



CANCER PREVENTION &
RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**REQUEST FOR
APPLICATIONS**
RFA R-10-RML-1

Recruitment of Missing Links

2009–2010

Fiscal Year Award Period
September 1, 2009 — August 31, 2010

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RFA VERSION HISTORY

Rev 4/1/10 RFA release

ARCHIVE

1. ABOUT CPRIT

The State of Texas has established the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT); CPRIT may issue \$3 billion in general obligation bonds over 10 years to fund grants for cancer research and prevention.

CPRIT is charged by the Texas Legislature to:

- Create and expedite innovation in the area of cancer research, thereby enhancing the potential for a medical or scientific breakthrough in the prevention of cancer and 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 this State; and
- Continue to develop and implement the Texas Cancer Plan by promoting the development and coordination of effective and efficient statewide public and private policies, programs, and services related to cancer and by encouraging cooperative, comprehensive, and complementary planning among the public, private, and volunteer sectors involved in cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and research.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CPRIT will foster cancer research in Texas by providing financial support for a wide variety of relevant projects. This award mechanism seeks to support the recruitment of critically important researchers who are needed to complete existing, excellent teams (“missing links”). These individuals will be superb research scientists with a special ability to make outstanding contributions to cancer research, especially as collaborative members of teams engaged in innovative, far-reaching projects. CPRIT expects outcomes of supported activities to 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, applications may address any research topic or issue related to cancer biology, causation, prevention, detection or screening, treatment, or cure.

3. RECRUITMENT OBJECTIVES

The goal of all of CPRIT’s recruitment awards is to attract exceptional faculty to universities and/or cancer research institutions in the State of Texas. This RFA is designed to facilitate

recruitment of superb investigators who can fill special and specific needs as critically important members of collaborative research teams. These individuals will have demonstrated research excellence, commitment to pursuing cancer research, and exceptional potential for achieving future basic, translational, or clinical impact in the field. Awards are intended to increase an institution's competitive advantage in negotiations with the candidate and thereby enable them to acquire research talent that may be difficult to obtain by more conventional means.

For this program specifically, individuals may be at any stage of their career, but they must have demonstrated excellence in the specific role that they will fill as an essential member of a team. It is expected that the team will be capable of great accomplishments with the addition of "the missing link" and that, in this way, the candidate will significantly impact the academic institution's overall cancer research initiative.

Individuals who could be appropriate for this award mechanism include those with expertise in computational and systems biology/bioinformatics, computer science, clinical trials, chemistry, or manufacturing. This list is not meant to be comprehensive.

While individuals who currently hold positions in Texas may obviously be excellent candidates for these positions, it is CPRIT's special interest to facilitate recruitment of excellent scientists to Texas. Thus, these awards are restricted to candidates who will be moving to Texas to fill the position described.

Depending on the nature and needs of the team, it may be possible for candidates recruited under this RFA to devote a certain amount of time to their own independent research projects relevant to cancer. Such plans should be clearly described in the recruitment activities/institutional commitment (Section 8.3.2), the research plan (Section 8.3.3), and the budget and justification (if CPRIT funds are to be used to support these independent activities; Section 8.3.4).

4. FUNDING INFORMATION

This is a 4-year award with no opportunity for renewal after the term expires, although individuals may apply for other CPRIT funding as appropriate. Requests for funds in the range of \$500,000 to \$2 million (maximum) for the 4-year period are appropriate. CPRIT will make every effort to be flexible in the timing for disbursement of funds; recipients will be asked at the

beginning of each year for an estimate of their needs for the year. Funds may not be carried over beyond 4 years. Award funds may not be used to construct or renovate laboratory space, nor may any CPRIT funds be used to support the candidate's salary during the term of this award. An institutional commitment to the candidate of 50 percent of the amount of the grant award is required. The institutional commitment can be made on a year-by-year basis and may be fulfilled by dedication of funds to support salary and fringe benefits for the individual recruited as well as expenses for laboratory renovation and/or relocation to Texas. Award funding from other sources that the recruited individual may bring with him or her to the institution may also be counted toward the amount necessary for the institutional commitment.

5. KEY DATES

RFA

RFA release April 1, 2010

Application

Online application opens April 12, 2010, 7 a.m. Central Time

Application due None; continuous receipt

Application review As necessary

Award

Award notification As necessary

Anticipated start date Negotiable

6. ELIGIBILITY

- Applications must be submitted by the president, provost, or appropriate dean of a Texas-based public or private institution of higher education, including academic health institutions. The application must be submitted on behalf of a specific candidate.
- A candidate may be nominated by only one institution. If more than one institution wishes to recruit a given candidate, negotiations as to who will nominate him or her must be concluded before the nomination is made.
- The candidate must have a doctoral degree, including M.D., Ph.D., D.D.S., D.M.D., Dr.P.H., D.O., D.V.M., or equivalent, and reside in Texas for the duration of the appointment. The candidate must not reside in Texas at the time the application is submitted.

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- Successful candidates must be offered an appropriate faculty position by the nominating institution.
 - 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 9. All statutory provisions and relevant administrative rules can be found at www.cprit.state.tx.us.

