



# TEXAS IS LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENT CANCER

By prioritizing childhood and adolescent cancer over the past eight years through recruiting world class childhood and adolescent cancer researchers to Texas, supporting collaborative research at Texas' leading institutions and early-stage companies, and focusing efforts on preventing cancer now and in the future, the state is leading the way to a healthier future for Texas' children and their families.

## THE CHALLENGE

The types of cancers that develop in children are often different from adult cancers and most treatments frequently cause significant lifelong side effects for childhood cancer survivors.



Texas children and adolescents diagnosed with cancer in 2021



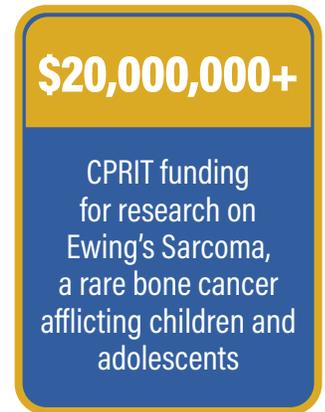
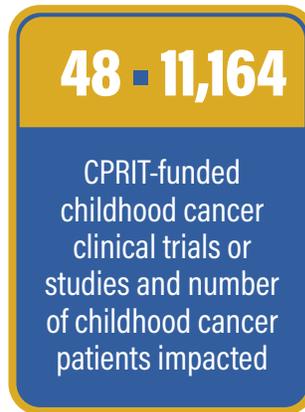
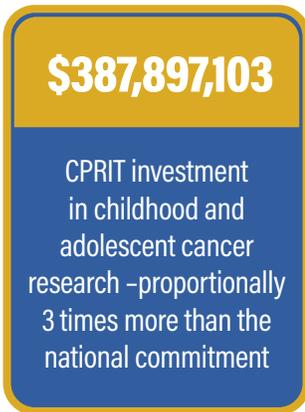
Texas children and adolescents died from cancer in 2021



Increase in childhood cancer rates in U.S. since 1975

## THE COMMITMENT

CPRIT's Oversight Committee, with the advice and input from our Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancer, established the discovery of improved treatments and cures for childhood and adolescent cancer as a statewide research priority in 2014.



“ CPRIT has been a powerful engine for driving childhood, adolescent and young adult cancer research in Texas, positioning the state as a national leader in the field while positively impacting patients and their families. ”

**Richard Gorlick, M.D.**  
*Chair*  
*CPRIT Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancers*





### Nanosized immunotherapies to access and treat pediatric medulloblastoma

CPRIT awarded a \$200,000 grant to The University of Texas at Austin researcher **Dr. Jennifer Maynard** in 2019 to develop nanosized immunotherapies to improve treatments for medulloblastoma, a deadly tumor that accounts for almost 20% of pediatric brain tumors and occurs most frequently in children between the ages of 3 and 8. Current therapies rely on radiation, which provides only a brief respite from disease but can cause significant damage to healthy brain tissue. Dr. Maynard's research aims to generate a multi-functional antibody able to penetrate the blood-brain barrier and starve the cancer cells.

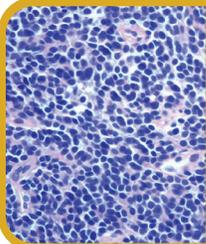
**Grant #: RP190653**



### The Adolescent and Childhood Cancer Epidemiology and Susceptibility Service (ACCESS) for Texas

CPRIT awarded a \$4 million Core Facility Support Award to Baylor College of Medicine's **Michael Scheurer** in 2021 for "The Adolescent and Childhood Cancer Epidemiology and Susceptibility Service" (ACCESS) for Texas project. ACCESS-Texas is a biorepository and data bank that provides researchers throughout the state with rich data and specimens for the discovery of novel biomarkers for cancer predisposition, early detection, and diagnosis for childhood and adolescent cancers. ACCESS-Texas positions Texas researchers to develop and lead international collaborations to explore novel risk factors for childhood cancers.

**Grant #: RP210064**



### Targeting Ewing's Sarcoma with Salarius Pharmaceutical

CPRIT awarded a 3-year \$16.1 million grant to **Salarius Pharmaceuticals**, a clinical-stage oncology company developing epigenetic drugs that treat rare and pediatric cancers, including Ewing's Sarcoma, a devastating bone and soft-tissue cancer that mostly affects children. Salarius began enrolling patients in a Phase 1 clinical study in 2018 and achieved significant milestones in 2021.

**Grant #: DP160014**



### Advancing treatments for neuroblastoma at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

CPRIT awarded a \$1.2 million grant to **Dr. Charles Reynolds** at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center that may lead to new treatments for neuroblastoma, a lethal malignancy of the nervous system that accounts for 8% of childhood cancers. Dr. Reynolds' work could be a game changer for children whose high-risk neuroblastoma has become chemotherapy resistant.

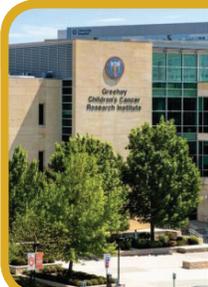
**Grant #: RP200432**



### Recruiting new leukemia fighters to Texas institutions

CPRIT recruited epigeneticist **Margarida I. Albuquerque Almeida Santos** from the National Cancer Institute to The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center with a First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Member grant. Dr. Santos' research focuses on a type of acute myeloid leukemia common in children in hopes of developing new treatments.

**Grant #: RR150039**



### Preventing future cancers through HPV vaccinations

CPRIT awarded a 3-year, \$1 million grant to **Dr. Allison Grimes** with the Greehey Children's Cancer Research Institute at UT Health San Antonio in an effort to prevent HPV-related cancers in pediatric cancer survivors. Human papillomavirus (HPV) contributes to more than 30,000 new cancers in the U.S. every year, with childhood cancer survivors at particular risk. This program focused on increasing vaccinations in at-risk minority populations in South Texas.

**Grant #: PP180080**