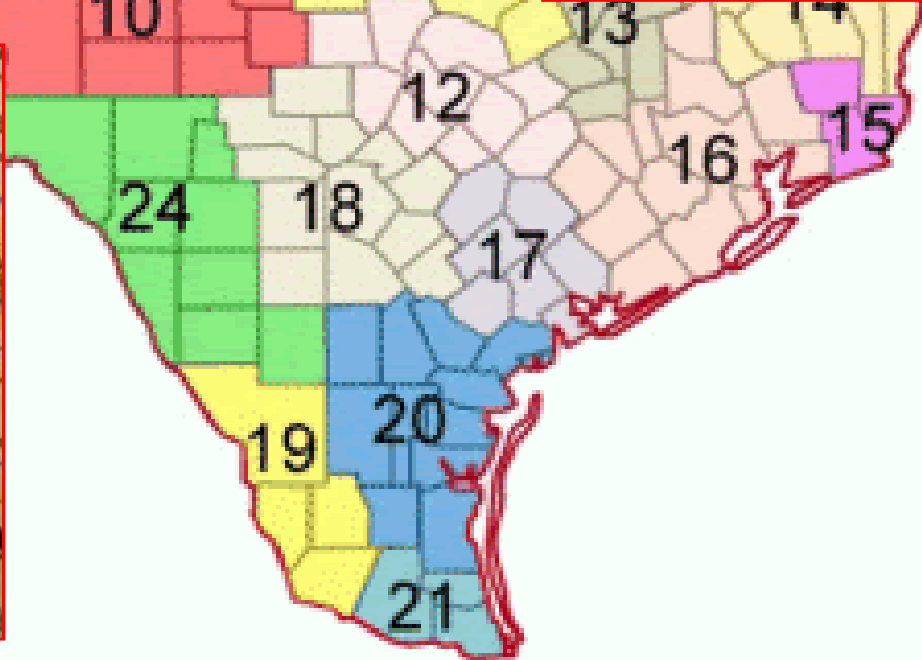
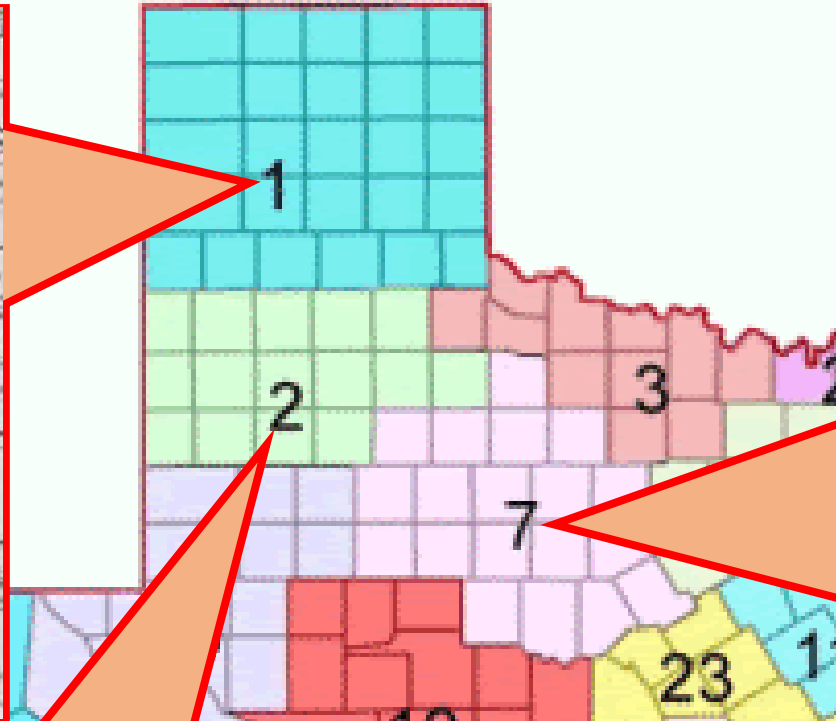
Project Phase	Evaluation Type	Quantitative Data Points	Qualitative Data Points	Timeline
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative • Process 	<p>What is the current proportion of uninsured women enrolled in screening programs in target community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <1% of screening is represented by unfunded patients • ≈ 25% of eligible women are unfunded in target community 	<p>What are the barriers for breast and cervical screening among target community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines are new • Socio-economic, and geographic barriers as mentioned above • Lack of awareness 	Already completed for project planning and strategy
Execution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative • Process 	<p>How many screening providers are participating?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of contracts and new contacts will be monitored 	<p>Is the inter-professional team training culturally acceptable?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County-specific events with local partnerships will have feedback evaluations by participants 	Every quarter
		<p>How many eligible women are participating in screening?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County-wise count of all services will be documented in a prospective database 	<p>Is the flow of care working between outreach events and service delivery at the provider facility?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hits and misses discussion at the outset and annual partners meeting 	At baseline and every year
Completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 	<p>How many early stage breast and cervical cancers / high-risk lesions are diagnosed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All screening outcomes will be tracked in a prospective database 	<p>Is the provider network culture changed toward evidence-based screening for unfunded patients?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rate of referrals over time will be computed – partners' meetings would address provider feedback 	At baseline and every quarter



Measures
of change



Measures of
attributions
of change



TTUHSC BREAST CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

ABC³4WT

Access to Breast and Cervical Care for West Texas

SERVICES PROVIDED

8/1/2010 – 7/31/2020



Indirect Contacts

5,160,331



Direct Contacts

36,875

Screening Mammograms & Diagnostic Services

9,655



Cervical Screening & Diagnostic Services

1,448

Precursors/Cancers

154



HPV Vaccinations

8,556



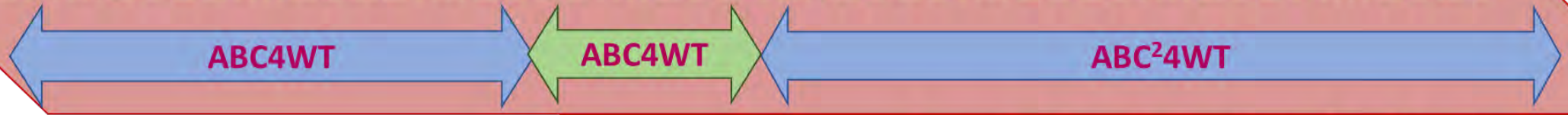
100%

FOLLOW UP CARE ACCORDING TO NCCN GUIDELINES

- **Cancer**
- **High Risk Lesions**

EVOLUTION & IMPACT OF ABC²4WT PROJECT

2010....2011....2012....2013....2014....2015....2016....2017....2020



-  CPRIT funded
-  Sustained with local funds
-  Value-added services

Free Coping Skills Class for Survivors

Free Clinic Consults

Free Genetic Testing



Breast Center of Excellence

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER



Measures of
attributions
of change

Name

- Breast Health Modules
- Data Tracking
- Other Resources
- Project Director's Guide
- WISE Woman Training

- Name
- Outreach
 - Users Guide

- Name
- Enrollment Form
 - Outreach Field Event Checklist

- Name
- Module I Risks 2017
 - Module I Risks 2017
 - Module II Screening 2017
 - Module II Screening 2017
 - Module III Pain 2017
 - Module III Pain 2017
 - Module IV Lump 2017
 - Module IV Lump 2017
 - Module V Discharge 2017
 - Module V Discharge 2017

- Name
- Breast Health Presentation for community groups - KEYS Engl...
 - Breast Health Presentation for community groups - KEYS Engl...
 - Breast Health Presentation for community groups -KEYS Span...
 - Breast Health Presentation for community groups -KEYS Span...
 - Flipchart Presentation for community groups
 - Flipchart Presentation for community groups
 - Flipcharts
 - Flipcharts
 - WISE Woman Continuing Education Revised
 - WISE Woman Continuing Education Revised
 - WISE Woman Training - Interaction Skills
 - WISE Woman Training - Interaction Skills



Breast Services
TEXAS TECH

Project Name: Access to
Target R

New Contact

Edit/Search

Administration

Funded by:



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

*First Name:

*Last Name:

Maiden Name:

*DOB: mm/dd/yyyy

Contact Date	Mammogram Date	Mammogram	Pap Smear Date	Pap Smear	HPV Vaccination
03/05/2019	03/05/2019	Screening Only			

Add Service(s)

Delete Service(s)

Reports

Reports

Services

Events

Mammogram Report	Pap Smear Report	HPV Report
Mammogram No Shows Report	Pap Smear No Shows Report	HPV No Shows Report
Breast Biopsy Report	Cervix Biopsy Report	
Unique Individuals Served	Export Contacts/Services	

Events Report
Export Events

Main Screen



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: WAYNE ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM 6, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT
DATE: AUGUST 12, 2020

As of this writing, the Chief Executive Officer Report for the August 19 Oversight Committee meeting will consist of the items listed below. Other items may be added. In addition to my report, I have included a copy of the June 2020 CPRIT Activity Update at the end of this tab for your reference. CPRIT provides the activity report in the months in which the Oversight Committee does not meet.

FY 2020 Grant Awards Funds Available (Attachment 1)

Prior to any action at the August 19 Oversight Committee, CPRIT has \$128.9 million available from FY 2020 appropriations for grant awards. The Program Integration Committee (PIC) recommends \$115.1 million in awards for Academic Research, Product Development Research and Prevention. If the Oversight Committee approves the PIC's recommendations at the August 19 meeting, CPRIT will have a balance of \$13.9 million unused from our FY 2020 grant awards appropriation. CPRIT will carry this amount forward by law for our use in future years.

CPRIT's Response to COVID-19 Related Issues (Attachment 2)

I have provided a summary of CPRIT's response since the May meeting to the COVID-19 declared disaster as Attachment 2. Highlights to call to your attention follow.

- CPRIT continues its mandatory remote work policy. Unless directed differently by state leadership, CPRIT will maintain this policy and reassess our status at the end of the year.
- Program staff is working with grantees facing a funding gap due to the cancellation of the first review cycle for FY 2021. The Oversight Committee will consider grant award supplements to one academic training grant and one prevention grant at its August 19 meeting. If approved, the supplemental funding will allow the grantees to continue operations until the FY 2021 awards are announced.
- CPRIT reactivated the FY 2021 review cycles after state leadership exempted CPRIT from the 5% reduction to state agency fiscal biennium 2020-21 general revenue appropriations.

- Pursuant to the authority provided by the Governor’s Office to address the COVID-19 disaster, CPRIT issued short-term policy changes to authorize reimbursement with grant funds for otherwise allowable costs associated with that COVID-19 disaster that would not normally qualify for reimbursement. CPRIT submitted all proposed policy changes to the Governor’s Office for review before posting the updated guidance on our [website](#).
- In accordance with the process established by state leadership, CPRIT records all reimbursed grantee expenses related to the COVID-19 disaster and submits expense reports to the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor’s Office.
- CPRIT grant funds are limited to supporting cancer research and prevention projects. Accordingly, CPRIT has not made any grants related to researching or preventing the corona virus. However, like all science, knowledge gained from cancer research may reveal unanticipated insights into unrelated medical or scientific questions, such as those posed by the virus. Several recent examples of CPRIT grant projects that are contributing to the global hunt for COVID-19 treatments and vaccines are provided in the attachment.

FY 2022 Program Priorities and CPRIT 2.0 Planning (Attachment 3)

Attachment 3 provides a revised timeline for development of the 2022 Program Priorities and “CPRIT 2.0” Plan. This is the same timeline discussed at the July 31 special Oversight Committee meeting and no action is required at this time.

These projects were underway when the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted regular work processes and ended most face-to-face meetings and associated travel. Several product development research meetings had occurred by this suspension, as well as presentation of the required reports from the Academic Research, Prevention and Product Development Advisory Committees to the Oversight Committee at the May meeting.

Staff proposes resuming outreach efforts to solicit public and state leadership input into programmatic plans for “CPRIT 2.0.” As indicated in the revised draft schedule, CPRIT tentatively extended this project to the February 17, 2021, Oversight Committee meeting. Previously we had expected it to culminate at the November 18, 2020, Oversight Committee meeting.

The 2022 Program Priorities remain on schedule for adoption at the November 18 Oversight Committee meeting. This timeframe is necessary to inform upcoming Requests for Proposals expected to be awarded during FY 2022.

CPRIT has awarded **1,517** grants totaling **\$2.540 billion**

- 236 prevention awards totaling \$263.5 million
- 1,281 academic research and product development research awards totaling \$2.278 billion

Of the \$2.278 billion in academic research and product development research awards,

- 30.3% of the funding (\$690.8 million) supports clinical research projects
- 24.7% of the funding (\$561.1 million) supports translational research projects
- 28.3% of funding (\$643.6 million) supports recruitment awards
- 14.1% of the funding (\$321.3 million) supports discovery stage research projects
- 2.6% of funding (\$59.9 million) supports training programs.

CPRIT has 4 open Requests for Applications (RFAs)

- 3 Research Recruitment
- 7 Academic Research
- 1 Prevention

FY 2020 GRANT AWARD FUNDING AVAILABLE

General Obligation Bond Proceeds

	Prevention	Academic / Product Development Research	1% Grant Funding Buffer	Operating Budget	Total Appropriations
Available Appropriated Funds	\$ 28,035,081	\$ 254,738,136		\$ 17,226,783	\$ 300,000,000
Approved Adjustment to Operating Budget		\$ (2,421,300)		\$ 2,421,300	
Appropriations Transfer to DSHS		\$ (3,118,032)		\$ 3,118,032	
Adjusted Appropriations	\$ 28,035,081	\$ 249,198,804		\$ 22,766,115	\$ 300,000,000
Total Available for All Grants			\$ 277,233,885		
1% of Total Available Grant Funding			\$ 2,772,339		
Adjusted Grant Award Funding	28,035,081	\$ 246,426,465			\$ 274,461,546

	Prevention Grants	Academic Research Grants	PD Research Grants	
Total Available for Grant Awards (Total GO Bond Proceeds Less Operating Budget)	\$ 28,035,081	\$ 174,439,163	\$ 74,759,641	\$ 277,233,885
Total Available for Grant Awards Incorporating 1% Grant	\$ 28,035,081	\$ 172,498,526	\$ 73,927,940	\$ 274,461,546

Announced Grant Awards

11/20/19 Recruitment Awards (10)	\$ -	\$ 38,000,000		
2/19/2020 Prevention Awards (8)	\$ 12,907,816			
2/19/2020 Prevention Dissemination Award (2)	\$ 599,953			
2/19/2020 PDR SEED Awards (4)			\$ 11,996,760	
2/19/2020 Recruitment Awards (5)		\$ 16,000,000		
2/19/2020 IIR Awards (28)		\$ 25,183,569		
2/19/2020 IIR Awards-Cancer in Children/Adolescents (4)		\$ 4,977,911		
2/19/2020 IIR Awards-Prevention/Early Detection (1)		\$ 890,502		
2/19/2020 IIR Awards-Clinical Translation (3)		\$ 5,667,103		
5/20/20 PDR Company Relocation Award (1)			\$ 14,196,990	
5/20/20 Recruitment Awards (13)		\$ 41,973,674		
Announced Grant Awards	\$ 13,507,769	\$ 132,692,759	\$ 26,193,750	\$ 172,394,278

Grant Award Adjustments

1/6/20 Declined Recruit (Rice-You) 11/2019 OC		\$ (6,000,000)		
1/6/20 Declined Recruit (Rice-Liu) 11/2019 OC		\$ (4,000,000)		
3/18/20 Declined Recruit (MDA-Smith) 2/2020 OC		\$ (2,000,000)		
4/29/20 Grant Reduction to RP200369 (UTMDA)		\$ (726,318)		
5/15/20 Declined Recruit (UTSW-Steidl) 11/2019 OC		\$ (6,000,000)		
5/15/2020 Declined Recruit (UTSW-Durbin) 2/2020 OC		\$ (2,000,000)		
7/7/20 Declined Recruit (UTSA-Scheidt) 2/2020 OC		\$ (6,000,000)		
7/21/20 Grant Reduction for RP200150 (UTMDA)		\$ (143,852)		
Revised Grant Award Subtotal	\$ 13,507,769	\$ 105,822,589	\$ 26,193,750	\$ 145,524,108
Uncommitted Funds as of July 31, 2020	\$ 14,527,312	\$ 66,675,937	\$ 47,734,190	\$ 128,937,438

Pending Grants for PIC Recommendation

PDR Texas Company Awards (2)			\$ 25,421,133	
Prevention Awards (8)	\$ 14,063,633	\$ -		
Recruitment Awards (11)	\$ -	\$ 29,997,660	\$ -	
IIR Awards (8)	\$ -	\$ 6,855,983		
IIR Awards-Cancer in Children and Adolescents (2)	\$ -	\$ 2,398,659		
IIR Awards-Prevention and Early Detection (2)	\$ -	\$ 2,380,366		
IIR Awards-Clinical Translation (1)	\$ -	\$ 1,199,997		
Collaborative Action Plan Research Awards (3)	\$ -	\$ 7,407,804		
Core Facility Support Awards (4)	\$ -	\$ 14,821,043		
Early Clinical Investigator Awards (4)	\$ -	\$ 5,991,545		
High-Impact, High Risk Awards (17)	\$ -	\$ 4,245,038		
Research Training Award Supplement (RP160015)		\$ 172,601		
EBP Services Award Supplement (PP170094)	\$ 125,000	\$ -	\$ -	
Pending Award Subtotal	\$ 14,188,633	\$ 75,470,696	\$ 25,421,133	\$ 115,080,462
Total Pending Grant & Grant Funds Committed	\$ 27,696,402	\$ 181,293,285	\$ 51,614,883	\$ 260,604,570
Uncommitted Funds as of August 4, 2020	\$ 338,679	\$ (8,794,759)	\$ 22,313,057	\$ 13,856,976
Possible PIC Reallocation of Uncommitted Funds		\$ 22,313,057	\$ (22,313,057)	
Revised Uncommitted Funds from Reallocation	\$ 338,679	\$ 13,518,298	\$ (0)	\$ 13,856,976

Operating Budget Detail

Indirect Administration		\$ 4,362,053
Grant Review & Award Operations		\$ 12,864,730
Approved Adjustment to Operating Budget		\$ 2,421,300
Subtotal, CPRIT Operating Costs		\$ 19,648,083
Cancer Registry Operating Cost Transfer		\$ 3,118,032
Total, Operating Costs		22,766,115



August 11, 2020

CPRIT's Ongoing Response to the COVID-19 Disaster

Since our report to the Oversight Committee in May, CPRIT has taken the following actions to respond to the COVID-19 disaster and the pandemic's effect on agency operations and grantees.

Internal Operations

- CPRIT continues its mandatory remote work policy. Unless directed differently by state leadership, CPRIT will maintain this policy and reassess our status at the end of the year.
- Staff handles most internal meetings and interactions by videoconference; CPRIT conducts most meetings (including invited presentations) with groups external to CPRIT via videoconference.

Addressing Grantee Issues Resulting From COVID-19 Work Stoppages

- CPRIT's internal COVID-19 work group meets weekly or as needed to resolve COVID-19 questions quickly and to provide consistent guidance for grantees and applicants.
- Program staff is working with grantees facing a funding gap due to the cancellation of the first review cycle for FY 2021. The Oversight Committee will consider grant award supplements to one academic training grant and one prevention grant at its August 19 meeting. If approved, the supplemental funding will allow the grantees to continue operations until the FY 2021 awards are announced.

FY 2021 Requests for Applications

- CPRIT reactivated the FY 2021 review cycles after state leadership exempted CPRIT from the 5% reduction to state agency fiscal biennium 2020-21 general revenue appropriations.
- The Oversight Committee held a special meeting on July 31 to review the RFA release schedule and mechanisms offered in FY 2021. Due to scheduling and logistical issues, the Academic Research and Product Development Research programs will offer one super cycle instead of two cycles for each program. The Prevention Program plans two rounds of application reviews and the CPRIT Scholar recruitment review cycles will continue unchanged.
- With the Oversight Committee-reviewed plan in place, CPRIT projects that we will fully award all appropriate grant funds for FY 2021.
- In addition to the continuously open recruitment RFAs, CPRIT released one academic research RFA in June and six academic research RFAs and a prevention RFA in early August for FY 2021 grant awards. Three of the FY 2021 academic research RFAs are new award mechanisms that CPRIT has not offered before.

Reporting to State Leadership and the Legislature Regarding CPRIT Policy Changes Directly Related to COVID-19

Pursuant to the authority provided by the Governor's Office to address the COVID-19 disaster, CPRIT issued short-term policy changes to authorize reimbursement with grant funds for otherwise allowable costs associated with that COVID-19 disaster (listed below) that would not normally qualify for reimbursement. CPRIT submitted all proposed policy changes to the Governor's Office for review before posting the updated guidance on our [website](#).

Grantee Expenses Incurred Due to the COVID-19 Disaster Reimbursable with Grant Funds:

- Salary, benefits, and stipends for personnel unable to work or working at reduced levels on grant projects during the March 1 – May 31 fiscal quarter due to the COVID-19 disaster travel and work restrictions. After careful consideration, CPRIT notified the Governor's Office and grantees that it was not extending this policy past the March 1 – May 31 fiscal quarter.
- Conference registration expenses for conferences that the host cancelled and did not refund the registration fee. CPRIT restricted reimbursements only to event registrations made by grantees before March 20.
- Prepaid travel expenses incurred by grantees to take advantage of discounts on airfare or hotel costs for conferences or seminars that were subsequently cancelled. CPRIT limited reimbursements to travel booked before March 20 or the date that the grantee implemented a no-travel policy, if earlier than March 20.
- Expenses for personal protective equipment and COVID-19 tests if these items are necessary in the delivery of direct patient care through a CPRIT-funded project. For example, some prevention grantees directly interact with patients when providing cancer prevention clinical services, such as mammograms or colonoscopies. Academic research and product development research grantees may come into contact with patients through a CPRIT-funded clinical trial.
- Laptops purchased for grantee personnel to telework when carrying out work associated with CPRIT-funded cancer prevention and research projects.

Pursuant to the process established by state leadership, CPRIT records all reimbursed grantee expenses related to the COVID-19 disaster and submits expense reports to the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor's Office.

- On August 3 CPRIT submitted our first report detailing \$31,646 in grantee expenses related to the COVID-19 disaster. CPRIT's August 3 expense report reflects reimbursed grantee costs associated with personnel expenses and prepaid cancelled travel for the March 1 – May 31 quarterly reporting period. The grantee provided the information via financial status reports, which CPRIT reviewed and approved by the end of July.
- As more grantees submit financial status reports covering the March 1 – May 31 fiscal quarter (due by August 29), CPRIT expects the amount of COVID-19 expenses reimbursed with CPRIT grant funds to increase significantly.

CPRIT 2.0 Outreach and Planning

Due to the COVID-19 disaster, CPRIT initially suspended its statewide project soliciting stakeholder input, including guidance from the legislature and state leadership, regarding “CPRIT 2.0” – the plan for the next decade of innovative cancer research and prevention activities throughout Texas. At its special July 31 meeting, Oversight Committee and CPRIT staff announced that we will resume the outreach efforts beginning in September – October, primarily through video conferences, webinars, and other technologies to accommodate in-person meeting concerns and travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 disaster. CPRIT will update the Oversight Committee and stakeholders regarding details and upcoming events.

CPRIT 2022 Program Priorities Development

The Oversight Committee discussed the statutorily required process for setting priorities for each of the CPRIT’s three grant programs at its July 31 special meeting. The Oversight Committee will adopt the FY 2022 program priorities on schedule at its regular November meeting. CPRIT uses the program priorities to inform requests for applications, peer review and Program Integration Committee activities for the Fiscal Year 2022 grant awards.

CPRIT Grantee Research Activities in Response to COVID-19

The Texas Constitution and state law limits CPRIT grant funds to supporting innovative cancer research and prevention projects. Accordingly, CPRIT will not solicit or award grants related to researching or preventing the corona virus. However, like all science, knowledge gained from cancer research may reveal unanticipated insights into unrelated medical or scientific questions, such as those posed by the virus. I have included some recent examples of CPRIT grant projects that are contributing to the global hunt for COVID-19 treatments and vaccines.

- Researchers lead by Dr. Jason McLellan at The University of Texas at Austin used the CPRIT-funded cryogenic electron microscope housed in UT’s new Sauer Laboratory for Structural Biology to make an atomic scale 3-D model of the virus’ spike protein and published the structure in the journal *Science* in March. Dr. McLellan is not a CPRIT grantee, but he credits access to “one of the best electron microscopes in the world” for his team being the first ones to create this crucial map. As a result, a potential vaccine developed using the information revealed by the UT scientists is entering the final phase of human trials this month after showing promising results in Phase I trials.
- CPRIT Scholar Dr. Ilya Finkelstein, an associate professor in the Department of Molecular Biosciences at the University of Texas at Austin, built upon Dr. McLellan’s work, helping to redesign a key protein, called HexaPro, from coronavirus that could lead to faster and more stable production of the vaccine worldwide and more patients having access to vaccines faster. Scientists may also use HexaPro in COVID-19 antibody tests. Dr. Finkelstein is one of a team of inventors that recently filed a patent application for HexaPro. Biotechnology company Sino Biological has a non-exclusive license to manufacture HexaPro and sell it worldwide.

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- CPRIT grantee Dr. Yogesh Gupta, a researcher at the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine at UT Health San Antonio, and his team discovered how the coronavirus can enter cells without triggering an anti-viral response. Dr. Gupta's team studied the structure of an enzyme that the virus produces to camouflage its viral messenger RNA so that the cell treats it as its own code. This discovery, published in *Nature Communications*, may pave the way for designing antiviral drugs targeting COVID-19 and other corona virus infections.
 - FujiFilm Diosynth Biotechnologies announced that its College Station site (formerly Kalon Biotherapeutics) will manufacture COVID-19 vaccine candidates as part of Operation Warp Speed, the federal government program preparing to deliver COVID-19 vaccines throughout the country. CPRIT awarded Kalon a grant in 2012 for the formation of a process development lab to support manufacturing cancer drugs in larger quantities. Fujifilm Diosynth acquired Kalon in 2014 and continues the vital work manufacturing promising drugs and treatments.
 - Houston-based Pulmotect received FDA approval to begin two Phase-2 trials targeting COVID-19 using its immune stimulating drug PUL-042. CPRIT funded Pulmotect's development of the PUL-042 drug, which harnesses the power of the innate immune system - the front line of disease defense - to fight off a wide range of respiratory infections. Initially targeted at respiratory complications caused by cancer treatments, PUL-042 has shown compelling protection against a broad range of respiratory pathogens, including the coronaviruses that cause MERS and SARs, in preclinical mice models.



Timeline for Development of “CPRIT 2.0” Plan and 2022 Program Priorities* Revised August 2020

✓June – November 2019

Initial discussions with legislators, state leadership, stakeholders, and others about CPRIT 2.0, identifying potential opportunities for CPRIT’s second decade (listed at the end of this timeline.)

✓January

Senior staff and program managers drafted development timeline for Oversight Committee review at February subcommittees and the February 19 Oversight Committee meeting.

✓Early February

CPRIT program staff prepared summaries of where CPRIT has invested grant funds over the past 10 years for each priority and by mechanism. This information was made available at the February 19 Oversight Committee meeting.

✓February Subcommittees and February 19 Oversight Committee Meeting

Staff introduced initial formal timeline and process for creating the CPRIT 2.0 plan and 2022 Program Priorities to Oversight Committee subcommittees and the public at February 19 Oversight Committee meeting.

✓March/April

Advisory committees met in March and April to develop suggestions for CPRIT 2.0 and 2022 Program Priorities; the Advisory Committees presented their suggestions at the May 20 Oversight Committee meeting.

✓(partial) Spring/Summer

Program Chiefs sought external input from stakeholders (e.g., deans, presidents, review council members, advocates, cognizant others) through scheduled meetings and informal venues. CPRIT planned to initiate public forums seeking input at sites across the state (suspended). CPRIT had planned to host some meetings through interactive webinars to increase opportunities to participate. Significant outreach accomplished included:

- Discussion and input from all CPRIT program advisory committees.
- Product Development Research ad hoc gatherings for discussion and input in San Antonio and El Paso.
- Preliminary partnership opportunity discussions with Susan G. Komen Foundation, Prostate Cancer Foundation and Lyda Hill Foundation.

✓May 20 Oversight Committee Meeting

CPRIT’s four advisory committees presented their annual reports to the Oversight Committee, including preliminary advice and recommendations about CPRIT 2.0 and 2022 Program Priorities.

2022 Program Priorities

✓July

Staff prepares revised “Timeline for Development of ‘CPRIT 2.0’ Plan and 2022 Program Priorities” to inform the Oversight Committee of the resumption of both projects.

✓July 31

Oversight Committee reviews the revised schedule for 2022 Program Priorities development.

August

Staff prepares draft 2022 Program Priorities for discussion at OC Subcommittees prior to August 19 Oversight Committee. *Reminder: the August OC meetings are always lengthy with many required approvals. Plan extra time for the subcommittee meetings to discuss awards and the 2022 Program Priorities.*

September/October

Additional OC Subcommittee meetings scheduled as desired to discuss 2022 Program Priorities.

October/Early November

Staff prepares final draft of 2022 Program Priorities for review by OC Subcommittees prior to November 18 Oversight Committee.

November 18

Oversight Committee receives public input on 2022 Program Priorities and approves them subject to any modification.

CPRIT 2.0 Planning

July-October

Staff identifies issues with resuming outreach to solicit public and state leadership input into program plans for CPRIT 2.0. Staff develops a draft schedule to engage the public, state leadership and the Oversight Committee. Staff develops conceptual ideas for CPRIT 2.0 to facilitate future discussions with the public, state leadership and the Oversight Committee.

November

Staff discusses draft schedule and process with OC Subcommittees prior to the November 18 Oversight Committee.

November 18

Oversight Committee discusses process and schedule and provides direction on how to proceed.

December 2020 – May 2021

Outreach. Additional discussion, planning and possible development of a draft CPRIT 2.0 Plan document.

* The Oversight Committee establishes program priorities more than 12 months in advance of the applicable fiscal year to allow CPRIT programs enough time to develop requests for applications that incorporate the priorities. The fiscal year 2022 priorities will be the first program priorities that will guide the award of the funds approved by voters in November 2019.

During discussions about increasing the state's investment in cancer research and prevention with legislators, state leadership, and stakeholders in 2019, CPRIT identified several potential ideas, listed below, as a preliminary framework for CPRIT 2.0.

