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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

**RFA R-23.2 TREC: PDTA**

**TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award**

Applications for this award mechanism are limited to institutions eligible to receive a Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer Award (TREC).

**Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document,  
which will be posted on January 25, 2023**

**Application Receipt Opening Date:** January 25, 2023

**Application Receipt Closing Date:** April 18, 2023

**FY2023**

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023

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## RFA VERSION HISTORY

- Rev 01/17/2023 RFA release
- Rev 03/28/2023 Section 8.3.7; clarified the sentence "...a maximum of \$850,000 in total costs for up to 3 years" by eliminating "per year".

## 1. KEY POINTS

- The TREC: Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award (TREC: PDTA) is designed to support training and the conduct of research and, ultimately, the retention as faculty of outstanding postdoctoral trainees recognized by their institutions for their high potential and strong interest in pursuing careers as independent cancer researchers.
- The TREC: PDTA RFA is limited to TREC-eligible institutions located in regions of Texas that have historically received low levels of peer-reviewed cancer research funding.
- Applicants may request up to \$850,000 in CPRIT funds over 3 years to support postdoctoral fellows training.
- The TREC: PDTA is granted to the PI, who represents the applicant institution and its training programs. The awards will provide support for training 2 to 3 postdoctoral scholars annually. The institution is expected to conduct an application review process, selecting the most meritorious postdoctoral candidates for participation in the training program annually. An individual trainee may not be supported by this award for more than 3 years.

## 2. ABOUT CPRIT

The State of Texas has established the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), which may issue up to \$6 billion in general obligation bonds to fund grants for cancer research and prevention.

CPRIT is charged by the Texas Legislature to do the following:

- Create and expedite innovation in the area of cancer research and in enhancing the potential for a medical or scientific breakthrough in the prevention of or cures for cancer;
- Attract, create, or expand research capabilities of public or private institutions of higher education and other public or private entities that will promote a substantial increase in cancer research and in the creation of high-quality new jobs in the State of Texas; and
- Develop and implement the Texas Cancer Plan.

## 2.1. Academic Research Program Priorities

The Texas Legislature has charged the CPRIT Oversight Committee with establishing program priorities on an annual basis. These priorities are intended to provide transparency with regard to how the Oversight Committee directs the orientation of the agency's funding portfolio.

Established Principles:

- Scientific excellence and impact on cancer
- Increasing the life sciences infrastructure
- Achieving health equity and reducing cancer disparities

The program priorities for academic research adopted by the Oversight Committee include funding projects that address the following:

- 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 oncology and analytic methods
- Childhood and adolescent cancers
- Hepatocellular cancer
- Expanding access to innovative clinical trials

## 3. GOAL

The purpose of the Institutional Postdoctoral Training Award is to train the next generation of outstanding cancer researchers to help ensure that a diverse pool of highly trained scientists is available in adequate numbers and in appropriate research areas to address the institution's regional needs and the state's and nation's basic, population-based, clinical, and translational cancer research needs. This award supports the training of highly qualified postdoctoral fellows who have the potential to become productive, independent research scientists or physician-scientists and who intend to pursue careers focused on cancer research. Training is expected to be directed toward building the broad research competence required to ensure that trainees are prepared to assume leadership roles in cancer research.

Committed institutional support is required, especially in the form of research opportunities, excellent instruction and mentoring, and availability of research resources. Trainees are expected to be immersed in a highly interactive and supportive didactic and research program that facilitates research and instruction in cancer-related areas that will contribute to innovative approaches to key problems and will help bring novel solutions and potential therapies into practice. The training environment should be enriched by programmatic elements such as seminars from visiting researchers, journal clubs, internal research seminars, videoconferencing with collaborating institutions (if applicable), and attendance at relevant national and/or international scientific meetings. Each supported trainee is expected to identify an appropriate mentor and/or mentoring committee that will be responsible for providing critical teaching, monitoring of research progress and findings, advising, and leadership experience.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

