



CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Chief Scientific Officer

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POSITION DESCRIPTION

Client Company

Texans voted in 2007 to create the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) and to invest \$3 billion in the state's unprecedented fight against cancer. Following near unanimous endorsement by the Texas Legislature, Texans overwhelmingly approved continuing this immensely popular program and authorized an additional \$3 billion toward the effort in a November 2019 statewide vote. CPRIT is now a \$6 billion, 20-year initiative funding the best cancer research and prevention proposals – the second largest cancer research and prevention program in the world.

CPRIT's prestigious, merit based, NCI-recognized peer reviewed grant making process has positioned Texas as a global leader in the fight to prevent, treat, and cure cancer. Over the past decade, Texas has recruited 225 stellar cancer researchers at all career stages to Texas research entities, elevated two institutions to National Cancer Institute Comprehensive status, attracted \$3.4 billion in direct follow-on funding to CPRIT supported life science companies, and identified more than 27,000 cancers and cancer precursors through cancer screening programs.

The successful Chief Scientific Officer candidate will have the unmatched challenge to build upon these accomplishments and shape CPRIT's \$280 million per year research and prevention grant portfolio through the next decade.

Position Summary

The Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) position offers a unique opportunity for a well-qualified candidate to develop and implement a coordinated vision for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) academic research, product development research, and prevention grant portfolios emphasizing priorities recommended to and adopted by the Oversight Committee.

The position requires a highly committed individual with extensive experience in cancer research and administration as well as an appreciation for the public health implications of cancer morbidity and mortality. This person should have a proven track record in the ability to function in a public environment, the aptitude to work with the Chief Executive Officer and other senior CPRIT staff members, and the CPRIT Oversight Committee, as well as a solid ethical reputation, high level of integrity, and sound judgment. The CSO must be a highly accomplished and well-regarded expert in cancer prevention and basic, translational, and clinical research.

CPRIT offers an unparalleled opportunity to catalyze discovery and progress in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. Translating the rapidly accumulating new knowledge in the field requires the cooperation and partnering of public and private organizations, universities, academic medical centers, research institutes, biotechnology companies, pharmaceutical companies, and others. The CSO will be able to create the conditions and incentives to encourage and facilitate collaborative approaches among these varied organizations and groups.

The CSO will develop and execute research and prevention plans that will allow the agency to fund solutions to scientific questions critical to the field. The CSO will also participate significantly in developing a vision for future CPRIT priorities. The CSO will lead the grant process with responsibility for coordinating grant funding opportunities, recruiting reviewers to, and overseeing peer review panels, monitoring grant recipients' progress, and evaluating CPRIT's progress towards preventing cancer and discovering the causes of and cures for cancer.

CANDIDATE SPECIFICATION: KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Ideal Experience

The successful candidate must have some combination of the following:

- Thorough knowledge of basic, clinical, translational, and/or prevention research with a broad view of the overall problems and barriers to progress in cancer research.
- A background in translating basic or applied research into clinical applications and/or the development of successful diagnostics, therapies, or relevant technology.
- The scientific leadership qualities that will allow the Institute to advance the field of cancer research and establish programmatic priorities in collaboration with the Oversight Committee.
- Track record of setting and effectively communicating a compelling and far-reaching vision for a large research and/or human health organization.
- Demonstrated excellence in managing a science-based or research-based organization in academia or industry.
- A track record of working with a high performing team. In the case of CPRIT this includes the Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Executive Officer and General Counsel, Chief Prevention Officer, Chief Product Development Officer, and other senior staff.
- Familiar with product development in translating the outcomes of academic research to the marketplace with cancer therapies, diagnostics, drugs, and devices to treat cancer patients.
- Familiar with cancer prevention practices including services and interventions available to decrease the burden of cancer on Texans.

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- Public speaking experience in communicating complex subjects to both professional and nontechnical audiences, and comfort with managing and tolerance of diverse and conflicting opinions and input.
- Experience developing and managing academic research institution and industry collaborations.
- Interest and ability to champion and promote existing portfolio of agency awards.
- Exposure to or direct experience in a public environment with high standards of disclosure, accountability, and transparency.
- Knowledge and experience in working with government-based or non-profit, high profile organizations.

Critical Competencies for Success

Strategic Scientific Vision:

The CSO should be a well-respected M.D. or Ph.D., with a minimum of fifteen (15) years of extensive experience in cancer research with demonstrated success in providing strategic leadership, vision, and insights in an area of rapidly evolving science, medicine, or technology. The CSO should also have an ability to identify early and important trends in the field and expedite innovative research. Evidence of these abilities will be apparent from prior successes in academia, industry, government, or established research institutions where the individual was responsible for an organization's strategy to translate scientific research into successful therapies to prevent, diagnose, and treat cancer.

Influence and Collaboration:

The CSO must have strong, established relationships within the scientific community. The CSO will work as effectively through influence and collaboration as through direct authority. He or she will initiate and forge alliances that lead to synergistic collaborations.

Leadership, Teamwork and Communication:

The CSO must be a leader with excellent communication skills, and expertise in using a variety of techniques to achieve a common goal. Exemplary leadership will have been demonstrated by having managed significant complexity and by creating a team-based culture within an organization.

Compensation

CPRIT is committed to providing a competitive compensation package commensurate with the experience and accomplishments of the potential incumbent.

The package includes State of Texas salary commensurate with experience. State of Texas employee health insurance. Term life insurance. Participation in the State of Texas Employee Retirement Plan. Monthly vacation and sick leave accrual. Additional benefits available as a payroll deduction are dependent health insurance, dental insurance, term life in excess of \$5,000, long and short term disability insurance, flexible spending account for health care and participation in 401(k) and 457 deferred compensation plans.

Application Instructions

- If you meet the qualifications, complete and submit a State of Texas application to Wesley Yampolsky at WYampolsky@SpencerStuart.com.
- State of Texas applications may be obtained from <https://www.twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/state-texas-application-employment#applicationFormForDownload>.
- All résumés must be accompanied by a fully completed State of Texas application. Incomplete applications may be disqualified.

Other

- Some travel required.
- All inquiries should be directed to Wesley Yampolsky at (215) 814-1619.
- Tobacco-free office and building.
- CPRIT headquarters is in the Capitol Complex of downtown Austin, Texas.
- Additional information regarding the Institute's history and operations can be found on the agency's web site at www.cprit.texas.gov.
- The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas is an equal opportunity employer.