- Capitalizing on CPRIT's longstanding investments in improving outcomes in childhood cancer; with continued support, Texas can be the world leader in childhood cancer research
- Grow and enhance the coalitions and networks delivering cancer prevention services by providing infrastructure to support them
- Creating and expanding research and treatment capabilities at universities in all regions of the state
- Boosting clinical trial options to more people by reducing the institutional and patient barriers to trials
- Increasing the number and breadth of Collaborative Action Programs (CAPs) that target Texas-centric needs in cancer research and prevention. The CPRIT-initiated liver cancer CAP is addressing liver cancer, which Texas ranks first among states in incidence rate
- Taking advantage of the pipeline of novel cancer diagnostic and treatment discoveries at Texas universities by supporting the transition of early stage development in the growing number of Texas-based companies
- Doubling the number of NCI Comprehensive Cancer Centers and elevate Texas institutions' standing in prominent national reviews such as the *US News and World Report's* rankings

through continued investment in research capacity, access to cutting-edge technology, and recruiting preeminent experts and the next generation of scientific leaders to Texas

- Co-investing with established bio-tech venture capital firms in promising Texas-based companies, sharing the risks and rewards equally

**CPRIT MANAGEMENT DASHBOARD
FISCAL YEAR 2020**

	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	CUMULATIVE (ANNUAL)	CUMULATIVE (TO DATE)
ACCOUNTABILITY														
Announced Grant Awards			10			55			14				79	
New Grant Contracts Signed	10	22	24	4	12	5	12	21	7	6	3		126	
New Grant Contracts In Negotiation			5			24			15				44	
Grant Reimbursements Processed (#)	232	140	140	177	187	172	146	111	183	131	97		1716	
Grant Reimbursements Processed (\$)	\$ 18,835,002	\$ 14,356,017	\$ 8,250,650	\$ 21,894,162	\$ 21,691,394	\$ 12,091,756	\$ 22,774,078	\$ 11,710,923	\$ 19,773,115	\$ 13,674,941	\$ 15,419,693		\$ 180,471,731	
Revenue Sharing Payments Received	\$ -	\$ 11,820	\$ 17,896	\$ 1,000	\$ 128,166	\$ 107,366	\$ 1,033	\$ 8,661	\$ 633,232	\$ 15,000	\$ 23,031		\$ 947,206	\$ 4,664,499
Grants Awarded (#)/ Applications Rec'd (#)	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%			
Grantee Compliance Trainings	0	2	2	0	3	4	3	3	1	1	0		19	
Grantee Compliance Monitoring Visits	1	2	4	2	4	4	0	0	0	0	0		17	
Awards with Delinquent Reimbursement Submission (FSR)			1			0			0					
Awards with Delinquent Matching Funds Verification			1			0			0					
Awards with Delinquent Progress Report Submission			2			0			1					
MISSION														
Open RFAs	7	8	11	14	14	7	10	3	3	3	4			
Prevention Applications Received	0	0	0	5	0	18	0	0	0	0	0		23	869
Product Development Applications Received	0	0	0	0	28	0	0	0	0	0	0		28	561
Academic Research Applications Received	5	3	3	5	155	13	13	8	12	10	4		231	7,543
Help Desk Calls/Emails	168	210	81	119	270	196	138	109	92	119	68		1,570	
Number of Research Grants Announced (Annual)	0		10			41			13				64	
Recruited Scientists Contracted														199
Number of Product Development Grants Announced			0			4			1				5	
Life Science Companies Recruited (in TX)														9
Number of Product Development Jobs Created & Maintained														515
Number of Prevention Grants Announced (Annual)			0			10			0				10	
Total Number of Education, Navigation and Training Services			179,679			135,435			121,990				437,104	
Total Number of Clinical Services			99,188			84,356			35,980				219,524	
Published Articles on CPRIT-Funded Projects (#)													0	
Clinical Studies (#)														132
Number of Patent Applications													0	
Number of Patents Resulting from Research													0	
TRANSPARENCY														
Total Website Hits (Sessions)	8,447	11,842	11,887	6,445	10,164	12,049	7,999	8,207	7,847	8,396	7,076			
Total Unique Visitors to Website (Users)	5,206	7,736	8,418	4,084	6,520	8,428	5,875	5,954	5,783	6,661	5,458			



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: WAYNE R. ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT: CPRIT ACTIVITIES UPDATE JUNE 2020
DATE: JULY 1, 2020

Topics in this memo cover CPRIT activities in May and June. Also included are preparations for the July 31 Special Oversight Committee meeting, recent milestones in our fight against cancer, CPRIT's 10-year milestone as a CEO Cancer Gold Standard employer, a staffing summary, outreach efforts, and updates from Compliance, Programs, and Operations.

Planning for the July 31 Oversight Committee Meeting

The Oversight Committee will meet July 31 at 9:00 a.m. by videoconference and teleconference. Although the Texas Open Meetings Act requires government officials and members of the public to be physically present at a specified meeting location, Governor Abbott eased enforcement of this restriction while the COVID-19 pandemic makes travel and meeting in large groups prohibitive.

We will convene the Special Oversight Committee meeting and four subcommittee meetings (Audit, Academic Research, Product Development Research and Prevention subcommittees) using CPRIT's GoToWebinar subscription. Please plan to call in 15 - 30 minutes before the posted subcommittee and open meeting start time so that we can address any technology or connection problems without delaying the meeting.

CPRIT will post the final agenda for the Oversight Committee meeting by July 23; I have attached a tentative agenda to this update. Oversight Committee members will receive an electronic copy of the agenda packet by July 24. We will also send you a hard copy by mail.

We will need to meet in closed session for at least one agenda item. The entire meeting should last 60 - 90 minutes.

Recent Milestones in the Fight Against Cancer

CPRIT Grantees in the News

- The Pew Charitable Trusts selected CPRIT Scholar Jeffery Woodruff, Ph.D., assistant professor cell biology at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, as a Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Woodruff will receive four years of research

funding. He is one of 22 talented scientists selected this year from 191 applicants. In 2017 UT Southwestern recruited Dr. Woodruff to Texas with a CPRIT First Time Tenure Track award after his graduate work at the University of California Berkeley and post-doctoral work at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics in Dresden, Germany.

- One year after investing \$1 billion to acquire Dallas-based Peloton Therapeutics, Merck reports promising data from a Phase 2 study of a HIF-2 α inhibitor developed by Peloton. The drug curbed tumor growth in 43% of patients and shrank tumors in 28% of patients with kidney cancer linked to a genetic condition. These early results offer hope not only to a patient group that must undergo multiple abdominal surgeries but also to kidney cancer patients more broadly.

Peloton received a \$3.2 million CPRIT Product Development award in 2010 to fund the development of small molecule drug programs sourced from leading investigators at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

- San Antonio-based Pelican Therapeutics treated its first patient in the company's Phase 1 clinical trial of PTX-35. The company's first-in-human Phase 1 trial will enroll up to 30 patients with advanced solid tumors not responding to standard-of-care treatments. PTX-35 is a novel, first-in-class drug designed to treat multiple solid tumor types. Preclinical studies have demonstrated PTX-35, in combination with antigen-driven immunotherapies, helped eliminate tumors.

Pelican received a \$15.2 million CPRIT Product Development award in 2016 to support the pre-clinical development, manufacturing, and Phase 1 clinical development for PTX-35.

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration notified ESSA Pharma that it may begin clinical trials of EPI-7386 for the treatment of metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC). ESSA expects the Phase 1 clinical trial to enroll 18 mCRPC patients, with up to 10 additional patients enrolled in a dose expansion cohort, for evaluating the safety and tolerability of EPI-7386. The company also plans to study the pharmacokinetic, biological, and anti-tumor effects of therapy in the trial. The Houston and Vancouver based company has also submitted a clinical trial application to Health Canada that is pending authorization.

ESSA received a \$12 million CPRIT Product Development award in 2014 for the development of an androgen receptor N-terminus blocker for the treatment of prostate cancer.

- Medicenna Therapeutics presented data from its completed Phase 2b trial of MDNA55, an IL4-guided toxin, in patients with recurrent glioblastoma (rGBM), at the 2020 American Society of Clinical Oncology Virtual Annual Meeting. The poster discussion focused on additional data demonstrating clinical superiority of MDNA55 in patients with rGBM.

Houston and Toronto based Medicenna received a \$14.1 million Product Development award in 2015 for the development of MDNA55 for the treatment of glioblastoma.

- Molecular Templates presented new preclinical data on its pipeline programs and technology platform at the American Association for Cancer Research Virtual Annual Meeting II June 22-24, 2020.

Austin-based Molecular Templates has received two CPRIT Product Development awards to date, including a \$10.6 million award in 2011 to fund the development novel targeted Engineered Toxin Bodies for the treatment of lymphoma, and a \$15.2 million award in 2016 to fund the development of a novel compound for the treatment of multiple myeloma

- Asyilia Therapeutics recently finalized an exclusive worldwide license agreement with The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center to develop first-in-class immune modulating therapies for cancer, autoimmune and infectious diseases. The license covers a set of antibodies targeting epitopes on the extracellular or cell surface forms of heat-shock protein 70, including lead product ASY-77A, which is designed to enhance antigen presentation and trigger antitumor immune responses.

Houston-based Asyilia received a \$3 million CPRIT SEED Product Development award in 2020 for development of their lead compound, ASY-77A.

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration invited Houston-based Salarius Pharmaceuticals to present information regarding the company's lead investigational compound, seclidemstat, at the June 17 public advisory committee meeting of the Pediatric Oncology Subcommittee of the Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee. Seclidemstat is a reversible LSD1 inhibitor currently in a Phase 1/2 clinical trial for Ewing sarcoma, a rare and deadly pediatric bone cancer for which there are no approved targeted treatments available. The FDA has granted seclidemstat Fast Track Designation, as well as Orphan and Rare Pediatric Disease Designations, in recognition of the high unmet medical need facing Ewing sarcoma patients.

Salarius received a \$18.7 million CPRIT Product Development award in 2016 for the development of seclidemstat.

Notable Research and Prevention Grantee Accomplishments

- The CPRIT-funded project, Alliance for Colorectal Cancer Testing (ACT) in Southeast Texas, led by Dr. Lewis Foxhall of The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, shows that a FIT-based screening model for colorectal cancer can work successfully in a wide variety of clinic systems and geographic areas. Many community clinics are not performing colorectal screenings because there is a lack of primary care provider education and connections to GI specialists. The ACT project removes these structural barriers and addresses patient financial burdens, leading to the early detection of many colorectal precursors and cancers.

Of the 646 colonoscopies completed by the ACT project, clinicians removed cancer precursors from 240 patients and diagnosed 26 people with cancer. Without the CPRIT-funded project, the cancers would have been detected at a later, more serious stage. Similarly, clinicians would not have discovered most of the cancer precursors found by the ACT project until they were malignant. Another benefit of this project is that the cancer

screening partner clinics have integrated screening best practices into staff routines, resulting in screening more people than ever before.

- A CPRIT funded project led by Dr. Theodora Ross and The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center created a unique healthcare position, the Genetic Patient Navigator (GPN) role, to expand access to genetics services, increase identification of hereditary cancers, and reduce the incidence of cancer. With the GPN's intervention, more patients in underserved populations participated in genetic cascade testing (testing blood relatives of individuals who have specific genetic cancer mutations). Smoking cessation and survivorship services also increased. UT Southwestern established a permanent GPN position as part of its office of Community Outreach, Engagement, and Equity to continue the cancer prevention efforts started with the CPRIT grant.

- A team led by CPRIT Scholar Zhijie “Jason” Liu, Ph.D., assistant professor of molecular medicine in the Long School of Medicine at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and the Mays Cancer Center, identified important drivers that enable tumors to change their behavior and resist anticancer therapies. By studying tumors in cell lines, mice, and human samples, the team documented genetic signals that promote the conversion of cancer cells from one stage to another. “Phenotypic plasticity” describes the cancer cell’s ability to take different shapes, to grow faster or slower, and to vary in size. Cancers that acquire plasticity often are more dangerous, becoming metastatic and resistant to many targeted therapies. The journal *Nature Cell Biology* published the research in May.

The team’s next step is to screen new drugs, in the form of small molecules, that disrupt the genetic signals underlying tumor plasticity. Clinicians could administer such a drug along with current targeted therapies to eliminate resistance to those treatments.

- A new study led by Venuprasad Poojary, Ph.D., associate professor of internal medicine and immunology at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center published in *Nature Immunology*, offers clues to the mechanism behind Ulcerative Colitis (UC) and Crohn’s disease, providing several new potential targets to treat these often devastating inflammatory bowel conditions. The research findings are part of a CPRIT-funded project (RP160577) investigating an enzyme that may block the severe intestinal inflammation that promotes colon cancer. Using a mouse model, the team discovered that the loss of a gene, *Cyld*, allowed the inflammation associated with Crohn’s and UC to spiral out of control, leading to too much of a key inflammatory molecule called IL-18, and spurring inflammation in the intestines. Importantly, two-thirds of patients with UC and Crohn’s disease showed an abnormally low amount of the *Cyld* protein, confirming the relevance of the mouse experiments and suggesting a potential target to reduce intestinal inflammation in these patients.
- CPRIT Rising Star recruitment grantee Chonghui Cheng, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of molecular and human genetics at the Lester and Sue Smith Breast Center, Baylor College of Medicine, found a protein naturally produced in the body that suppresses breast cancer metastasis in animal models of human tumors. She also discovered that elevated levels of this

protein, AKAP8, predicts a better survival for breast cancer patients. These findings, reported in *Nature Communications*, show that AKAP8 inhibits metastasis by interfering with the production of proteins that promote metastatic behavior in cells and suggest strategies that can improve treatments for metastatic cancer.

CPRIT Recognized for Ten-Year Anniversary as CEO Cancer Gold Standard Employer

The CEO Cancer Gold Standard, the employer-led health and wellness accreditation program of the CEO Roundtable on Cancer, recognized CPRIT for maintaining a decade-long commitment to helping its employees prevent and address cancer through workplace-based programming.

To earn and maintain Gold Standard accreditation, CPRIT must reduce the risk and burden of cancer for its employees by prohibiting tobacco use and supporting tobacco cessation efforts; promoting physical activity, healthy nutrition and weight management; providing health insurance options that include detecting cancer at its earliest stages, access to quality care and participation in cancer clinical trials; promoting employee awareness of these initiatives; and supporting the needs of cancer survivors in the workplace. The CEO Roundtable on Cancer, a nonprofit organization of CEOs, created the [Gold Standard](#) to recognize employers for taking exceptional health and wellness measures on behalf of their employees and family members. There is no cost to apply for or receive Gold Standard accreditation.

Personnel

CPRIT has filled 34 of our 36 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

CPRIT Outreach

Staff outreach during May and June consisted of briefing legislators, legislative staff, advocates, and grantees about CPRIT’s decision to proceed with grant awards in FY 2021 after state leadership unexpectedly excluded CPRIT from the agencies that must reduce FY 2020-21 biennial general revenue budgets by five percent.

Other outreach of interest includes:

- Senior Program Manager for Academic Research Dr. Patty Moore attended a State Agency Council and Executive Women in Texas Government virtual training conference on May 27.
- Chief Product Development Officer Dr. Cindy WalkerPeach presented “CPRIT Product Development Program Outcomes to Date” at the Virtual Texas Venture Mentoring Service Forum on June 15.
- On June 18 Deputy Executive Officer and General Counsel Kristen Doyle, Assistant General Counsel Cameron Eckel, and I participated in the videoconference seminar, “The Long and Short of It—Investment Management and Operations of the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust,” sponsored by the Texas Bond Review Board.

- Dr. Cindy WalkerPeach, Senior Program Manager for Product Development Rosemary French, Ms. Doyle, and I participated in the Texas Healthcare & Bioscience 2020 Virtual Annual Policy Summit on June 18. Panelists and featured speakers addressed several topics concerning the bioscience industry sector, including the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Texas and ongoing drug development efforts.
- On June 24 Oversight Committee member Dr. Bill Rice, Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Jim Willson, Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid, Dr. Moore, Ms. Doyle, and I continued discussions with Susan G. Komen President & CEO Paula Schneider and members of her staff about Komen’s research plans. We also discussed potential collaboration opportunities, including convening a conference of CPRIT breast cancer researchers similar to the Carson Leslie Foundation Pediatric Brain Cancer Summit for CPRIT researchers held in January.
- On June 25 Chief Operating Officer Heidi McConnell, Ms. Doyle, and I briefed Rep. Greg Bonnen on CPRIT’s activities and early outcomes.

Compliance Program Update

Submission Status of Required Grant Recipient Reports

CPRIT has \$1.4 billion in active grants under management, with 560+ grants that are either active or wrapping up grant activities. We receive an average of 560 grantee reports each month. As of June 24, four entities have not filed six Academic Research reports, three Prevention reports, and one Product Development Research report. CPRIT’s grant accountants and compliance specialists review and process incoming reports and reach out to grantees to resolve filing issues. In most cases, CPRIT does not disburse grant funds until the grantee files the required reports. In some instances, grantee institutions may be ineligible to receive a future award if the grantee does not submit the required reports.

Financial Status Report Reviews

CPRIT’s compliance specialists performed 279 second-level reviews of grantee Financial Status Reports (FSRs) for the month of May and June. Forty FSRs (14%) required resubmission due to insufficient or inaccurate documentation submitted by the grantee. CPRIT’s grant accounting staff completes the initial review of the FSRs and supporting documentation before routing them to the compliance specialists for final review and disposition.

Single Audit Tracking

Compliance specialists track the submission of grantees’ independent audit reports and the resolution of issues identified in these reports. Grantees who expend \$750,000 or more in state awards in the grantee’s fiscal year must submit a single independent audit, a program specific audit, or an agreed upon procedures engagement. The grantee submits the independent audit

report with findings to CPRIT within 30 days of receipt, but no later than nine months after the grantee's fiscal year end.

Currently, there is one grantee with a delinquent audit. Grantees are unable to receive reimbursements or advances if they are delinquent in filing the required audit and corrective action plan unless the grantee requested additional time by the due date of the required audit and CPRIT's CEO approved the request. Compliance Specialists are working with the grantee to submit the audit.

Desk Reviews

Compliance specialists performed 21 desk-based financial monitoring reviews for May and June. Desk reviews verify that grantees expend funds in compliance with specific grant requirements and guidelines and may target an organization's internal controls, current and past fiscal audits, and timely submission of required reports. Compliance specialists are working with one grantee to remediate desk review findings.

Onsite Reviews

CPRIT postponed all onsite reviews for May and June due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Onsite reviews examine the grantee's financial and administrative operations, subcontract monitoring, procurement and contracting procedures, inventory procedures, personnel policies and procedures, payroll and timesheet policies, travel policies and records, and single audit compliance. Compliance specialists are working with one grantee to remediate onsite review findings.

Annual Compliance Attestation

CPRIT requires grantees to submit an annual Attestation Form, demonstrating compliance with statutory and administrative grant requirements, CPRIT's policies and procedures, grant contract terms, and the Uniform Grant Management Standards. This opportunity to self-report, in the form of a checklist, provides a baseline of grantee compliance and allows compliance specialists to proactively work with grantees towards full compliance prior to a desk review or on-site review. As of June 24, all grantees have submitted their annual Compliance Attestations.

Training and Support

CPRIT staff conducted one new grantee training webinar during May and June for Asyilia Therapeutics. The training covered grant reporting requirements, administrative rule changes, grant closeout, and an overview of the compliance program including fraud, waste, and abuse reporting. Pursuant to Texas Administrative Code §703.22, CPRIT requires new grantees to complete the initial compliance training program prior to receiving disbursement of grant award funds.

CPRIT staff conducted a series of Annual Compliance Training webinars on June 24-25. Trainings are specific to each program area (Academic Research, Product Development Research, and Prevention) and allow for an interactive experience and opportunity to focus on topics relevant to each program. The trainings cover grant reporting requirements, administrative rule changes, grant closeout, and an overview of the compliance program including fraud, waste, and abuse reporting. This was the second training series offered this year for the annual compliance training requirement, which requires the Authorized Signing Official (ASO) and at least one other employee from each grantee organization to attend an annual compliance training by December 31 of each year.

Academic Research Program Update

FY 2020 Cycle 2 Academic Research Review Cycle (20.2)

CPRIT released the 20.2 RFAs in July 2019 and received 149 applications by the January 15 deadline. Peer review panels met April 17 – 23 via videoconference due to travel restrictions imposed by COVID-19 pandemic. The Scientific Review Council (SRC) will meet in July to decide award decisions. Dr. Willson will present the SRC’s recommendations to the Program Integration Committee and the Oversight Committee in August.

FY 20.2 Mechanism	Received	Funds Requested
Core Facilities Support Awards	18	\$69,958,520
High Impact/High Risk Research Awards	107	\$25,490,636
Early Clinical Investigator Awards	8	\$11,964,285
Collaborative Action Program to reduce liver cancer mortality in Texas: Investigator Initiated Research Awards	16	\$38,021,593
TOTAL	149	\$146,435,034

FY 2020 Q4 Recruitment Applications

The SRC met May 14 and June 11 to review recruitment applications for the fourth quarter of FY 2020 (cycles 20.10 and 20.11). The SRC will consider the final round of recruitment applications for FY 2020 in July and Dr. Willson will present their recommendations to the Program Integration Committee and the Oversight Committee in August.

FY 20.10 and 20.11 Mechanism	Received	Funds Requested	Approved by SRC*	Funds Approved
Recruitment Established Investigators	6	\$32,088,203	2	\$11,997,660
Recruitment of Rising Stars	0	N/A	0	N/A
Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members	15	\$30,750,000	8	\$16,000,000
TOTAL	21	\$62,828,203	10	\$27,997,660

* Based upon funding available in FY 2020, the SRC may recommend some applications for funding in FY 2021.

FY 2021 RFAs

CPRIT released four FY 2021 RFAs in late June. The Oversight Committee previously approved the RFAs for release at the May meeting.

- Recruitment of Established Investigators*
 Recruits outstanding senior research faculty with distinguished professional careers and established cancer research programs to academic institutions in Texas.
 Maximum award: \$6 million over five years.
- Recruitment of Rising Stars*
 Recruits outstanding early-stage investigators to Texas who have demonstrated the promise for continued and enhanced contributions to the field of cancer research.
 Maximum award: \$4 million over five years.
- Recruitment of First-Time Tenure Track Faculty Members*
 Supports promising emerging investigators, pursuing their first faculty appointment in Texas, who can make outstanding contributions to the field of cancer research.
 Maximum award: \$2 million over five years.
- Research Training Awards*
 Supports applications for integrated institutional research training programs to support promising individuals who seek specialized training in cancer research. Successful applicant institutions will provide trainees with broad access to research opportunities across disciplinary lines and to maintain high standards for intellectual rigor and creativity.
 Maximum award: \$800,000 per year in total costs over five years.

Product Development Research Program Update

FY 2020 Cycle 2 (20.2) Product Development Research

CPRIT released three RFAs on November 20, 2019 and accepted 28 applications by the January 29 deadline. Peer reviewers met by teleconference March 23-24. Following the first stage of review, the panels invited eight applicants to make presentations at the in-person peer review

panel meetings held April 21-24. Due to COVID-19 travel and meeting restrictions, CPRIT convened the April applicant presentations via videoconference instead of bringing reviewers and applicants to Dallas to meet in person.

Following the in-person presentations, the peer review panels recommended four applicants to move forward to the diligence evaluation phase of review. The Product Development Review Council (PDRC) will meet in early July to consider IP and business/regulatory due diligence reports and make final award decisions. Dr. WalkerPeach will present the PDRC’s recommendations to the PIC and Oversight Committee in August.

20.2 Mechanism	Received	Funds Requested	In-person presentations	Funds Requested	Diligence Review	Funds Requested
Texas Company	7	\$77,949,275	3	\$45,421,133	2	\$25,421,133
Relocation Company	12	\$198,210,635	5	\$91,011,635	2	\$34,722,457
Seed Company	9	\$25,368,166	0	NA	0	NA
TOTAL	28	\$301,528,076	8	\$136,432,768	4	\$60,143,590

FY 2021 Product Development Research RFAs

The Oversight Committee approved, the following three RFAs at the February Oversight Committee meeting:

- *Texas Company Product Development Research Award (TXCO)*
Supports TX based company product development projects
Maximum award: \$20 million over three years.
- *Company Relocation Product Development Award (RELCO):*
Supports product development projects from companies relocating to TX
Maximum award: \$20 million over three years.
- *Seed Award for Product Development Research (SEED):*
Supports product development projects from newly formed companies
Maximum award: \$3 million over three years.

Dr. WalkerPeach will present the three mechanisms and associated updated timelines at the special Oversight Committee meeting in July. The Product Development Program anticipates opening the application portal for the FY 2021 RFAs in November/December and presenting award recommendations at the August 2021 Oversight Committee Meeting.

Prevention Program Update

FY 2020 Cycle 2 (20.2) Prevention Applications

Applicants for the second cycle of FY 2020 prevention grant awards submitted 18 applications requesting \$24,183,674 by the February 12 deadline. CPRIT convened peer review via videoconference May 12-13. The Prevention Review Council (PRC) met June 15 to consider the peer reviews and recommended eight awards totaling \$14,064,368. Ms. Magid will present the PRC’s recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in August.

20.2 Prevention Mechanism	Received	Funds Requested	Recomm’ed	Funds Recomm’ed
Evidence-based Cancer Prevention Services	6	\$ 5,142,066	0	N/A
Expansion of Cancer Prevention Services to Rural and Medically Underserved Populations	8	\$15,063,595	7	\$13,063,633
Tobacco Control and Lung Cancer Screening	4	\$ 3,978,013	1	\$1,000,000
TOTAL	18	\$24,183,674	8	\$14,063,633

FY 2021 Prevention RFAs

The Oversight Committee approved four RFAs for release during FY 2021 at the May 20 meeting. Ms. Magid will present the recommended timelines for the release of FY 2021 Prevention RFAs at the July 31 Oversight Committee meeting.

- Evidence-Based Cancer Prevention Services*
 Seeks projects that will deliver evidence-based cancer prevention and control clinical services. CPRIT will give priority to projects that propose to address CPRIT areas of emphasis and serve areas of the state not well addressed by current CPRIT funded projects. Award: Maximum of \$1M over 36 months.
- Tobacco Control and Lung Cancer Screening*
 Seeks programs on tobacco prevention and cessation, as well as screening for early detection of lung cancer. Through release of this RFA, CPRIT’s goal is to stimulate more programs across the state, thereby providing greater access for underserved populations and reducing the incidence and mortality rates of tobacco-related cancers. This RFA seeks to promote and deliver evidence-based programming designed to significantly increase tobacco cessation among adults and/or prevent tobacco use by youth.
 New Award: Maximum of \$1million over 36 months. Expansion Award: Maximum of \$2.5 million over 3 years.

- Expansion of Cancer Prevention Services to Rural and Medically Underserved Populations*
 Seeks to support coordination and expansion of evidence-based services to prevent cancer in underserved populations who do not have adequate access to cancer prevention 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 and use evidence-based models shown to work in similar communities to prevent and control these cancers. Currently funded CPRIT projects should propose to expand their programs to include additional types of prevention clinical services and/or an expansion of current clinical services into additional counties. In either case, the expansion must include delivery of services to nonmetropolitan and medically underserved counties in the state.
 Initial Expansion Award: Maximum of \$2 million over three years.
 Subsequent Expansion Award: Maximum of \$2.5 million over five years.
- Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions*
 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 \$300,000 over 24 months.

Operations, Audit and Finance Update

CPRIT staff and the Weaver audit team are continuing work on the governance audit. We have also begun field work on the state reporting follow-up audit as well as on the consulting engagement for Weaver to evaluate the risks and internal controls in place for CPRIT’s disaster recovery and business continuity planning.

The grant accounting team is processing the March-May 2020 financial status reports from grantees with COVID-19 disaster grant expenses. CPRIT provide some initial information on the volume, types, and amount of the COVID-19 disaster expenses claimed by grantees for the next update.

Communications Update

Digital Media Activities

Communications and IT staff are creating a “Grantee Resources” landing page. The new landing page will bring together all the information on grantee policies and procedures, compliance, webinars, and other resources in one place for easier access. Once CPRIT launches the new landing page, the top menu bar on our website will link to the page.

Communications continues to support CPRIT's COVID-19 efforts by managing content on the CPRIT COVID-19 landing page (<https://covid19.cprit.texas.gov/>) and communicating updates to grantees and stakeholder through listserv emails and social media.

Media Highlights

Following the May Oversight Committee meeting, the *Dallas Morning News* ran an article about the latest UT Southwestern awards, and the *Amarillo Globe-News* wrote an editorial enthusiastically supporting the new recruitment grant awarded to their new vet school. The *Austin American Statesman* reprinted the editorial. *D Magazine* ran a brief feature on a recruitment grant previously awarded to The University of Texas at Arlington. The *Tulsa World News* covered CPRIT grantee Pulmotect's PUL-042 clinical trials for COVID-19 at a local hospital. (CPRIT provided the initial product development grant funding in 2012 for the development of PUL-042 as a lung treatment for immunocompromised cancer patients.)

5/21/20 – “UT Southwestern hauls in \$12 million from CPRIT to recruit three new cancer researchers” – *Dallas Morning News*

<https://www.dallasnews.com/business/health-care/2020/05/21/ut-southwestern-hauls-in-12-million-from-cprit-to-recruit-three-new-cancer-researchers/>

5/31/20 – “Amarillo vet school receives \$1.4M CPRIT recruitment grant” – *Amarillo Globe-News*

<https://www.amarillo.com/news/20200531/amarillo-vet-school-receives-14m-cprit-recruitment-grant>

6/01/20 – “UTA Professor Arrives with \$2 Million in Cancer Research Funding” – *D Magazine*

<https://www.dmagazine.com/healthcare-business/2020/06/uta-professor-arrives-with-2-million-in-cancer-research-funding/>

6/17/20 – “Ascension St. John site of new clinical research trials for drug to potentially prevent COVID-19 or treat outpatient cases” – *Tulsa World News*

https://www.tulsaworld.com/news/local/ascension-st-john-site-of-new-clinical-research-trials-for-drug-to-potentially-prevent-covid/article_6b5e0cc7-cdae-5ddb-9508-548c6e993ad2.html

Social Media

CPRIT's June 5 announcement resuming grants for FY2021 was the most popular social media post on all three of our platforms.

Social Media Statistics (May 28 – June 24)

- Facebook
 - Reach: 349 people
 - Engagement: 63 reactions/clicks
 - Page Views: 133

Top Post: CPRIT is pleased to announce that it plans to award cancer research and prevention grants in FY 2021, including continuously open CPRIT Scholar recruitment grants. Proposed Requests for Applications (RFAs) and timelines for FY 2021 awards will be presented to CPRIT's Oversight Committee at a special meeting on July 31. Details will be posted in advance of the meeting on CPRIT's website. <https://cprit.us/30avvxY>

Post Reach: 205 people

Engagement: 9 clicks, 17 reactions

- Twitter
Total Tweets: 5
Tweet Impressions: 9,960
Profile Visits: 264
Mentions: 23
New Followers: 8 (2,497 total)

Top tweet: CPRIT is pleased to announce plans to award cancer research and prevention grants in FY 2021. Proposed RFAs/timelines will be presented to CPRIT's Oversight Committee at a July 31 special meeting. Meeting details to be posted in advance on CPRIT's website. cprit.us/30avvxY

Impressions: 2,350

Engagements: 134

Top mention: @QINGZHANG_UTSW - Happy to share our latest paper @PNASNews on identifying USP37 as the deubiquitinase for HIF2a in kidney cancer. Thanks for the wonderful collaboration with @jeremy_m_simon and supports from @NCICancerBio and @CPRITTexas for this research @UTSWNews. <https://www.pnas.org/content/117/23/13023>

Engagements: 42

- LinkedIn
Total Updates: 6
Post Impressions: 1,900
Reactions: 43
Shares: 16
Page views: 157
Unique Visitors: 71
New followers: 35 (981 total)

Top Update: CPRIT is pleased to announce that it plans to award cancer research and prevention grants in FY 2021, including continuously open CPRIT Scholar recruitment grants. Proposed Requests for Applications (RFAs) and timelines for FY 2021 awards will be presented to CPRIT's Oversight Committee at a special meeting on July 31. Details will be posted in advance of the meeting on CPRIT's website. <https://cprit.us/30avvxY>

Impressions: 424

Clicks: 25

Reactions: 19

Engagement rate: 5.9%

Upcoming Subcommittee Meetings

Listed below are the special subcommittees in advance of the July 31 Oversight Committee meeting.

Academic Research	July 22 at 12:00 p.m.
Audit	July 22 at 4:00 p.m.
Product Development	July 23 at 10:00 a.m.
Prevention	July 23 at 1:00 p.m.