Over the past decade, CPRIT academic research awards have gone primarily to Texas institutions located along the I-35 corridor or located within the Houston metroplex with dramatic impact on accelerating the cancer research capabilities and accomplishments of those institutions. However, institutions located in other geographic regions of the state have not been as competitive for cancer research funding from [CPRIT](#) or the [National Cancer Institute \(NCI\)](#). **The limited cancer research funding to these regions of Texas raises a concern that cancer-related issues affecting Texans from these geographic regions of Texas will not be adequately addressed.**

The TREC: PDTA is designed to provide an opportunity for those institutions located in geographic regions of Texas that historically have received low levels of peer-reviewed cancer research funding to train and develop the next generation of scientists. If successful, the TREC: PDTA would contribute to the retention of postdoctoral fellows as faculty and strengthen the cancer research infrastructure in TREC-eligible institutions.

#### **5. FUNDING INFORMATION**

The maximum duration for this award mechanism is 3 years. Applicants may request a maximum of \$850,000 in total costs. Funds may be used for salary and fringe benefits and training and research supplies. Because this RFA is issued as a new funding mechanism, renewal applications

will not be accepted. Requests for funds to support construction and/or renovation are not appropriate for this funding mechanism.

State law limits the amount of award funding that may be spent on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the **total** award amount.

Support may be requested as follows for the various types of postdoctoral trainees in an institutional training program:

- **Postdoctoral trainees** may request NIH-scale salary support plus benefits, up to \$10,000 annually per trainee in research supplies, and an allowance per trainee of \$2,000 per year for travel to scientific meetings. Appointments may be made for up to 3 years. Individuals holding PhD, MD/PhD, MD/DO, DNS, DO, or MD degrees are eligible for postdoctoral fellowship support provided that the training supported by CPRIT is for cancer research (basic, population-based, translational, or clinical).

## 6. ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility to apply for a TREC: PDTA is open to a Texas institution of higher learning whose campus is located 100 miles or greater from 1 of the 4 Texas NCI-designated cancer centers located in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio.

- An institution may submit only 1 application under this RFA during this funding cycle. For purposes of this RFA, an institution is defined as that component of a university system that has a president.
- TREC-eligible institutions with multiple campuses are eligible to participate in a single application under this RFA.
- The Principal Investigator (PI) must have a doctoral degree, including MD, PhD, DDS, DMD, DrPH, DO, DVM, or equivalent and reside in Texas for the period of the time that the research that is the subject of the grant application is conducted.
- This award must be directed by the PI. Multiple PIs are not permitted. One Coinvestigator is allowed. The PI must commit a 5% level of effort throughout the entire award period.
- Collaborations with Texas-based institutions to provide access to technology and counsel are permitted and can be supported with award funds through subcontracts.

- Collaborators may or may not reside in Texas; however, collaborators who do not reside in Texas are not eligible to receive CPRIT funds.
- Collaborators should have specific and well-defined roles. Subcontracting and collaborating organizations may include public, not-for-profit, and for-profit entities. Such entities may be located outside of the State of Texas, but non-Texas-based organizations are not eligible to receive CPRIT funds. In no event shall equipment purchased under this award leave the State of Texas.
- An individual may serve as a PI on no more than 3 active Academic Research grants. Recruitment Grants, Research Training Awards, and this TREC: PDTA do not count toward the 3-grant maximum; however, CPRIT considers project leaders on a MIRA award equivalent to a PI. For the purpose of calculating the number of active grants, CPRIT will consider the number of active grants at the time of the award contract effective date (for this cycle expected to be August 31, 2023).
- An applicant is eligible to receive a grant award only if the applicant certifies that the applicant institution or organization, including the PI, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's institution or organization (or any person related to 1 or more of these individuals within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity), has not made and will not make a contribution to CPRIT or to any foundation specifically created to benefit CPRIT.
- An applicant is not eligible to receive a CPRIT grant award if the applicant PI, any senior member or key personnel listed on the grant application, or any officer or director of the grant applicant's institution or organization is related to a CPRIT Oversight Committee member.
- The applicant must report whether the applicant institution or organization, the PI, or other individuals who contribute to the execution of the proposed project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not those individuals are slated to receive salary or compensation under the grant award, are currently ineligible to receive federal grant funds or have had a grant terminated for cause within 5 years prior to the submission date of the grant application.
- CPRIT grants will be awarded by contract to successful applicants. Certain contractual requirements are mandated by Texas law or by administrative rules. Although applicants



