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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes  
November 20, 2019**

NOTE: 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 10:02 a.m.

**Roll Call/Excused Absences – Agenda Item 2**

Committee Members Present

Angelos Angelou  
David Cummings, M.D.  
Donald (Dee) Margo  
Will Montgomery  
Mahendra Patel, M.D.  
Bill Rice, M.D.  
Craig Rosenfeld, M.D.

**Adoption of Minutes from the August 21, 2019 Meeting – Agenda Item 3 – Tab 1**

**MOTION:**

On a motion by Dr. Bill Rice and seconded by Will Montgomery, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the Oversight Committee meeting of August 21, 2019, as presented.

**Public Comment – Agenda Item 4**

Ms. Annette Leslie thanked Oversight Committee members for their service and CPRIT’s work to support pediatric cancer research.

**Chief Executive Officer Report – Agenda Item 5, Tab 2**

Presiding Officer Margo recognized CPRIT Chief Executive Officer Wayne Roberts to present the CEO Report. Mr. Roberts acknowledged the passage of Proposition 6, which establishes CPRIT as a \$6 billion, 20-year investment in cancer research and prevention in Texas. He expressed appreciation for the dedication of many individuals and groups, including, Senators Nelson and

Watson, Representative Zerwas, and several advocacy organizations, who worked tirelessly to support passage of Proposition 6 and reauthorize CPRIT for another decade.

**MOTION:**

On a motion by Dr. Bill Rice and seconded by Will Montgomery, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to recess to greet and thank CPRIT supporters in the audience.

The meeting recessed at 10:13 and reconvened at 10:28.

Mr. Roberts concluded his report, informing members of the amount of funds available for the fiscal year.

**Communications Report – Agenda Item 6, Tab 3**

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chris Cutrone, Senior Communications Specialist, to present the communications report. Mr. Cutrone reviewed the media coverage CPRIT received during October and November, as well as the CPRIT Fall Outreach activities and Upcoming CPRIT communications' activities.

A member asked about the op-ed pieces related to Proposition 6 and Mr. Cutrone responded that coverage was overwhelmingly positive.

**Chief Compliance Officer Report and Compliance Certification of Grant Award Process – Agenda Item 7, Tab 4**

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Compliance Officer, Vince Burgess, to present the Compliance Report and Compliance Certification of Grant Award Process. Mr. Burgess directed the committee members to page 4-3 in the meeting book and discussed the Fiscal Year 2019 Compliance Program Activities summary.

A committee member asked if CPRIT detected any pattern to compliance findings. Mr. Burgess responded that the most common compliance findings are timeliness of reports and failure to acknowledge CPRIT funding within publications.

A committee member asked how the compliance staff determine which grantees receive on site visits. Mr. Burgess responded that CPRIT performs a risk assessment at the beginning of the fiscal year that categorizes grantees by assigned priority. He went on to explain that for academic research grantees with multiple active grants, CPRIT selects a sample of active grants for review.

Mr. Burgess provided the Compliance Certification for the Proposed Grant Awards packet. He certified compliance with all applicable state and agency requirements for the proposed Academic Research grant awards.

Mr. Burgess discussed the conflict of interest regarding The University of Texas at Dallas and Dr. Willson, explaining that Dr. Willson's son is a UT-Dallas faculty member. Mr. Burgess noted that while Dr. Willson presented all the Scientific Review Council (SRC) award recommendations –

including the SRC’s recommendation for the UT-Dallas grant - to the Program Integration Committee (PIC), Dr. Willson did not vote on any awards for that grant mechanism.

**Health & Safety Code Section 102.1062 Waiver – Item 12, Tab 9**

[The Oversight Committee took up this item out of order]

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Mr. Roberts to present the Health and Safety Code Section 102.1062 waiver for Dr. Willson related to grants submitted by The University of Texas at Dallas. Mr. Roberts summarized the conflict of interest waiver.

**MOTION:**

On a motion made by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Angelou, all Oversight Committee members present and able to vote approved the proposed Health and Safety Code § 102.1062 waiver for Dr. Willson.