CPRIT will convene every subcommittee meeting using the GoToWebinar application.

Please plan to sign onto the subcommittee meeting 15 minutes early so we can address any technology issues before the meeting start time.

CPRIT will send an agenda and supporting material to the subcommittees one week prior to the meeting date.

CPRIT has awarded **1,517** grants totaling **\$2.54 billion**

- 236 prevention awards totaling \$263.5 million
- 1,281 academic research and product development research awards totaling \$2.278 billion

Of the \$2.278 billion in academic research and product development research awards,

- 30.3% of the funding (\$690.8 million) supports clinical research projects
- 24.7% of the funding (\$561.1 million) supports translational research projects
- 28.3% of funding (\$643.6 million) supports recruitment awards
- 14.1% of the funding (\$321.3 million) supports discovery stage research projects
- 2.6% of funding (\$59.9 million) supports training programs.

CPRIT has 4 open Requests for Applications (RFAs)

- 3 Research Recruitment
- 1 Academic Research



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: VINCE BURGESS, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER
SUBJECT: COMPLIANCE PROGRAM UPDATE
DATE: AUGUST 10, 2020

The Chief Compliance Officer is responsible for apprising the Oversight Committee and the Chief Executive Officer of institutional compliance functions and activities, and assuring the Oversight Committee that controls are in place to prevent, detect and mitigate compliance risk. The required reporting includes quarterly updates to the Oversight Committee on CPRIT's compliance with applicable laws, rules and agency policies. In addition, the Compliance Officer is responsible for monitoring the timely submission status of required grant recipient reports and notifying the Oversight Committee and General Counsel of a grant recipient's failure to meaningfully comply with reporting deadlines.

Submission Status of Required Grant Recipient Reports

CPRIT has \$1.4 billion in active grants under management, with 560+ grants that are either active or wrapping up grant activities. We receive an average of 560 grantee reports each month. As of July 27, five entities had not filed 19 Academic Research reports and one Product Development Research report. CPRIT's grant accountants and compliance specialists review and process incoming reports and reach out to grantees to resolve filing issues. In most cases, CPRIT does not disburse grant funds until the grantee files the required reports. In some instances, grantee institutions may be ineligible to receive a future award if the grantee does not submit the required reports.

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Grantees are unable to receive reimbursements or advances if they are delinquent in filing the required audit and corrective action plan unless the grantee requested additional time by the due date of the required audit and CPRIT's CEO approved the request. Currently, all grantees have submitted the required audits.

Desk Reviews

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Annual Compliance Attestation

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Grantee Risk Assessment and FY21 Monitoring Plan

CPRIT's Compliance Program has completed the first draft of the FY21 Grantee Risk Assessment. Risk Assessments are performed on a quarterly and annual basis. The Risk Assessment Model considers several factors in determining grantee risk including:

- Financial exposure,
- Entity maturity, and
- Prior experience administering grants.

Risk Assessments assign a priority ranking (1, 2, or 3) to grant recipients, which is used to determine monitoring and training needs for the coming fiscal year. Based on the results of the Risk Assessment, grantees will receive a desk review or an onsite monitoring review completed by CPRIT staff. Compliance monitoring reviews are designed to evaluate a grantee's compliance with grant requirements included in the Texas Administrative Code, Texas Health and Safety Code, CPRIT Policies and Procedures, Uniform Grant Management Standards, and terms of the grant contract.

FY21 Risk Assessment Factors and Weighting

Risk Factor	Factor Weighting	Risk Criteria		Criteria Weighting
Financial Exposure	40%	Funds Awarded	Cumulative \$	10%
			Average Grant \$	10%
			Highest Single Grant \$	
			Revenue Sharing	15%
			Percent Grants Prod Dev	65%
			Percent Grants Prevention	
			Composite	

Entity Maturity	35%	Entity Maturity	Immature/ Mature/ Very Mature	10%
		Organization Type	Academic/ Government/ Private/ Not-for-Profit	65%
		Year Institution Established	Year	10%
		Advance Grant Funds	Advance Grant Funds	15%
			Composite	

Prior Experience	25%	Financial Status Reporting - Timeliness	Days Late: 0-30/ 31-60/ >60	35%
		Other Financial Reporting - Timeliness	Days Late: 0-30/ 31-60/ >60	
		Progress Reporting - Timeliness	Days Late: 0-30/ 31-60/ >60	
		Grant Status	<15%/ 15%-60%/ >60%	10%
		Prior Audit Findings (Single Audit, etc.)	No Findings/ 1-2 Findings/ >2 Findings	35%
		Average Monitoring Findings	No Findings/ 1-2 Findings/ >2 Findings	
		Audit Type	A-133, Program Specific, AUP	10%
		Date Last On-site Review Performed	Last Year/ Last 3 Years/ More than 3 Years	10%
			Composite	

Quantified Risk Assessment		Quantified Risk Composite	
		Grant Monitoring Tier	Priority 1, 2, 3

**Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas
FY21 Grantee Risk Assessment Rankings (DRAFT)**

Grant Recipient	Priority Ranking
Baylor College of Medicine	Priority 3
Baylor University	Priority 3
Rice University	Priority 3
Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station	Priority 3
Texas A&M University	Priority 3
Texas A&M University System Health Science Center	Priority 3
Texas AgriLife Research	Priority 3
Texas Medical Center	Priority 3
Texas Southern University	Priority 3
Texas Tech University	Priority 3
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	Priority 3
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	Priority 3
The University of Texas at Arlington	Priority 3
The University of Texas at Austin	Priority 3
The University of Texas at Dallas	Priority 3
The University of Texas at San Antonio	Priority 3
The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler	Priority 3
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	Priority 3
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Priority 3
The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	Priority 3
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	Priority 3
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	Priority 3
University Health System	Priority 3
University of Houston	Priority 3
University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth	Priority 3
Centro San Vicente	Priority 2
Legacy Community Health Services	Priority 2
The Rose	Priority 2
Allterum Therapeutics, LLC	Priority 1
Asyia Therapeutics	Priority 1
Barricade Therapeutics, Corp.	Priority 1
Bellicum Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Priority 1
Curtana Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Priority 1
Dialectic Therapeutics, Inc.	Priority 1
Formation Biologics Corp.	Priority 1
Hummingbird Bioscience Pte Ltd	Priority 1
Icell Kealex Therapeutics LLC	Priority 1
Immatics US Inc.	Priority 1
Instapath Inc.	Priority 1
Iterion Therapeutics Inc	Priority 1
Magnolia Tejas Corporation	Priority 1
Medicenna Therapeutics, Inc.	Priority 1
Molecular Templates, Inc.	Priority 1
Pelican Therapeutics	Priority 1
Perimeter Medical Imaging Corp	Priority 1
Rapamycin Holdings Inc.	Priority 1
Salaris Pharmaceuticals LLC	Priority 1
The Methodist Hospital Research Institute	Priority 1



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: JAMES WILLSON, MD., CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER
SUBJECT: ACADEMIC RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE
DATE: AUGUST 19, 2020

Program Updates:

The Academic Research Program posted 6 RFAs to CPRIT's Application Receipt System (CARS) on August 5, 2020, for the second review cycle of FY2021. Applications are due on January 27, 2021 and peer review is scheduled from May 20-27, 2021 by teleconference. Dr. Willson will present the Scientific Review Council's recommendation to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in August 2021.

FY21.2 Academic Research Program RFAs – Approved July 31, 2020

- **Core Facility Support Awards (RFA R-21.2 CFSA)**
Solicits applications from institutions to establish or enhance core facilities (laboratory, clinical, population-based, or computer-based) that will directly support cancer research programs to advance knowledge of the causes, prevention, and/or treatment of cancer or improve quality of life for patients with and survivors of cancer. Institutions may submit 2 applications provided that 1 exclusively supports childhood cancer research.
Award: Up to \$4,000,000 (total costs); Maximum duration: 5 years.
- **Clinical Trials Network Award (RFA R-21.2 CTNA)**
The Clinical Trials Network Award will be made to an institution, organization, or physician group with an established clinical trials infrastructure and clinical trials portfolio to develop and oversee a network of two cancer care facilities that lack adequate access to clinical trials or sufficient clinical trials infrastructure (stage 1). Once an initial network is satisfactorily demonstrated, the program will be eligible to expand its network to two additional facilities located outside its current catchment (stage 2).
Award: Up to \$600,000 annually for stage 1 and up to \$900,000, annually for stage 2.
Maximum duration: 4 years.

- Early Clinical Investigator Award (ECI R-21.2 ECI)**
Solicits applications from institutions to provide cancer physicians within the first 3 years of a faculty appointment as an assistant professor the opportunity to develop clinical research skills and to gain experience in advanced methods and experimental approaches needed to become successful clinical investigators. The award will protect time from clinical responsibilities to allow the early clinical investigator to develop and conduct investigator initiated clinical trials and to establish a partnership with a laboratory-based collaborator in order to design and conduct correlative studies needed to interpret the outcome of an interventional trial. The overall goal of this mechanism is to increase the pool of clinical investigators at Texas academic institutions who are conducting patient-oriented studies, capitalizing on basic discoveries and translating them through conduct of innovative clinical trials involving cancer patients or individuals at risk for cancer. Institutions may submit up to 2 applications.
Award: Up to \$1,500,000 (total costs); Maximum duration: 5 years.
- High Impact/High Risk Research Awards (RFA R-21.2 HIHR)**
Provides short-term funding to explore the feasibility of high-risk projects that, if successful, would contribute major new insights into the etiology, diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of cancers. Institutions may submit up to 5 applications
Award: Up to \$250,000 (total costs); Maximum duration: 2 years.
- Texas Clinical Trials Participation Program Award (RFA R-21.2 TCTPA)**
Solicits applications targeting projects to increase the number and diversity of subjects participating in therapeutic cancer clinical trials in Texas by removing non-clinical out of pocket costs as barriers to participation in cancer clinical trials for financially burdened subjects. Institutions or organizations conducting clinical trials are restricted to 1 application.
Award: Up to \$1,500,000 (total costs); Maximum duration: 3 years.
- Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer Award (RFA R-21.2 TREC)**
Solicits applications to strengthen cancer research at institutions located in regions of Texas that have historically received low levels of peer reviewed cancer research funding. This mechanism is open to Texas institutions whose campus is located > 100 mi from an NCI Designated Cancer Center. The award will support an established investigator to lead a program with a cohesive theme relevant to the cancer problems of the region and 3 to 5 research projects. In addition, funds maybe requested to support recruitment of new junior faculty, shared resources, and partnerships with established Texas cancer research programs to provide mentorship and access to facilities or expertise.
Award: Up to \$6,000,000 (total costs); Maximum duration: 5 years.

FY 2022 Academic Research Program Priorities (proposed)

Established Principles:

- Scientific excellence and impact on cancer
- Increasing the life sciences infrastructure

The program priorities for academic research adopted by the Oversight Committee include

- 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 biology and analytic methods
- Childhood cancers
- Hepatocellular cancer
- Expand access to innovative clinical trials

FY2020 Academic Research Summary Data Tables:

1. Selected Impact Data by Mechanism Over All Time.
2. Priorities Data: FY2015-FY2020
3. FY2020 Research Application Submission Data and Award Data by Mechanism
4. FY2020 Scholar Application Submission Data and Award Data by Mechanism

Impact Data Report - Summary

Table 1: Academic Research Impact Data by Mechanism Across All Time

Mechanism	Number of Awards	CPRIT Funding	Total Follow-On Funds	Number of Published Publications	Number of Filed Patents	Number of Granted Patents	Interventional Clinical Trials		Observational Clinical Studies	
							Total Number of Interventional Clinical Trials	Total Number of Patients Accrued	Total Number of Observational Clinical Studies	Total Number of Patients Accrued
Core Facilities Support Awards	51	\$ 223,220,000.00	\$ 381,627,401.00	515	18	1	14	334	3	1118
Early Translational Research Awards	41	\$ 56,460,000.00	\$ 11,177,951.00	83	35	18	0	0	2	391
High-Impact/High-Risk Research Awards	165	\$ 32,780,000.00	\$ 39,900,696.00	233	27	3	2	32	4	589
Individual Investigator Research Awards	435	\$ 401,740,000.00	\$ 324,431,904.18	1355	82	22	15	1374	11	2140
Individual Investigator Research Awards for Cancer in Children and Adolescents	42	\$ 54,800,000.00	\$ 20,031,674.00	90	5	1	3	28	5	367
Individual Investigator Research Awards for Clinical Translation	12	\$ 21,890,000.00	\$ -	11	0	0	7	192	1	0
Individual Investigator Research Awards for Computational Biology	8	\$ 6,600,000.00	\$ -	32	2	0	0	0	0	0
Individual Investigator Research Awards for Prevention and Early Detection	23	\$ 25,670,000.00	\$ 2,193,353.00	47	4	0	7	3297	3	5501
*Multi-Investigator Research Awards	43	\$ 277,650,000.00	\$ 259,065,543.00	991	31	7	13	705	13	7049
Recruitment of Established Investigators	44	\$ 271,880,000.00	\$ 227,116,523.00	507	181	2	9	1518	9	219
Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members	147	\$ 291,890,000.00	\$ 198,342,730.00	573	33	6	4	48	1	34
Recruitment of Missing Links	3	\$ 5,880,000.00	\$ 13,624,589.00	25	1	0	0	0	0	0
Recruitment of Rising Stars	19	\$ 73,970,000.00	\$ 51,228,399.00	206	0	0	1	1	2	604
Research Training Awards	23	\$ 59,880,000.00	\$ 24,754,941.00	696	9	2	0	0	0	0
Shared Instrumentation Awards	8	\$ 12,440,000.00	\$ 36,892,340.00	28	0	0	1	4	0	0
Totals	1064	\$ 1,816,750,000.00	\$1,590,388,044.18	5392	428	62	76	7,533	54	18,012

Source: Annual Progress Reports- Retrieved 7/30/20 at 9:47 AM

*Multi-Investigator Research Awards rolled up to "Lead" PI level

ACADEMIC RESEARCH PROGRAM PRIORITIES DATA - FY2015 -FY2020

PREPARED 7/30/2020

(DOLLARS IN MILLIONS)

Table 2: Priorities Data - FY2015-FY2020

Priorities	FY2015- FY2020	
	% Awards	% Funds
Recruit outstanding cancer researchers to Texas	24%	40%
Investment in CORE Facilities	7%	18%
A broad range of innovative, investigator-initiated academic research projects	43%	37%
Prevention and Early Detection - Implementation Research	10%	8%
Childhood Cancers	11%	14%
Population Disparities and Cancers of Importance in Texas	16%	15%
Computational Biology and Analytic Methods	7%	11%
Hepatocellular Cancers (FY18-FY20)	7%	8%
Expand access to innovative clinical trials (FY18-20)	4%	3%

Note: Projects may address more than one priority

Table 3: FY20 Academic Research Application Submission and Award Data by Mechanism

Cycle	*Mechanism	# Applications Submitted	Total Funding Requested Amount	Applications Recommended by SRC	Total Funding Recommended by SRC	Success Rate
FY 20.1 IRA Total		387	\$385,383,277	49	\$48,827,772	13%
20.1	Individual Investigator Research Awards	265	\$231,827,224	36	\$32,039,552	14%
20.1	.....Individual Investigator Research for Childhood Cancers	55	\$64,930,190	6	\$7,376,570	11%
20.1	.....Individual Investigator Research for Prevention and Early Detection	38	\$40,685,739	3	\$3,270,868	8%
20.1	.....Individual Investigator Research for Clinical Translation	29	\$47,940,124	4	\$6,140,782	14%
FY20.2 Total		149	\$146,435,034	28	\$32,465,430	
20.2	Collaborative Action Program to Reduce Liver Cancer Mortality in Texas:					
	.....Individual Investigator Research	16	\$38,021,593	3	\$7,407,804	19%
20.2	Core Facilities Support	18	\$69,958,520	4	\$14,821,043	22%
20.2	Early Clinical Investigator	8	\$11,964,285	4	\$5,991,545	50%
20.2	High Impact/High Risk Research	107	\$26,490,636	17	\$4,245,038	16%
FY 2020 AR Total		536	\$531,818,311	77	81,293,202	

Table 4: FY20 Scholar Application Submission and Award Data by Mechanism and Total FY20 AR and Scholar Data

Cycle	*Mechanism	# Applications Submitted	Total Funding Requested Amount	Applications Recommended by SRC	Recruitment Recommended By Acceptance Status			Total Funding Recommended by SRC	Success Rate
					Accepted	Pending	Declined		
FY 20 Recruitment Total		84	\$270,828,666	41	20	13	8	\$99,971,334	49%
20	Established Investigators	20	\$119,928,666	12	5	3	4	\$46,071,334	60%
20	Rising Stars	12	\$48,000,000	4	2	1	1	\$12,000,000	33%
20	First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty	52	\$102,900,000	25	13	9	3	\$41,900,000	48%
FY 2020 AR and Scholar Total		685	\$802,646,977	118				\$181,264,536	

** Funds display accepted scholar awards and 13 pending acceptance from last quarter of FY



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: ACADEMIC RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: WAYNE R. ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT: RP160015 – RECOMMENDATION FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS
DATE: AUGUST 12, 2020

Summary and Recommendation

CPRIT recommends that the Oversight Committee vote to approve supplemental grant funds not to exceed \$172,601 for project RP160015, for a total award amount of \$4,172,601, and to delegate contract negotiation authority to Chief Executive Officer Wayne Roberts. Without these actions, the project’s contract and funding will end February 28, 2021. CPRIT withdrew the FY 2020 request for training applications earlier this year due to uncertainty related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the grantee plans to apply in the FY 2021 review cycle, the current training grant will end before CPRIT approves new training awards in May 2021. The supplemental funding allows the successful project to continue training 12 doctoral and post-doctoral students for March 2021 - May 2021. Dr. Willson supports the supplemental funding request and the Academic Research Subcommittee concurs with this recommendation.

Background

The Oversight Committee approved a \$4,000,000 grant to The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UT Health) on November 19, 2015, to fund the training project RP160015 “Collaborative Training of a New Cadre of Innovative Cancer Prevention Researchers.” Over the past five years, this program at UT Health has trained 17 predoctoral students, 9 postdoctoral students, and 89 undergraduate summer students in a systematic method proven to produce better innovators in cancer prevention research.

RP160015 is programmatically and fiscally up to date. The grantee’s annual progress reports approved by CPRIT indicate that the project is achieving the project’s goals and objectives. The grant contract is currently scheduled to terminate February 28, 2021, and the grantee will expend all grant funds available under the contract by that date.

Need for Supplemental Funding

The grantee planned to submit a training grant application for consideration and approval during the first cycle of FY 2021 awards to continue this successful project. CPRIT originally expected to approve training grant applications at the February 2021 Oversight Committee meeting, which would have allowed a seamless transition and no gaps in program support. However, CPRIT

withdrew the first cycle of FY 2021 requests for applications in April due to COVID-19 budget uncertainties. After receiving guidance from state leadership, CPRIT re-released the FY 2021 request for training grant applications in mid-June. However, due to the delay, the Oversight Committee will not consider training award recommendations until its May 2021 meeting. Although the grantee plans to apply for a FY 2021 CPRIT training grant, without the requested supplemental funding the grantee projects that it will not be able to continue training for 12 doctoral and postdoctoral students during the three-month gap between the end of the RP160015 grant and the start of a new training grant.

Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Jim Willson has reviewed the request for supplemental funding and the grantee's annual progress reports. Dr. Willson recommends increasing the RP160015 grant award by an amount not to exceed \$172,601.

Authority and Process to Supplement Grant Award Funds

The Oversight Committee approved the grant awarded for the RP160015 project in accordance with the appropriate process and the authority provided in Texas Health & Safety Code 102.252. However, the request to increase the RP160015 award contract by \$172,601 exceeds the amount originally authorized by the Oversight Committee. To amend the RP160015 grant contract and increase the total grant funds available for the project, the Oversight Committee must first vote to increase the total amount of the award. Because this vote affects the funding authorized for a grant award, two-thirds of the members of the Oversight Committee must approve the action.

The Oversight Committee is authorized to negotiate grant contracts on behalf of the state pursuant to Texas Health & Safety Code 102.255. The Oversight Committee delegated this authority to the Chief Executive Officer, which Mr. Roberts uses to approve routine changes to the RP160015 contract, such as no-cost extensions and changes to the primary investigator. Increasing the approved contract amount constitutes a material change. Accordingly, the Oversight Committee must vote to delegate contract negotiation authority to Mr. Roberts in relation to any approved supplemental funding.

The Oversight Committee's approval of supplemental funds at this time in no way binds the Oversight Committee's future decisions regarding new grant applications related to this project. If the grantee is not recommended for a training grant award in FY 2021, the RP160015 grant will terminate pursuant to the contract terms and no additional money beyond the original and supplement funds, if any, approved for the award will be disbursed.

Any amount of supplemental grant funds approved for RP160015 will count against the grant annual award cap for FY 2020 set forth by Texas Health & Safety Code 102.253.



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: RAMONA MAGID, CHIEF PREVENTION OFFICER
SUBJECT: PREVENTION PROGRAM UPDATE
DATE: AUGUST 5, 2020

FY 2020 Cycle 2 (20.2) Prevention Applications

CPRIT released three RFAs in November 2019 for the second review cycle of FY 2020. Eighteen (18) applications requesting \$24,183,674 underwent peer review via teleconference on May 12. The Prevention Review Council (PRC) met on July 7 to review the results of the peer review panel and to recommend grant awards. The Program Integration Committee (PIC) met August 4 to consider the PRC's recommendations. Ms. Magid presents the PIC's award recommendations to the Oversight Committee August 19.

FY 2020.2 Mechanism	Received	Funds Requested
Evidence-based Cancer Prevention Services	6	\$ 5,142,066
Expansion of Cancer Prevention Services to Rural and Medically Underserved Populations	8	\$15,063,595
Tobacco Control and Lung Cancer Screening	4	\$ 3,978,013
TOTAL	18	\$24,183,674

FY 2021 Cycle 1 (21.1) Prevention RFAs

The Prevention Program released the *Expansion of Cancer Prevention Services to Rural and Medically Underserved Populations* RFA on August 3, 2020 for the first review cycle of FY 2021. Applications are due on October 5 and CPRIT has scheduled peer review for January 19-20, 2021, by teleconference. Ms. Magid will present the PRC's recommendations to the PIC and the Oversight Committee in May 2021.

FY 2021 Prevention Program RFAs – Approved July 31, 2020

- *Evidence-Based Cancer Prevention Services*
 Seeks projects that will deliver evidence-based cancer prevention and control clinical services. CPRIT will give priority to projects that propose to address CPRIT areas of emphasis and serve areas of the state not well addressed by current CPRIT funded projects.

Award: Maximum of \$1M over 36 months.

- *Tobacco Control and Lung Cancer Screening*
Seeks programs on tobacco prevention and cessation, as well as screening for early detection of lung cancer. Through release of this RFA, CPRIT's goal is to stimulate more programs across the state, thereby providing greater access for underserved populations and reducing the incidence and mortality rates of tobacco-related cancers. This RFA seeks to promote and deliver evidence-based programming designed to significantly increase tobacco cessation among adults and/or prevent tobacco use by youth.

Initial Award: Maximum of \$1M over 36 months.

Expansion Award: Maximum of \$2M over 36 months.

- *Expansion of Cancer Prevention Services to Rural and Medically Underserved Populations*
Seeks to support coordination and expansion of evidence-based services to prevent cancer in underserved populations who do not have adequate access to cancer prevention 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 and use evidence-based models shown to work in similar communities to prevent and control these cancers. Currently funded CPRIT projects should propose to expand their programs to include additional types of prevention clinical services and/or an expansion of current clinical services into additional counties in the initial expansion. This expansion must include delivery of services to nonmetropolitan and medically underserved counties in the state. CPRIT will not require grantees to further expand services or geographic area, but grantees should substantially increase the number of clinical services delivered.

Initial Expansion Award: Maximum of \$2M over 36 months.

Additional Expansion Award: Maximum of \$2.5M over 60 months.

- *Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions*
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 \$300,000 over 36 months.

Other Activities

Ms. Magid attended the Eliminate Tobacco Use Virtual Summit 2020 presented by the University of Texas System and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center on July 16 and 17.

Ms. Magid attended the quarterly meeting of the Cancer Alliance of Texas on August 13 where she gave a brief update on CPRIT's activities.



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: PREVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: WAYNE R. ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT: PP170094 – RECOMMENDATION FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS
DATE: AUGUST 13, 2020

Summary and Recommendation

CPRIT recommends that the Oversight Committee vote to approve supplemental grant funds not to exceed \$125,000 for prevention project PP170094, for a total award amount of \$1,472,590 and to delegate contract negotiation authority to Chief Executive Officer Wayne Roberts. Without these actions, the project’s funding will not support grant activities after August 30, 2020. The grantee was unable to file for an expansion grant earlier because CPRIT withdrew the request for applications earlier this year due to uncertainty related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The supplemental funding allows the successful project to continue to provide services while the grantee applies for a CPRIT expansion grant in FY 2021. Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid supports approving the supplemental funding and the Prevention Subcommittee concurs with her recommendation.

Background

The Oversight Committee approved a \$1,347,590 grant to Baylor College of Medicine on August 16, 2017, to support the prevention project PP170094 “Expanding a Community Network for Cancer Prevention to Improve Cervical and Colorectal Screening and Follow-Up Among an Urban Medically Underserved Population.” The Community Network for Cancer Prevention (CNCP) is a collaboration of academic, clinical, and community partners to help medically underserved residents of Harris County receive colorectal and cervical cancer screenings and follow-up. By working with Harris Health System, the safety-net system in Harris County, and other community partners, the CNCP increased screenings and decreased the proportion of screen-positive patients who are lost-to-follow-up.

PP170094 is programmatically and fiscally up to date. The grantee’s annual progress reports approved by CPRIT indicate that the project is achieving the project’s goals and objectives. The grantee expects to expend all grant funds originally available under the contract by September 2020. CPRIT has approved a grant contract extension through August 2021 to allow the grantee to expend approved supplemental funds, if any.

Need for Supplemental Funding

The grantee reports that it planned to submit a continuation/expansion grant application for this project ahead of the termination of its PP170094 contract but CPRIT withdrew the request for

applications in April due to COVID-19 budget uncertainties. The grantee also explains that ongoing administrative changes and capacity limitations at Harris Health System in the colon cancer service line delayed filing an application before April.

The grantee plans to apply for a CPRIT expansion grant pursuant to the open request for applications for FY 2021 (cycle 21.1). The Oversight Committee will consider award recommendations for cycle 21.1 in May 2021. However, without the requested supplemental funding, the grantee projects that there will be a loss of patient services in both screenings (10% decrease in colorectal screenings) and follow-up (20% - 25% decrease in cervical and colorectal screenings) before additional grant funds may be secured.

The \$125,000 in supplemental funds requested by the grantee will cover the personnel expenses for a patient navigator as well as a portion of the program coordinator and nurse case manager's personnel expenses. The remaining supplemental funds will support colorectal cancer educational materials. (See attached budget breakdown.)

Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid has reviewed the request for supplemental funding and the grantee's annual progress reports. Ms. Magid recommends increasing the PP170094 grant award by an amount not to exceed \$125,000. She has discussed her recommendation with the Prevention Review Council, which supports the recommendation.

Authority and Process to Supplement Grant Award Funds

The Oversight Committee approved the grant awarded for the PP170094 project in accordance with the appropriate process and the authority provided in Texas Health & Safety Code 102.252. However, the request to increase the PP170094 award contract by \$125,000 exceeds the amount originally authorized by the Oversight Committee. To amend the PP170094 grant contract and increase the total grant funds available for the project, the Oversight Committee must first vote to increase the total amount of the award. Because this vote affects the funding authorized for a grant award, two-thirds of the members of the Oversight Committee must approve the action.

The Oversight Committee is authorized to negotiate grant contracts on behalf of the state pursuant to Texas Health & Safety Code 102.255. The Oversight Committee delegated this authority to the Chief Executive Officer, which Mr. Roberts uses to approve routine changes to the PP170094 contract, including no-cost extensions and non-substantive goal and objective changes. Increasing the approved contract amount constitutes a material change. Accordingly, the Oversight Committee must vote to delegate contract negotiation authority to Mr. Roberts in relation to any approved supplemental funding.

The Oversight Committee's approval of supplemental funds at this time in no way binds the Oversight Committee's future decisions regarding new grant applications related to this project. If the grantee is not recommended for an expansion award in FY 2021, the PP170094 grant will terminate pursuant to the contract terms and no additional funds beyond the original and supplement funds, if any, approved for the award will be disbursed.

Any amount of supplemental grant funds approved for PP170094 will count against the grant annual award caps for FY 2020 set forth by Texas Health & Safety Code 102.203(e) and 102.253.



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: CINDY WALKERPEACH, PHD
CHIEF PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
SUBJECT: PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATE
DATE: 06 AUGUST 2020

Product Development Research Award Update

Product Development Research FY 2020 Cycle 2

CPRIT released three RFAs on November 20, 2019, and accepted applications through January 29, 2020. Applicants submitted twenty-eight (28) proposals, all of which passed administrative review. The initial peer review screen teleconference was held March 23-24, 2020 and eight (8) applicants were invited by the peer review panel to make presentations at the Peer Review Meeting held April 21-24, 2020. The April Peer Review applicant presentations were held via video teleconference instead of the usual in-person format due to health concerns associated with the coronavirus pandemic. As a result of the Peer Review Meeting, the review panels recommended four (4) applications for the diligence evaluation phase of peer review.

The PDRC convened on July 6, 2020 to consider the due diligence reports and make final award recommendations for consideration by the PIC and the Oversight Committee. The PDRC recommended two (2) TXCO awards for the 20.2 cycle.

Dr. WalkerPeach will present the PIC’s recommendations for the 20.2 cycle awards at the August 2020 Oversight Committee meeting.

Application metrics for the Cycle 20.2 are reflected in Table 1.

Table 1: Overall Review Cycle 20.2 Application Data by Mechanism

Table 1 reflects the overall application data for Cycle20.2 including the two (2) award recommendations to be presented at the August 2020 OC Meeting.

Mechanism	Applications Received	Funds Requested (millions)	Invited to Peer Review Meeting	Funds Requested (millions)	Rec'd for Diligence Review	Funds Requested (millions)	Rec'd for Award	Funds Requested (millions)
Texas Company	7	\$77.9	3	\$45.4	2	\$25.4	2	\$25.4
Relocation Company	12	\$198.2	5	\$91.0	2	\$34.7	0	\$0
Seed Company	9	\$25.4	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
TOTAL	28	\$301.5	8	\$136.4	4	\$60.1	2	\$25.4

Product Development Research FY 2021 Cycle 1 - Cancelled

FY 2021 Cycle 1 was cancelled due to the continuing effects of COVID-19 and the downturn in the petroleum industry on the Texas economy and state revenues.

Product Development Research FY 2021 Cycle 2 – Now renamed FY 2021 Cycle 1

Dr. WalkerPeach presented, and the Oversight Committee approved, the following three (3) RFAs during the February 2020 OC meeting:

- *Texas Company Product Development Research Award (TXCO):*
RFA supporting TX based company product development projects
Award: Up to \$20 million over a maximum timeline of three years.
- *Company Relocation Product Development Award (RELCO):*
RFA supporting product development projects from companies relocating to TX
Award: Up to \$20 million over a maximum timeline of three years.
- *Seed Award for Product Development Research (SEED):*
RFA supporting product development projects from newly formed companies
Award: Up to \$3 million over a maximum timeline of three years.