need not demonstrate the ability to comply with these contractual requirements at the time the application is submitted, applicants should make themselves aware of these standards before submitting a grant application. Significant issues addressed by the CPRIT contract are listed in [section 11](#) and [section 12](#). All statutory provisions and relevant administrative rules can be found at [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov).

## **7. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

This RFA solicits applications for *integrated institutional postdoctoral research training programs* to support promising postdoctoral scholars who seek specialized training in the area of cancer research. The goals of the TREC: PDTA are to attract outstanding postdoctoral trainees committed to pursuing a career in basic, population-based, translational, or clinical cancer research; to expand the skills and expertise of trainees to promote the next generation of investigators and leaders in cancer research; to position most trainees for independent research careers; and to support the development of high-quality, innovative, and creative research that, if successful, could provide the basis for a significant impact on cancer prevention, detection, and/or treatment. Successful applicant institutions are expected to provide trainees with broad access to research opportunities across disciplinary lines and to maintain high standards for intellectual rigor and creativity.

*Awards in response to this RFA will be made for institutional programs; individual fellowship applications will not be considered.*

It is expected that the research training experience will provide the following:

- A strong foundation in research design, methods, and analytic techniques appropriate to the proposed research project
- The development or enhancement of the supported trainee's ability to conceptualize and think through research problems with increasing independence
- An understanding of how basic discoveries are translated to clinical practice
- Experience in conducting, presenting, and publishing independent research
- Instruction in the responsible conduct of research
- The opportunity to interact with members of the scientific community at relevant seminars, scientific meetings, and workshops, and

- A well-conceived career plan to increase the trainee’s ability to compete successfully for additional support for his or her career development as an independent investigator

**Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds are especially encouraged to participate in CPRIT’s training programs, and a plan for recruiting such individuals is a requirement for this award.** Successful applicants will be expected to report demographic data by program type and trainee in annual progress reports, which will serve as an important evaluative component of the program.

CPRIT expects outcomes of supported activities to directly and indirectly benefit subsequent cancer research efforts, cancer public health policy, or the continuum of cancer care—from prevention to treatment and cure. To fulfill this vision, trainees may pursue any research topic or issue related to cancer biology, causation, prevention, detection or screening, treatment, or cure. Each supported trainee and his or her mentor and institution are jointly responsible for planning, directing, and executing the proposed research training program.

## **8. RESPONDING TO THIS RFA**

### **8.1. Application Submission Guidelines**

Applications must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). **Only applications submitted through this portal will be considered eligible for evaluation.** The applicant is eligible solely for the grant mechanism specified by the RFA under which the grant application was submitted. The PI must create a user account in the system to start and submit an application. Furthermore, the Application Signing Official (a person authorized to sign and submit the application for the organization) and the Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official (the individual who will manage the grant contract if an award is made) also must create a user account in CARS. Please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants (IFA)* document for the instructions on adding Key Personnel to an application. The *IFA* document will be available when the application receipts system opens.