**Chief Scientific Officer Report and Award Recommendations – Agenda Item 8, Tab 5**

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

Dr. Willson referred members to Table 1 on page 8 of the Proposed Grant Award booklet and presented the academic research award slates recommended by the SRC and the PIC. The three recruitment slates include the Recruitment of Established Investigators (REI), Recruitment of Rising Stars (RRS) and Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure Track Faculty Members from Cycles 19.12, 20.1, 20.2 and 20.3, which include 10 recommended awards totaling \$38,000,000.

**Table 2: Scientific Review Council Recommendations for Recruitment Cycles: FY19.12, 20.1, 20.2 and 20.3**

Rank	App ID	Candidate	Mechanism	Organization	Budget	Overall Score
1	RR190108	Guise, Theresa	REI	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$6,000,000	1.5
2	RR200014	Steidl, Ulrich G	REI	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$6,000,000	1.6
3	RR200005	Liu, Chang	RRS	Rice University	\$4,000,000	2.0
4	RR190084	Welin, Eric	RFTFM	The University of Texas at Dallas	\$2,000,000	2.0
5	RR200016	You, LingChong	REI	Rice University	\$6,000,000	2.0
6	RR200009	Echeverria, Gloria V	RFTFM	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000	2.2
7	RR200023	Ligorio, Matteo	RFTFM	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000	2.7
8	RR200007	Drapkin, Benjamin	RFTFM	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000	2.8
9	RR190063	Ajo-Franklin, Caroline M	REI	Rice University	\$6,000,000	2.8
10	RR190110	Ward, Michelle	RFTFM	The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	\$2,000,000	3.0

### 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 Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Angelou, all Oversight Committee members present and able to vote unanimously approved the PIC's recommendations for the three academic research award slates.

**MOTION:**

On a motion made by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, all 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.

After the award recommendation votes, Dr. Willson presented the academic research program update, referring the members to pages 5.1 – 5.5 of the meeting book. He provided an overview of the proposed Program Priorities, proposed RFAs and RFA schedules for review cycle 21.1, Data Tables: Table 1 (Fiscal Year 2019 data) and Table 2 (Research Impact by Mechanism Across all Time), and a request for a budget change for award RP180770.

In response to an Oversight Committee members question regarding scoring methods for Recruitment applications, Dr. Willson stated the scores are based on scientific merit and impact.

An Oversight Committee member requested that all programs create impact data tables like Table 2 as a tool for reviewing Program Priorities.

**MOTION:**

On a motion made by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Angelou, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the proposed timeline and Academic Research Program RFAs for the first cycle of FY 2021.

**MOTION:**

On a motion made by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the budget change request for RP180770.

### **Chief Prevention Officer Report – Agenda Item 9, Tab 6**

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid to provide an update on the prevention program. Ms. Magid gave a brief overview of the first cycle of grant applications for fiscal year 2020 and the RFAs that were recently issued for the second cycle.

There were no questions for Ms. Magid.

### **Chief Product Development Officer Report – Agenda Item 10, Tab 7**

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Product Development Officer Dr. Cindy WalkerPeach to present the Product Development Program update.

Dr. WalkerPeach updated the Oversight Committee on the progress of the 20.1 review cycle and presented an overview of pilot enhancements to the application review process that CPRIT implemented for this cycle. She also explained the proposed Product Development Program priorities for 2021 included in the meeting packet.

Dr. WalkerPeach responded to an Oversight Committee member's question regarding whether any of the pilot enhancements compromise the integrity of the review process. Dr. WalkerPeach explained that CPRIT designed the enhancements to improve the quality of the review process and implemented them in such a way that the enhancements do not compromise the review process.

### **Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee Appointments – Agenda Item 11, Tab 8**

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Mr. Roberts to present his four appointments to CPRIT's Scientific Research and Prevention Program review panels. Mr. Roberts noted that he included the new members' biographies in the meeting book behind tab 8.

#### **MOTION:**

On a motion made by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Angelou, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the four Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee Appointments.