The three mechanisms and associated updated timelines were presented at the Special July 31, 2020 OC meeting. The Product Development Program plans to open the application portal for Cycle 21.1 on December 2, 2020, with an anticipated presentation of award recommendations at the August 2021 OC Meeting.

Product Development Review Council Update

The CPRIT Product Development Review Council (PDRC) presides over the peer review process for CPRIT’s Product Development Research Program. The PDRC critically reviews due

diligence materials and makes final award recommendations to CPRIT’s Program Integration Committee (PIC). In addition, the PDRC contributes to the post-award process by reviewing grantee annual progress reports.

- The PDRC Chair (Jack Geltosky, PhD) has recommended a new PDRC member as a replacement for a departed member. The nominee has been previously approved as a product development peer reviewer. The new PDRC member is Renzo Canetta, MD. Dr. Canetta joins the PDRC effective September 1, 2020.

Proposed Product Development Research Program Priorities for 2022

The Product Development Research Program priorities were established in 2019 based on the following principles:

- Support commercial product development of novel technologies that address unmet cancer healthcare services and treatment needs;
- Stimulate the Texas life sciences ecosystem by supporting product development funding gaps that lack adequate private investment;
- Invest in projects based on sound scientific and business merit, with potential to attract additional private funding necessary to launch cancer healthcare related products and services.

With the Oversight Committee’s approval, the Product Development Program recommends continuing with the current program priorities for FY 2022, as detailed below:

Product Development Research Program Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding novel projects that offer therapeutic or diagnostic benefits not currently available; i.e., disruptive technologies• Funding projects addressing large or challenging unmet medical needs• Investing in early stage projects when private capital is least available• Stimulating commercialization of technologies developed at Texas institutions• Supporting new company formation in Texas or attracting promising companies to Texas that will recruit staff with life science expertise, especially experienced C-level staff to lead to seed clusters of life science expertise at various Texas locations• Providing appropriate return on Texas taxpayer investment



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM: CINDY WALKERPEACH, PH.D, CHIEF PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

SUBJECT: ONCONANO REVENUE SHARING TERMS

DATE: AUGUST 13, 2020

Summary and Recommendation

CPRIT recommends that the Oversight Committee delegate contract negotiation authority to staff, working in conjunction with the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company (Trust Company), to explore non-standard revenue sharing options for CPRIT’s overall investment in OncoNano Medicine, Inc. OncoNano is a promising early-stage company that has received two awards from CPRIT, with a third award recommended for Oversight Committee consideration at the upcoming meeting on August 19. If approved for the third grant, CPRIT’s total investment in the company will be \$31.4 million. It is reasonable to consider whether our standard revenue sharing terms accurately reflect CPRIT’s level of investment. Engaging the expertise of the Trust Company to negotiate OncoNano’s third award contract assists CPRIT in determining whether having an ownership interest is in the best interest of the state and, if so, to appropriately structure an equity agreement. I discussed the issue with the Product Development Subcommittee and the subcommittee recommends approval.

Background

OncoNano received two CPRIT Product Development awards in 2014 and 2019. The Program Integration Committee (PIC) recommends the Southlake-based company for a third award to further develop its work on tumor-detecting technology. I provided summary data for the three projects below.

Grant ID	Project Focus	Award	Award Date	Status
DP140072	Feasibility and early development of nano-technology enabled fluorescent probes (pre-cursor to ONM-100) for use in the detection of tumor cells to assist cancer surgeons excise tumors	\$6.0M	August 2014	Successfully completed all goals and objectives
DP190066	Feasibility and development of tumor specific T-cell activating cancer nanovaccines (OMN-500) for immunotherapy of solid tumors	\$15.4M	August 2019	Active
DP200081	Continued development of ONM-100 for the targeted detection of metastatic disease within peritoneum, lymph nodes and pleural tissues	\$9.9M	Pending	Pending

Both the DP140072 and DP190066 contracts include CPRIT's standard revenue sharing terms for Product Development awards that require ascending royalties (3-5%) payable on net sales. Once the company's royalty payments to CPRIT equal four times the amount of all grant proceeds, the revenue sharing obligation drops to a 0.5% royalty that continues for as long as the product has government exclusivity. In addition, pursuant to CPRIT's policy for multiple award recipients, OncoNano is matching the CPRIT grant funds awarded for DP190066 on a dollar to dollar basis with money it raised.

Recommendation to Investigate Changing Revenue Sharing Terms for CPRIT's Investment in OncoNano

Although CPRIT has made multiple Academic Research and Prevention awards to the same principal investigators, OncoNano will be the first company to receive a third Product Development grant if the Oversight Committee approves the DP200081 award recommendation. CPRIT's expert reviewers strongly support the potential for OncoNano's portfolio, however, with the third award CPRIT's total potential \$31.4 million investment in OncoNano represents a significant and higher risk profile.

It is reasonable to consider whether a different revenue sharing option better compensates the state for this increased risk. At the same time, CPRIT want to ensure that any new obligation does not excessively burden this early stage company in a way that deters potential investors in the future. CPRIT staff recommends partnering with the Trust Company to guide the strategy associated with developing revenue sharing terms that balance both objectives. CPRIT's Chief Executive Officer Wayne Roberts' August 10 memo details the Trust Company investment staff's expertise and experience and the necessity for the Trust Company Resolution. CPRIT staff urges the Product Development Subcommittee to recommend Oversight Committee approval for the proposed Trust Company Resolution regarding OncoNano.



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: WAYNE R. ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF ASSET MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY TO THE TEXAS
TREASURY SAFEKEEPING TRUST COMPANY
DATE: AUGUST 10, 2020

Summary and Recommendation

The Texas Legislature amended CPRIT's statute in 2017 to permit the Oversight Committee to transfer the management and final disposition authority for assets generated by CPRIT's grant award projects to the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company (Trust Company). CPRIT staff propose to transfer the management and final disposition authority for assets generated by CPRIT's grant contract with OncoNano. The proposed resolution approves the transfer of OncoNano and delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to take all actions necessary to complete the transfer, including negotiating a fee for the Trust Company's reasonable and necessary expenses involved with managing the transferred assets. The Oversight Committee approved similar resolutions in August 2017 and August 2019 for assets associated with five companies.

Background

CPRIT's statute requires all grant award contracts to include a revenue sharing provision allowing the state to collect royalties, income, and other benefits, including interest or proceeds resulting from securities and equity ownership realized because of CPRIT grant projects. CPRIT has more than 1,200 award contracts. Most CPRIT-funded grant projects that generate revenue will fulfill the contractual revenue sharing requirements through royalty payments to CPRIT.

The Legislature created the Trust Company as a special purpose entity to manage, invest, and safeguard funds for the state and its political subdivisions efficiently and economically. According to the Trust Company, it is first and foremost a fiduciary organization, and as such, it is held to the highest standard of care imposed in either law or equity and is obligated to subordinate its own interests to those of its beneficiaries. The Trust Company's mission is to preserve and grow the state's financial resources by competitively managing and investing them in a prudent, ethical, innovative, and cost-effective manner while focusing on client needs. The Trust Company invests, manages, and oversees over \$50 billion in assets. Investments include cash-equivalent funds such as the Texas Treasury Pool, separately managed portfolios for various Texas state agency clients, and endowment monies invested across a broad spectrum of asset classes, including hedge, private equity, and real estate funds.

The Trust Company Provides Asset Management Expertise

Cancer research projects in CPRIT’s growing portfolio are progressing through the phases of research and development, with some early investments generating revenue through licensing and market sales. In its fiduciary role, the Oversight Committee will need to make decisions regarding the management and disposition of CPRIT-controlled assets as the portfolio continues to mature. There are near term and longer-term issues that CPRIT must address to ensure the state also benefits monetarily from its investment in cancer research. These include decisions on whether to convert royalty obligations to equity holdings, when to sell equity, and the bundling and sale of potential royalty obligations.

CPRIT staff identified the need for investment expertise to assist the Oversight Committee and the agency in making decisions associated with asset management. Investment management is a specialized field. The Trust Company investment staff are skilled in statistical analysis, economics, portfolio management, trading, portfolio transition management, risk management, and accounting. Additionally, the Trust Company has experience managing assets like those generated by CPRIT grants. The Trust Company took over the management and control of the state’s equity positions and other investments in the Emerging Technology Fund’s (“ETF”) portfolio in 2015. The ETF was comprised of approximately 100 investments in early stage companies, about two-thirds of which are life sciences ventures. The Trust Company will leverage its experience managing the ETF’s equity investments and draw from the relationships it has developed investing in private equity for over a decade to provide additional resources to aid in the successful completion of projects and grant awards.

The Oversight Committee approved transfer of four assets to the Trust Company in August 2017 and 2019: Cell Medica; Mirna Therapeutics (now Synlogic Therapeutics); Codiak Biosciences; Coregon, Inc.; and AlloVir.

Process for Transferring Management and Disposition Authority to the Trust Company

The decision to transfer asset management and disposition authority to the Trust Company is at the discretion of the Oversight Committee. Accordingly, initiating the transfer requires an affirmative vote of the Oversight Committee. In August 2017, the Oversight Committee agreed to consider transfers on an asset-by-asset basis, as opposed to a blanket transfer.

The resolution proposed for the Oversight Committee’s consideration memorializes the intent of the Oversight Committee to transfer management and disposition authority for the specific assets named in the resolution. The resolution also authorizes CPRIT’s CEO to act on the Oversight Committee’s behalf for all activities necessary to complete the full transfer of authority for the assets, including the execution of required legal documents and approval of a negotiated fee CPRIT will pay to the Trust Company. The statutory amendment permits the Trust Company to charge CPRIT to recover the costs associated with managing any transferred assets. CPRIT staff and Trust Company representatives are negotiating an appropriate fee and payment structure, which we will memorialize through an inter-agency agreement. Mr. Roberts will report the final fee agreement to the Oversight Committee.

Another outstanding issue CPRIT and Trust Company representatives are discussing is how the Trust Company will update the Oversight Committee regarding CPRIT assets under its management, as well as the frequency of those updates. At this time, we anticipate that the Trust Company will update the Oversight Committee annually, but the update may occur more frequently at the Oversight Committee's request or as circumstances dictate.

Recommendation:

CPRIT staff recommends that the Product Development Subcommittee approve the proposed resolution for OncoNano.



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**A RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF
MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSITION AUTHORITY FOR ONCONANO MEDICINE
TO THE TEXAS TREASURY SAFEKEEPING TRUST COMPANY
AND THE PAYMENT OF A FEE
FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSETS**

Whereas, Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.256 authorizes the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (“CPRIT”) to collect royalties, income, and other benefits, including interest or proceeds resulting from securities or equity, realized because of projects undertaken with CPRIT grant awards;

Whereas, CPRIT holds revenue sharing obligations that provide for the state’s interest in securities, equities, royalties, income, and other benefits realized because of projects undertaken with CPRIT grant awards pursuant to contractual agreements authorized by Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.256;

Whereas, Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.256 (“Authorizing Law”) permits CPRIT to transfer to the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company (“Trust Company”) CPRIT’s management and disposition authority over the state’s interest in securities, equities, royalties, income, and other benefits realized because of projects undertaken with CPRIT grant awards;

Whereas, in managing the assets transferred by CPRIT through procedures and subject to restrictions that the Trust Company considers appropriate, the Trust Company may acquire, exchange, sell, supervise, manage, or retain any kind of investment that a prudent investor, exercising reasonable care, skill, and caution, would acquire, exchange, sell, or retain in light of the purposes, terms, distribution requirements, and other circumstances then prevailing pertinent to each investment, including the requirements prescribed by Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.256(b) and the purposes described by Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.002;

Whereas, the CPRIT Oversight Committee desires and intends to transfer its management and disposition authority over specific revenue sharing interests realized because of certain CPRIT grant awards as permitted by Authorizing Law; and

Whereas, Authorizing Law permits the Trust Company to charge CPRIT a fee to recover the reasonable and necessary costs incurred in managing the assets transferred by CPRIT.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the CPRIT Oversight Committee that:

Section 1. The CPRIT Oversight Committee intends to transfer its management and disposition authority of OncoNano Medicine's contractual revenue sharing obligation to the Trust Company effective on or after August 19, 2020, in accordance with applicable local law and relevant constitutional documents of the company. Accordingly, and pursuant to the Authorizing Law, the CPRIT Oversight Committee hereby ratifies, approves, and confirms the transfer of the OncoNano revenue sharing obligation.

Section 2. The CPRIT Oversight Committee hereby delegates authority to CPRIT's Chief Executive Officer, and any designee of the Chief Executive Officer, to take all action in conformity with the Authorizing Law necessary to effect the transfer of CPRIT's management and disposition authority for OncoNano's contractual revenue sharing obligation to the Trust Company on or after August 19, 2020. CPRIT's Chief Executive Officer, and any designee of the Chief Executive Officer, may take all action necessary or desirable in conformity with the Authorizing Law for carrying out, giving effect to, and consummating the transactions required to complete the transfer. Such authority includes, without limitation, the execution and delivery of any documents in connection with the transfer and the negotiation and payment of a fee paid by CPRIT to the Trust Company for the reasonable and necessary costs incurred in managing the transferred assets.

Section 3. The CPRIT Oversight Committee hereby empowers, authorizes, and directs CPRIT's Chief Executive Officer to:

- a. sign and deliver any and all documents necessary or desirable to complete the transfer of authority to the Trust Company. Such documents may include but not limited to a Memorandum of Understanding and Fee Agreement between CPRIT and the Trust Company;
- b. cooperate with OncoNano, including their successors, the Trust Company and its consultants to effectuate the transfer; and
- c. to take any other action necessary to assist in such transfer.

Section 4. The CPRIT Oversight Committee hereby ratifies, approves, and confirms all actions consistent with provisions of this Resolution heretofore taken by CPRIT and its Chief Executive Officer or designee thereof and the other officers of, or consultants to CPRIT, directed toward the transfer of the specific assets named herein.

Section 6. The CPRIT Oversight Committee adopts this Resolution at a meeting open to the public, and CPRIT provided public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting, all as required by Ch. 551, Texas Government Code.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the CPRIT Oversight Committee present and voting on August 21, 2019.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute
of Texas Oversight Committee

Attested:

Presiding Officer

Secretary

Weaver and Tidwell, LLP (Weaver) is the outsourced internal auditor of the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). The Weaver engagement team is led by Alyssa Martin, Partner and Daniel Graves, Partner.

2020 Internal Audit Plan and Schedule

Based on the approval of the 2020 Internal Audit Plan by the Oversight Committee in the August meeting, we have coordinated and planned the timing of the internal audits and follow-up procedures for the 2020 Internal Audit Plan.

2020 NEW INTERNAL AUDITS		
Internal Audit	Description	Status
Governance	Internal Audit will include an evaluation of risks and internal controls in place related to CPRIT's Governance practices. Activities to be evaluated will include Board Oversight and Responsibilities, Management Leadership, Institute Communications, Internal Audit, Risk Management, Administrative Rules, and Legislative Communications.	Fieldwork Complete
Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Planning	Internal Audit will include an evaluation of risks and internal controls in place related to CPRIT's Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Planning practices. Disaster Recovery activities to be evaluated will include IT backup and recovery systems, disaster recovery plan and procedures, IT hardware recovery, data recovery, and disaster recovery testing. Business Continuity Planning activities to be evaluated will include business resumption plan and procedures, scenario determination and criticality, business impact analysis, and continuity plan testing.	In Progress
2020 NEW INTERNAL AUDIT FOLLOW-UPS		
Communications Follow-Up • 1 High Finding • 2 Moderate Findings	Internal Audit will perform follow-up procedures on the 3 open findings from the 2018 Internal Audit to ensure corrective action has been taken.	August 2020
Information Security Follow-Up	Internal Audit will perform follow-up procedures on the open findings from the 2016 Internal Audit to ensure corrective action has been taken.	August 2020
State Reporting Follow-Up • 2 Low Findings	Internal Audit will performed follow-up procedures on the 2 open findings from the 2019 Internal Audit to ensure corrective action has been taken. Both findings were determined to be remediated.	Complete

We have prepared a summary schedule of audits, their status and a summary of the findings by risk rating. The schedule maps out the internal audit and follow-up procedures performed, by year, the report date, report rating, and the findings by risk rating. The summary schedule is attached.

In addition, we facilitated an update the 2019 risk assessment. Based on the risk assessment, we have prepared a proposed Internal Audit Plan for fiscal years 2021 and 2022. Upon approval by the Oversight Committee, the internal audit plan will be included in the fiscal year 2020 Annual Internal Audit Report.



Alyssa G. Martin, CPA, MBA, Internal Auditor
Partner
Weaver and Tidwell L.L.P.



Daniel Graves, CPA, Internal Auditor
Partner
Weaver and Tidwell L.L.P.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
 Schedule of Audits, Status, and Findings Summary
 As of August 3, 2020

Audit	Fiscal Year	Status/Timing	Report Date	Report Rating	Open Findings				Closed Findings				Total Findings			
					High	Mod	Low	Total	High	Mod	Low	Total	High	Mod	Low	Total
Fiscal Year 2015																
Grant Management	2015	Complete	July 27, 2015	Satisfactory	-	8	1	9	-	-	-	-	-	8	1	9
Expenditures Internal Audit	2015	Complete	August 24, 2015	Strong	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
2014 Governance and IT Follow-Up	2015	Complete	August 14, 2015	Satisfactory	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	7	-	1	1	2
2014 Grantee Monitoring Follow-Up	2015	Complete	July 31, 2015	Satisfactory	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	11	1	-	2	3
Fiscal Year 2015 Subtotal					-	8	3	34	-	-	-	18	1	9	6	16
Fiscal Year 2016																
Commodity and Service Contracts Internal Audit	2016	Complete	May 13, 2016	Satisfactory	-	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5
Revenue Internal Audit	2016	Complete	July 8, 2016	Strong	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Information Security Internal Audit	2016	Complete	August 3, 2016		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash Management Internal Audit	2016	Complete	August 12, 2016	Strong	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
2015 Grant Management Follow-Up	2016	Complete	June 9, 2016	Strong	-	8	1	9	-	8	1	9	-	-	-	-
2015 Information Technology Follow-Up	2016	Complete	N/A	N/A	-	1	1	2	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
Fiscal Year 2016 Subtotal					-	13	6	19	-	9	2	11	-	4	4	8
Fiscal Year 2017																
Training Program Internal Audit	2017	Complete	March 10, 2017	Strong	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Internal Agency Compliance	2017	Complete	April 17, 2017	Strong	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pre-Award Grant Management	2017	Complete	May 30, 2017	Satisfactory	1	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3
Procurement and P-Card Internal Audit	2017	Complete	August 4, 2017	Satisfactory	-	7	2	9	-	-	-	-	-	7	2	9
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2017	Complete	May 30, 2017		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2016 Commodity and Service Contracts Follow-Up	2017	Complete	July 13, 2017	Strong	-	3	2	5	-	3	2	5	-	-	-	-
2016 Revenue Follow-Up	2017	Complete	July 8, 2017	Strong	-	-	2	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
2016 Cash Management Follow-Up	2017	Complete	July 13, 2017	Strong	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Fiscal Year 2017 Subtotal					1	16	6	23	-	4	4	8	1	12	2	15
Fiscal Year 2018																
Post Award Grant Monitoring Internal Audit	2018	Complete	February 1, 2018	Strong	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Grant Contracting Internal Audit																
Communications Internal Audit	2018	Complete	April 30, 2018	Satisfactory	1	4	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	5
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2018	Complete	July 17, 2018		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2017 Training Program Follow-Up	2018	Complete	January 19, 2018	Strong	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
2017 Internal Agency Compliance Follow-Up	2018	Complete	January 19, 2018	Strong	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
2017 Pre-Award Grant Management Follow-Up	2018	Complete	April 24, 2018	Strong	1	2	-	3	1	2	-	3	-	-	-	-
2017 Procurement and P-Card Follow-Up	2018	Complete	April 30, 2018	Strong	-	7	2	9	-	6	2	8	-	1	-	1
Fiscal Year 2018 Subtotal					2	17	2	21	1	11	2	14	1	6	-	7
Fiscal Year 2019																
State Reporting Internal Audit	2019	Complete	January 16, 2019	Strong	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Budget and Planning	2019	Complete	January 16, 2019	Strong	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2017 SAO Performance Measures Follow-up	2019	Complete	December 6, 2018	Strong	-	-	3	3	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2019	Cancelled	N/A		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2018 Communications Follow-Up	2019	Complete	August 30, 2019	Satisfactory	1	4	-	5	-	2	-	2	1	2	-	3
2018 Post Award Grant Monitoring Follow-Up	2019	Complete	April 11, 2019	Strong	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
2018 Grant Contracting Follow-Up																
2017 Procurement and P-Card Follow-Up	2019	Complete	August 1, 2019	Strong	-	7	2	9	-	7	2	9	-	-	-	-
Fiscal Year 2019 Subtotal					1	12	7	20	-	10	5	15	1	2	2	5
Fiscal Year 2020																
Governance	2020	July 2020	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Planning	2020	July-August 2020	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2020	August 2020	N/A		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2018 Communications Follow-Up	2020	August 2020	N/A	N/A	1	4	-	5	-	2	-	2	1	2	-	3
2019 State Reporting Follow-Up	2020	July 2020	July 20, 2020	Strong	-	-	2	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Fiscal Year 2020 Subtotal					1	4	2	7	-	2	2	4	1	2	-	3

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FISCAL YEAR 2020 SUMMARY																	
Audit	Fiscal Year	Status/Timing	Report Date	Report Rating	Findings				Closed Findings				Total Open Findings				Timing of Follow-Up Procedures by IA
					High	Mod	Low	Total	High	Mod	Low	Total	High	Mod	Low	Total	
Governance	2020	July 2020	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Planning	2020	July-August 2020	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2016 Information Security Follow-Up	2020	August 2020	N/A		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2018 Communications Follow-Up	2020	August 2020	N/A	N/A	1	4	-	5	-	2	-	2	1	2	-	3	August 2020
2019 State Reporting Follow-Up	2020	July 2020	July 20, 2020	Strong	-	-	2	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	August 2020
Total Findings For Internal Audit Follow-Up					1	4	2	7	-	2	2	4	1	2	-	3	

Cancer Research and Prevention Institute of Texas
Proposed Internal Audit Plan
Draft - For Discussion Purposes Only

Audit Area	Risk Rating	Summary Procedures	Audit Focus	Estimated Hours
2021 Planned New Internal Audits				
Sunset Self Assessment	NA	Internal Audit will compare the results of the latest Internal Audit Risk Assessment with the reporting requirements in the Sunset Commission Self-Assessment Report (SAR) to provide an overlay of a risk-based framework to complete the SAR, as well as providing mapping of historical internal audit results, and corresponding agency improvements, to each section of the report. Additionally internal audit will evaluate the processes used to compile the information included in the SAR and will validate the accuracy of key data to be included in the report, defined in Texas Government Code 325.011. Internal Audit will also verify that CPRIT has the required policies and procedures in place, in preparation for the Sunset Advisory Commission Review.	Audit Advisory	220
Information Technology General Computer Controls	High	Internal Audit will evaluate the risks and internal controls in place related to CPRIT's Information Technology practices. Activities to be evaluated will include Network Operations, Help Desk Support, Change Management, Website Maintenance, Back-Up and Recovery.	Internal Audit	280
Records Management - Grantee Compliance Records	High	Internal Audit will provide audit advisory services to evaluate the planning process for the grantee compliance record migration from a third-party designed system to the integrated CPRIT system. Evaluation of the designed process will include the validation of the system architecture design and data mapping of the file migration plan. Consulting services will also include the validation of the system configuration upon implementation, verification of the completeness of the data migration and testing the accuracy of data classification and mapping.	Audit Advisory	230
2021 Planned Internal Audit Consulting and Follow-up				
Information Security	High	Internal Audit will perform follow-up procedures on the one open finding from the 2016 internal audit to ensure corrective action has been taken.	Follow-up	40
Communications	Moderate	Internal Audit will perform follow-up procedures on the 3 open findings from the 2018 internal audit to ensure corrective action has been taken.	Follow-up	70
Governance	High	Internal Audit will perform possible follow-up procedures on the findings from the 2020 internal audit to ensure corrective action has been taken.	Follow-up	100
Disaster Recovery	High	Internal Audit will perform possible follow-up procedures on the recommendations from the 2020 internal audit advisory project to validate changes in operations.	Advisory Follow-up	100
Business Continuity Planning	High			
2021 Planned Annual Requirements				
Project Management	NA	Track overall internal audit procedures, coordinate audit activities, and reporting to management.	Project Management	80
Update Risk Assessment	NA	Perform required annual update of risk assessment	Policy Compliance	30
Annual and Quarterly Board Reports	NA	Prepare and submit required Annual Internal Audit Report and quarterly reports to the Audit Committee of internal audit activities.	Policy Compliance	50
Total Estimated Hours				1,200
Total Estimated Fees				\$ 186,000

Cancer Research and Prevention Institute of Texas
Proposed Internal Audit Plan
Draft - For Discussion Purposes Only

Audit Area	Risk Rating	Summary Procedures	Audit Focus	Timing
2022 Planned New Internal Audits				
Post-Award Grant Management	High	Internal Audit will evaluate the risks and internal controls in place related to CPRIT's post-award grant management practices. Activities to be evaluated will include grantee monitoring, sub-recipient monitoring, grantee reporting, and project progress review.	Internal Audit	260
Application Development and Management	Moderate	Internal Audit will evaluate the risks and internal controls in place related to CPRIT's software application development and management practices. Activities to be evaluated will include application management, application configuration, data reporting integrity, and vendor SOC Reports monitoring.	Internal Audit	280
2022 Planned Internal Audit Consulting and Follow-up				
Sunset Self Assessment	NA	Internal Audit will perform possible follow-up procedures on the recommendations from the 2021 Internal Audit Advisory project to validate that recommendations have been addressed.	Advisory Follow-up	130
Information Technology General Computer Controls	High	Internal Audit will perform possible follow-up procedures on the findings from the 2021 Internal Audit to ensure corrective action has been taken.	Follow-up	130
Records Management - Grantee Compliance Records	High	Internal Audit will perform possible follow-up procedures on the recommendations from the 2021 Internal Audit Advisory project to validate that recommendations have been addressed.	Advisory Follow-up	150
2022 Planned Annual Requirements				
Internal Audit Special Projects	NA	Special projects and assistance by Internal Audit, subject to the approval of management.	TBD	70
Project Management	NA	Track overall internal audit procedures, coordinate audit activities, and reporting to management.	Project Management	100
Update Risk Assessment	NA	Perform required annual update of risk assessment	Policy Compliance	30
Annual and Quarterly Board Reports	NA	Prepare and submit required Annual Internal Audit Report and quarterly reports to the Audit Committee of internal audit activities.	Policy Compliance	50
Total Estimated Hours				1,200
Total Estimated Fees				\$ 186,000



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: CAMERON ECKEL, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL
SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT TO THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
DATE: AUGUST 10, 2020

Summary and Recommendation

The Chief Executive Officer has appointed one expert to CPRIT's Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee. CPRIT's statute requires Oversight Committee approval for the appointment. The Nominations Subcommittee will discuss the appointment at its meeting on August 14.

Discussion

Scientific Research and Prevention Programs committee members (also referred to as "peer reviewers") are responsible for reviewing grant applications and recommending grant awards for meritorious projects addressing cancer prevention and research, including product development research. Peer reviewers perform a significant role for the state; all CPRIT grant awards must first be recommended by a Scientific Research and Prevention Programs committee. Individuals appointed to serve as CPRIT's Scientific Research and Prevention Programs committee members must be exceptionally qualified, highly respected, well-established members of the cancer research, product development research, and prevention communities.

Texas Health and Safety Code Section 102.151(a) directs the Chief Executive Officer to appoint members to the Scientific Research and Prevention Programs committees. The CEO's appointments are final once approved by a simple majority of the Oversight Committee. The Nominations Subcommittee charter assigns the subcommittee with the responsibility "to circulate to Oversight Committee members in advance of a public meeting written notification of the committee's intent to make the nomination, along with such information about the nominee as may be relevant."

The nominations subcommittee will review the peer reviewer appointment at its August 14 meeting.



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Scientific Review Council

- Clark Chen, M.D., Ph.D.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors in the order listed on Form Page 2.
Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED FOUR PAGES.**

NAME Chen, Clark C.	POSITION TITLE Professor		
eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login) CCCHEN1			
EDUCATION/TRAINING (Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable.)			
INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	MM/YY	FIELD OF STUDY
Stanford University, CA	B.S.	1992	Biological Sciences
Columbia University, NY	M.S.	1993	Epidemiology
Harvard Medical School, MA	M.D.-Ph.D.	2001	Genetics/Medicine
Massachusetts General Hospital, MA	Residency	2001-2007	Neurosurgery
Massachusetts General Hospital, MA	Clin. Fellow	2003-2004	Radiosurgery
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	Postdoc	2004-2006	DNA Repair
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, MA	Fellowship	2008-2009	Stereotactic Neurosurgery

A. Personal Statement

Glioblastoma is the most common form of adult brain cancer and remains one of the deadliest of human diseases. Despite near half of a century of animal and tissue culture modeling, the prognosis of glioblastoma patients is grim, with nearly all patients expiring within two years of diagnosis. While tissue culture and animal glioblastoma models have provided insights into pathogenesis, our understanding of the molecular physiology of glioblastoma as it exists in the human subjects remains limited. A major focus in my laboratory is to characterize this physiology by genetic/epigenetic profiling of clinical specimens acquired during surgical resection. In this context, I am excited to embark on the proposed collaboration with Drs. Frank Furnari and Gene Yeo in the proposed research to characterize the contribution of RNA modification to glioblastoma pathogenesis and therapeutic resistance. This is an area of research that is poorly understood and understudied. The proposal represents an opportunity for synergy of laboratories with distinct expertise and focus. The Furnari lab is a recognized leader in pre-clinical glioblastoma research, with a wide array of genetically engineered murine glioblastoma models. The Yeo group is a pioneer in computational and experimental RNA biology with seminal contributions to the field. As a neurosurgeon specializing in stereotactic and MRI-guided surgery (**see peer-reviewed publications 3**) and molecular analysis of clinical glioblastoma specimens secured through these surgeries (**see peer-reviewed publications 4**), I have extensive experience in the acquisition and interrogation of these specimens as well as the surrounding tissues and have developed a rigorous process for protection of subjects. The three labs have a demonstrated track record of collaboration (**see peer-reviewed publication 3d**). Given my PhD and post-doctoral training in cancer biology, I have been able to meaningfully interface with Drs. Furnari and Yeo's group to inform experimental designs based on my clinical observations. Here, we propose studies to build on that foundation. We believe that our group is well-positioned to carry out the studies proposed in this application. Completion of the proposed project has the potential to fundamentally re-shape the paradigm of how RNA modification influences glioblastoma pathogenesis and impact patient care.