Applications will be accepted beginning at 7 AM central time on January 25, 2023 and must be submitted by 4 PM central time on April 18, 2023. **Submission of an application is considered an acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFA.**

## **8.2. Submission Deadline Extension**

The submission deadline may be extended upon a showing of extenuating circumstances. A request for a deadline extension based on the need to complete multiple CPRIT or other grant applications will be denied. All requests for extension of the submission deadline must be submitted via email to the CPRIT [Helpdesk](#) within 24 hours of the submission deadline. Submission deadline extensions, including the reason for the extension, will be documented as part of the grant review process records. Please note that deadline extension requests are very rarely approved.

## **8.3. Application Components**

Applicants are advised to follow all instructions to ensure accurate and complete submission of all components of the application. Please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants (IFA)* document for details that will be available on January 25, 2023. Submissions that are missing 1 or more components or do not meet the eligibility requirements listed in [section 6](#) will be administratively withdrawn without review.

### **8.3.1. Abstract and Significance (5,000 characters)**

Clearly describe the proposed training program. Explain program goals and provide an outline of the proposed didactic and research training activities and an overview of the institutional infrastructure and commitment. The specific aims of the application must be obvious from the abstract although they need not be restated verbatim from the Research Training Plan. Clearly address how the proposed program, if successful, will have a major impact on the TREC-eligible institution and impact retention of postdoctoral scholars as faculty of the applicant institution.

### **8.3.2. Layperson's Summary (2,000 characters)**

Provide a layperson's summary of the proposed work. Describe, in simple, nontechnical terms, the overall goals of the proposed training program, the type(s) of cancer research addressed, the potential significance of the results, and the impact of the work on advancing the field of cancer research, early diagnosis, prevention, or treatment. The information provided in this summary will be made publicly available by CPRIT, particularly if the application is recommended for funding. Do not include any proprietary information in the Layperson's Summary. The

Layperson's Summary will also be used by advocate reviewers ([section 9.1](#)) in evaluating the significance and impact of the proposed work.

### **8.3.3. Goals and Objectives**

Concisely state the specific goals and objectives to be achieved by the training plan described in the application. Goals and objectives should be listed for each year of the project. These goals and objectives will also be used during the submission and evaluation of progress reports and assessment of project success. Note recruitment, diversity, and retention goals and objectives are required, as they represent a core RFA component.

### **8.3.4. Timeline (1 page)**

Provide an outline of anticipated major milestones to be tracked. Timelines will be reviewed for reasonableness, and adherence to timelines will be a criterion for continued support of successful applications. If the application is approved for funding, this section will be included in the award contract. Applicants are advised not to include information that they consider confidential or proprietary when preparing this section.

### **8.3.5. Research Training Plan (20 pages)**

**Background:** Present the rationale behind the proposed training plan, emphasizing how the proposed project will support the development of dedicated postdoctoral investigators in cancer research.

**Program Goals:** Concisely state the goals and objectives to be achieved by the research training plan described in the application. These need not be fully repeated (as entered in [section 7](#)) and may be only summarized.

**Training Plan:** Provide a description of career development opportunities, such as seminar series, courses, and opportunities for interaction with other groups and scientists. Describe both formal program requirements and opportunities for professional development. Training in career skills (e.g., grant writing and presentation skills) is strongly encouraged. Elaborate on the research environment and available research facilities and equipment and discuss the relationship of the proposed research projects to trainees' careers. A mentoring/monitoring plan must be described.

**Selection of Trainees and Mentors:** Describe the process and major criteria that will be used to select trainees to be supported by this program. Describe the process and major criteria that will be used to select mentors for this program. It is not required that applicants identify trainees at the time of submission. Institutions have the option of describing the characteristics of trainees already at the institution, or characteristics of potential trainees that will be used in the selection process of outside candidates.

Note the following eligibility criteria for trainees supported by this mechanism:

1. All supported trainees must reside in Texas during the time the training program that is the subject of the grant is conducted.
2. All trainees must be officially enrolled in the appropriate institutional training program.
3. Trainees may be citizens or noncitizen nationals of the United States or international citizens who hold student visas.
4. Trainees must hold PhD, MD/PhD, MD/DO, DNS, DO, or MD degrees and show evidence of both high academic performance in the sciences and keen interest in research in areas of high priority to the participating institution. Trainees must be sponsored by a mentor who holds a faculty-level appointment for the research component.