7. APPLICATION REVIEW

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the quality of the candidate and his or her potential for continued superb performance as a cancer researcher. Also of critical importance is the strength of the institutional commitment to the candidate. Recruitment efforts are not likely to be successful unless there is a strong commitment from both CPRIT and the host institution. It is not necessary that a candidate agree to accept the recruitment offer at the time an application is submitted. However, applicant institutions should have some reasonable expectation that recruitment will be successful if an award is granted by CPRIT.

Applications submitted in response to this RFA will be reviewed on a continuous basis by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council. No annual limits on the number of potential award recipients have been set. Each application review is conducted completely confidentially, and all council members are required to sign nondisclosure statements regarding the contents of the applications. All council members will be non-Texas residents and operate under strict conflict of interest prohibitions. Under no circumstances should institutional personnel and/or individual candidates initiate contact with any member involved in the review process (with the exception of members of the CPRIT Scientific Review Office) regarding the status or substance of the application. Violations of this prohibition will result in the administrative withdrawal of the application.

8. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

8.1. Online Registration

Applications will be accepted beginning at 7 a.m. Central Time on April 12, 2010 and must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). **Only applications submitted at this portal will be considered eligible for evaluation.** Applications may be submitted by the institution's president, provost, or appropriate dean. Submission of an application is considered an acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFA.

8.2. Application Submission Deadline

This mechanism is not governed by an application deadline. Applications will be reviewed on a continuous basis.

8.3. Application Components

Applicants are advised to follow all instructions to ensure accurate and complete submission of the online application.

8.3.1. Contact Information

Provide all required nominator and candidate identification information.

8.3.2. Recruitment Activities/Institutional Commitment (2 pages)

Describe the recruitment activities, strategies, and priorities that have led to nomination of this candidate. Describe the institutional commitment to the candidate, including total salary, institutional support of salary, space, and all other agreements between the institution and the candidate. Unless prohibited by policy, the institution is also expected to bestow on the newly recruited faculty member the prestige title "CPRIT Scholar in Cancer Research," and the faculty member should be encouraged strongly to use this title on letterhead, business cards, and other appropriate documents. The title is to be retained as long as the individual remains in Texas. Provide a brief job description for the candidate should recruitment be successful. This information should be supplied in the form of a letter signed by the applicant institution's president, provost, or appropriate dean. While clinical scholars may engage in direct patient care activities, at least 70 percent of the candidate's time must be available for research. Breach of this requirement will constitute grounds for discontinuation of funding.

8.3.3. Research (4 or 6 pages)

Use 2 pages to describe the research team that the candidate will join. Who are the team members, what are their goals and accomplishments, how are they funded, and how are they supported by the institution? Use an additional 2 pages to describe the candidate's qualifications and accomplishments and the vital talents that she or he will bring to the team. Provide an overview of the research to be undertaken by the team and the candidate's contribution to that research by outlining the background and rationale, hypotheses and aims, strategies, goals, and projected impact of their efforts. Highlight the innovative aspects of this effort, and place it into context with regard to what pressing problem in cancer research will be addressed. This section of the application should be a collaborative effort between the candidate and other team members.

If the candidate will pursue independent projects in addition to her or his activities as a member of a team, the candidate should describe these activities in 2 additional pages.

8.3.4. Budget and Justification (2 pages)

Provide a compelling justification of the budget for the entire proposed period of support, including salaries and benefits, supplies, equipment, patient care costs, animal care costs, and other expenses. Applicants may provide a budget in any format, provided that it is clear and concise. A specific form/template is not required.

8.3.5. Publications

Provide the three most significant publications that have resulted from the candidate's research efforts.

8.3.6. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Provide a complete *curriculum vitae* (CV) and list of publications for the candidate.

8.3.7. Current and Pending Support

State the funding source, duration, and title of all current and pending research support held by the candidate. For each award, provide a two-line summary of the goal of the project. Describe the funding available to the team for the collaborative efforts. Applicants should use the form/template provided on the CPRIT Application Receipt System.

8.3.8. Letters of Recommendation

Provide three letters of recommendation from individuals who are in a position to detail the candidate's academic and scientific research accomplishments, potential for high-impact research, and ability to make a significant contribution to the field of cancer research.

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

9. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

Texas law requires that CPRIT research awards be made by contract between the applicant and CPRIT. Texas law specifies several components that must be addressed by the award contract, including needed compliance and assurance documentation, budgetary review, and terms relating to intellectual property rights. These contract provisions are specified in CPRIT's administrative rules, which are available at www.cprit.state.tx.us.

All CPRIT awards will be made to institutions, not to individuals. These awards are not transferable to another institution.

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 receipt of these reports. Forms and instructions will be made available at www.cprit.state.tx.us.

10. CONTACT INFORMATION

10.1. HelpDesk

HelpDesk support is available for questions regarding online submission of applications. Queries submitted via e-mail will be answered within 1 business day. HelpDesk staff are not in a position to answer questions regarding scientific aspects of applications.

Dates of Operation: Available starting April 1, 2010 (excluding public holidays)

Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time

Tel: 866-941-7146

E-mail: ResearchHelp@CPRITGrants.org

10.2. Scientific and Programmatic Questions

Questions regarding the CPRIT program, including questions regarding this or other funding opportunities, should be directed to the CPRIT Scientific Review Office:

Tel: 512-305-8491

E-mail: ResearchHelp@CPRITGrants.org

Web: www.cprit.state.tx.us

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