B. Positions and Honors

Positions and Employment

1990	Summer Medical and Research Training program research fellowship, Baylor College of Medicine, Laboratory of Dr. James Lupski
1991	Research fellowship, Undergraduate Research Program, Cold Spring Harbor, Laboratory of Dr. Bruce Stillman
1991-3	Research associate, Department of Pediatrics, Stanford University Medical Center, Laboratory of Dr. Dorsey Bass
1993-5	Research associate, Department of Pathology, Brigham and Woman's Hospital, Laboratory of Dr. Anindya Dutta

1995-1999	Thesis Candidate, Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School, Laboratory of Dr. Richard Kolodner
2009-2011	Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School, MA
2009-2011	Assistant Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, MA
2011-2012	Assistant Professor, Division of Neurosurgery, University of California, San Diego
2013-2017	Associate Professor, Division of Neurosurgery, University of California, San Diego
2017	Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, University of California, San Diego
2017	Professor, Department of Radiation Medicine, University of California, San Diego
2017-current	Professor and Chair, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Minnesota

Awards and Honors

1988-90	Regent Scholar, Stanford University
1989	Phi Beta Kappa, Stanford University
1990	Peat Marwick Scholarship Award
1992	Student research grant, Stanford University
1992	Student abstract prize, American Gastroenterological Association
1991	Outstanding student teaching award, Stanford University
1992	Graduated with honors and departmental distinction, Stanford University
1997-1999	Graduate research fellowship, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research
1999	James Kerr award for excellence in research Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research
2001	MD-PhD student of the year, Harvard Medical School Dean's Report
2005	American Association for Cancer Research-Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology Scholar-in-Training Award
2006	Postdoctoral research fellowship, Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation
2006	Tumor Young Investigator Award, Congress of Neurological Surgeons
2007	Scholar award, Qiagen Inc.
2007	Outstanding Research Award, Academy of Neurological Surgeons
2007	Burroughs Wellcome Career Award in Medical Sciences Award
2008	American Brain Tumor Association Investigator Award
2008	Paul Calabresi Scholar Award, National Institute of Health
2009	National Brain Tumor Foundation Translational Research Award
2009	Forbeck Scholar, William Guy Forbeck Research Foundation
2010	Clinical Scientist Development Award, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
2010	Distinguished Scientist Award, Sontag Foundation
2011	Finalist, Stand Up To Cancer Innovative Research Award
2011	Developmental Research Program Award, Harvard/DFHCC Glioma SPORE
2011	Kimmel Foundation Scholar Award, Kimmel Foundation
2012	Chancellors' Award, University of California San Diego
2013	Young Investigator, Society of Neuro-Oncology
2013	Investigator Award, Medtronic
2014	Clinical Investigator Award, Society of Neuro-Oncology
2015	Leskell Gamma Knife Award, American Association of Neurosurgeons
2016	Presidential Achievement Award, Government of Taiwan
2017	Elected Member, Senior Neurosurgical Society
2018	Elected Member, American Academy of Neurological Surgeons
2019	Preuss Award in Neuro-Oncology, Congress of Neurological Surgeons
2020	Award of Medical Innovation, GT Medical

C. Selected Peer-reviewed Publications (selected from 185 peer-reviewed articles)

1. CHROMOSOMAL INSTABILITY AND HUMAN CANCER. Background: At the time of publication, there is little understanding of the genetic mechanisms that safeguard against chromosomal instability. **Findings:** The study identified the first yeast mutants that accumulate gross chromosomal rearrangements spontaneously (**1a**). Using insights attained through these studies, I developed the first quantitative chromosomal instability

assay (**1b**), an assay that remains that standard of the field two decades after its initial publication. Using this assay, distinct pathways that modulate chromosomal rearrangements were defined (**1c,1d**). **Impacts:** Mutations in human cancer susceptibility genes increased chromosomal instability and identified therapeutic strategies that counteract this process.

a. Chen CC, Umezu K, Kolodner RD. Chromosomal rearrangements occur in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* *rfa1* mutator mutants due to mutagenic lesions processed by different double-strand-break repair pathways. *Mol Cell* 1998; 2:9-22.

b. Chen CC, Kolodner RD. Gross chromosomal rearrangements in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* replication and recombination defective mutants. *Nat Genet* 1999; 23:81-5.

c. Myung K, Dutta A, **Chen CC**, Kolodner RD. SGS1, the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* homologue of BLM and WRN, suppresses genome instability and homeologous recombination. *Nat Genet* 2001; 27:113-16.

d. Myung K, **Chen CC**, Kolodner RD. Multiple pathways cooperate in the suppression of genome instability in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. *Nature* 2001; 411:1073-6.

2. MR IMAGING OF INTRATUMORAL GLIOBLASTOMA HETEROGENEITY. Background: One of the most notable features of glioblastoma is the significant degree of regional heterogeneity. The biologic processes underlying this heterogeneity remain poorly understood. **Findings:** Regional heterogeneity can be assessed using advanced Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) techniques (**2a**). It is possible to register MRI findings to surgical navigation tools to achieve biopsies of distinct regions of the same tumor and to record the sites of these biopsies (**2b**). Correlating molecular profiles of glioblastoma and MRI findings, such as contrast enhancement and mass effect yield insights into *in vivo* glioblastoma physiology as they exist in patients (**2c, 2d**). **Impacts:** These work elucidate the biologic processes that underlie regional heterogeneity in glioblastoma and the impacts of this heterogeneity on therapeutic response.

a. Taylor EN, Ding Y, Zhu S, Cheah E, Alexander P, Lin L, Aninwene GE, Hoffman MP, Mahajan A, Mohamed ASR, McDannold N, Fuller CD, **Chen CC**, Gilbert RJ. Association between tumor architecture derived from generalized Q-space MRI and survival in glioblastoma. *Oncotarget* 2017; 8(26): 41815-26.

b. Steed TC, Treiber JM, Patel K, Ramakrishnan V, Merk A, Smith AR, Carter BS, Anders M Dale AM, Chow LML, **Chen CC**. Differential localization of glioblastoma subtype: implications on glioblastoma pathogenesis. *Oncotarget* 2016; 7(18): 24899-907.

c. Steed TC, Treiber JM, Brandel MG, Kunal S Patel KS, Dale AM, Carter BS, **Chen CC**. Quantification of glioblastoma mass effect by lateral ventricle displacement. *Sci Rep* 2018, 8(1): 2827.

d. Treiber JM, Steed JC, Patel KS, Brandel M, Dale AM, Carter BS, **Chen CC**. Molecular physiology of contrast enhancement in glioblastomas: an analysis of The Cancer Imaging Archive (TCIA). *Journal of Clinical Neurosci* 2019, Epub.

3. CORRELATIVE ANALYSIS OF CLINICAL GLIOBLASTOMA SPECIMENS SECURED FROM REGIONS DEFINED BY ADVANCED MRI TECHNIQUES. Background: Understanding of the physiology of distinct regions of glioblastoma defined by advanced MRI techniques require study of clinical specimen derived from that region. **Findings:** **3a, b** represent an accuracy assessment of over 200 stereotactic biopsies that I have performed and document the milli-meter accuracy of these biopsies. **3c** demonstrates that I can safely secure clinical specimens from regions defined by advanced MRI modalities. **3d** demonstrates that intra-tumoral heterogeneity can be modeled using induced pluripotent stem cells. **Impacts:** These studies demonstrate my skills as a neurosurgeon capable of securing tumor tissues from specific regions of glioblastoma defined by advanced MR imaging, within millimeter accuracy.

a. Scheer JK, Hamelin T, Chang L, Lemkuil B, Carter BS, **Chen CC**. Real-time MRI guided biopsy using SmartFrame® stereotaxis in the setting of a diagnostic MRI suite. *Neurosurgery* 2017; 13(3): 329-37.

b. Waters DJ, Gonda DD, Reddy H, Kasper EM, Warnke PC, **Chen CC**. Diagnostic yield of stereotactic needle-biopsies of sub-cubic centimeter intracranial lesions. *Surg Neurol Int* 2013; 17; 4.

c. Lai G, Mahadevan A, Hackney D, Warnke PC, Kasper E, Wang E, Bob S. Carter BS, **Chen CC**. Diagnostic accuracy of PET, SPECT, and ASL in differentiating tumor recurrence from necrosis in cerebral metastasis post-stereotactic radiosurgery. *Am J Neuroradiol* 2015; 36(12):2250-5.

d. Koga T, Chaim IA, Benitez JA, Markmiller S, Parisian AD, Hevner RF, Turner KM, Hessenauer FM, D'antonio M, Nguyen ND, Saberi S, Ma J, Miki S, Boyer AD, Ravits J, Frazer KA, Bafina V, **Chen CC**, Mischel PS, Yeo GW, Furnari FB. Cancer avatars derived from genetically engineered pluripotent stem cells allow for longitudinal assessment of tumor development. *Nature Comm* 2019; Epub.

4. MOLECULAR PROFILING OF CLINICAL GLIOBLASTOMA SPECIMENS. Background: Integrated, multi-platform genomic profiling of clinical glioblastoma specimens affords opportunities for understanding of *in vivo* tumor physiology. **Findings:** My laboratory performed one of the first integrated miRNA profiling, mRNA profiling, and RNAseq of clinically annotated glioblastoma specimens. The efforts defined molecular determinants of glioblastoma sensitivity to chemotherapy (4a, b) and novel “driver” fusion protein (4c). mRNA profiling of clinical specimens derived from patients treated with the Toca-511 oncolytic virus revealed molecular signatures that predicted therapeutic response (4d). **Impacts:** Profiling of clinically annotated glioblastoma specimens yielded novel therapeutic targets and predictive biomarkers.

a. Zhang W, Zhang J, Hoadley K, Kushwaha D, Ramakrishnan V, Li S, Kang C, You Y, Jiang C, Song SW, Jiang T, **Chen CC**. miR-181d: a predictive glioblastoma biomarker that down regulates MGMT expression. Neuro-Oncology 2012; 14(6): 712-9.

b. Shen Y, Li J, Nitta M, Futralana D, Steed T, Treiber JM, Taich Z, Stevense D, Wykoskye J, Chen H, Carter BS, Becher OJ, Kennedy R, Esashih F, Sarkaria JN, Furanri FB, Cavenee WK, Desai A, **Chen CC**. Orthogonal targeting of EGFRVIII expressing glioblastomas through simultaneous EGFR and PLK1 inhibition. Oncotarget 2015; 6(14): 11751-67.

c. Bao ZS, Chen H, Yang M, Zhang C, Yu K, Ye W, Hu B, Yan W, Zhang W, Akers J, Ramakrishnan V, Li J, Carter B, Liu Y, Hu H, Wang Z, Li M, Yao K, Qiu X, Kang C, You Y, Fan X, Li R, Su X*, **Chen CC***, Jiang T*. RNA-seq of 272 gliomas revealed a novel, recurrent PTPRZ1-MET fusion transcript in secondary glioblastomas. Genomic Research 2014; 24(11): 1765-73. *equal contribution as senior authors

d. Cloughesy T, Landolfi J, Hogan DJ, Bloomfield S, Carter BS, **Chen CC**, Elder JB, Kalkanis SN, Kesari S, Lai A, Lee IY, Liau LM, Mikkelsen T, Nghiemphu PL, Piccioni D, Walbert T, Chu A, Das A, Diago OR, Gammon D, Gruber HE, Hanna M, Jolly DJ, Kasahara N, McCarthy D, Mitchell L, Ostertag D, Robbins JM, Rodriguez-Aguirre M, Vogelbaum MA. Phase 1 Trial of Vocimagene Amiretrorepvec and 5-Fluorocytosine for Recurrent High Grade Glioma. Sci Transl Med 2016; 8(341):341.

5. EPIGENETIC REGULATION OF GLIOBLASTOMA THERAPEUTIC RESPONSE. Background: Little information is available in terms of how the epigenetic cell state modify glioblastoma response to therapy.

Findings: We showed that genetically identical glioblastoma clones nevertheless exhibit distinct epigenetic states and clinical response to therapy (5a). Moreover, dynamic interchange between epigenetic states can be driven through by specific gene mutations (5b, c). Altered epigenetic states alters chromatin compaction and determine the likelihood of DNA damage accumulation (5d). **Impacts:** Phenotypic cell-to-cell variability in sensitivity to DNA damage within a clonal population is driven by epigenetic factors.

a. Kozono D, Li J, Nitta M, Sampetean O, Gonda D, Kushwaha DS, Merzon D, Ramakrishnan V, Zhu S, Zhu K, Matsui H, Harismendy O, Hua W, Mao Y, Kwon C, Saya H, Nakano I, Pizzo DP, VandenBerg SR, **Chen CC**. Dynamic epigenetic regulation of glioblastoma tumorigenicity through LSD1 modulation of MYC expression. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 2015; 112(30): E4055-64.

b. Li J, Taich ZJ, Goyal A, Gonda DD, Akers, J, Adhikari B, Patel K, Vandenberg S, Yan W, Bao Z, Carter BX, Wang R, Mao Y, Jiang T, **Chen CC**. Epigenetic suppression of EGFR signaling in G-CIMP+ glioblastomas. Oncotarget 2014; 5(17): 7342-56.

c. Kennedy RD, **Chen CC**, Stuckert P, Archila EM, De la Vega MA, Moreau L, Shimamura A, D’Andrea A. Fanconi anemia pathway deficient tumor cells are hypersensitive to inhibition of ataxia telangiectasia mutated. J Clin Invest 2007; 117:1440-9.

d. Floyd SR, Pacold ME, Huang Q, Clarke SM, Lam FC, Cannell IG, Bryson BD, Rameseder J, Lee MJ, Blake EJ, Fydrych A, Ho R, Greenberger BA, Chen GC, Maffa A, Del Rosario AM, Root DE, Carpenter AE, Hahn WC, Sabatini DM, **Chen CC**, White FM, Bradner JE, Yaffe MB. The bromodomain protein Brd4 insulates chromatin from DNA damage signaling. Nature 2013; 498(7453):246-50

D. Research Support

Ongoing Research Support

NINDS; 1RO1NS097649-01; 8/1/2016-5/31/2021 (Chen, PI)

Targeting mechanisms of acquired temozolomide resistance in glioblastoma

The goal of this project is to understand mechanisms underlying temozolomide resistance

NCI: 1RO1CA240953-01; 9/1/2019-8/30/2024 (Chen, PI)

Development of Quantitative Deuterium MRS Imaging for Human Brain Tumor Application at Ultrahigh Field

The goal of this study is to develop 7T deuterium MRS as a novel molecular imaging platform for glioblastoma

Completed Research Support

Harvard Catalyst Grant (Chen, PI); 11/01/09-10/31/10

Harvard Clinical and Translational Science Center

Functional profiling of glioblastoma

The goal of this study is to generate the candidate driver mutation through a synthesis of functional biology and genomic characterization

Kimmel Foundation (Chen, PI); 07/01/11-06/30/13

Clinical Scholar Award

Co-optation of G-protein coupled neurotransmitter receptor pathways in glioblastomas

The goal of this proposal is to synthesize genomic profiles of glioblastoma with a genome-wide shRNA screen to identify novel therapeutic targets

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Clinical Scientist Development Award (Chen, PI); 10/01/10-10/01/13

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

Proteasome inhibition as subtype specific therapeutic intervention in glioblastoma

The goal of this proposal is to determine whether subsets of glioblastoma patients may benefit from the incorporation of bortezomib, a proteasome inhibitor, into the current treatment regimen. This project is unrelated to other grant awards.

Sontag Foundation (Chen, PI); 10/30/10-10/30/15

Distinguished Scientist Award

Identifying novel glioblastoma therapy by synthetic lethality

The goal of this proposal is to identify gene silencings that are synthetically lethal with Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) hyper-activation.

NCI K12 (Chen, PI); 07/01/2008-07/31/2010

Paul Calabresi Career Development Award

Functional understanding of the glioblastoma genome: a large-scale RNAi screen

The goal of this study is to identify new strategies for glioblastoma treatment by carrying out a genome-wide shRNA screen to identify genes required for tumor growth and survival.

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (Chen, PI); 04/01/2009-04/01/2011

HR0011-13-2-0017

Porous Si-based therapeutic nano-platform for the treatment of penetrating brain injury

The goal of this proposal is to develop nano-particles for the treatment of penetrating brain injury.

NIH Common Fund (Chen, co-PI); 06/01/2011-05/31/2013

UH1/2 TR000931-01

exRNA Biomarkers for Human Glioma

The goal of this project is to establish exRNA as a biomarker platform for glioma diagnostics

Department of Defense; W81XWh-14-2-0192; 9/30/14-9/29/17 (Chen, co-PI)

Rapid isolation and detection for RNA biomarkers

The goal of the project is to develop novel biomarkers platforms using di-electrophoresis

Burroughs Wellcome Fund; 1006774.01; 09/01/07-08/31/12 (Chen, PI; no cost extension to 10/2017)

The molecular basis and therapeutic implications of genome instability during brain tumor progression

The goal of this study is to understand mechanisms by which oncogenes trigger genomic instability.

NIH Common Fund; 4UH3TR000931-03; 8/1/2013-7/31/2018 (Chen, co-PI)

exRNA biomarkers for human glioma

The goal of this project is to develop exRNA-based clinical biomarker platforms for glioblastoma patients.

NIGMS 9R44GM128223-02; 9/08/2017-08/31/2019 (Chen, Multi-PI)

High-throughput single-cell sorting and kinetic analysis of secreted particles

The goal of this project is to develop a platform for tracking extracellular vesicle secretion by a single cell



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: WAYNE R. ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT: FY 2021 HONORARIA POLICY
DATE: AUGUST 13, 2020

Summary and Recommendation

CPRIT’s enabling legislation requires the Chief Executive Officer, with Oversight Committee approval, to adopt a policy for honoraria paid for peer review services. The Oversight Committee approved the FY 2020 honoraria policy at the August 2019 meeting. CPRIT revised the FY 2021 honoraria policy to reflect workload changes for Review Council members due to the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed FY 2021 honoraria payment structure remains the same as those approved for FY 2020. However, CPRIT projects an estimated \$500,000 reduction in overall peer review costs in FY 2021 due to the Academic Research and Product Development Research programs each holding one cycle of review instead of two cycles. I request approval of the FY 2021 honoraria policy. I discussed the FY 2021 policy with the program subcommittees and each subcommittee also recommends approval.

Background

CPRIT’s Scientific Research and Prevention Programs committee members (also referred to as “peer reviewers”) review grant applications and recommend grant awards for meritorious projects addressing cancer prevention and research (including product development) in Texas. State law authorizes CPRIT to pay honoraria to individuals appointed to CPRIT’s Scientific Research and Prevention Programs committees (Health and Safety Code § 102.151(d)). The ability to pay honoraria is essential to retaining individuals with the expertise and experience to carry out the complex review process required by CPRIT’s statute and administrative rules.

In its January 2013 report, the State Auditor’s Office recommended CPRIT implement a process supporting the honorarium it pays, to justify any changes, and to ensure that the honoraria are reasonable and competitive for the value CPRIT receives. The State Auditor also advised CPRIT to adopt documentation and process requirements for honoraria payments. CPRIT’s statute reflects the State Auditor’s guidance at Texas Health and Safety Code § 102.151(e).

CPRIT’s program staff relied upon historical information as well as anticipated workload projections to perform a detailed analysis of the activities, hours, and units for peer reviewer workload. The FY 2021 policy incorporates the roles and responsibilities assigned to Review Council chairs, Peer Review committee chairs, and peer review committee members and justifies the FY 2021 honorarium amount paid for each role. When honoraria rates are not standard

across the prevention, academic research, and product development programs, the policy justifies the reasons for paying different amounts. CPRIT's FY 2021 honoraria policy fully implements the statutory mandate and audit recommendations.

Changes to the FY 2021 Honoraria Policy

CPRIT's proposed FY 2021 Honoraria Policy maintains the same payments as FY 2020, despite some changes to the assigned activities for review council and peer review members in FY 2021. The activity changes are due to the continuing impact of COVID-19 on CPRIT's review process, as well as the increased workload related to CPRIT 2.0 planning that will occur in FY 2021.

Although CPRIT was able to maintain the standard two review cycles for the FY 2021 Prevention Program awards and the full FY 2021 recruitment review program, the delay caused by budget uncertainties related to COVID-19 forced CPRIT to offer one large review cycle for Academic Research and Product Development Research. Despite reducing the standard cycles for Academic Research and Product Development programs, CPRIT projects that we will fully award all available grant funds allocated for FY 2021 and we expect the overall workload for the Academic Research and Product Development review councils to remain the same as last year. This is due to the increased number of applications to be reviewed in the single super-cycles, as well as the increased amount of time that review council members for all three programs will devote to advising CPRIT related to review processes and grant awards for CPRIT 2.0.

I have detailed the proposed changes for each program below. In addition, the proposed FY 2021 honoraria policy includes a section that describes in more detail the effects of both COVID-19 and the CPRIT 2.0 planning on expected peer review activities for FY 2021. It is important to note that the FY 2021 honoraria policy specifies only the honoraria rates and not the total payments CPRIT expects to pay reviewers. CPRIT expects an estimated \$500,000 decrease in total peer review payments in FY 2021 due to the Academic Research and Product Development Research programs each holding one review cycle instead of two cycles.

- Prevention Program – CPRIT can maintain the standard two review cycles for prevention applications submitted for FY 2021 awards. As a result, the assigned review council and peer review member activities remain mostly unchanged. One change to the assigned peer review member activities (Table 3 in the proposed policy) eliminates all time allocated for travel because CPRIT will hold FY 2021 review activities by video conference. New peer review member activities for FY 2021 include required pre-meeting sessions with IT to resolve all technical issues and a post-review survey regarding members' recommendations for CPRIT 2.0 peer review improvements. Overall, the total amount paid to a Prevention Program peer review member will decrease by \$250 for each review cycle.
- Academic Research Program – CPRIT will provide a full review process (up to 12 review meetings) for the CPRIT Scholar recruitment applications submitted for FY 2021. However, after the two-month suspension of the first FY 2021 review cycle while CPRIT awaited guidance from state leadership, the peer review and planning logistics associated with mounting two full cycles in the shortened time made it too difficult to maintain the standard review schedule for FY 2021. CPRIT expects that the one review cycle for FY 2021 will be

significantly larger than a regular cycle, particularly because CPRIT will release three new requests for applications (RFAs) in FY 2021 that should garner many applications.

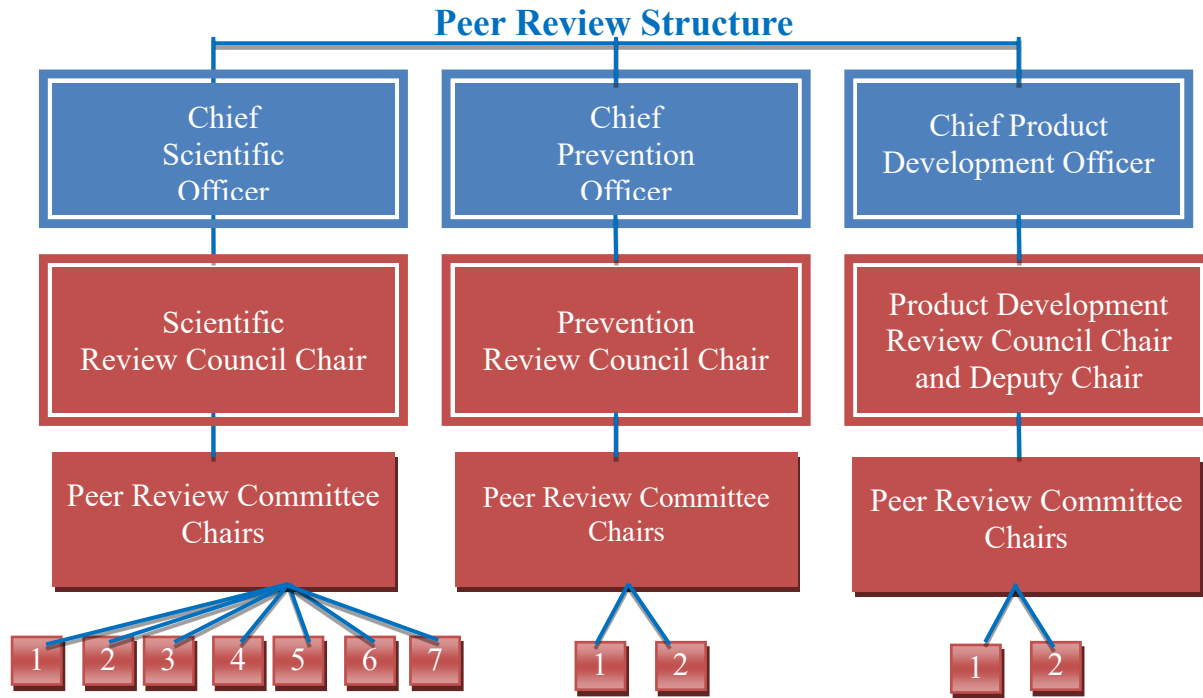
The assigned activities for the Scientific Review Council Chair (Table 1 in the proposed policy) and the Scientific Review Council members (Table 2 in the proposed policy) reflect modest reductions to the units assigned to peer review for non-recruitment applications. The proposed policy balances this change with an increase in work dedicated to the review council's input and guidance regarding peer review process changes and award priorities for CPRIT 2.0. This is a unique opportunity to tap the expertise of preeminent cancer researchers who have extensive experience with CPRIT and our award portfolio. Changes to the peer reviewer activities (Table 3 in the proposed policy) include eliminating three units associated with travel and adding one unit each for pre-meeting video conference preparation and participation in a post-review survey related to CPRIT 2.0, as well as a one unit increase associated to reflect the increased workload for the one super-cycle.

- Product Development Research Program – Like the Academic Research Program, the two-month suspension of preparatory activities for the first cycle of FY 2021 applications forced CPRIT's decision to offer only one review cycle of Product Development awards in FY 2021. CPRIT expects that the one review cycle for FY 2021 will be significantly larger than a regular cycle.

The assigned activities for the Product Development Review Council Chair and Vice Chair (Table 1 in the proposed policy) and the members of the Product Development Review Council (Table 2 in the proposed policy) show minor overall reductions for activities related to application review to reflect the single super-sized cycle as opposed to two separate review cycles. CPRIT will work with the Product Development Review Council in FY 2021 to develop near-term and longer-term application and progress report review process changes and new grant mechanisms as part of the CPRIT 2.0 project. We have increased the units associated with these activities to reflect the additional work. Changes to the peer review member activities (Table 3 in the proposed policy) reflect the removal of travel and the addition of two units associated with pre-meeting and peer review activities and one unit for participation in a post-review survey related to CPRIT 2.0. With these changes, the peer review member's overall level of work remains the same as FY 2020.

CPRIT PEER REVIEW FY 2021 HONORARIA POLICY¹

Peer review of prevention and research applications is the evaluation process conducted by qualified experts for feasibility, significance, and potential for impact. Like many funding agencies, CPRIT has implemented a tiered peer review process designed to identify the best projects based on excellence, program-specific objectives, and organizational priorities.² Maximizing the success of CPRIT’s academic research, product development, and prevention programs is dependent upon the quality of the peer reviewers CPRIT recruits. Therefore, the peer reviewers must be exceptionally qualified, highly respected, well-established members of the cancer research, product development, and prevention communities.



CPRIT relies upon a pool of more than 200 expert peer reviewers to evaluate, score and rank grant applications based upon significance and merit. As reflected above, the general peer review structure is the same for CPRIT’s three grant programs. CPRIT assigns reviewers to peer review committees based upon their expertise and background. The evaluations conducted by the peer review committees inform the list of grant applications recommended for CPRIT grant awards.³

CPRIT’s expert peer reviewers live and work outside Texas, which is an uncommon requirement among grant-making organizations. CPRIT implemented this peer reviewer qualification to

¹ Adopted pursuant to TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE Section 102.151(e).
² The National Academies of Sciences recommends a tiered approach to peer review.
³ For more information about the grant review process undertaken by the peer review committees, please see CPRIT’s administrative rules, 25 T.A.C. Part 11, Sections 703.6 and 703.7.

ensure an impartial review, minimize conflicts of interest, and provide the opportunity to select the best projects without regard for self-interest.

Honoraria

In recognition of the work undertaken by CPRIT peer reviewers, state law authorizes CPRIT to pay honoraria to its peer reviewers.⁴ CPRIT's ability to pay honoraria is essential to retaining individuals with the expertise and experience to carry out the complex review process required by statute and CPRIT's administrative rules.

CPRIT recruits world-renowned experts who live and work outside of the state to be peer reviewers. CPRIT's residency policy is important to maintaining a review process that minimizes the potential for political and other outside influences, but it means that the CPRIT review process, by design, lacks non-monetary incentives common to other grant review processes that may otherwise justify the time commitment required of CPRIT peer reviewers in addition to their full-time jobs.

Specifically, CPRIT reviewers are not eligible to compete for CPRIT grants. This is different from other cancer grant-making organizations such as National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Defense, American Cancer Society, and Susan G. Komen for the Cure. For example, NIH reviewers may review grant applications as well as compete for NIH grants. Familiarity with the NIH review process gained by serving as an NIH peer reviewer provides the individual a significant non-monetary benefit since that understanding better positions the reviewer to compete for and secure NIH grant funds as an applicant. This benefit is not available to CPRIT's reviewers.

A second nonmonetary benefit from serving on a review panel is that such service is an indication of external recognition in one's field, which is essential for academic and industry promotions. Using individuals already well established in their careers means that this is not an incentive for CPRIT peer reviewers to participate.

The Chairs of CPRIT review committees are all highly distinguished in their respective fields and bring enormous stature to the peer review process. Unlike chairs of other review processes, CPRIT's chairs are responsible for recruiting peer reviewers for their panel. In addition, they serve as strategic advisors for CPRIT's grant programs. These responsibilities are unique to CPRIT review committee chairs and require more effort and expertise than simply chairing a committee. Having committee chairs of this caliber distinguishes CPRIT's peer review process from all others.

Honoraria Payment Process and Documentation

Review Council and Committee Chairs receive quarterly honoraria payments directly from CPRIT. The honoraria payment process for Review Council chairs and Committee chairs is as follows:

⁴ TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE Section 102.151(d)

1. At the end of the fiscal quarter, the Review Council chairs and Committee chairs submit to CPRIT a written confirmation of the work performed and an estimate of hours* spent related to CPRIT's peer review activities for the quarter.
2. The CPRIT Program Officer reviews the confirmations and approves payment of quarterly honoraria to the Review Council chair and Committee chairs.
3. CPRIT's financial staff authorizes payment of the honoraria and retains the documentation supporting the honoraria payment.
4. The Chief Compliance Officer and Internal Auditor may also review the confirmations submitted.

* NOTE: CPRIT pays honorarium for the annual service of the Review Council chair or Committee chair. The payment does not use an hourly wage structure; the estimated number of hours devoted to CPRIT activities by a Review Council or Committee chair may vary by quarter depending upon the timing of review cycle activities. CPRIT uses the hourly estimate at the end of the year to set honoraria payment structures for the next fiscal year.

CPRIT's third party grant administrator pays peer reviewers for each review cycle in which they participate. To document the work performed by a peer review committee member for the review cycle, CPRIT's third party grant administrator confirms that the reviewer attended the peer review meeting and submitted written comments and scores for the grants assigned to the reviewer for evaluation.

CPRIT also reimburses travel expenses and pays the Texas state per diem when peer reviewers, Review Council chairs, and Committee chairs travel to attend peer review meetings. CPRIT relies upon standard travel documentation for travel reimbursements.

In the event a Review Council chair, Committee chair, or peer reviewer is not able to complete a full review cycle due to unforeseen circumstances, the CPRIT Program Officer may approve, in his or her discretion, a partial payment of the honorarium. The Program Officer should explain in writing the basis for approving a change to the reviewer's honorarium; CPRIT will retain such explanation as part of the grant review records. Nothing herein prevents the Program Officer from approving full payment even if the reviewer is unable to participate in every aspect of the review cycle so long as the reason is well justified.

The COVID-19 Pandemic's Impact Upon FY 2021 Peer Review Plans

The process for developing the FY 2021 Honoraria Policy is unlike any we have undertaken previously because of the COVID-19 global pandemic. As the initial impact of COVID-19 work stoppages began to unfold, coupled with the dramatic downturn in the petroleum industry, CPRIT made the difficult decision in late March 2020 to suspend the first cycle of FY 2021 applications. Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, and Speaker Bonnen sent a letter on May 20 to all state agencies regarding the significant economic uncertainty facing the state.