**PI:** Outline the responsibilities of the PI in the overall management, administration, and evaluation of the program. Describe how the PI's scientific background, leadership, and administrative capabilities will enable him or her to coordinate and oversee the proposed research training program. Describe the research training record of the PI and, if applicable, Coinvestigator.

**Faculty Mentors:** Describe the pool of faculty mentors in terms of demographics (faculty rank, departmental appointment, and research interests).

**Recruitment Plan/Diversity Recruitment:** Describe the applicant pool of postdoctoral trainees with respect to demographics and research interests. Include a recruitment and retention plan for recruiting trainees from both outside and inside the applicant institution and for attracting trainees from complementary disciplines (e.g., from the physical, chemical, computational, and engineering sciences) to cancer research. Provide plans for enhancing the diversity of the trainee pool by recruiting from underrepresented groups and a plan for career mentoring for such

trainees (**this will be an important factor in the evaluation of the application**). Applications that do not address recruitment and retention will be considered incomplete.

**Responsible Conduct of Research:** Describe the plan to provide instruction in the responsible conduct of research, including the rationale, subject matter, appropriateness, format, frequency, and duration of instruction. The amount and nature of faculty participation must be described.

### **8.3.6. Publications/References**

Provide a concise and relevant list of publications/references cited for the application.

### **8.3.7. Budget and Justification**

Provide an outline and justification of the budget for the entire proposed period of support. Applicants may request a maximum of \$850,000 in total costs for up to 3 years. Allowable costs include trainee stipends (see limits in [section 5](#)), benefits, travel allowances, and training and research supplies (as indicated in [section 5](#)). The budget should be based on the number of trainee slots requested for each type of training activity. Justification of the number of trainees requested must be compelling and based on the number of exceptionally well-qualified individuals who are likely to be available and who deserve such support, as well as funds currently available from other training programs to support them. An appropriate and modest level of salary support may be requested for the PI, Co-I, and administrative staff.

In preparing the requested budget, applicants should be aware of the following:

- Texas law limits the amount of grant funds that may be spent on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs). Guidance regarding indirect cost recovery can be found in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, which are available at [www.cprit.state.tx.us](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us). So-called grants management and facilities fees (eg, sponsored programs fees; grants and contracts fees; electricity, gas, and water; custodial fees; maintenance fees) may not be requested. Applications that include such budgetary items will be rejected administratively and returned without review.
- The annual salary (also referred to as direct salary or institutional base salary) that an individual may receive under a CPRIT award for FY 2023 is \$200,000; CPRIT FY 2023 is from September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023. Salary does not include fringe benefits and/or facilities and administrative (F&A) costs, also referred to as indirect costs.

An individual's institutional base salary is the annual compensation that the applicant organization pays for an individual's appointment, whether that individual's time is spent on research, teaching, patient care, or other activities. Base salary excludes any income that an individual may be permitted to earn outside of his or her duties to the applicant organization.

- For the purpose of this award, institutions should develop the budget based on the number of projected postdoctoral trainees to be supported, the salary and benefits based on the NIH scale commensurate with the anticipated years of post-degree experience, partial project research costs (up to \$10,000 annually for supplies and reagents), and administrative costs, such as percent effort for the PI and program administrator.

### **8.3.8. Biographical Sketches (5 pages each)**

Applicants should provide a biographical sketch that describes their education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, and publications relevant to cancer research. A biographical sketch must be provided for the PI and, if applicable, the Coinvestigator (as required by the online application receipt system). Up to 10 additional biographical sketches for key personnel may be provided. Each biographical sketch must not exceed 5 pages. The NIH biosketch format is appropriate.