### **FY 2021 Program Priorities – Item 13, Tab 10**

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Mr. Roberts to present the fiscal year 2021 Program Priorities. Mr. Roberts summarized the proposed priorities, which CPRIT staff previously presented to the program subcommittees. Mr. Roberts went on to explain that following the passage of Proposition 6, CPRIT will begin a year-long process of developing long term goals for the agency through subcommittee, advisory committee, and public input. CPRIT will carry out the long-term goals through ongoing program priorities, the first of which will be set by the Oversight Committee in November 2020.

#### **MOTION:**

On a motion made by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the fiscal year 2021 Program Priorities

### **Internal Auditor Report – Agenda Item 14, Tab 11**

Presiding Officer Margo recognized CPRIT internal auditor Dan Graves with Weaver and Tidwell. Mr. Graves provided an update on current internal audit activities, beginning on page 11-2 of the



meeting book, and presented the *Internal Audit Follow-Up Procedures Report over Communications* (page 11-6) as well as the *FY 2019 Internal Audit Annual Report* (page 11-19) and the approved *FY 2020 Internal Audit Plan* (page 11-3). In addition, Mr. Graves directed members to the *Schedule of Audits, Status and Findings Summary* (page 11-5) highlighting the agency's progress in remediating 15 of the 18 internal audit finding open at the beginning of the year.

**MOTION:**

On a motion by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Mr. Angelou, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the *Internal Audit Follow-Up Procedures Report over Communications*.

**MOTION:**

On a motion by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Angelou, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the *FY 2019 Internal Audit Annual Report*.

**Amendments to 25 T.A.C. Chapter 703 – Item 15, Tab 12**

Presiding Officer Margo recognized CPRIT assistant general counsel Cameron Eckel to discuss the final order approving amendments to Chapter 703. Ms. Eckel presented the final order of proposed rule changes, which the Oversight Committee preliminarily approved at its August meeting. CPRIT published the proposed changes in the September 27 edition of the *Texas Register*. CPRIT did not receive any comments from the public regarding the proposed changes.

**MOTION:**

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

**Chief Operating Officer Report – Agenda Item 17, Tab 14**

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Operating Officer Heidi McConnell to present the Chief Operating Officer's Report. Ms. McConnell reviewed the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter budget information, FY 2019 debt issuance history, and annual performance measure report included in her memo behind tab 14. She also provided an update on the 2020 CPRIT Innovations Conference that CPRIT will convene July 30-31 at the Austin Convention Center and Fairmont Hotel.

**Contract Approvals – Agenda Item 18, Tab 15**

Presiding Officer Margo asked Ms. McConnell to present the recommended contract amendment to the outside counsel contracts. She explained the recommendation to increase the approved amounts for the Baker Botts and Yudell Isidore outside counsel contracts for FY2020 to replace the third outside counsel firm originally approved by the Oversight Committee in August.

**MOTION:**

On a motion made by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Angelou, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the amendments for the fiscal year 2020 outside counsel services contracts with Baker Botts and Yudell Isidore.

**Subcommittee Business – Agenda Item 19**

There was no discussion for this standing item.

**Compliance Investigation Pursuant to Health & Safety Code 102.2631 – Agenda Item 20**

There was no discussion for this standing item

**Texas Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act Updates – Agenda Item 15, Tab 13, and Consultation with General Counsel – Agenda Item 21**

Presiding Officer Margo announced that the Oversight Committee will take up Agenda Items 15 and 21 together. CPRIT's legal staff prepared a legislative update on notable changes to the Texas Open Meetings Act and the Texas Public Information Act. A review of the memo fulfills required training for Oversight Committee members.

Following the presentation, Presiding Officer Margo asked Mr. Roberts, Ms. Doyle, and Ms. Eckel to join the Oversight Committee in closed session. 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 11:25 a.m. He reconvened the open meeting at 12:01 p.m.

**Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items – Agenda Item 22**

The next regular Oversight Committee meeting is Wednesday, February 19, 2020.

**Adjournment – Agenda Item 23**

**MOTION:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

  
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Signature

  
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Date