They encouraged every agency to engage in prudent fiscal management efforts and directed agencies to reduce appropriations by five percent for the 2020-2021 biennium. However, the letter specifically excluded some agencies from the budget reductions, including “funding for debt service requirements and bond authorizations.” Out of an abundance of caution, CPRIT confirmed with leadership offices that the May 20 directive exempts CPRIT from the five percent budget reduction and that the agency may proceed with making grants in FY 2021.

With this guidance and an eye toward preserving the remarkable momentum Texas has earned over the past decade with consistent, unparalleled investment in the research prowess of our academic institutions, the Texas life science ecosystem, and innovative cancer treatments and prevention efforts, CPRIT restarted the FY 2021 grant application and review process. We were able to initiate our standard two-cycle review schedule for the FY 2021 Prevention Program and maintain the CPRIT Scholar recruitment application review process unchanged for FY 2021. However, due to the peer review and planning logistics associated with mounting two standard review cycles for Academic Research and Product Development, CPRIT is unable to hold two full review cycles for these programs in FY 2021.

At its July 31, 2020, special meeting, the Oversight Committee approved CPRIT’s FY 2021 grant award plans that include one large review cycle for both the Academic Research and Product Development programs, two review cycles for the Prevention Program, and up to twelve review cycles for recruitment awards. The Oversight Committee also approved three new requests for applications (RFAs) that the Academic Research program will release for the first time in FY 2021. CPRIT projects that we will fully award all available grant funds allocated for FY 2021 due to the increased number of applications submitted for the super-sized single review cycles, the new Academic Research RFAs, and the standard Prevention Program and Recruitment cycles.

FY 2021 also marks a turning point for CPRIT following Texas’ historic vote in November 2019 to invest an additional \$3 billion over the next decade in innovative cancer research and prevention efforts. Although COVID-19 travel and meeting restrictions temporarily affected CPRIT’s statewide campaign to create a comprehensive “CPRIT 2.0” strategy for the next ten years, we now expect to complete work for the preliminary CPRIT 2.0 plan in FY 2021. In addition to seeking guidance and input from the legislature, stakeholders, grantees, and community advocates across the state, CPRIT has unique access to the expertise of our distinguished review council members to devise the best path forward to carry out CPRIT’s mission.

CPRIT’s FY 2021 Honoraria Policy maintains the same payments as FY 2020. Although the number of standard cycles for Academic Research and Product Development programs has changed, the workload for these programs remains the same as last year. This is due to the increased number of applications to be reviewed in the single super-cycles, as well as the increased amount of time that review council members for all three programs will devote to advising CPRIT related to grant awards and review processes for CPRIT 2.0.

Peer Review Responsibilities

Review Council Chairs

The Council Chair works directly with the CPRIT Program Officer to coordinate the peer review activities for each CPRIT program. The CPRIT model for peer review is unique. Other grant-making programs typically use committee chairs only to preside at committee meetings; however, CPRIT engages preeminent experts in their field for the Council Chair and Committee Chair positions to advise CPRIT on program aspects, including the short-term and long-term direction of the program, the review process itself, and the award portfolio composition. The chair's does this work in addition to the administrative tasks associated with chairing Review Council meetings. Many of the Council Chair responsibilities are similar across the three CPRIT programs, including:

- advising on the selection of committee chairs
- recruiting specialized peer reviewers and assisting with peer reviewer selection
- reviewing all abstracts of projects that discussed at Prevention, Scientific, and Product Development Review Council meetings
- chairing Review Council meetings
- chairing a peer review panel meeting if a chair has an unexpected conflict⁵
- finalizing grant award recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer
- providing ongoing advice to CPRIT staff on programs, review processes, and future funding opportunities

Estimated Annual Time Commitment: CPRIT expects Council Chairs to commit approximately 300 hours to CPRIT-related activities in FY 2021. This equates to 14.4% of a standard 2080-hour work year. **Table 1** provides a detailed analysis of the activities, hours, and units used to project the Council Chair workload. The information in Table 1 reflects 2018 – 2020 review cycle information and the projected workload for FY 2021.

NOTE: In addition to the regular Council Chair duties in FY 2021, CPRIT anticipates that the Product Development Review Council Chair will perform services totaling 60 additional hours. Examples of the additional activities include coordinating the review of annual progress reports and milestone funding decisions and providing expert advice and assistance related to CPRIT's product development portfolio and substantive grant contract amendment requests. In FY 2016, CPRIT created the Product Development Review Council Deputy Chair position. This position is equivalent to the Council Chair position except that the Deputy Chair will not prepare slate recommendation for the Chief Executive Officer. CPRIT will continue to use a Deputy Chair position for FY 2021.

Hourly Rate Proxy: CPRIT pays honorarium for the annual service of the Review Council chair and is not based on an hourly wage structure. However, for comparison, the honoraria paid to Review Council chairs equate to a \$250/hour rate. This is in line with hourly rates paid for skilled professional services in other industries and less than the \$500/hour rate paid for medical

⁵ The Product Development Committee Chair regularly chairs review committee meetings.

experts in malpractice cases.⁶ The hourly rate used by CPRIT is also likely to be less than rates used to calculate consultant fees for physicians and scientists who advise pharmaceutical companies. Although there is no standard rate for consulting fees, one Texas institution of higher education limits the amount of consulting fees a professor may accept to 25% of their base salary. The capped amount is greater than the \$72,000 - \$83,400 honoraria paid to CPRIT Review Council Chairs.

Review Committee Chairs

A Committee Chair leads each peer review committee. The CPRIT model for peer review is unique. Other grant-making programs typically use committee chairs only to preside at committee meetings; CPRIT engages preeminent experts in their field for the Committee Chair positions to advise CPRIT on program aspects, including the short-term and long-term direction of the program, the review process itself, and the award portfolio composition. The Committee Chair does this work in addition to the administrative tasks associated with chairing peer review committee meetings. Committee Chairs are also members of the Review Council for the program. Duties of the committee chair include:

- recruiting reviewers for their review panels
- assigning applications to their panel members
- becoming familiar with the abstracts and applications assigned to their panel
- determining order of review for applications for panel discussion
- chairing panel discussions; capturing key discussion points
- reviewing full applications to participate in programmatic review meetings
- evaluating CPRIT Scholar recruitment grants (Scientific Review Committee chairs)
- assessing due diligence and intellectual property reports for product development applications (Product Development Review Committee chairs)
- ranking grant applications and developing a list of recommended grant awards and supporting information for consideration by the CPRIT Program Integration Committee
- reviewing annual progress reports and milestone funding decisions (Product Development Program)
- participating in meetings with CPRIT staff to provide advice on future program directions, processes, evaluation criteria, and other related issues

Estimated Annual Time Commitment: The amount of time spent on committee chair activities varies depending on the program. CPRIT expects Review Committee chairs to commit between 190 and 250 hours to CPRIT-related activities in FY 2021. **Table 2** provides a detailed analysis of the activities, hours, and units used to project the committee chair workload. The information in Table 2 reflects 2009 – 2020 review cycle information and the projected workload for FY 2021. Note: For the purposes of the honoraria policy, CPRIT refers to Product Development Review Council members as “committee chairs” and they perform all activities listed in Table 2.

⁶ Data from *National Medical Consultants, P.C.*, a physician owned and operated company representing a panel of over 2700 medical experts who are distinguished specialists in all areas of medicine.

Hourly Rate Proxy: CPRIT pays honorarium for the annual service of the Review Committee chair and is not based on an hourly wage structure. However, for comparison, the honoraria paid to Committee chairs equates to a \$200/hour fee. This is in line with hourly rates paid for skilled professional services in other industries and less than the \$500/hour rate paid for medical experts in malpractice cases.⁷ The hourly rate used by CPRIT is also likely to be less than rates used to calculate consultant fees for physicians and scientists who advise pharmaceutical companies. Although there is no standard rate for consulting fees, one Texas institution of higher education limits the amount of consulting fees a professor may accept to 25% of their base salary. The capped amount is more than the \$37,000 - \$50,000 honoraria paid to CPRIT Review Committee Chairs.

Review Committee Members

The number of peer review committees varies by program based on the volume of grant applications submitted. Peer reviewers are responsible for individually reviewing, scoring and critiquing 6-10 applications per cycle, as well as participating in panel discussions about grant applications assigned to the peer review committee. A reviewer spends 6 – 8 hours for a full review of a single application, but the reviewer may require much more time for complex, highly technical applications. A typical CPRIT grant application averages about 40 pages in length with additional supporting documentation. Applications for multimillion-dollar collaborative research projects and product development project may be far more extensive.

Estimated Time Commitment per Review Cycle: Peer reviewer activity varies by program and number of applications assigned. CPRIT expects academic research peer reviewers to commit approximately 85 hours per review cycle. Prevention peer reviewers will commit 55-70 hours per cycle. Product Development peer reviewers will commit 100+ hours per cycle. **Table 3** provides a detailed analysis of the activities, hours, and units used to project the peer review workload. The information in Table 3 reflects 2009–2020 review cycle information and the projected workload for FY 2021.

Hourly Rate Proxy: CPRIT pays honorarium to Academic Research and Prevention peer reviewers for a given review cycle, which is not based on an hourly wage structure. However, for comparison, honoraria paid to Academic Research and Prevention peer reviewers equates to a rate of \$50/hour. Honoraria paid to Product Development peer reviewers is \$65/hour. These reviewers must have both academic research and product development backgrounds and are more difficult to recruit. While the hourly rates are significantly less than those paid to professionals of this caliber, the rate is appropriate given the workload and responsibilities compared to Review Council and Committee chairs.

Comparison to other Grant Making Organizations

Grant-making organizations use various models and methods for compensating peer review committee members. A survey of 21 cancer granting organizations reported wide variation among programs such that an average compensation scheme for panel members was not

⁷ Data from *National Medical Consultants, P.C.*, a physician owned and operated company representing a panel of over 2700 medical experts who are distinguished specialists in all areas of medicine.

possible. The disparity among organizations makes it difficult to devise a benchmark compensation method or amount. Reported compensation practices may fail to include intangible benefits available to reviewers in addition to monetary compensation, which further complicates the ability to make a meaningful comparison between CPRIT and other grant-making organizations. As discussed earlier, these non-monetary incentives are unavailable to CPRIT reviewers because of CPRIT's policy to use highly qualified, experienced, out-of-state reviewers.

- International Cancer Research Partners (ICRP) surveyed 31 of its partner organizations and 21 responded. The report found that organizations paid different honoraria depending on the role of the reviewer. Chairs often received more than committee members did, and teleconference or online reviewers typically received less compensation than those members who participated in-person. The report did not compute an average based on the supplied data.⁸
- CPRIT's third party grant administrator reports that two other clients pay reviewers \$1,250 and \$2,000 per review meeting.
- NCI's website reports that NCI pays \$200 per day of review in addition to travel expenses.

⁸ The report did not include a range, but the survey sponsors indicated the range for compensation for panel members was \$150-\$3,000 per day.

Table 1. Council Chair Activities (See Table 4 for an explanation of the correlation between units and hours.)

Table 1 - Review Council Chair Activities, Hours, Units							
Academic Research Review		Prevention Review			Product Development Review		
Units	Activity	Units	Activity	Units		Activity	
				Chair	Deputy		
5	Consult with staff on vision and direction for the program; bi-weekly calls with staff	5	Consult with staff on vision and direction for the program; bi-weekly calls with staff	15	13	Consult with staff on vision and direction for the program; CPRIT 2.0; FY 2023 Program Priorities, bi-weekly conference calls w/ staff Assist in selecting and recruiting review council members and peer reviewers Advise on peer review, and other programmatic processes as needed Review draft RFAs, propose new RFA concepts, etc. Communicate with Review Council members prior to peer review & programmatic mtg Prepare for Programmatic meetings; review materials Lead programmatic review panels; facilitate diligence teleconference calls Prepare slate recommendations for CEO and Oversight Committee Chair Review applications, facilitate panel meetings	
3.5	Help select and recruit Committee Chairs	2	Help select and recruit Committee Chairs	3	2		
6	Advise on peer review, CPRIT 2.0, FY 2023 Program Priorities, and other processes as needed	2	Advise on peer review and other processes as needed	4	4		
5	Review draft RFAs, propose new ones, etc.	4	Review draft RFAs, propose new ones, etc.	7	2		
3	Communicate with Committee Chairs prior to peer review & programmatic mtg	1	Communicate with Committee Chairs prior to peer review & programmatic mtg	7	6		
2	Prepare for Programmatic meetings; review materials	4	Prepare for Programmatic meetings; review materials	2	2		
2	Lead programmatic review	4	Lead programmatic review	5	5		
2	Prepare slate recommendations for CEO and Oversight Committee Chair	1	Prepare slate recommendations for CEO and Oversight Committee Chair	2	0		
24	Review recruitment applications, become familiar with applications to be discussed	15	Review abstracts, attend portions of panel meetings, back up for panel Chair	6	6		
6	Lead monthly discussion on recruitment awards	4	Collaborate on articles for publication	4	0		
4	Analyze data for Research program	4	Analyze data for Prevention program	14.5	14.5	Review annual, tranche, and final progress reports, advise on activities of funded product development grants and recommend continued funding.	
		3	Participate in quarterly teleconference				
		6	Review dissemination applications				
		5	Review Annual and Final progress reports				
62.5		60		69.5	54.5		
\$ 1,200	Unit cost	\$1,200	Unit cost		\$1,200		Unit cost
\$ 250	Hourly rate	\$250	Hourly rate		\$250		Hourly rate
\$75,000	Annual honoraria	\$72,000	Annual honoraria	\$83,400			Annual honoraria Chair
				\$65,400			Annual honoraria Deputy Chair

Table 2. Committee Chair* Activities (See Table 4 for an explanation of the correlation between units and hours.)

Table 2 - Committee Chair Activities, Hours, Units					
Academic Research Review		Prevention Review		Product Development Review	
Units	Activity	Units	Activity	Units	Activity
2	Select/recruit committee members	2	Select/recruit committee members	2	Select/recruit committee members
3	Review draft RFAs and provide input (as needed)	2	Review draft RFAs and provide input (as needed)	10	Review draft RFAs and provide input (as needed); advise on Programmatic process improvements; CPRIT 2.0 and FY 2023 Program Priorities
10	Read abstracts; assign grants to reviewers	12	Read abstracts assigned to their committee; review panel assignments	8	Read applications assigned to their panel
1	Assist with follow up of delinquent reviewers	1	Assist with follow up of delinquent reviewers	3	Participate on assigned Screening Teleconference committee via conference call
4	Chair the assigned committee review process via conference call or in person meeting	6	Chair the assigned committee review process via conference call or in person meeting	5	Participation in peer review meeting and ICON applicant interviews
1	Prepare for Programmatic meetings; review materials	2	Prepare for Programmatic meetings; review materials	7	Participate in debriefing sessions, ad-hoc meetings, discussion of future direction of program, development of new RFAs
1	Participate in Chair’s programmatic review meetings	6	Participate in Chair’s programmatic review & debriefing meetings	15	Review annual, tranche, and final progress reports; advise on activities of funded product development grants and recommend continued funding.
6	Participate in debriefing sessions, discussion of future direction of program, development of new RFAs, CPRIT 2.0 and FY 2023 Program Priorities	2	Participate in debriefing sessions, discussion of future direction of program, development of new RFAs		
		3	Prepare and participate in quarterly Review Council teleconferences		
24	Review recruitment applications	4	Review dissemination applications		
5	Participate in monthly review of recruitment applications	2	Participate in review of dissemination applications		
57		42		50	
\$875	Unit cost	\$875	Unit cost	\$875	Unit cost
\$200	Hourly	\$200	Hourly	\$200	Hourly
\$50,000	\$50,000 Annual honoraria	\$36,750	\$37,000 Annual honoraria	\$43,750	\$44,000 Annual honoraria

See Table 4 for an explanation of the correlation between units and hours.

* For the Product Development Program, the members of the Product Development Review Council fulfill the “Committee Chair” activities.

Table 3. Peer Reviewer Activities per Cycle (See Table 4 for an explanation of the correlation between units and hours.)

Table 3 - Peer Reviewers Activity by Program					
Product Development Review: ~60 reviewers		Prevention Review: ~20 reviewers		Academic Research Review: ~ 130 reviewers	
Units	Activity	Units	Activity	Units	Activity
1	Declaration of expertise and conflicts	1	Declaration of expertise and conflicts	1	Declaration of expertise and conflicts
8	Preparation of full critiques	8	Preparation of full critiques	10	Preparation of critiques*
3	Participation in screening teleconference	1	Premeeting preparation of video conferencing capabilities	1	Premeeting preparation of video conferencing capabilities
1	Premeeting preparation of video conferencing capabilities	4	Participation at meeting	3	Participation at meeting
4	Participation at company presentation peer review meeting	1	Post-meeting discussion**	1	Post-meeting discussion**
1	Post-meeting discussion**	1	Post-meeting survey to provide CPRIT feedback on CPRIT 2.0	1	Post-meeting survey to provide CPRIT feedback on CPRIT 2.0
1	Review of due diligence and intellectual property evaluations				
1	Teleconference discussion of due diligence and intellectual property evaluation				
20	\$325 Unit cost \$65 avg. hourly rate \$6,500 per cycle	16	\$250 Unit cost \$50 avg. hourly rate \$4,000 per cycle	17	\$250 Unit cost \$50 avg. hourly rate \$4,250 per cycle

* This may be less for reviewers that participate only in the preliminary application review. The grant mechanism specifies when CPRIT uses preliminary reviews.

** Post-meeting discussion activities may include finalizing funding recommendations, finalizing critiques, clarifying recommendations related to funding or goals/objective changes, de-briefing about the review cycle, and/or other activities specified by the CPRIT Program Officer.

NOTE: CPRIT pays peer reviewers only for activities in which they participate. For example, participation at an research peer review meeting is 3 units (11-15 hours) and each unit is valued at \$250; thus, the amount paid to an academic research peer reviewer for attendance at a peer review meeting is \$750. If the reviewer was unable to attend the meeting, then CPRIT subtracts \$750 from the honorarium paid to the reviewer. In the event a Review Council chair, Committee chair, or peer reviewer is not able to complete a full review cycle due to unforeseen circumstances, the CPRIT Program Officer may approve, in his or her discretion, a partial payment of the honorarium.

Table 4. Hours and Units Calculation

PARTICIPATION (HOURS)	UNITS		Council Chairs (and Vice Chair)	Committee Chairs	Peer reviewers
1-5	1		Unit Cost		
6-10	2		\$1200	\$875	\$250-\$325
11-15	3		Average Hourly Rate		
16-20	4		\$250	\$200	\$50-\$65
21-25	5		Honoraria		
26-30	6		\$65,400 - \$83,400 annually	\$36,750 - \$50,000 annually	\$4,250 - \$6,500 per cycle
31-35	7				
36-40	8				
41-45	9				
46-50	10				
51-55	11				
56-60	12				
61-65	13				
66-70	14				
71-75	15				



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: WAYNE R. ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT: SECTION 102.1062 WAIVER—BRANDY FY 2021
DATE: AUGUST 10, 2020

Waiver Request and Recommendation

I request that the Oversight Committee approve a conflict of interest waiver for FY 2021 for Mr. Donald Brandy, CPRIT’s Purchaser and HUB Coordinator, pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 102.1062 “Exceptional Circumstances Requiring Participation.” The Oversight Committee approved the same waiver for Mr. Brandy since FY 2015.

Mr. Brandy is not involved in the grant application or reporting process in his official capacity as purchaser of goods and services for the agency. However, the waiver ensures transparency regarding Mr. Brandy’s relationship with some universities that receive CPRIT grants. Furthermore, CPRIT’s Code of Conduct makes it clear that the agency’s conflict of interest provisions apply to any expenditure of CPRIT funds. Although it is unlikely that CPRIT will procure goods and services from a university receiving grant funds from CPRIT, having the conflict of interest waiver in place ensures that Mr. Brandy can perform his duties. Together with the waiver’s proposed limitations, adequate protections are in place to mitigate the opportunity for a conflict of interest to unduly influence agency purchases.

Background

Mr. Brandy serves as the agency purchaser, responsible for planning, organizing, coordinating, and preparing bid specifications and procurement documents to acquire goods and services from vendors and outside contractors used by the agency. The agency purchaser role requires little, if any, involvement with CPRIT’s grant award process because CPRIT’s grant award contracts are not vendor or outside service contracts.

At the time CPRIT hired Mr. Brandy, he requested approval to continue his outside employment as a referee for tennis tournaments held in and around Austin. In addition to refereeing for adult and junior-level tournaments, he serves occasionally as a referee for NCAA tennis matches held at area universities, including The University of Texas at Austin. The university athletic department pays Mr. Brandy for his services as an independent contractor when he referees collegiate matches.

CPRIT employees may engage in outside employment so long as the employment does not detract from the employee’s ability to fulfill his or her responsibilities to CPRIT. Employees

must receive written approval from the CEO to engage in outside employment and I notify the Audit Subcommittee regarding any approvals. I also annually report to the Oversight Committee all approved outside employment. I notified the Audit Subcommittee regarding my approval for Mr. Brandy's outside employment and the subcommittee first discussed it at the December 18, 2014, subcommittee meeting.

Exceptional Circumstances Requiring Mr. Brandy's Participation

To approve a conflict of interest waiver, the Oversight Committee must find that there are exceptional circumstances justifying the conflicted individual's participation in the review process or other expenditure of CPRIT funds.¹

This conflict of interest waiver is different than other waivers I have requested in that it is not seeking a waiver for actions related to CPRIT's grant review or grant monitoring process. As CPRIT's purchaser, I do not anticipate that Mr. Brandy will play any role in the review process for grant applications or grant reports. The purchaser deals only with agency procurement matters and has no influence over the grant award processes of the agency. To the extent that his outside employment necessitates involvement with university personnel, it is with collegiate athletic department staff that have no interaction with researchers working on or applying for grants. Nevertheless, if Mr. Brandy must be part of the review process or grant monitoring activities, he will comply with CPRIT's conflict of interest notification and recusal requirements.

However, as part of his official duties there may be circumstances requiring Mr. Brandy to procure goods or services on CPRIT's behalf from a university that has also employed him as a tennis referee. This is unlikely to occur; to date, CPRIT has had only two service contracts (both now closed) with an academic institution, Texas Tech University and the University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs. However, as CPRIT's lead contact for agency purchases, Mr. Brandy should be able to perform his official duties as fully as possible. Any involvement with university athletic department personnel resulting from his outside employment is unlikely to be the same individuals at the university responsible for contracting with CPRIT.

Proposed Waiver and Limitations

In granting the waiver of the conflict of interest set forth in Health & Safety Code Section 102.106(c)(3), I recommend that the Oversight Committee permit Mr. Brandy to perform all duties assigned as purchaser, subject to the limitations stated below:

1. Provide the Chief Operating Officer a list of universities that have used his services as referee during the past twelve months;
2. Notify the Chief Operating Officer prior to taking any action on a contract or other procurement document that would result in payment of CPRIT funds to a university on the list referenced above; and

¹ CPRIT's Code of Conduct Section III.B(2) states that, "The conflict of interest statutory and administrative rule provisions **apply to any decision to commit CPRIT funds**, whether or not the commitment is part of the grant award process or to a Grant Applicant." (emphasis added)

3. The Chief Operating Officer, in conjunction with the CEO, Chief Compliance Officer and General Counsel, can review the circumstances and determine whether Mr. Brandy should be recused from involvement in the procurement.

Important Information Regarding this Waiver and the Waiver Process

- The Oversight Committee may amend, revoke, or review this waiver, including but not limited to the list of approved activities and duties and the limitations on duties and activities. Approval of any change to the waiver granted shall be by a vote of the Oversight Committee in an open meeting.
- CPRIT limits this waiver to the conflict of interest specified in this request. To the extent that Mr. Brandy has a conflict of interest not addressed in this waiver, then Mr. Brandy will follow the required notification and recusal process.



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: WAYNE R. ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT: SECTION 102.1062 WAIVER – DR. JOHN HELLERSTEDT
DATE: AUGUST 10, 2020

Waiver Request and Recommendation

I request that the Oversight Committee approve a conflict of interest waiver for FY 2021 for Program Integration Committee (PIC) member DSHS Commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt, pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 102.1062 “Exceptional Circumstances Requiring Participation.” The waiver is necessary for Commissioner Hellerstedt to participate in CPRIT’s review process as a PIC member. Together with the waiver’s proposed limitations, adequate protections are in place to mitigate factors other than merit and the established grant criteria affecting the award of grant funds. The waiver is the same as approved by the Oversight Committee for FY 2020.

Background

Governor Abbott appointed Dr. Hellerstedt as Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) on January 1, 2016. The DSHS Commissioner is a statutorily designated member of the PIC. As a PIC member, Commissioner Hellerstedt must exercise discretion related to whether to recommend applications proposed for grant awards to the Oversight Committee for final approval.

DSHS is a CPRIT grant recipient, which implicates conflict of interest concerns. Health & Safety Code Section 102.106(c)(3) mandates that a professional conflict of interest exists if a PIC member is an employee of an entity applying to receive or receiving CPRIT funds. Furthermore, CPRIT’s administrative rule 702.13(c) categorizes this type of professional conflict of interest as one that raises the presumption that the existence of the conflict may affect the impartial review of all other grant applications submitted pursuant to the same grant mechanism in the grant review cycle. A person involved in the review process that holds one of the conflicts included in the Section 702.13(c) “super conflict” category must be recused from participating in the “review, discussion, scoring, deliberation and vote on all grant applications competing for the same grant mechanism in the entire grant review cycle, unless a waiver has been granted...”

CPRIT’s administrative rule Section 702.17(3) authorizes the Oversight Committee to approve a waiver that applies for all activities affected by the conflict during the fiscal year.

Exceptional Circumstances Requiring Commissioner Hellerstedt's Participation

To approve a conflict of interest waiver, the Oversight Committee must find that there are exceptional circumstances justifying the conflicted individual's participation in the review process. The statute compels Commissioner Hellerstedt's participation in the review process. The Oversight Committee should grant the proposed waiver so that CPRIT may fulfill legislative intent that the DSHS Commissioner serve as a PIC member. The proposed limitations will substantially mitigate any potential for bias.

Proposed Waiver and Limitations

In granting the waiver of the conflict of interest set forth in Section 102.106(c)(3), I recommend that the Oversight Committee permit Commissioner Hellerstedt to continue to perform the following activities and duties associated with CPRIT's review process subject to the stated limitations:

1. Attend and participate fully in the PIC meetings except that Commissioner Hellerstedt shall not participate in the PIC's discussion or vote on grant award recommendations to DSHS;
2. Have access to grant application information developed during the grant review process, except for information related to DSHS applicants, if any; and
3. Provide information to the Oversight Committee or CPRIT personnel about the grant review process and applications recommended by the PIC for grant awards, including answering questions raised by the Oversight Committee or CPRIT personnel. If Commissioner Hellerstedt provides information on his own initiative in a review cycle in which DSHS is a grant applicant, the information provided by Commissioner Hellerstedt should be general information related to the overall grant application process and not advocate specifically for grant applications submitted by DSHS.

CPRIT's statute requires the Chief Compliance Officer to attend PIC meetings to document compliance with CPRIT's rules and processes, including adherence to this limitation. The Chief Compliance Officer shall report to the Oversight Committee any violation of this waiver prior to the Oversight Committee's action on the PIC recommendations.

Important Information Regarding this Waiver and the Waiver Process

- The Oversight Committee may amend, revoke, or revise this waiver, including but not limited to the list of approved activities and duties and the limitations on duties and activities. Approval for any change to the waiver granted shall be by a vote of the Oversight Committee in an open meeting.
- CPRIT limits this waiver to the conflict of interest specified in this request. To the extent that Commissioner Hellerstedt has a conflict of interest with an application that is not the conflict identified in Section 102.106(c)(3), then Commissioner Hellerstedt will follow the required notification and recusal process.



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: WAYNE R. ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT: SECTION 102.1062 WAIVER—REVIEW COUNCILS FY 2021
DATE: AUGUST 10, 2020

Waiver Request and Recommendation

I request that the Oversight Committee approve a fiscal year 2021 conflict of interest waiver for review council members pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 102.1062 “Exceptional Circumstances Requiring Participation.” Unlike other conflict of interest waivers that the Oversight Committee has approved previously, this waiver is not granted for a specific conflict of interest or person. Instead, CPRIT intends to invoke this waiver as necessary to address the unusual scenario when a review council member has a conflict with a grant application that is part of the larger group of proposals that the review panel or review council must act upon (usually to recommend for awards). The waiver is necessary for a review council member to participate in the overall discussion and vote on the slate of award recommendations. This waiver is the same waiver the Oversight Committee approved for FY 2020.

Although it would be ideal to consider each instance individually before granting the conflict of interest waiver, a prospective waiver is necessary in this scenario given the timing of the review process and scheduled Oversight Committee meetings. It is unlikely that review panel schedules will align with Oversight Committee meeting dates such that CPRIT will be able to secure a conflict of interest waiver in time for the review council member to participate in the review process. However, adequate protections are in place that, together with the waiver’s proposed limitations, mitigate the opportunity for factors other than merit and established criteria to influence review council members’ decisions regarding the award of grant funds.

Background

Health & Safety Code § 102.1062 directs the Oversight Committee to adopt administrative rules governing the waiver of the conflict of interest requirements of the statute in exceptional circumstances. CPRIT’s administrative rule § 702.17(3) authorizes the Oversight Committee to approve a waiver that applies for all activities affected by the conflict during the fiscal year. The rules require that a majority of the Oversight Committee members must vote to approve the waiver. CPRIT must report any approved waiver to the lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, the governor, and the standing committees of each house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over CPRIT matters.

The issue addressed by this waiver results from of the role review council members play in the review process. At the review panel level, the review council member chairs the review panel meeting. Occasionally, a review council member will identify a conflict of interest with an application assigned to the member's panel. If CPRIT is unable to reassign the application to a different panel, then the review council member follows the process set forth in CPRIT's conflict of interest rules and recuses himself or herself from any discussion, scoring, deliberation, or vote on the application. The proposed waiver will not change the review council member's responsibility to disclose the conflict or to recuse from the review of the application.

The difficulty arises when the review council member must lead the discussion, in his or her role as chair of the review panel, about the group of applications the panel recommends moving forward to the review council. If the application with which the review council member is in conflict advances as part of the group that scored well enough to move forward, the review council member's participation in the discussion on the group as a whole violates the member's agreement to not participate in "any discussion" of the conflicted application.

A similar challenge arises at the review council level. If the application with which the member is in conflict is part of the group considered by the review council, the conflict of interest rules prohibit the member from participating in the review council's discussion or vote on the group of awards. The review council member is unable to address questions about other applications heard by his or her panel due to his or her recusal from the process, potentially disadvantaging the other applications.

Exceptional Circumstances Requiring the Review Council Member's Participation

In order to approve a conflict of interest waiver, the Oversight Committee must find that there are exceptional circumstances justifying the conflicted individual's participation in the review process. In this case, exceptional circumstances exist due to the necessity of the review council member's participation in the process to develop the overall award recommendation slates and the Oversight Committee should grant the proposed waiver. The limitations mitigate the potential for bias.

CPRIT's administrative rules require the Chief Compliance Officer to attend or designate an independent third party to attend peer review meetings and review council meetings when the panel discusses grant applications. The third-party observer must document that the reviewers follow CPRIT's grant review process consistently, including observing CPRIT's conflict of interest rules. The third-party observer will document any violation of this waiver in his or her written report, which CPRIT provides to the Oversight Committee prior to the vote on the award recommendations.