### **8.3.9. Current and Pending Support**

Describe the funding source and duration of all current and pending support for all personnel who have included a biographical sketch with the application. For each award, provide the title and a 2-line summary of the goal of the project. At a minimum, current and pending support of the PI and, if applicable, any additional investigator must be provided. Refer to the sample current and pending support document located in [Current Funding Opportunities](#) for Academic Research in CARS.

### **8.3.10. Institutional Support (3 pages)**

Each application must be accompanied by a letter of institutional support from the president or provost indicating support and commitment to the training program. The letter could include, but is not limited to, information about laboratory space, shared laboratory facilities and equipment,

funds for curriculum development, support for additional trainees in the program, and initiatives to support recruitment of underrepresented minorities. A maximum of 3 pages may be provided.

**Applications that are missing 1 or more of these components; exceed the specified page, word, or budget limits; or that do not meet the eligibility requirements listed above will be administratively rejected without review.**

#### **8.4. Formatting Instructions**

Formatting guidelines for all submitted CPRIT applications are as follows:

- **Language:** English.
- **Document Format:** PDF only.
- **Font Type/Size:** Arial (11 point), Calibri (11 point), or Times New Roman (12 point).
- **Line Spacing:** Single.
- **Page Size:** 8.5 x 11 inches.
- **Margins:** 0.75 inch, all directions.
- **Color and High-Resolution Images:** Images, graphs, figures, and other illustrations must be submitted as part of the appropriate submitted document. Applicants should include text to explain illustrations that may be difficult to interpret when printed in black and white.
- **Scanning Resolution:** Images and figures must be of lowest reasonable resolution that permits clarity and readability. Unnecessarily large files will NOT be accepted, especially those that include only text.
- **References:** Applicants should use a citation style that includes the full name of the article and that lists at least the first 3 authors. Official journal abbreviations may be used. An example is included below; however, other citation styles meeting these parameters are also acceptable as long as the journal information is stated. Include URLs of publications referenced in the application.

Smith, P.T., Doe, J., White, J.M., et al (2006). Elaborating on a novel mechanism for cancer progression. *Journal of Cancer Research*, 135: 45-67.



- **Internet URLs:** Applicants are encouraged to provide the URLs of publications referenced in the application; however, applicants should not include URLs directing reviewers to websites containing additional information about the proposed research.
- **Headers and Footers:** These should not be used unless they are part of a provided template. Page numbers may be included in the footer (see following point).
- **Page Numbering:** Pages should be numbered at the bottom right corner of each page.
- All attachments that require signatures must be filled out, printed, signed, scanned, and then uploaded in PDF format.

## 9. APPLICATION REVIEW

### 9.1. Full Peer Review

All applications submitted in response to this RFA will undergo a 2-stage peer review process: (1) Full peer review and (2) prioritization of grant applications by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council. In the first stage, applications will be evaluated by an independent peer review panel consisting of scientific experts as well as advocate reviewers using the criteria listed in [section 9.3](#). In the second stage, applications judged to be most meritorious by the peer review panels will be evaluated and recommended for funding by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council based on comparisons with applications from all of the peer review panels and programmatic priorities. Applications approved by Scientific Review Council will be forwarded to the CPRIT Program Integration Committee (PIC) for review. The PIC will consider factors including program priorities set by the Oversight Committee, portfolio balance across programs, and available funding.

The CPRIT Oversight Committee will vote to approve each grant award recommendation made by the PIC. The grant award recommendations will be presented at an open meeting of the Oversight Committee and must be approved by two-thirds of the Oversight Committee members present and eligible to vote. The review process is described more fully in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, sections 703.6 to 703.8](#).

Applicants will be notified of peer review panel assignment prior to the peer review meeting dates.

