



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2021

NOTE: CPRIT conducted this meeting by videoconference in accordance with Governor Abbott's suspension of various provisions requiring government officials 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 in the "Oversight Committee Board Packet" section for the corresponding meeting date at <http://ocmeetings.cprit.texas.gov>.

The Oversight Committee took up several agenda items out of order to accommodate availability of presenters.

Call to Order – Agenda Item 1

With a quorum present, Presiding Officer Dee Margo called the meeting to order at 9:04 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. - *Dr. Rosenfeld joined the meeting late during discussion of agenda item 7*

Adoption of Minutes from the February 17, 2021, Meeting – Agenda Item 3 – Tab 1

MOTION:

On a motion by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2021, Oversight Committee meeting as presented.

Public Comment – Agenda Item 4

Presiding Officer Dee Margo recognized Sumita Jonak to provide public comment. Ms. Jonak talked about product development and asked the Oversight Committee about CPRIT's upcoming review cycles. Presiding Officer Margo asked CPRIT staff to follow up with Ms. Jonak and respond to her questions after the meeting.

Grantee Presentation – Agenda Item 5, Tab 2

Presiding Officer Margo briefly dropped off the videoconference to resolve technical issues during this agenda item. Vice Presiding Officer Dr. Mahendra Patel presided over the meeting until Mr. Margo rejoined the meeting before taking up Agenda Item 7.

CPRIT's Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Jim Willson introduced John Cooke, M.D., Ph.D. Dr Cook is the Chair of the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences at the Houston Methodist Research Institute, Director of the Center for Cardiovascular Regeneration, and Medical Director of the CPRIT supported RNA Therapeutics Core Facility. He presented an overview of the work he and his team are conducting on the CPRIT-funded projects.

Dr. Cooke responded to a question about whether the Houston Methodist Research Institute subsidizes the price charged to CPRIT researchers for using the core facility, explaining that the institution subsidizes the price charged all Texas researchers with CPRIT or federal grant funds. Committee members thanked Dr. Cooke for his presentation and work in providing researchers across Texas with RNA Therapeutic resources.

Chief Compliance Officer Report and Compliance Certification for the Proposed Grant Awards – Agenda Item 7, Tab 4

Taking agenda item 7 out of order, Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Compliance Officer Vince Burgess to present the Compliance Report and Compliance Certification of Grant Award Process. Mr. Burgess updated members on the compliance program activities for the past quarter. He highlighted the annual compliance attestation process, explaining that CPRIT requires Product Development grantees to submit documentation demonstrating compliance with the Texas Location Criteria. Compliance specialists are working with one grantee to submit required documentation. Mr. Burgess reported that the compliance team developed a match matrix to help grantees understand which expenses are allowable for matching purposes.

An Oversight Committee asked Mr. Burgess how CPRIT addresses the situation when a grantee has unallowable match expenditures. Mr. Burgess responded that CPRIT works with the grantee to identify other allowable expenses to fulfill the match requirement. Another Oversight Committee member asked about the portion of matching expenses reviewed by CPRIT prior to the introduction of the matching review enhancements. Mr. Burgess explained that prior to the enhancements, onsite compliance reviews include sampling of the matching expenditures for approximately 10-15% of expenditures.

Mr. Burgess certified the review process for the proposed academic research and prevention award slates presented for the Oversight Committee's consideration, explaining that the review complied with all applicable state and agency requirements.

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

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Dr. Willson to present the academic research program update and award recommendations. Dr. Willson referred members to tab 5 of the meeting book and provided an overview of the Proposed Academic Research Scholar RFAs for Fiscal Year 2022 Cycle 1 and reported on the number of applications submitted for the 21.2 RFA Cycle. Dr. Willson will present Scientific Review Council (SRC) recommendations for cycle 21.2 to the Program

Integration Committee (PIC) and the Oversight Committee in August.

Dr. Willson referred members to page 5 of the Proposed Grant Award book and presented the academic research award slates recommended by the SRC and the PIC for the 21.1 review cycle and recruitment cycles 21.6 and 21.7, 21.8 and 21.9. The recommendations include 21 awards from three grant mechanisms totaling \$60,320,920.

Recommended FY 2021.1 Research Training Awards

Rank	App. ID	Award	Score	Application Title	PI	PI Organization	Budget
1	RP210028	RTA-Renewal	1.4	The Future of Cancer Research: Training Program for Basic and Translational Scientists	Keyomarsi, Khandan	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$4,000,000
2	RP210041	RTA-Renewal	1.7	Cancer Intervention and Prevention Discoveries Program	Cobb, Melanie	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$3,748,675
3	RP210037	RTA-Renewal	1.8	Systems Epidemiology for Cancer Training Program (SECT Program)	Spitz, Margaret	Baylor College of Medicine	\$3,593,867 *
4	RP210043	RTA	2.5	Cancer Therapeutics Training Program (CTTP)	Davies, Peter	Texas A&M University System Health Science Center	\$3,136,872
5	RP210046	RTA-Renewal	2.9	HSC Scholars in Cancer Research	Vishwanatha, Jamboor	University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth	\$3,870,641
6	RP210042	RTA-Renewal	2.9	Collaborative Training of a New Cadre of Innovative Cancer Prevention Researchers	Fernandez, Maria	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	\$3,998,230
7	RP210045	RTA	2.9	Biomedical Informatics, Genomics, and Translational Cancer Research Training Program (BIG-TCR)	Zhao, Zhongming	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	\$3,998,553
8	RP210027	RTA-Renewal	3.0	Baylor College of Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Training Program	Rosen, Jeffrey	Baylor College of Medicine	\$3,974,082

*Panel and SRC Recommended a reduced budget of \$3,593,867 (a total reduction of \$62,005)

Recommended Recruitment Awards for Cycles 21.6, 21.7, 21.8 and 21.9:

Rank	App. ID	Award	Candidate	Organization	Budget	Overall Score
1	RR210028	RFTFM	Julea Vlassakis, Ph.D.	Rice University	\$2,000,000	1.0
2	RR210035	RFTFM	Chen Yao, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000	1.0
3	RR210044	RFTFM	Jason Sheltzer, Ph.D.	The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	\$2,000,000	1.0
4	RR210039	RFTFM	Cornelius Y. Taabazuing, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000	1.0
5	RR210029	RFTFM	Dongyin Guan, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000	1.4

Rank	App. ID	Award	Candidate	Organization	Budget	Overall Score
6	RR210037	RFTFM	Blair Benham-Pyle, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000	1.8
7	RR210050	RFTFM	Cassandra Callmann, Ph.D.	The University of Texas at Austin	\$2,000,000	1.8
8	RR210031	RRS	Jeremy Wilusz, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	\$4,000,000	2.0
9	RR210034	RFTFM	Sihan Wu, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000	2.0
10	RR210033	RFTFM	Brian Christopher Miller, M.D., Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000	2.0
11	RR210040	RFTFM	Joshua Riback, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine	\$2,000,000	2.0
12	RR210048	RFTFM	Courtney M. Schroeder, Ph.D.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$2,000,000	2.0
13	RR210042	RRS	Stephanie Seidlits, Ph.D.	The University of Texas at Austin	\$4,000,000	2.0

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 three slates of award recommendations.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Rice the Oversight Committee members voted unanimously to approve the PIC's recommendations for the Research Training grants, the Recruitment of First Time, Tenure-Track, and Recruitment of Rising Stars award slates.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Rice, the 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 the award recommendations, Presiding Officer Margo requested a motion regarding the proposed FY 2022 Recruitment RFAs presented by Dr. Willson.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Rice, the Oversight Committee members voted to approve the proposed FY 2022 Recruitment RFAs as presented by Dr. Willson.

Chief Prevention Officer Report and Grant Award Recommendations – Agenda Item 9, Tab 6

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Prevention Officer Ramona Magid to update the Oversight Committee on the prevention program and to present the prevention awards. Ms. Magid

reported that review panels were evaluating the FY 2021 Cycle 2 applications and that CPRIT had released four RFAs for the first cycle of FY 2022. In response to an Oversight Committee member’s question about how COVID-19 affected prevention screenings, Ms. Magid explained that Dr. Shokar will address the topic in depth in her Prevention Advisory Committee report later in the meeting.

Grant Award Recommendations

Ms. Magid presented the five prevention program projects totaling \$11,202,949 that the Prevention Review Council and PIC recommended for awards. Ms. Magid reported that all the recommended applications were in response to the one grant mechanism, Expansion of Cancer Prevention Services to Rural and Medically Underserved Populations and address one or more of the Prevention Program activities.

Recommended Awards for Cycle FY 21.1 *Expansion of Cancer Prevention Services to Rural and Medically Underserved Populations* Projects

App. ID	Application Title	PD	Organization	Score	Rank	Budget
PP210003	Taking Texas Tobacco Free among Substance Users within Community-based Healthcare Settings in Rural and Medically Underserved Areas Across Texas	Reitzel, Lorraine R	University of Houston	1.4	1	\$1,998,572
PP210004	BEST 3: The Breast Cancer Education Screening and Navigation Program in West and South Texas.	Shokar, Navkiran K	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	2.3	2	\$2,500,000
PP210005	Southwest Coalition for Colorectal Cancer Screening (SuCCCeS) 2	Shokar, Navkiran K	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	2.9	3	\$2,500,000
PP210016	Hep C - C.A.R.E (Colonias Advancing & Restoring Esperanza)	Villarreal, Roberto	University Health System	3.3	4	\$1,712,190
PP210017	Get F.I.T. to Stay Fit, Stepping up to Fight Colorectal Cancer in the Panhandle	Obokhare , Izi D	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	3.3	5	\$2,492,187

Compliance Certification

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

Conflict of Interest Notification

Presiding Officer Margo noted for the record that no Oversight Committee member reported a conflict of interest with any of the proposed prevention awards.

Approval Process - Prevention Grant Awards

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

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Rice, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the PIC's recommendations for the five *Expansion of Cancer Prevention Services to Rural and Medically Underserved Populations* grants recommended by the PIC.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Rice, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the delegation of contract negotiation authority to the CEO and CPRIT staff and to authorize the CEO to sign the contracts on behalf of CPRIT.

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

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Product Development Officer Cindy WalkerPeach, Ph.D., to present the Product Development Research program update. Dr. WalkerPeach reported on the status of the applications under review in the current FY 2021.1 cycle. An Oversight Committee member asked Dr. WalkerPeach if there was a drop in the number of product development applications, other than related to COVID-19. Dr. WalkerPeach responded that she did not see it as a drop.

Internal Auditor Report – Agenda Item 11, Tab 8

Presiding Officer Margo reported that CPRIT's internal auditors were not able to attend the meeting due to out of office travel conflicts. He referred members to the internal auditor's written report behind Tab 8. There were no questions.

Advisory Committees – Item 13, Tab 10

Taking agenda item 13 out of order, Presiding Officer Margo noted that the Oversight Committee's Advisory Committees would provide the next several presentations.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATIONS

University Advisory Committee (UAC) Annual Report

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Dr. Willson to introduce the Chair of the UAC, Dr. Peter Davies, M.D., Ph.D., to present the Committee's annual report.

Dr. Davies presented the UAC report and recommendations. In response to an Oversight Committee member's question about how Texas compares to other parts of the country regarding supporting and accelerating cancer research, Dr. Davies replied that CPRIT has been a game changer and transformative for premier cancer research and resources in Texas and is the envy of the nation.

The Oversight Committee members thanked Dr. Davies for presenting the annual report and his leadership as UAC Chair.

Product Development Advisory Committee (PDAC) Annual Report

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Dr. WalkerPeach to introduce PDAC Co-Chairs Andrew Strong and Michelle Park, Ph.D., to present the PDAC's annual report and recommendations.

Mr. Strong and Dr. Park presented the PDAC's recommendations for CPRIT product development research pre-award and post-award process improvements and related activities. An Oversight Committee member asked about entities that provide resources as biotech community connectors in Texas. Mr. Strong noted that local organizations such as BIO Houston, Biomed SA (San Antonio) and others serve in such a capacity. Dr. Park responded to an Oversight Committee member's question about the background and expertise needed for Seed Award application reviewers, explaining that reviewers with deep scientific background are important for these earlier stage applications.

The Oversight Committee members thanked Dr. Park and Mr. Strong for the annual report presentation and their leadership on the PDAC.

Prevention Advisory Committee (PAC) Annual Report

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Ms. Magid to introduce Dr. Navkiran Shokar, to present the PAC's annual report and recommendations.

Dr. Shokar presented the PAC's report, including the impact of the COVID pandemic on cancer screening and diagnostic testing, and the committee's recommendations for CPRIT's cancer prevention activities. An Oversight Committee member asked if a method was available to estimate the impact of COVID on later stage diagnoses. Dr. Shokar responded that the data are not yet available. An Oversight Committee asked if CPRIT allows co-funding from other state institutions, foundations, and national funding organizations. Ms. Magid responded that this is allowable and encouraged by the Prevention program.

The Oversight Committee members thanked Dr. Shokar for the annual report presentation and her leadership on the PAC.

Advisory Committee on Childhood Cancer (ACCC) Annual Report

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Dr. Willson to introduce ACCC Chair Dr. Richard Gorlick to present the committee's annual report and recommendations.

Responding to an Oversight Committee member's question about what a clinical trials network looks like, Dr. Gorlick explained that a lead center would coordinate clinical trials activities among the created networks across Texas. Dr. Gorlick noted that a clinical trials network would not compete with the NIH funded Childhood Oncology Group but would recognize its gaps. Dr. Gorlick suggested that supporting a Texas-wide clinical trials network would improve care of children and adolescents with cancer throughout Texas.

The Oversight Committee members thanked Dr. Gorlick for the annual report presentation and his leadership as ACCC Chair.

Grant Management Support Services Contract Approval – Agenda Item 16, Tab 13

Taking agenda item 16 out of order, Presiding Officer Margo recognized Chief Operating Officer Heidi McConnell to review the proposed contract recommendation for CPRIT’s grant management support services contract. Ms. McConnell explained the recommendation for a new contract with General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT), confirming that GDIT offers the best value for peer review support as well as a grant management platform for application receipt and review.

There were no questions for Ms. McConnell.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Rice, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the grant management support services contract with GDIT for an amount not to exceed \$9,574,549.

Fiscal Year 2022 Bond Issuance Resolution – Agenda Item 17, Tab 14

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Ms. McConnell to present the FY 2022 Bond Issuance Resolution. Ms. McConnell summarized the request for financing from the Texas Public Finance Authority for FY 2022. She highlighted exhibit D showing the projected expenditure schedule for FY 2022. She explained that the agency will request \$298.1 million in FY 2022, which is close to the \$300 million cap. The request includes operations, the transfer to DSHS, and grant support.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Rice, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the FY 2022 Bond Issuance Resolution.

Chief Executive Officer Report – Agenda Item 6, Tab 3

Taking agenda item 6 out of order, Presiding Officer Margo recognized Mr. Roberts to present the Chief Executive Officer’s Report. Mr. Roberts updated members on recent legislative activities, including the notice that the budget conference committee will release the General Appropriations Bill recommendations May 20. He reported that he expects the House to take up Senate Bill 713, which would move CPRIT’s sunset review year from 2023 to 2029. Mr. Roberts also noted that Oversight Committee member Dr. Rosenfeld testified that morning (May 19, 2021) on House Bill 15, which would create the Brain Institute of Texas, and that Mr. Roberts had served as a resource witness. He concluded his report by informing the members that staff is resuming discussion regarding a CPRIT conference for the summer or fall of 2022.

Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committee Appointments – Item 12, Tab 9

Taking agenda item 12 out of order, Presiding Officer Margo recognized Mr. Roberts to present his three appointments to the Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committees, listed behind Tab 9 of the meeting book.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Dr. Rice, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve Mr. Roberts' three appointments to CPRIT's Scientific Research and Prevention Program Committees.

Advisory Committees – Agenda Item 13, Tab 10

Presiding Officer Margo took up Agenda Item 13 again and recognized Mr. Roberts to discuss the creation of CPRIT's newest advisory committee, the Geographic Diversity Advisory Committee (GDAC), and its proposed membership. Mr. Roberts explained that CPRIT created the GDAC to advise the Oversight Committee on challenges impacting universities that are geographically remote from cancer research centers in major metropolitan areas of the state. Mr. Roberts presented the following inaugural appointments to serve on the GDAC:

- Dr. Rob Kirken, The University of Texas at El Paso
- Sarah Williams-Blangero, Ph.D., The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Joseph F. Woelkers, M.A., The University of Texas at Tyler
- Dr. Ken Ramos, Texas A&M University System
- Dr. Joe Heppert, Texas Tech University
- Min Kang, Pharm.D., Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- Dr. Rajkumar Lakshmanaswamy, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso
- Daniel Romo, Ph.D., Baylor University

MOTION:

On a motion made by Dr. Patel and seconded by Dr. Rice, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the new GDAC and the inaugural committee appointments.

Amendments to 25 T.A.C. Chapters 702 and 703 – Item 14, Tab 11

Presiding Officer Margo recognized CPRIT assistant general counsel Cameron Eckel to discuss the proposed administrative rule changes. Ms. Eckel reviewed the final orders on T.A.C. § 702.19(b) and § 703.10(c)(3) as originally considered at the February 17, 2021, meeting. She then presented the new proposed amendment to § 703.26 reviewed and recommended for Oversight Committee approval by the Board Governance Subcommittee which met on May 6. CPRIT will file the final orders with the Secretary of State for final adoption. CPRIT will submit the proposed change to 703.26 to the Secretary of State for publication in the *Texas Register* for public comments.

MOTION:

On a motion made by Dr. Rosenfeld and seconded by Dr. Rice, the Oversight Committee unanimously voted to approve the final order adopting rule changes to the Texas Administrative Code Chapters 702 and 703 and to approve the publication of the proposed changes to Chapter 703 in the *Texas Register*.

Communications Report – Agenda Item 18, Tab 15

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Senior Communications Specialist Chris Cutrone to present the communications update. Mr. Cutrone summarized the agency’s media relations activities, including recent press releases. He also gave an update on social media activities and discussed a video the agency produced in partnership with Moncrief Cancer Institute. He referenced the inclusion of metrics on the agency’s social media activities in his report.

Chief Operating Officer (COO) Report – Agenda Item 15, Tab 12

Presiding Officer Margo recognized Ms. McConnell to provide her COO update. Ms. McConnell reported that McConnell and Jones will provide CPRIT’s FY 2022 financial audit services for \$38,500. She also provided an update on the state audit, explaining that the State Auditor’s Office extended the completion date with a report due in August.

Subcommittee Business – Agenda Item 20

Presiding Officer Margo reminded members that in accordance with the bylaws, the Oversight Committee will elect new officers at the August 18 Oversight Committee meeting and directed any members with interest to contact him or the Nominations subcommittee. The Oversight Committee will also vote on new subcommittee assignments and CPRIT staff will contact members for their preferences. He noted that the Board Governance subcommittee and Nominations subcommittee will merge their activities in FY 2022.

Acceptance of Gift pursuant to T.A.C. § 702.7 – Agenda Item 19

Compliance Investigation Pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 102.2631 – Agenda Item 21

Consultation with General Counsel – Agenda Item 22

The Oversight Committee did not discuss or act related to these agenda items.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items – Agenda Item 23

The next regular Oversight Committee meeting will convene on August 18, 2021.

Adjournment – Agenda Item 24

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 12:54 a.m.

Signature 

Date 8/18/21