Proposed Waiver and Limitations

In granting the conflict of interest waiver, I recommend that CPRIT permit the review council member to continue to perform the following activities and duties associated with CPRIT's review process subject to the stated limitations:

1. The review council member must disclose any conflict in writing pursuant to the electronic grant management process CPRIT has in place.
2. The review council member must recuse himself or herself from participation in the review, discussion, scoring, deliberation, and vote on the specific grant(s) identified as the conflict.
3. When the review panel or review council takes up the grant applications as a group, the review council member may participate in the discussion and vote on the proposed awards, so long as the review council member does not advocate for or against the application that the member has identified as a conflict.
4. Whenever CPRIT invokes this waiver, the Chief Compliance Officer will provide information about the use of the waiver, including the name of the review council member and the identified conflict, in the Chief Compliance Officer's Certification report. I will also include this information in the CEO affidavit I submit for the grant award mechanism.

Due to the nature of the conflict or the type of review process, this conflict of interest waiver will not apply to following:

- When the review council member's conflict of interest is a conflict described by T.A.C. § 702.13(c); or
- When the review council is acting as the only review panel in the review process (e.g. CPRIT recruitment awards and prevention dissemination awards.)

Important Information Regarding this Waiver and the Waiver Process

- The Oversight Committee may amend, revoke, or revise this waiver, including but not limited to the list of approved activities and duties and the limitations on duties and activities. Approval for any change to the waiver granted shall be by a vote of the Oversight Committee in an open meeting.
- CPRIT limits this waiver to review council members operating under the circumstances specified in this request.



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: WAYNE R. ROBERTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT: SECTION 102.1062 WAIVER – DR. JAMES WILLSON
DATE: AUGUST 10, 2020

Waiver Request and Recommendation

I request that the Oversight Committee approve a conflict of interest waiver for FY 2021 for Chief Scientific Officer and Program Integration Committee (PIC) member Dr. James Willson, pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 102.1062 “Exceptional Circumstances Requiring Participation.” Dr. Willson’s son is an Assistant Professor of Instruction in the department of computer science at The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD). The waiver is necessary for Dr. Willson to participate in CPRIT’s review process as a PIC member. I recommend approval because together with the waiver’s proposed limitations, adequate protections are in place to mitigate factors other than merit and the established grant criteria affecting the award of grant funds.

Background

Dr. Willson’s son is an employee of UTD, which is an active grant recipient and may apply for additional CPRIT awards in the future. Texas Health & Safety Code § 102.106(c)(3) makes it a professional conflict of interest for a PIC member when a relative of the member is an employee of a grant recipient or grant applicant. Dr. Willson’s son falls within the definition of “relative” because he is related within the second degree of consanguinity to Dr. Willson.

Furthermore, CPRIT’s administrative rule §702.13(c) classifies this type of professional conflict of interest as one that raises the presumption that the existence of the conflict may affect the impartial review of all other grant applications submitted pursuant to the same grant mechanism in the grant review cycle. A person involved in the review process that holds one of the conflicts included in the § 702.13(c) “super conflict” category must be recused from participating in the “review, discussion, scoring, deliberation and vote on all grant applications competing for the same grant mechanism in the entire grant review cycle, unless a waiver has been granted...”

It is reasonable to expect that the same conflict will affect Dr. Willson’s participation in more than one grant review cycle in this fiscal year as well as other grant monitoring activities that Dr. Willson will undertake in FY 2021. CPRIT’s administrative rule § 702.17(3) authorizes the Oversight Committee to approve a waiver that applies for all activities affected by the conflict during the fiscal year.

Exceptional Circumstances Requiring Dr. Willson's Participation

To approve a conflict of interest waiver, the Oversight Committee must find that there are exceptional circumstances justifying the conflicted individual's participation in the review process. In this case, the statute requires the Chief Scientific Officer to participate in the review process as a PIC member. Granting the proposed waiver fulfills legislative intent that Dr. Willson serve a role in recommending grant applications for the Oversight Committee's consideration. In addition, the proposed limitations mitigate any potential for bias.

Dr. Willson's expertise and experience is important not only to address scientific and technical questions raised by the PIC and Oversight Committee, but also when he acts as the Oversight Committee's "eyes and ears" into the peer review process. Peer review committees are primarily responsible for the work necessary to evaluate grant applications and recommend awards. CPRIT employees may attend peer review meetings but cannot participate in the peer review panel's discussion or scoring of grant applications. By attending the peer review committee meetings, Dr. Willson can credibly relay the peer reviewers' impression of the grant applications and effectively address questions the Oversight Committee may have related to a grant recommendation. Without the waiver Dr. Willson will be unable to attend some peer review committee meetings, limiting his ability to successfully perform his job.

Dr. Willson's attendance at peer review meetings is valuable even for those applications that the review panel does not recommend for grant awards. Grant applicants often contact the program officer after receiving the peer reviewers' written comments and overall score for their applications. Dr. Willson can provide meaningful guidance and feedback to the applicant on the proposal's strengths and weaknesses because he attended the peer review committee meeting when the review panel discussed the application.

Proposed Waiver and Limitations

In granting the waiver of the conflict of interest set forth in Section 102.106(c)(3), I recommend that the Oversight Committee permit Dr. Willson to continue to perform the following activities and duties associated with CPRIT's review process subject to the stated limitations:

1. Assign grant applications, including UTD grant applications, to various peer review committees for peer review evaluation;
2. Attend scientific research peer review committee meetings as an observer, including meetings where the review committee discusses UTD applications;
3. Attend and participate fully in the PIC meetings, subject to the limitation set forth under "Limitations on Duties and Activities."
4. Have access to grant application information developed during the grant review process, including information related to UTD applications;
5. Provide information about grant applications recommended for grant awards to the Oversight Committee or CPRIT personnel, including answering questions raised by the Oversight Committee or CPRIT staff about UTD grant applications. To the extent that information is provided by Dr. Willson on his own initiative (e.g. the Chief Scientific Officer's summary of the recommended awards) and not in response to a specific question or request, it should be

general information related to the overall grant application process and not advocate specifically for a UTD grant application at the expense of another recommended application.

6. Following the Oversight Committee's approval of a grant award to UTD, Dr. Willson may review and approve programmatic requests associated with UTD grant contracts and grant monitoring activities.

Regarding item number 2, Dr. Willson will continue to follow CPRIT's established policy that prohibits CPRIT employees from actively participating in peer review committee meetings. Dr. Willson may attend the peer review committee meetings as an observer but may not participate in substantive discussion of any grant application, may not score any application, and may not vote on any application. CPRIT contracts with an independent third-party observer to document that all participants follow CPRIT's observer policy. The independent third-party observer report is available to the Oversight Committee prior to any action taken related to the grant award recommendations. Following Oversight Committee action, the independent third-party observer report is publicly available.

LIMITATION ON DUTIES AND ACTIVITIES

Dr. Willson is a member of the PIC. As a PIC member, Dr. Willson exercises discretion related to recommending to the Oversight Committee which applications proposed for grant awards by the peer review committees should receive final approval. Dr. Willson shall not vote on any award recommendation for a grant to UTD.

CPRIT's Chief Compliance Officer attends PIC meetings to document compliance with CPRIT's rules and processes, including adherence to this limitation. Additionally, CPRIT will maintain records documenting any necessary recusal by Dr. Willson under this waiver.

Important Information Regarding this Waiver and the Waiver Process

- The Oversight Committee may amend, revoke, or revise this waiver, including but not limited to the list of approved activities and duties and the limitations on duties and activities. Approval for any change to the waiver granted shall be by a vote of the Oversight Committee in an open meeting.
- CPRIT limits this waiver to the conflict of interest specified in this request. To the extent that Dr. Willson has a conflict of interest with an application that is not the conflict identified in Section 102.106(c)(3), then Dr. Willson will follow the required notification and recusal process.



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM: KRISTEN PAULING DOYLE, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER &
GENERAL COUNSEL
CAMERON L. ECKEL, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL

SUBJECT: CHAPTER 703 PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

DATE: AUGUST 11, 2020

Summary and Recommendation

The Board Governance Subcommittee met May 7 and recommends that the Oversight Committee approve the proposed administrative rule change for publication in the *Texas Register* for public comment. The proposed change affects Texas Administrative Code Chapter 703 relating to budget transfer and change requests by grantees.

Discussion

CPRIT's administrative rules set policy guiding CPRIT's grant review and grant contracting processes as well as managing other requirements of Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 102. State law requires agencies to use a rulemaking process, which includes an opportunity for the public to comment on proposed rules and rule changes before the agency adopts the final policy.

The Board Governance Subcommittee met on May 7 to discuss the proposed rule change to § 703.25 with legal staff and voted to recommend approval and publication of the proposed rule change to the Oversight Committee.

- The proposed change to § 703.25(e) requires CPRIT approval of all budget change and transfer requests made by grantees. Currently, a budget change or transfer in a category other than equipment is automatically approved if the change is 10% or less of the project year's budget, does not change the overall grant budget amount, and does not materially impact the scope of the grant project. The proposed rule amendment will allow CPRIT to review every budget change or transfer and ensure it is within the goals and objectives of the grant project. Grantees will follow the same process that they do now by reporting all budget changes through CPRIT's online grant management system, but now there will be no automatic approval.

Legal staff did not present the proposed rule at the May 20 Oversight Committee because we were waiting for approval from the Governor's Office. The Governor's Office requires state agencies to also seek approval before submitting a rule change for publication in the *Texas Register*. However, due to COVID-19 issues, the review by the Governor's Office has become

longer, especially for rule changes like this one that are unrelated to the COVID-19 disaster. CPRIT received approval to move forward with this proposed change on August 11.

Next Steps

CPRIT will publish the proposed rule change in the *Texas Register*. The publication date begins the 30-day period for soliciting public comment. CPRIT will post the proposed rule change on our website and announce the opportunity for public comment via the CPRIT electronic list serve. CPRIT legal staff will summarize all public comments for the Oversight Committee's consideration when approving the final rule change in November.

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (“CPRIT” or “the Institute”) proposes an amendment to 25 Tex. Admin. Code § 703.25(e) relating to approval of budget requests by grant recipients.

Background and Justification

The proposed amendment to § 703.25(e) requires that a grant recipient receive approval from the Institute for all budget changes or transfers. Currently, the Institute does not review budget changes or transfers that are ten percent (10%) or less of the project year budget and meet other criteria. The proposed amendment will provide consistent treatment for all budget requests and enable CPRIT program staff to ensure any budget change corresponds with the project’s approved goals and objectives.

Fiscal Note

Kristen Pauling Doyle, Deputy Executive Officer and General Counsel for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, has determined that for the first five-year period the rule change is in effect, there will be no foreseeable implications relating to costs or revenues for state or local government due to enforcing or administering the rules.

Public Benefit and Costs

Ms. Doyle has determined that for each year of the first five years the rule change is in effect the public benefit anticipated due to enforcing the rule will be ensuring that grant budget changes comply with the project’s goals and objectives.

Small Business, Micro-Business, and Rural Communities Impact Analysis

Ms. Doyle has determined that the rule change will not affect small businesses, micro businesses, or rural communities.

Government Growth Impact Statement

The Institute, in accordance with 34 Texas Administrative Code §11.1, has determined that during the first five years that the proposed rule change will be in effect:

- (1) the proposed rule change will not create or eliminate a government program;
- (2) implementation of the proposed rule change will not affect the number of employee positions;
- (3) implementation of the proposed rule change will not require an increase or decrease in future legislative appropriations;
- (4) the proposed rule change will not affect fees paid to the agency;
- (5) the proposed rule change will not create new rule;
- (6) the proposed rule change will not expand existing rule;
- (7) the proposed rule change will not change the number of individuals subject to the rule; and

(8) The rule change is unlikely to have an impact on the state's economy. Although the change is likely to have neutral impact on the state's economy, the Institute lacks enough data to predict the impact with certainty.

Submit written comments on the proposed rule changes to Ms. Kristen Pauling Doyle, General Counsel, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, P. O. Box 12097, Austin, Texas 78711, no later than October 5, 2020. The Institute asks parties filing comments to indicate whether they support the rule revision proposed by the Institute and, if a change is requested, to provide specific text proposed to be included in the rule. Comments may be submitted electronically to kdoyle@cprit.texas.gov. Comments may be submitted by facsimile transmission to 512/475-2563.

Statutory Authority

The Institute proposes the rule change under the authority of the Texas Health and Safety Code Annotated, §102.108, which provides the Institute with broad rule-making authority to administer the chapter. Ms. Doyle has reviewed the proposed amendment and certifies the proposal to be within the Institute's authority to adopt.

There is no other statute, article, or code affected by these rules.

<rule>

703.25 Grant Award Budget

- (a) The Grant Contract shall include an Approved Budget that reflects the amount of the Grant Award funds to be spent for each Project Year.
- (b) All expenses charged to a Grant Award must be budgeted and reported in the appropriate budget category.
- (c) Actual expenditures under each category should not exceed budgeted amounts authorized by the Grant Contract as reflected on the Approved Budget for each Grant Award.
- (d) Recipients may make transfers between or among lines within budget categories listed on the Approved Budget so long as the transfer fits within the scope of the Grant Contract and the total Approved Budget; is beneficial to the achievement of project objectives; and is an efficient, effective use of Grant Award funds.
- (e) ~~[Except as provided herein, all]~~ All budget changes or transfers require Institute approval.

~~[(1) The Grant Recipient may make budget changes or transfers without prior approval from the Institute for expenses not specified in the equipment category if:~~

- ~~—(A) The total dollar amount of all changes of any single line item (individually and in the aggregate) within budget categories other than equipment is 10% or less of the total budget for the applicant grant year;~~
- ~~—(B) The transfer will not increase or decrease the total grant budget; and~~
- ~~—(C) The transfer will not materially change the nature, performance level, or scope of the project.~~

~~–(2) The Institute may reverse one or more budget changes or transfers under subsection (1) if the Institute determines that the Grant Recipient made multiple individual budget changes or transfers within the same category that, if considered together, would require Institute approval.]~~

(f) A Grant Recipient awarded a Grant Award for a multiyear project that fails to expend the total Project Year budget may carry forward the unexpended budget balance to the next Project Year.

(1) If the amount of the unexpended balance for a budget line item in a Project Year exceeds twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the total budget line item amount for that year, Institute approval is required before the Grant Recipient may carry forward the unexpended balance to the next Project Year.

(2) For a budget carry forward requiring Institute approval, the Grant Recipient must provide justification for why the total Grant Award amount should not be reduced by the unexpended balance.



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: HEIDI MCCONNELL, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
SUBJECT: CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER REPORT
DATE: AUGUST 7, 2020

CPRIT Financial Overview for FY 2020 Quarter 3

FY 2020, Quarter 3 Operating Budget

For the third quarter, CPRIT has encumbered or expended 66% of the \$4.5 million budgeted in Indirect Administration and 90% of the \$15.9 million budgeted in Grant Review and Award Operations. Grant Review and Award Operations budget includes the majority of the agency's vendor contracts, including the \$9.7 million contract for grant management support services, and the full contract amounts are encumbered in the accounting system when the contracts are initiated.

CPRIT received \$642,926 in revenue sharing payments during the third quarter. These payments were deposited in the Cancer Prevention and Research Interest and Sinking Fund 5168. The total revenue sharing payments received for FY 2020 is \$909,175 and cumulatively over the lifetime of the agency is approximately \$4.6 million.

FY 2020, Quarter 3 Performance Measure Report

CPRIT reported on its two quarterly key performance measures to the Legislative Budget Board. CPRIT has already exceeded performance for the number of entities relocating to Texas with two company relocations during the first half of the year. There were no additional company relocations during the third quarter.

CPRIT has also exceeded performance on the number of people served through its prevention grants, although there was a decline in screening services provided during the third quarter due to the COVID-19 pandemic disaster and stay-at-home orders throughout the state. However, prevention grantees continued to provide cancer prevention education through virtual means as much as possible by telephone, through email notices or through online seminars.

Debt Issuance History

By the end of the quarter, the Texas Public Finance Authority (TPFA) had issued the entire \$231.3 million of general obligation bond proceeds needed by CPRIT for FY 2020. As I reported in May, the remaining \$115 million needed for the year was issued as general obligation bonds in April 2020 in conjunction with a refunding of \$248 million of commercial paper notes as general obligation bonds.

Fiscal Year 2021 Agency Budget

CPRIT has four major budget line items in the state budget:

- Indirect Administration for the cost of general agency operations such as human resources, procurement, information technology infrastructure, internal audit, financial audit, etc.
- Grant Review and Award Operations which include the expenses directly related to the agency's mission such as grant application receipt, peer review honoraria, peer review meeting costs, product development grant application due diligence, and post-award grant monitoring.
- Award Research Grants for academic and product development research grant award expenses.
- Award Prevention Grant for evidence-based prevention grant award expenses.

The FY 2021 budget includes adjustments to the agency's staff training budget and to the categorization of the cost of an information technology contractor developing a grant award information dashboard.

The agency also needs to transfer approximately \$2.5 million from the Award Research Grants budget line item to the Grant Review and Award Operations budget line to support the FY 2021 \$2 million increase to the budgeted base contract with GDIT (SRA International) of \$7.9 million, continue the \$254,200 increase in peer review council honoraria approved for FY 2020 into FY 2021, and fund an interagency contract with the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company for grant asset management services. This transfer requires approval by the Legislative Budget Board. The contract increase with GDIT was approved by the Oversight Committee in May 2020 and the interagency contract with the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company is on the agenda for this Oversight Committee meeting.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Quarterly Financial Report
As of May 31, 2020

Indirect Administration (B.1.1.)

	2020 Appropriated	2020 Budgeted	% of Total Budget	Actual Expenditures & Grant Encumbrances (FYTD)	Remaining Budget	Percent Expended	Estimated Expenditures (YTD)	Lapse/Overspent
1001 Salaries and Wages	\$ 1,702,425	\$ 1,463,571		\$ 973,986	489,586	67%	\$ 973,986	\$ 489,586
1002 Other Personnel Costs	38,285	38,785		32,714	6,071	84%	32,714	6,071
2001 Professional Fees and Services	1,725,988	2,316,720		1,526,755	789,965	66%	1,526,755	789,965
2003 Consumable Supplies	24,000	24,000		10,546	13,454	44%	10,546	13,454
2004 Utilities	58,600	58,600		33,598	25,002	57%	33,598	25,002
2005 Travel	45,000	45,000		35,919	9,081	80%	35,919	9,081
2006 Rent-Building	11,000	11,000		9,186	1,814	0%	9,186	1,814
2007 Rent-Machine and Other	32,172	32,172		27,678	4,494	86%	27,678	4,494
2009 Other Operating Expenses	764,583	559,030		357,010	202,020	64%	357,010	202,020
Subtotal - Indirect Administration (B.1.1.)	\$ 4,402,053	\$ 4,548,878	1.53%	\$ 3,007,391	\$ 1,541,487	66%	\$ 3,007,391	\$ 1,541,487

Grant Review and Award Operations (A.1.3.)

	2020 Appropriated	2020 Budgeted	% of Total Budget	Actual Expenditures & Grant Encumbrances (FYTD)	Remaining Budget	Percent Expended	Estimated Expenditures (YTD)	Lapse/Overspent
1001 Salaries and Wages	\$ 3,078,084	3,070,734		\$ 2,370,842	\$ 699,892	77%	\$ 2,370,842	\$ 699,892
1002 Other Personnel Costs	45,500	52,350		52,350	0	0%	52,350	0
2001 Professional Fees and Services	9,561,416	12,602,793		11,856,238	746,555	94%	11,856,238	746,555
2003 Consumable Supplies	-	-		-	-	0%	-	-
2004 Utilities	12,000	12,000		11,037	963	92%	11,037	963
2005 Travel	65,000	65,000		22,539	42,461	35%	22,539	42,461
2009 Other Operating Expenses	102,730	115,332		87,600	27,732	76%	87,600	27,732
Subtotal - Grant Operations (A.1.3.)	\$ 12,864,730	\$ 15,918,209	5.35%	\$ 14,400,607	\$ 1,517,602	90%	\$ 14,400,607	\$ 1,517,602

Grants

	2020 Appropriated	2020 Budgeted	% of Total Budget	Actual Expenditures & Grant Encumbrances (FYTD)	Remaining Budget	Percent Expended	Estimated Expenditures (YTD)	Lapse/Overspent
4000 Grants - Prevention (A.1.2)	\$ 28,050,081	\$ 28,070,076		\$ 13,507,769	\$ 14,562,307	48%	\$ 13,507,769	\$ 14,562,307
4000 Grants - Research (A.1.1.)	251,620,104	\$ 249,113,804		92,715,845	\$ 156,397,959	37%	92,715,845	156,397,959
Subtotal - Grants	\$ 279,670,185	\$ 277,183,880	93.12%	\$ 106,223,614	\$ 170,960,266	38%	\$ 106,223,614	\$ 170,960,266
Grand Totals	\$ 296,936,968	\$ 297,650,967	100.00%	\$ 123,631,612	\$ 174,019,355	42%	\$ 123,631,612	\$ 174,019,355

**Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute Fund Account - 5136
As of May 31, 2020**

	05/01/2020- 05/31/2020	AY 20 Year to Date as of 05/31/2020
Beginning Balance : 9/01/2019		\$ 600,506
Increases:		
(1)	\$ -	\$ -
(2)	-	
Total Increases	\$ -	\$ 600,506.00
Reductions:		
Expenditures - Appropriated	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
Total Reductions	\$ -	\$ -
Ending Balance, 05/31/2020		\$ 600,506.00

Note: (1) The Institute received a settlement from the Texas Cancer Coalition (TCC). This amount represents the final distribution and transfer of all funds (\$303,877) from the TCC which ceased operations in May 2013. These funds are in the State Treasury but are not appropriated to CPRIT. The beginning balance reflects the transfer of all TCC funds.

**Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
License Plate Trust Fund Account - 0802
As of May 31, 2020**

	05/01/2020- 05/31/2020	AY 20 Year to Date as of 05/31/2020
Beginning Balance : 9/01/2019		\$ 21,178.22
Increases:		
(1) License Plate Revenue Received	\$ 584.82	\$ 6,425.69
Total Increases	\$ 584.82	\$ 27,603.91
Reductions:		
Expenditures - Appropriated	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-
Total Reductions	\$ -	\$ -
Ending Balance, 05/31/2020		\$ 27,603.91

Note:

Balance forward from 2019 License Plate \$20,633.02 + Interest earned \$545.20

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Appropriated Receipts - 666

As of May 31, 2020

	<u>05/01/2020- 05/31/2020</u>	<u>AY 20 Year to Date as of 05/31/2020</u>
<u>Beginning Balance : 9/01/2019</u>		\$ 50,496.90
Increases:		
(1) Product Development Application Fees Received	\$ -	\$ 33,500.00
(2) Appropriated Receipts applied to payments	\$ -	\$ -
(3) Conference Registration Fees	\$ -	\$ -
(4) Conference Registration Fees-Credit Card	\$ -	\$ -
Total Increases	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 33,500.00</u>
Reductions:		
Conference Expenditures - Appropriated	\$ -	\$ -
Credit Card Fees Expended	\$ -	\$ -
Refund-Application Fees	\$ -	\$ -
Legal Services Expenses (Application Fees)	\$ -	\$ -
Total Reductions	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<u>Ending Balance, 05/31/2020</u>		<u><u>\$ 83,996.90</u></u>

Forward balance for FY 2019 is \$50,396.90
 Application Fees + \$100 Donation

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Interest & Sinking Fund Account - 5168
As of May 31, 2020

	05/01/2020- 05/31/2020	AY 20 Year to Date as of 05/31/2020
Beginning Balance : 9/01/2019		\$ 758,530.58
Increases:		
(1) Revenue Sharing / Royalties	\$ 633,232.33	\$ 1,440,939.03
Total Increases	\$ 633,232.33	\$ 2,199,469.61
Reductions:		
Expenditures - Appropriated	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	-
	\$ -	-
Total Reductions	\$ -	\$ -
Ending Balance, 05/31/2020		\$ 2,199,469.61

Balance forward from FY 2019 is \$758,530.58

**Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
FY 2020, Quarter 3 Performance Measure Report**

Measure	Targeted Performance	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	Sum of QTRs	% of Mandate Attained
Number of People Served by Institute Funded Prevention and Control Activities	500,000	278,867	219,791	157,970		656,628	131.33%
Number of Entities Relocating to TX for Cancer Research Related Projects	1	1	1	0		2	200.00%
Annual Age-adjusted Cancer Mortality Rate	148.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
Number of Published Articles on CPRIT-Funded Research Projects	1,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%
Number of New Jobs Created and Maintained	1,500	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0.00%

Variance Explanations

Number of People Served by Institute Funded Prevention and Control Activities
CPRIT prevention grantees were successful in delivering cancer prevention education using remote technologies (telephone and electronic messages) during the COVID-19 pandemic disaster to continue to serve Texans. However, grantees were unable to provide cancer prevention clinical services during this period due to the restrictions on business operations and stay-at-home orders in place throughout the state.
Number of Entities Relocating to TX for Cancer Research Related Projects
CPRIT exceeded the target in the second quarter of the year. This output is dependent on the number of companies applying for CPRIT Company Awards that can successfully advance through CPRIT's rigorous review and evaluation process, receive an award and actually relocate operations to Texas. Therefore, the results vary. A company must meet 4 of CPRIT's 7 criteria for a relocation to be considered complete.

**Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
2021 Operating Budget**

	2021 GAA Budget	Adjustments	Adjusted 2021 Budget	2021 Revised Projected Budget	Net Increase/(Decrease) Transfer
<u>Institution Operations (Indirect)</u>					
Salaries and Wages	\$ 1,787,425		1,787,425	1,787,425	\$ -
Other Personnel Costs	38,785		38,785	38,785	\$ -
Professional Fees and Services:	1,808,662		1,808,662	1,808,662	\$ -
Consumable Supplies	24,000		24,000	24,000	\$ -
Utilities	58,600		58,600	58,600	\$ -
Travel	45,000		45,000	45,000	\$ -
Rent - Building	11,000		11,000	11,000	\$ -
Rent-Machine and Other	32,172		32,172	32,172	\$ -
Other Operating Expenses	554,409	20,000	574,409	574,409	\$ 20,000
Subtotal - Institute Operations	\$ 4,360,053		\$ 4,380,053	\$ 4,380,053	\$ 20,000
<u>Grant Review and Award Operations</u>					
Salaries and Wages	\$ 2,993,084		2,993,084	2,993,084	\$ -
Other Personnel Costs	45,000		45,000	45,000	\$ -
Professional Fees and Services:	9,436,363	236,971	9,673,334	12,157,910	\$ 2,484,576
Utilities	12,000		12,000	12,000	\$ -
Travel	65,000	(20,000)	45,000	45,000	\$ (20,000)
Other Operating Expenses	355,283	(236,971)	118,312	118,312	\$ -
Subtotal - Grant Operations	\$ 12,906,730		\$ 12,886,730	\$ 15,371,306	\$ 2,464,576
Total Administrative Operating Budget & Adjustments	\$ 17,266,783		\$ 17,266,783	\$ 19,751,359	\$ 2,484,576
<u>Grants</u>					
Grants - Prevention	\$ 28,050,081		\$ 28,050,081	\$ 28,050,081	\$ -
Grants - Research	\$ 251,620,104		\$ 251,620,104	\$ 249,135,528	\$ (2,484,576)
Subtotal - Grants	\$ 279,670,185		\$ 279,670,185	\$ 277,185,609	
Grand Total	\$ 296,936,968		\$ 296,936,968	\$ 296,936,968	



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM

To: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
From: HEIDI MCCONNELL, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
Subject: FY 2021 SERVICE CONTRACT APPROVALS
Date: JULY 31, 2021

Recommendation

CPRIT staff recommends the Oversight Committee approve the following contracts for FY 2021:

- Contract renewal with ICON Clinical Research Limited for \$317,370 to perform diligence reviews of product development research grant applications,
- Contract renewal with Hahn Public Communications for \$149,975 to provide strategic communications services,
- Contract renewals with Baker Botts, LLP and Yudell Isidore, PLLC for \$187,500 each to provide legal advice and evaluation services regarding the intellectual property and revenue sharing agreements associated with CPRIT grants,
- Contract renewal with The Perryman Group for \$170,000 to perform an economic assessment of the cost of cancer in Texas,
- Contract renewal with Weaver and Tidwell for \$186,000 to provide internal audit services, and
- Interagency contract with the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company up to \$150,000 authority to provide CPRIT grant asset management services.

The contract costs for consideration are not-to-exceed amounts, and payment is based on the delivery of actual services through time and materials expended by the vendor or as a fee for service based on the delivery of a report.

The Office of the Attorney General must approve the outside legal services contract renewals prior to contract execution.

The contract with Weaver and Tidwell will require the State Auditor's Office to provide audit delegation authority to CPRIT prior to contract execution.

Background

Due Diligence Review Services Contract Renewal

ICON Clinical Research provides due diligence review reports which are an evaluation of a product development research grant applicant's business operations and management that covers discovery science capability, preclinical and clinical research capabilities, manufacturing facilities, regulatory approval pathway, management capability, financial viability, and commercial viability. ICON performs the diligence evaluation on a select subset of product development grant applications

following the completion of peer review evaluation of the Texas Company, Company Relocation and SEED grant applications submitted during any given product development program grant award cycle.

The pricing is based on ICON performing up to six (6) company and 10 SEED project diligence reviews in FY 2021. However, CPRIT can adjust the types of reviews if actual results warrant within the total contract amount. CPRIT would be exercising the second of three renewal options.

Strategic Communications Services Contract Renewal

Hahn Public Communications provides strategic communication program services including communications strategy, media relations support, digital media relations advisory services, and communication program evaluation and assessment. CPRIT would be exercising the second of three renewal options.

Outside Legal Counsel Service Contract Renewals

Baker Botts and Yudell Isidore possess the intellectual property (IP) expertise to perform a due diligence review of the IP estate of a company CPRIT is considering for a grant award in the product development research program. The IP counsel performs diligence review on a select subset of product development grant applications. The review serves as an independent analysis of the IP and associated licenses underlying the company's planned drug, device, diagnostic, technology, or service proposed for CPRIT funding. The Product Development Review Council uses information gained through the IP due diligence process to finalize their grant award recommendations.

Contracting with two different legal firms allows CPRIT to balance the workload and avoid potential conflicts of interest between the firms and the companies under review. CPRIT would be exercising the fourth and final renewal option on both contracts.

Economic Assessment of the Cost of Cancer in Texas Contract Renewal

The report produced by The Perryman Group provides CPRIT with the:

- statutorily required cost of cancer in Texas measurement;
- measurement of key economic performance indicators based on CPRIT funding and program impact; and
- estimates of the economic impact to Texas if CPRIT were not to exist and no additional funding is provided beyond the \$3 billion in general obligation debt authorized by the Texas Constitution.

CPRIT would be exercising the first renewal option on the contract.

Internal Audit Services Contract Renewal

In FY 2021, the proposed internal audit plan includes an audit over information technology general controls and audit advisory services related to the agency self-evaluation process for the Sunset Review scheduled for FY 2022 as well as audit advisory services on records management to validate the design of the architecture and data mapping for the file migration of the grantee compliance record system to CPRIT's integrated information technology system. The plan also includes follow-up procedures on the communications, information security, and governance

audits as well as follow-up audit advisory services on disaster recovery and business continuity planning provided in 2020.

CPRIT is exercising the first of three contract renewals.

Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company Interagency Contract

The Texas Legislature amended CPRIT's statute in 2017 to permit the Oversight Committee to transfer the management and final disposition authority for assets generated by CPRIT's grant award projects to the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company (Trust Company). In FY 2021 CPRIT plans to transfer management authority for the assets generated by its revenue sharing agreements for the companies authorized by the Oversight Committee. CPRIT's statute permits the Trust Company to charge CPRIT to recover the costs associated with managing any transferred assets. Because the Trust Company is a component agency under the authority of the Comptroller of Public Accounts, CPRIT and the Trust Company will have an interagency contract. CPRIT would like authorization for a not-to-exceed amount of \$150,000 to ensure there is adequate capacity to manage the assets that need to be transferred.



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

TO: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: CHRIS CUTRONE, SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
SUBJECT: COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE
DATE: AUGUST 10, 2020

The following is an overview of the agency’s communication activities from May 12, 2020 to August 10, 2020.

Earned Media

Coverage:

- 8 articles featured CPRIT
- 63 additional articles mentioned CPRIT (stories primarily focused on work of grantees)

Coverage Highlights: (see clipped articles following report)

Post-OC meeting in May, the Dallas Morning News ran an article about the latest UT Southwestern awards, and the grant to French biopharmaceutical company Invecyts to relocate to Houston. The Amarillo Globe-News wrote a supportive editorial about the grant awarded to Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine in Amarillo to recruit Klementina Fon Tacer, a cellular biologist. The editorial was reprinted in the Austin American Statesman in June. Also in June, D Magazine in Dallas ran a brief feature on the arrival of cancer biologist Piya Ghose to The University of Texas at Arlington. Her recruitment was supported by a CPRIT First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members grant awarded in August 2019.

In July, the Austin American Statesman published an interview with one of our CPRIT Scholars Urbain Weyemi, a CPRIT Scholar and molecular biologist who was recruited to UT Austin with the support of a First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member award. El Paso Inc., ran a feature on the twice CPRIT-supported “Tiempo de Vacunarte”, an HPV vaccination program serving El Paso and West Texas, and which is being administered by co-investigators Drs. Jessica Calderon-Mora and Jennifer Molowu of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso.

- May 14, 2020, *Austin American Statesman, Opinion: Texas Legislature must reinvest in vaccinations, public health to save money, protect lives*
- May 21, 2020, *Dallas Morning News,, UT Southwestern hauls in \$12 million from CPRIT to recruit three new cancer researchers*

- May 31, 2020, *Amarillo Globe News*, *Amarillo vet school receives \$1.4M CPRIT recruitment grant*
- June 2, 2020, *Austin American Statesman*, *Our view: CPRIT grant, world-class researcher big deal for Tech vet school*
- June 3, 2020, *D Magazine*, *UTA Professor Arrives with \$2 Million in Cancer Research Funding*
- July 10, 2020, *Houston Chronicle*, *Breast cancer group's plea: Don't avoid testing now*
- July 13, 2020, *Austin American Statesman*, *Black in Academia: An interview with UT molecular biologist Urbain Weyemi*
- July 13, 2020, *El Paso, Inc.*, *TTUHSC El Paso: Finding treatments, cures*

Digital Media

Communications and IT are working to remake the Grantee Resources page. The new page aims to bring together more information for easier access for our grantees on policies and procedures, compliance, webinars and other areas of interest. A link to the page will also be prominently displayed on the top menu of our website, which is accessible on most pages of the site.

Communications and IT staff are preparing the launch of the CPRIT Scholar application. This online tool will allow the scholars or their institutions to update their own profiles on our website at <https://scholars.cprit.texas.gov/>. We will work with communications counterparts at the institutions for training and support when CPRIT deploys the application.

Social Media

Social media statistics for the past month are below.

Facebook (July 13, 2020-August 9, 2020):

- Total posts: 11
- Reach: 438
- Engagement: 77 reactions/clicks
- Page Views: 127
- Top Post: This week, CPRIT released seven RFAs from both our Academic Research and Prevention programs for FY 2021. These include new funding mechanisms such as the Clinical Trials Network Award, the Texas Clinical Trials Participation Program Award and the Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer Award. Please visit our Apply for Funding page for information on how to apply: <https://cprit.us/2XiUaPu>
Post Reach: 205 users
Engagement: 6 clicks, 3 reactions

Twitter (July 14, 2020-August 10, 2020):

- Total Tweets: 9
- Tweet Impressions: 10.2K
- Profile Visits: 362

- Mentions: 37
- New Followers: 29 (2,557 total)
- Top tweet: Dr. Bishop and team [@UTHealthGCCRI](#) have made important discoveries about [#EwingSarcoma](#), a top [#CPRIT](#) priority. “We are working now to better understand the impacts of this biology in Ewing sarcoma and how we can take advantage of it therapeutically.” <https://cprit.us/2CvY9R0>
Impressions: 838 people
Engagements: 25

LinkedIn (July 12, 2020-August 10, 2020):

- Total Updates: 9
- Post Impressions: 3.6K
- Reactions: 60
- Shares: 2
- Page views: 191
- Unique Visitors: 75
- New followers: 17 (1,009 total)
- Top Update: This week, CPRIT released seven RFAs from both our Academic Research and Prevention programs for FY 2021. These include new funding mechanisms such as the Clinical Trials Network Award, the Texas Clinical Trials Participation Program Award and the Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer Award. Please visit our Apply for Funding page for information on how to apply: <https://cprit.us/2XiUaPu>
Impressions: 465 people
Clicks: 19
Reactions: 16
Engagement rate: 7.53%

Houston Chronicle OPINION // OUTLOOK

Opinion: Texas Legislature must reinvest in vaccinations, public health to save money, protect lives

By Dr. Melanie Mouzoon and Rekha Lakshmanan

May 14, 2020

For two decades, public health officials in Texas have warned of the growing possibility of a global pandemic. More often than not, the Texas Legislature and our statewide elected officials have ignored these warnings. Lawmakers cut funding for local and state public health infrastructure across Texas. Politicians relented to anti-vaccine and anti-science activists.

Now, policymakers at the Texas legislature and in cities and counties across our state are scrambling to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Budget cuts and anti-science policies have left Texas unnecessarily vulnerable. During and after this emergency response, government can implement specific policies to reduce death, mitigate catastrophic economic collapse, and protect our hospitals' capacity to care for and treat our neighbors.

The Immunization Partnership and its Scientific Advisory Council, which includes frontline doctors and some of the world's leading researchers, has recommendations about how to respond to the current crisis and plan for the future. Texas can act now to lessen the immediate impact of the disease and prepare for the efficient distribution of future vaccines against COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

First, Texas must protect the most vulnerable among us and protect the capacity of our hospitals to treat patients. The 2017-2018 flu season killed around 10,000 Texans, the majority of those deaths in seniors 65 years of age and older. Every Texan over the age of 50 should have access to the flu vaccine for free. The more Texans we vaccinate against the flu, the more hospital and medical capacity will be available to respond to unexpected infectious disease outbreaks and pandemics.

Second, as scientists are working towards a COVID-19 vaccine, Texas public health officials must have the tools to get ready to voluntarily immunize millions of its citizens. The logistics of vaccinating so many people in Texas will be complex and challenging. The immunization registry in Texas is not up to the task of administering statewide coronavirus vaccination. Public health officials and health care providers need reliable and timely immunization statistics to deploy resources. Since 2003, anti-vaccine activists have waged all-out war on the immunization registry. As a result, Texas has one of the weakest immunization registries in the country. We must modernize this system now to prepare for tomorrow's COVID-19 vaccine.

Lastly, Texas must think big about the creation and production of vaccines to fight COVID-19 or other emerging infectious diseases. Texas has long been at the forefront of vaccine research. The United States Department of Health and Human Services funds vaccine research and

development at Texas A&M University in College Station. Vaccine research takes place in Galveston and San Antonio. In the world's largest medical center, The Texas Medical Center, Baylor College of Medicine along with other institutions in Houston and across Texas are leading the way in the search for vaccines against emerging infectious diseases — but lack of funding hampers bringing these vaccines to market.

In 2007, Texas voters approved an amendment to the state constitution to create and fund the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). In the years since, CPRIT grantees have been responsible for medical breakthroughs. Texas must attack coronavirus and future pandemics with the same money and laser focus it brought to the fight against cancer. Let's create a voter-approved fund similar to CPRIT to infuse money into vaccine research and development here in Texas.

We encourage Texans demand that legislators support public health initiatives, vaccinations and the wellness of every Texan. Texas must think big and act decisively in the face of the current coronavirus pandemic. This is both a public health crisis and a state security crisis. Researchers in Texas and across the country are working hard to create a vaccine for COVID-19. Texas must take the necessary steps to learn from our current situation and reinvest in our state's public health. In the interim, Texas can choose to learn, prepare, save money and protect lives.

Mouzoon is managing physician for immunization practices at Kelsey-Seybold Clinic, and board chair and member of The Immunization Partnership's Scientific Advisory Council. Lakshmanan is director of advocacy and public policy for The Immunization Partnership, and contributing expert at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy.

DALLAS MORNING NEWS

UT Southwestern hauls in \$12 million from CPRIT to recruit three new cancer researchers

The state agency also awarded \$14 million to a French company to relocate early stage clinical studies to Texas.

By Paul O'Donnell

11:55 AM on May 21, 2020

The UT Southwestern Medical Center is receiving \$12 million from the state's cancer-fighting agency to recruit three new researchers to Dallas.

UT Southwestern will use the money to attract established investigator Wenyi Wei from Harvard Medical School's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, early stage researcher Ken Wang from Johns Hopkins University and faculty member Matthew Parker from the University of California Berkeley.

The award is part of \$56 million doled out this week by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, with most going to recruit academic researchers.

"Texas continues to attract world-class cancer researchers who further foster a robust academic and biotechnology ecosystem in our state," said CPRIT CEO Wayne Roberts in a statement.

CPRIT also is giving a \$14 million relocation grant to a French biopharmaceutical company to conduct early stage clinical studies in Houston.

Invectys USA Inc. plans to partner with the UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center to target kidney and ovarian tumors, said Simon Wain-Hobson, the company's co-founder. Invectys is a spinoff of the Institut Pasteur in Paris and uses technology to genetically engineer tumor-killing cells.

Founded in 2010, the company has raised \$42 million from investors for its immunotherapy approaches, Wain-Hobson said. It previously partnered with M.D. Anderson on a clinical trial targeting leukemia.

Wain-Hobson said he expects the kidney and ovarian cancer studies to begin next year. "We made tremendous progress in the last 18 months," he said.

Since 2009, CPRIT has given out \$2.5 billion to further academic research, prevention, and product development programs in the state. In November, Texas voters approved a constitutional amendment to provide an additional \$3 billion in funding.

Paul O'Donnell, Business Editor. Paul directs the work of an award-winning staff covering business news in the nation's fourth largest metro region. He's been The News' business editor since 2015. Before that, he was editor-in-chief at the Dallas Business Journal and business editor at the Cleveland Plain Dealer.



Amarillo vet school receives \$1.4M CPRIT recruitment grant

Posted May 31, 2020 at 1:33 PM

For A-J Media

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas has awarded a transformative grant to the Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine in Amarillo designed to bring to the school's growing faculty one of the world's leading cellular and molecular biologists.

The \$1.4 million grant will allow Klementina Fon Tacer, a postdoctoral researcher at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, since 2016, to join the veterinary school faculty.

Supported by this award, Fon Tacer will investigate the novel mechanisms that protect mammalian germ cells against stress and how those mechanisms are co-opted in cancer, with the ultimate goal of advancing cancer treatment and fertility preservation of childhood cancer survivors.

The hope is Fon Tacer's research will establish a strong foundation for a comparative oncology research center in the School of Veterinary Medicine.

"What we do and why we do it is simple. We are here to benefit Texas and Texans," said Guy Loneragan, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine. "Dr. Fon Tacer is going to change lives for generations to come. When we first had the chance to meet her, it was clear. Her research is transformative and will impact countless Texans in the years ahead. I am so thankful to the CPRIT Oversight Committee for awarding Texas Tech this recruitment award to make it possible to bring Dr. Fon Tacer to Texas and to the School of Veterinary Medicine. Her work in comparative oncology will save lives."

The Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members Award, one of seven awarded by CPRIT this week and part of 13 academic research recruitment and product development awards totaling \$56 million, is the first

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CPRIT grant awarded to the School of Veterinary Medicine, which is scheduled to open its doors to students for the first time in the fall of 2021.

Fon Tacer earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Doctor of Philosophy in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia. She also holds a Master of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Ljubljana.

Fon Tacer is not new to Texas, having served as a postdoctoral researcher and Fulbright Fellow at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas from 2006-2008. From there, she returned to the University of Ljubljana as a postdoctoral researcher and later as an adjunct assistant professor on the veterinary faculty at the University of Ljubljana until 2012.

Among her research interests at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital are melanoma antigen genes (MAGE), very common cancer immunotherapy targets and their role in cancer reproduction, metabolism and stress response.

"We are very excited to have support from CPRIT for building the faculty of our new School of Veterinary Medicine," said Joseph Heppert, vice president of the Office of Research & Innovation. "One-health research themes developed by faculty like Dr. Tacer will have enormous benefits for both human and animal health. The Texas Tech University System has strong potential for collaboration in one-health research across the Texas Tech and Texas Tech University Health Science Center campuses, and we are extremely proud to be adding new faculty who will capitalize on these opportunities."

About the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

To date, CPRIT has awarded almost \$2.5 billion in grants to Texas research institutions and organizations through its academic research, prevention and product development research programs. CPRIT has recruited 202 distinguished researchers, supported the establishment, expansion or relocation of 41 companies to Texas and generated more than \$4.8 billion in additional public and private investment. CPRIT funding has advanced scientific and clinical knowledge and provided 5.7 million life-saving cancer prevention and early detection services, reaching Texans from all 254 counties.

In November 2019, voters in Texas approved a constitutional amendment authorizing an additional \$3 billion in bonds for cancer research and prevention.

Statesman

Opinion

Our view: CPRIT grant, world-class researcher big deal for Tech vet school

Posted Jun 2, 2020 at 12:01 AM

AJ Media Editorial Board

The Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine realized another important achievement over the past weekend when it was awarded a Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) grant that will result in bringing a world-class researcher to the Amarillo campus that is scheduled to welcome its first students in the fall of 2021.

The \$1.4 million grant means Klementina Fon Tacer, generally acknowledged as one of the world's preeminent cellular and molecular biologists, will soon join the ranks of Texas Tech's already impressive vet school faculty. Fon Tacer will come to Tech from St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, where she is a postdoctoral researcher.

If this sounds like a big deal, that's only because it is.

During its existence, CPRIT has awarded some \$2.5 billion in grants to Texas research institutions and organizations. It has recruited 202 distinguished researchers and supported the establishment or relocation of 41 companies to Texas, while generating more than \$4.8 billion in additional public and private investment.

The grant will support Fon Tacer's research that has a goal of advancing cancer treatment and fertility preservation of childhood cancer survivors, according to a news release. The hope is the research will lead to the creation of a comparative oncology research center in the School of Veterinary Medicine.

CPRIT's funding has touched Texans in every county, providing 5.7 million life-saving cancer prevention and early detection services. Last November, Texas voters approved a constitutional amendment that delivered another \$3 billion in

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bonds for cancer research and prevention.

Fon Tacer's strong academic pedigree includes a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Doctor of Philosophy in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia. She also holds a Master of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Ljubljana. She has served as a postdoctoral researcher and Fulbright Fellow at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and a postdoctoral researcher and adjunct assistant professor on the veterinary faculty at the University of Ljubljana.

"What we do and why we do it is simple. We are here to benefit Texas and Texans," Guy Loneragan, dean of the vet school, said in our story. "Dr. Fon Tacer is going to change lives for generations to come. When we first had the chance to meet her, it was clear. Her research is transformative and will impact countless Texans in the years ahead."

That commitment to transformation of West Texas and beyond has been a consistent calling card for Tech's vet school from the initial vision through becoming reality during the most recent legislative session.

The CPRIT grant, one of seven designated by the organization last week to the recruitment of first-time, tenure track faculty members, affirms the vision. It represents the first such award from CPRIT to Tech's School of Veterinary Medicine and is an acknowledgment of the possible impact of her important, life-saving research.

"We are very excited to have support from CPRIT for building the faculty of our new School of Veterinary Medicine," Joseph Heppert, vice president of Tech's Office of Research & Innovation, said.

Congratulations to the Texas Tech School of Veterinary Medicine on securing this grant and bringing Dr. Fon Tacer to Texas.

D Magazine

UTA Professor Arrives with \$2 Million in Cancer Research Funding

The CPRIT funds are meant to support early stage researchers and tenured professors.

BY WILL MADDOX

PUBLISHED IN HEALTHCARE BUSINESS JUNE 3, 2020 9:00 AM

A new professor at The University of Texas at Arlington is bringing \$2 million in support from the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) for cancer biology research.

Assistant professor of biology Piya Ghose arrived at UTA in January, bringing with her a growing research portfolio focused on programmed cell death, a process where cells die in an orderly fashion in the body. But if those cells don't die when they are supposed to die, tumors can form.

The CPRIT funding is meant to support young researchers and first-time tenure track faculty members. "To be recognized among a cohort of numerous strong, young scientists is an honor, and it is motivating to look at the CPRIT scholars that have come before me," Ghose said via release. "This award has opened up my world and is allowing me to pursue big, ambitious questions from the jump. It, along with the supportive and connected nature of UTA, really allows me to hit the ground running."

Ghose has been impressed with the diversity of the student body and staff at UTA. "It is invigorating for people of all backgrounds and cultures to come together through a love of science, and it definitely enhances our work," she said.

"CPRIT's investment in bringing Dr. Ghose to UTA is a recognition of not only the critical role she will undoubtedly play in the Texas cancer research community, but also of our University as one that cultivates excellence and empowers young faculty to make an impact," UTA College of Science Dean Morteza Khaledi said via release. "I am thrilled to have Piya on our faculty and look forward to the numerous ways she will enrich all facets of scholarship in our college and at UTA."

Breast cancer group's plea: Don't avoid testing now

By Yvette Orozco, STAFF WRITER July 10, 2020

The Rose breast cancer diagnostic center has a message for those postponing being tested because of fear of the Harris County surge in COVID-19 cases.

“Cancer doesn't stop for a pandemic,” said Dorothy Gibbons, the groups CEO and its co-founder along with Pasadena resident Dr. Dixie Melillo.

The pandemic did lead to the facility closing its offices, which are at 12700 N. Featherwood, Suite 260 and at 6575 W. Loop South, Suite 275, Bellaire, for six weeks starting in March. But The Rose reopened in May and has since continued to provide all its essential services, such as screening, biopsies and evaluation.

The decision to close then was based on the nation-wide shortage of (personal protective equipment) supplies, said Gibbons.

“Even then, we knew that diagnostic procedures, especially biopsies, were essential services,” she said.

The Rose, founded in 1986, provides breast health care to women, regardless of their ability to pay. The organization accept patients with insurance coverage. Those without insurance can pay with cash at a reduced rate, or if they meet income qualifications (200 percent of the poverty level) can be sponsored by the group and receive services at no cost.

As coronavirus cases spike in the area, Gibbons said The Rose will remain open as long as it can provide a safe environment for patients and staff and maintain a robust supply of PPEs.

“No one has a crystal ball ... and there are way too many uncertainties in our world to make any absolute declarations,” she said. “The current spike is more than alarming and the predictions of its continuation are sobering.

“I absolutely understand why women are afraid to have testing, especially if testing means going into a hospital or a facility attached to a hospital. Our wellness environment, coupled with the safety precautions which are evident from the time a person walks through our doors, means there is no reason for any woman to postpone being tested.”

The Rose's strict adherence to Centers for Disease Control recommendations may alter how and when The Rose sees patients, but its services remain comprehensive.

“Our patients understand that those recommendations have impacted scheduling and the number of patients we are able to serve each day,” Gibbons said. “Ensuring social distancing between patients combined with enhanced cleaning and sanitation of equipment takes additional time, and we will not compromise those steps in any way.”

When diagnosing breast cancer, not unlike other health issues related to chronic and potentially life-threatening health issues, timing is key. The longer a patient waits or puts off getting that lump in her breast evaluated, the higher the risk of complications or spread.

“The ultimate danger to delaying testing is that the cancer will go undiagnosed for too long and result in more advanced and serious stages of the disease,” Gibbons said. “Late-stage cancer reduces a patient's

options and increases the chance that she will die from the disease. At the very least, she will need more aggressive treatment, perhaps for a longer period, all of which will hopefully stop the growth of the cancer but will also take a huge toll on her immune system and threaten her ability to return to a productive and joyful life.”

In May, less than two months after the initial shutdown, those in the healthcare industry were seeing the effects of not seeking treatment or testing for a variety of issues.

Avoidance of seeking health care because of COVID-19 fears was creating a health crisis within a crisis, according to Dr. Ambica Sandhir, emergency room physician at CHI St. Luke’s Health Patients Medical Center in Pasadena.

Sandhir citing a distinct decrease in patients seeking treatment in the ER for health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes and heart issues in the following weeks after the shutdown throughout the nation in March.

At St. Luke’s (in Pasadena), the hospital has seen an increase in patients who are dead on arrival by ambulance over the last three months, which Sandhir attributes to pandemic-related anxieties.

Sandhir braced for the short and long-term effects of postponing or neglecting personal health because of COVID-19. Those fears are not proportionate to the reality of a healthcare facility environment like St. Luke’s, Sandhir said.

“I’m probably safer in an ER room than at the grocery store,” she said.

‘An invitation to death’

The Rose staff, said Gibbons, is a close-knit group and has been able to control its environment, painstakingly social distancing itself from outside exposure to the virus. Half the staff is working remotely, with others working at the sites to do mammograms and biopsies.

“We have a full staff of technologists and physicians providing care, and support staff has to be onsite to take temperatures, welcome patients and handle necessary paperwork,” she said. “Next to patient safety, I worry most about my employees. I know they are aware of all the steps we’ve put into place for enhanced safety.

“They are the ones who are actually doing the cleaning, enforcing social distancing and assuring that everyone who enters the building for any reason is masked.”

Postponing a visit is an unchecked concern about cancer, said Gibbons, and that can have devastating effects.

“Put simply, delaying testing is an invitation to death,” she said. “Breast cancer isn’t going to stop and no amount of wishful thinking will make it go away. Debating the risks of going out against the likelihood that a lump isn’t cancer is dangerous. Waiting too long is fatal.”

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Statesman

Black in Academia: An interview with UT molecular biologist Urbain Weyemi

By Kelly P. Franklin

Posted Jul 13, 2020 at 6:15 AM

The American-Statesman recently spoke with Urbain Weyemi, a University of Texas professor in the department of molecular biosciences, who discussed the link between DNA damage and cancer and empowering Black students to find mentors.

Weyemi was born in the French-speaking country of Benin in West Africa.

“Coming from Benin, it’s really against all odds that I ended up going into science,” he said. “We had very few labs and little infrastructure for academic research. But my parents wanted me to be successful, and they invested in my education.”

“I finished my bachelor’s degree in molecular biology in Benin, and then was fortunate to receive a fellowship to study in France,” he said.

He earned his master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of Paris-Sud in France. He then trained as a postdoctoral researcher, or postdoc, at the U.S. National Cancer Institute, where he researched genome instability and cancer. After that, he spent four years as a postdoc researching neurodegeneration at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

He later was invited to speak at UT. “Right after the talk,” he said, “I received an email from the department chair asking whether I would be interested in joining UT as a faculty member.”

Weyemi joined the UT department of molecular biosciences as a Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, or CPRIT, scholar in cancer biology in 2019. He also is a member of the LiveStrong Cancer Institutes at Dell Medical School.

American-Statesman: Can you describe the work that you're doing now at the University of Texas?

Weyemi: What we do is actually bring two fields of study together – genome instability and redox (reduction-oxidation) biology – to understand damage to the human genome that can lead to cancer and other human diseases. We try to see what molecules affect the genome and damage DNA. The more DNA damage you have, the higher the chance of mutations, and that is the starting point for cancer.

When people age, our bodies become vulnerable because we cannot produce enough antioxidants to combat DNA damage. If we can figure out which specific molecules we lose, we can find a way to enhance or foster production of those molecules, and reduce the damage to the DNA.

Statesman: What's your favorite part of the work you do?

Weyemi: There are two parts. The first part is being able to give students the tools they need to acquire knowledge. That's the way I see my role. I don't necessarily provide students with ready-to-use knowledge but give them the tools to go beyond their comfort zones and become better scientists.

The second part is knowing that using the technology we have today, we may be able to find a single protein or gene that we can use to delay the progression of cancer, and hopefully one day provide something that will save lives. I see it as my duty to provide training to students, and to move the field forward in any way that I can.

Statesman: Your education has been split between a few countries, can you talk about your experiences as a Black scientist or student in each of those places?

Weyemi: I will say first of all, that my own experience does not recapitulate the experience of Black kids who were born in the U.S. I grew up, at least in the first part of my life, in Africa where I didn't have to deal with racism. We had other challenges of course, but not that specific challenge.

After I moved from Africa to France, and then to the U.S, I really got a sense of what difference meant. I was really shocked and surprised by some of the behavior that I never imagined could happen.

I divide the experiences I have had into two categories, bias and microaggressions. One example of bias that I have experienced happened when I was at a conference in Las Vegas. I was one of maybe two or three Black scientists at the meeting. Everyone had lined up to get breakfast in the morning, and a woman was checking for conference credentials at the front of the line. When I approached the table, the lady looked at my badge and said, "Are you a Ph.D., too?"

I don't think it is overt racism, but it is what I call bias. She probably had a bias that I couldn't be a Ph.D., that I couldn't be a scientist. We need to work on that. We need to teach our kids that anyone can be a scientist. The color of your skin shouldn't matter for what you're doing.

An example of a microaggression that I've experienced happened when I went to interview at a government institution. Out of a field of 800 candidates, they invite the 10 best candidates to give a talk. After I finished my talk, a woman was asked to show me to my potential lab space if I were to be offered a position. When she finished showing me the lab, we went into her office and she said, "I don't see what you could bring here, as a scientist."

She didn't ask a single question during my talk, or afterward, she just made that statement. And she was not even in a position to hire me, she was just there to show me the lab space. In general, I try to be polite and respectful, but I was annoyed. My reaction was, "I came here because people wanted me to be here, because they read my CV, they read my research, and they wanted to hear more about my science."

Statesman: What would you say to young Black researchers struggling to begin careers in your field?

Weyemi: I would say, don't be shy. Reach out to people. There are plenty of good people out there willing to help. You have to be aware that there are some people out there who don't want to help you. But don't get discouraged. You

don't have to be stuck. I know many scientists at higher positions than I am, who are ready and eager to provide help to students. So do not hesitate to reach out to people if they can help.

http://www.elpasoinc.com/special_sections/ttuhsc-el-paso-finding-treatments-cures/article_a3c9ed70-c4ce-11ea-a998-7f80f7eaba35.html

TTUHSC El Paso: Finding treatments, cures

By TTUHSC El Paso

Jul 13, 2020



Dr. Jessica Calderon-Mora

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso focuses much of its research on diseases and disorders directly impacting El Pasoans and Latino populations.

Biomedical research here provides an outlook of our nation's future public health issues, as Mexican-Americans and other Latinos, become one of the fastest-growing populations in the U.S.

TTUHSC El Paso is also home to the Department of Molecular and Translational Medicine's four Centers of Emphasis, where students from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences work with faculty on studies focused on cancer, diabetes and metabolism, neurosciences and infectious diseases.



Early cancer prevention

Aside from being one of the leading causes of death in the U.S., cancer affects hundreds of El Pasoans every year, leading TTUHSC El Paso researchers to study data and create early intervention programs. Two faculty members are implementing a program, Tiempo de Vacunarte 2, to reduce human papillomavirus-related cancers, particularly cervical cancer, in border and rural communities.

Jessica Calderón-Mora, Dr.P.H., research instructor in the Department of Molecular and Translational Medicine, and Jennifer Molokwu, M.D., M.P.H., director of medical student education in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, serve as the program's co-principal investigators.

The goal is to provide no-cost HPV vaccinations for uninsured/underinsured El Paso and West Texas residents. In 2019, the two were awarded a \$1.9 million grant from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas to create outreach across 175 community sites.

Diabetes and rare disorders

Gastroparesis, a rare, but serious gastrointestinal disorder, is the focus of a study by Munmun Chattopadhyay, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Center of Emphasis in Diabetes and Metabolism.



For reasons not well understood, gastroparesis affects women more than men, as well as people with diabetes, which means it has a particular impact in El Paso County, where up to 20% of adults have been diagnosed with diabetes.

Her research – with funding from the Edward N. and Margaret G. Marsh Foundation – will analyze tissue samples collected from gastroparetic and nongastroparetic patients, and identify molecular markers to improve treatment for the disorder.

Progress in treating SMA

As an associate professor in the Center of Emphasis in Neurosciences, Laxman Gangwani, Ph.D., focuses his research on motor neuron disorders and genetic motor degenerative diseases.

His most recent study is based on spinal muscular atrophy, a genetic disorder that causes debilitating, sometimes fatal, muscle weakness. SMA is caused by a gene mutation that stops the production of a protein critical to the nerves that control muscles.

Gangwani's research, which involves a human protein called senataxin, holds promise for rescuing SMA motor neurons and preventing their degeneration.

If his research shows a positive role for senataxin in a mouse model of SMA, then it would suggest potential use as a therapeutic agent in humans.

In 2019, Cure SMA awarded Gangwani a \$150,000 grant to continue his study through 2021.



Proposed Subcommittee Membership FY 2021

	Audit	Brd Gov	Nom	Prev	Aca Res	Prod Dev	Contract*	Special Issues*
Montgomery				X	X		Chair	Chair
Margo				X				X
Patel		Chair	X		Chair			
Hernandez		X			X	X		
Cummings	X	X		Chair				X
Rice	Chair				X	X		X
Rosenfeld		X	X			Chair		
Payne	X		Chair			X		
# of members	3	4	3	3	4	4		4

Text in **blue** indicates new assignments or new positions.

* The subcommittee meets on an as-needed basis



Oversight Committee Meetings and Standing Subcommittees Meetings FY 2021

November 2020

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1	2	3 PIC Meeting CPRIT Staff Only	4 Portal Opens	5 Board Governance	6	7
8	9 Audit	10 Prevention	11 Academic Research	12 Product Development	13 Nominations	14
15	16	17	18 Oversight Committee Meeting	19	20	21

February 2021

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1/31	1	2 PIC Meeting CPRIT Staff Only	3 Portal Opens	4 Board Governance	5	6
7	8 Audit	9 Prevention	10 Academic Research	11 Product Development	12 Nominations	13
14	15	16	17 Oversight Committee Meeting	18	19	20

May 2021

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
2	3	4 PIC Meeting CPRIT Staff Only	5 Portal Opens	6 Board Governance	7	8
9	10 Audit	11 Prevention	12 Academic Research	13 Product Development	14 Nominations	15
16	17	18	19 Oversight Committee Meeting	20	21	22

August 2021

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1	2	3 PIC Meeting CPRIT Staff Only	4 Portal Opens	5 Board Governance	6	7
8	9 Audit	10 Prevention	11 Academic Research	12 Product Development	13 Nominations	14
15	16	17	18 Oversight Committee Meeting	19	20	21

Note: Unless the subcommittee members agree to a different time, all subcommittee meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. with the exception of Nominations which will begin at 10:30 a.m. Members of the Audit and Program subcommittees should allocate 1.5 hours for a meeting. All others subcommittee meetings require one hour.