## 9.2. Confidentiality of Review

Each stage of application review is conducted confidentially, and all CPRIT Scientific Peer Review Panel members, Scientific Review Council members, PIC members, CPRIT employees, and Oversight Committee members with access to grant application information are required to sign nondisclosure statements regarding the contents of the applications. All technological and scientific information included in the application is protected from public disclosure pursuant to Health and Safety Code §102.262(b).

Individuals directly involved with the review process operate under strict conflict-of-interest prohibitions. All CPRIT Scientific Peer Review Panel members and Scientific Review Council members are non-Texas residents.

An applicant will be notified regarding the peer review panel assigned to review the grant application. Peer review panel members are listed by panel on CPRIT's website.

**By submitting a grant application, the applicant agrees and understands that the only basis for reconsideration of a grant application is limited to an undisclosed conflict of interest as set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.9](#).**

Communication regarding the substance of a pending application is prohibited between the grant applicant (or someone on the grant applicant's behalf) and the following individuals: an Oversight Committee Member, a PIC Member, a Scientific Review Panel member, or a Scientific Review Council member. Applicants should note that the CPRIT PIC comprises the CPRIT Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Scientific Officer, the Chief Prevention Officer, the Chief Product Development Officer, and the Commissioner of State Health Services.

The prohibition on communication begins on the first day that grant applications for the particular grant mechanism are accepted by CPRIT and extends until the grant applicant receives notice regarding a final decision on the grant application. Intentional, serious, or frequent violations of this rule may result in the disqualification of the grant application from further consideration for a grant award.

## 9.3. Review Criteria

Full peer review of applications will be based on primary scored criteria and secondary unscored criteria, listed below. Review committees will evaluate and score each primary criterion and

subsequently assign a global score that reflects an overall assessment of the application. **The overall assessment will not be an average of the scores of individual criteria; rather, it will reflect the reviewers' overall impression of the application. Evaluation of the scientific merit of each application is within the sole discretion of the peer reviewers.**

### **9.3.1. Primary Criteria**

Primary criteria will evaluate the scientific merit and potential impact of the proposed training program. Concerns with any of these criteria potentially indicate a major flaw in the significance and/or design of the proposed program. Primary criteria include the following:

**Overall Evaluation of Training Potential:** What is the likelihood that the training program will serve as a sound foundation to enhance a supported trainee's potential for, and commitment to, a productive, independent scientific research career in a cancer-related field?

**Research Training Plan:** Will the training plan provide trainees with individualized and supervised experiences that will enable them to develop the research skills needed to be independent researchers or physician-scientists? Is the training plan customizable for fellows from diverse academic backgrounds and differing educational philosophies?

**PI and Mentors:** Do the PI and mentors have excellent research qualifications (including publications in high-quality journals and peer-reviewed research support) and track records of mentoring that are appropriate for the proposed training program?

**Trainees:** It is not required that applicants identify trainees at the time of submission. Institutions have the option of describing the characteristics of trainees already at the institution, or characteristics of potential trainees that will be used in the selection process of outside candidates. Is there a plan to enhance the diversity of trainees by recruiting from underrepresented groups?

**Institutional Environment and Commitment to Training:** Is there a high-quality institutional environment for the scientific development of trainees? Is there appropriate institutional commitment to fostering training as investigators or physician-scientists? Are the research facilities, resources (eg, equipment, laboratory space, computer time, subject populations), and training opportunities adequate and appropriate? If a new program, does the applicant show evidence of a strong training environment?

### 9.3.2. Secondary Criteria

Secondary criteria contribute to the global score assigned to the application. Concerns with these criteria potentially question the value of the proposed training program.

Secondary criteria include the following:

**Relevance to Cancer Research:** Does the proposed training program have a high degree of *direct* relevance to cancer research? Does the program include high priority areas of emphasis for CPRIT (prevention and early detection, rare and intractable cancers, computational biology, cancers of special interest in Texas)?

**Project Leadership:** Is the program managed by strong leadership in a position to organize and manage the proposed training activities?

**Responsible Conduct of Research:** Does the applicant institution have acceptable plans to provide instruction in the responsible conduct of research?

**Budget:** Is the budget appropriate for the proposed work?

**Duration:** Is the stated duration appropriate for the proposed work?

## 10. KEY DATES

### RFA

RFA release January 17, 2023

IFA posted January 25, 2023

### Application

Online application opens January 25, 2023, 7 AM central time

Application due April 18, 2023, 4 PM central time

Application review April 2023 to June 2023

### Award

Award notification August, 2023

Anticipated start date August 31, 2023

## 11. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

Texas law requires that CPRIT grant awards be made by contract between the applicant and CPRIT. CPRIT grant awards are made to institutions or organizations, not to individuals. Award contract negotiation and execution will commence once the CPRIT Oversight Committee has approved an application for a grant award. CPRIT may require, as a condition of receiving a grant award, that the grant recipient use CPRIT's electronic Grant Management System to exchange, execute, and verify legally binding grant contract documents and grant award reports. Such use shall be in accordance with CPRIT's electronic signature policy as set forth in [chapter 701, section 701.25](#).

Texas law specifies several components that must be addressed by the award contract, including needed compliance and assurance documentation, budgetary review, progress and fiscal monitoring, and terms relating to revenue sharing and intellectual property rights. These contract provisions are specified in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, which are available at [www.cprit.state.tx.us](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us). Applicants are advised to review CPRIT's administrative rules related to contractual requirements associated with CPRIT grant awards and limitations related to the use of CPRIT grant awards as set forth in chapter 703, [sections 703.10, 703.12](#).

Prior to disbursement of grant award funds, the grant recipient organization must demonstrate that it has adopted and enforces a tobacco-free workplace policy consistent with the requirements set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.20](#).

CPRIT requires award recipients to submit an annual progress report. These reports summarize the progress made toward the research goals and address plans for the upcoming year. In addition, fiscal reporting, human studies reporting, and vertebrate animal use reporting will be required as appropriate. Continuation of funding is contingent upon the timely receipt of these reports. Failure to provide timely and complete reports may waive reimbursement of grant award costs and may result in the termination of the award contract. Forms and instructions will be made available at [www.cprit.state.tx.us](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us).

## **12. REQUIREMENT TO DEMONSTRATE AVAILABLE FUNDS**

Texas law requires that prior to disbursement of CPRIT grant funds, the award recipient must demonstrate that it has an amount of funds equal to one-half of the CPRIT funding dedicated to the research that is the subject of the award. A grant recipient that is a public or private institution of higher education, as defined by §61.003, Texas Education Code, may credit toward the Grant Recipient's Matching Funds obligation the dollar amount equivalent to the difference between the indirect cost rate authorized by the federal government for research grants awarded to the Grant Recipient and the 5% indirect cost limit imposed by §102.203(c), Texas Health and Safety Code. Grant applicants are advised to consult CPRIT's Administrative Rules, [chapter 703, section 703.11](#), for specific requirements regarding demonstration of available funding. The demonstration of available matching funds must be made at the time the award contract is executed, and annually thereafter, not when the application is submitted.

## 13. CONTACT INFORMATION

### 13.1. Helpdesk

Helpdesk support is available for questions regarding user registration and online submission of applications. Queries submitted via email will be answered within 1 business day. Helpdesk staff are not in a position to answer questions regarding scientific aspects of applications.

**Hours of operation:** Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM central time

**Tel:** 866-941-7146

**Email:** [Help@CPRITGrants.org](mailto:Help@CPRITGrants.org)

### 13.2. Scientific and Programmatic Questions

Questions regarding the CPRIT program, including questions regarding this or any other funding opportunity, should be directed to the CPRIT Director of Academic Research.

**Tel:** 512-305-8491

**Email:** [research@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:research@cprit.texas.gov)

**Website:** [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov)