



CANCER PREVENTION &
RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**REQUEST FOR
APPLICATIONS**

RFA R-10-MIRA1

Multi-Investigator Research Awards

2009–2010

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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 projects relevant to cancer research. This RFA solicits applications for integrated programs of collaborative and cross-disciplinary research among multiple investigators and will focus on critical research areas that will contribute meaningfully to advancing knowledge of the causes, prevention, and/or treatment of cancer. CPRIT encourages applications that seek to apply or develop state-of-the-art technologies, tools, and/or resources for cancer research, including those with potential commercialization opportunities. 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, applications may address any research topic or issue related to cancer biology, causation, prevention, detection or screening, treatment, or cure.

3. MECHANISM OF SUPPORT

The Multi-Investigator Research Awards seek to support the creation of integrated programs of collaborative and cross-disciplinary research among multiple investigators. The equivalent of program projects, centers, NCI SPOREs, shared instrumentation, core laboratories, clinical trials, or other types of collaborative interaction is appropriate. Teams will focus on critical areas of cancer research, especially those that have been inadequately addressed or for which there may be an absence of an established paradigm or technical framework. Laboratory research, translational studies, and clinical and epidemiological investigations may be supported. Awards are expected to promote a cooperative environment that fosters intensive interaction among members in all aspects of the research project. This approach is expected to transform the research process through the integration of basic and/or clinical disciplines, leading to the aggressive translation of scientific discoveries (including the development of databases and tissue banks) into tools and applications that have the potential to significantly impact cancer incidence, detection, treatment, and/or mortality.

While all investigators need not be trained specifically in cancer research, this award is intended to initiate sustainable, collaborative programs of cancer research that could not be effectively addressed by an individual researcher or a group of researchers within the same discipline. It is aimed at projects that, by their complexity and interdisciplinary nature, require a cross-disciplinary team approach to achieve significant progress and sustainability, thereby creating a culture for teaching and research that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. Clinical research or a clinical trial (Phase 0, I, I/II, or II) may be included as part of the proposed project.

Investigators are expected to work together to develop the research plan, determine the management structure, and prepare the application. It should be clear that all investigators have a substantial level of intellectual input into the proposed project. Collectively, the members of the teams should represent the appropriate diversity of expertise necessary for addressing the research question. Effort is expected to be appropriately balanced among the investigators and their respective teams.

Applicants must present a clear plan for how they would manage and facilitate meaningful collaboration among the separate research teams to enable successful completion of the proposed research. Participating institutions must be willing to resolve potential intellectual and

material property issues/conflicts and remove institutional barriers to achieving high levels of cooperation.

4. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Because Multi-Investigator Research Awards will, by definition, be collaborative projects, this award mechanism will accommodate applications that encompass a wide variety of activities and administrative structures. Applicants may propose collaborative projects that are modest in size or those that are larger and more complex. *CPRIT encourages Texas cancer investigators to bring their best ideas forward for consideration. Creative collaborative projects that address critical questions should leverage Texas cancer research into a leadership position from both national and international perspectives. Federal programs should not be duplicated; rather, when possible, their impact in the State should be enhanced.* In addition, as a result of extensive discussion with leaders throughout the State, CPRIT encourages submission of applications in specific areas where collaboration can bring synergistic value in a statewide fashion. Development of collaborative research capabilities should also play a major role in bringing discoveries made in Texas laboratories to the market; this, too, is one of CPRIT's major goals.

4.1. Focus Areas

Focus areas for applications include, but are not limited to:

- **A Statewide Data/Tumor Repository:** Plans might include highly standardized deposition of biological samples along with retrospective and prospective clinical data that would allow correlation of patient histories and clinical outcomes with deep characterization of the submitted samples. Such characterization would especially include extensive DNA sequencing, mRNA expression profiling, and other new technologies. Goals would be to facilitate development of rational, personalized treatment of patients with cancer based on improved knowledge of the molecular characteristics of specific types of tumors.
- **A Texas Clinical Trials Consortium:** It is generally acknowledged that only a small fraction of adult patients with cancer participate in clinical trials. Involvement of additional patients and provision of more rapid and higher quality results should be facilitated by standardized approaches to regulatory requirements and quality standards that involve important clinical investigators and oncologists throughout the State.

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- **Drug Discovery and Development Platforms:** These projects might include systems biology approaches to target identification, molecular biological and/or genetic approaches to target validation, high-throughput screening for small molecules as potential therapeutic agents, chemistry to explore the potential of hits obtained in such screens, and generation of antibodies or other biological approaches (including vaccines) as potential therapeutic or preventive agents.
 - **An Imaging Consortium:** Imaging of molecules, cells, animals, and patients is essential for drug development, preclinical evaluation of potential therapies, and evaluation of results in clinical trials. There is also great interest in development of new approaches to visualization and characterization of tumors in patients. Much of the necessary equipment is very expensive and is perhaps best used collaboratively because of this limitation.

4.2. Characteristics of Multi-Investigator Research Awards

Applications in response to this RFA must propose a minimum of three component projects that contribute to a common goal in cancer research. These component projects will be characterized by a synergistic theme supported by the overall objective of the application. Synergy among component projects—especially how they relate to the focus areas—and the multidisciplinary focus of each component are essential aspects of these awards. Each component must be poised individually to make significant contributions to the field of cancer research as well as be complementary to the overall project. The application may request funding for common supporting resources essential to the completion of the individual component projects.

CPRIT seeks to support original and innovative projects. Such projects will challenge existing paradigms; develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies for the proposed cancer research area; or address important under- or unexplored areas. The thrust of the Multi-Investigator Research Awards is to support projects that lead to truly substantial advances in the field rather than add modest increments of insight. Projects that modestly extend current lines of research will not be considered for this award.

It is expected that research programs, once established, will interact extensively with each other as well as with newly formed or established companies interested in bringing specific Texas-based cancer discoveries to the market for the benefit of patients with cancer everywhere. Plans

for such interactions should be developed and described. Applicants should consider requesting funds (approximately \$10,000) during the first year for videoconferencing equipment to enable multipoint interactions with other programs and with the CPRIT Scientific Review Office.

4.3. Project Leadership

4.3.1. Principal Investigator (PI)

The overall project will be directed and overseen by a PI. The PI is responsible for developing and managing an integrated and collaborative research environment that permits uninterrupted progress of the component projects regardless of distinct geographic locations of research groups within the State.

4.3.2. Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI)

Each component project must be directed by a single Co-PI. The Co-PIs will be responsible for the research activities of their component projects within the framework and goals of the overall project. The PI may also be a Co-PI on a component project.

5. FUNDING INFORMATION

This funding mechanism is intended to accommodate a wide variety of applications and organizational structures. The maximum performance period is 5 years; renewal applications will be accepted. No limit has been set on the maximum amount that may be requested if the amount is very well justified. Funds may be used for salary and fringe benefits, research supplies, equipment, clinical costs, and travel to scientific/technical meetings or collaborating institutions. Requests for funds to support construction and/or renovation will not be approved under this funding mechanism.

By law, all funds for multiyear awards must be set aside from the CPRIT budget of the first year in which the award is made. CPRIT has less than \$200 million to be spent on research programs during each of its first 2 years. Thus, a \$4 million per year award for 5 years would consume 10 percent of CPRIT's research budget in either of its first 2 years. Requests of that magnitude must be especially compelling. Some highly ambitious programs might start with more circumscribed goals with the expectation that additional funds could be awarded after benefits have been demonstrated.

A major criterion for requests with large budgets will be the quality of the collaborative team that has been assembled. CPRIT encourages the creation of Texas “dream teams.” If necessary, applicants must eschew institutional and regional considerations to assemble the best of the State’s investigators on a given subject into a superb collaborative team. Competing applications in a single area may fragment and dilute the best talent available. While CPRIT recognizes the value of competition, assembly of the best of Texas for large-scale programs is encouraged to facilitate the highest level of cancer research throughout the State.

6. RESPONDING TO THIS RFA

All responses to this RFA must be submitted under one of the three classifications below:

1. **Preapplication:** Investigators who anticipate requesting \$3 million or more per year in any given year are required to submit a preapplication. Preapplications will be reviewed and evaluated by CPRIT (see Section 9.1).
2. **Letter of Intent:** Investigators who will be requesting less than \$3 million per year in every given year must submit a letter of intent indicating that they will be submitting an application in response to this RFA. Letters of intent will *not* be evaluated and will be used only to plan the workload of the review committees.
3. **Planning Award:** CPRIT appreciates that assembly of interdisciplinary research teams and development of complex applications are difficult and time consuming. Some groups desiring to submit such applications may not have sufficient time to meet deadlines of the current RFA. This RFA will likely be reissued during the late spring/early summer of 2010. Applicants wishing to wait until the later deadline may request up to \$25,000 in planning funds to help submit excellent applications. Planning applications will be evaluated based on the nature of the project and the use of the funds; decisions will be made as quickly as possible.

7. KEY DATES

RFA

RFA release	October 30, 2009
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Preapplication (if requesting \$3 million or more per year in any given year)

Online preapplication opens	November 13, 2009, 7 a.m. Central Time
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Preapplication due	January 5, 2010, 3 p.m. Central Time
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Preapplication review	As soon as possible
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Preapplication notification	As soon as possible
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Letter of Intent (if requesting *less* than \$3 million per year in every given year)

Online receipt system opens	November 13, 2009, 7 a.m. Central Time
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Letter of intent due	January 5, 2010, 3 p.m. Central Time
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Planning Award (in preparation for the *next* Multi-Investigator Research Awards RFA deadline)

Online receipt system opens	November 13, 2009, 7 a.m. Central Time
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Planning award letter due	January 5, 2010, 3 p.m. Central Time
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Planning award notification	As soon as possible
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Application

Online application opens	February 12, 2010, 7 a.m. Central Time
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Application due	March 1, 2010, 3 p.m. Central Time
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Application review	May 2010
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Award

Award notification	June 2010
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Anticipated start date	August 2010
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8. ELIGIBILITY

- The applicant must be a Texas-based entity, including a public or private institution of higher education, academic health institution, university, government organization, or nongovernmental organization. Companies may participate as collaborators in the programs described here, but the PI may not be a company employee. A separate RFA for public and private companies is being prepared and will be released shortly.

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- The PI and Co-PIs 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. The PI must reside in Texas during the time the research that is the subject of the grant is conducted.
 - Collaborations are permitted and encouraged, and collaborators, including Co-PIs, may or may not reside in Texas. However, collaborators who do not reside in Texas are not eligible to receive CPRIT funds. 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.
 - An individual may submit only one application as the PI under this RFA during this funding cycle. Additional submissions in other roles (e.g., Co-PI) are permitted.
 - 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 Sections 10 and 11. All statutory provisions and relevant administrative rules can be found at www.cprit.state.tx.us.

9. APPLICATION REVIEW

9.1. Outline

All eligible applications will be reviewed using a three-stage process: (1) Preapplication review (if more than \$3 million per year is requested in any given year), (2) peer review, and (3) programmatic review.

Investigators who anticipate requesting \$3 million (or more) per year in any given year are required to submit a preapplication. The purpose of the preapplication is to permit CPRIT to align its peer review committees with the applications to be received, to offer suggestions about optimal responses to the RFA, and/or to encourage and suggest collaborations to assemble the best of Texas for such large-scale projects (see Section 5). Preapplications will be evaluated rapidly by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council, and applicants will be invited to submit a complete application if the proposed project meets the guidelines outlined in Section 5. Preapplications may be submitted until January 5, 2010. However, the online application system will open for submission of preapplications on November 13, 2009, and applicants are urged to

submit their preapplications as soon as possible. CPRIT will respond to preapplications as quickly as possible and will not wait for the January 5 deadline to respond to preapplications.

Following preapplication review, all applications will be evaluated by an independent scientific merit review panel using the criteria listed below. Applications judged to be most meritorious by review panels will be evaluated and recommended for funding by the CPRIT Scientific Review Council based on comparisons with applications from all of the merit review panels and programmatic priorities. Each stage of application review is conducted completely confidentially, and all panel members are required to sign nondisclosure statements regarding the contents of the applications. All panel members will be non-Texas residents and operate under strict conflict of interest prohibitions. Under no circumstances should institutional personnel and/or individual applicants initiate contact with any member involved in the peer 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.

9.2. Review Criteria

Peer review of applications will be based on primary scored criteria and secondary unscored criteria, listed below. Review panels 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.

9.3. Primary Criteria

Primary criteria will evaluate the scientific merit of the proposed work contained in the application. Concerns with any of these criteria potentially indicate a major flaw in the significance and/or design of the proposed study.

Significance, Impact, and Innovation: What is the innovative potential of the project? Does the applicant propose new paradigms or challenge existing ones? Does the project develop state-of-the-art technologies, methods, tools, or resources for cancer research or address important under- or unexplored areas? If the research project is successful, will it lead to truly substantial advances in the field rather than add modest increments of insight? People must *want* and *need* to know the results of CPRIT-funded research because such knowledge will change the ways in

which they conduct their own research or approach and care for their patients. Projects that modestly extend current lines of research will not be considered for this award.

Applicant Investigator and Collaborative Teams: Does the applicant investigator demonstrate the required creativity, expertise, experience, and accomplishments to make a significant contribution to cancer research? Has the project assembled the best collaborative and multidisciplinary teams to achieve the proposed goals? Are the levels of effort of the key personnel appropriate? See Section 5.

Research Plan: Is the proposed work presented as a self-contained research project? Does the proposed research have a clearly defined hypothesis or goal that is supported by sufficient preliminary data and/or scientific rationale? Are the methods appropriate, and are potential experimental obstacles and unexpected results discussed? Does the proposed project provide strong synergistic activities as part of a multidisciplinary collaboration? See Section 4.2.

Relevance: Does the proposed research have a high degree of relevance to cancer research? This will be an important criterion for evaluation of projects for CPRIT support. See Section 4.

9.4. Secondary Criteria

Secondary criteria contribute to the global score assigned to the application. Concerns with these criteria potentially question the feasibility of the proposed research.

Research Environment: Do the research teams have the needed expertise, facilities, and resources to accomplish all aspects of the proposed research? Is there evidence of institutional support of the research teams and the project?

Project Leadership: Is the overall project (and component projects) managed by strong leadership in a position to organize and manage the proposed research activities?

Vertebrate Animals and/or Human Subjects: If vertebrate animals and/or human subjects are included in the proposed research, have the appropriate guidelines relating to participation risk, inclusion, and protection been addressed?

Budget and Duration of Support: Is the budget and duration of support requested appropriate for the proposed work?

10. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

10.1. Online Registration

All applicants must register a user name at the CPRIT Application Receipt System (<https://CPRITGrants.org>) to start and submit a preapplication, a letter of intent, a request for a planning award, and/or an application.

10.2. Preapplication

Preapplications will be accepted beginning at 7 a.m. Central Time on November 13, 2009 and must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System. Preapplications are required of those investigators requesting \$3 million (or more) per year in support in any year of the award.

10.2.1. Preapplication Submission Deadline

All preapplications must be submitted by 3 p.m. Central Time on January 5, 2010.

10.2.2. Preapplication Components

Applicants are advised to follow all instructions to ensure accurate and complete submission of the online preapplication. Applicants will be required to submit the following information:

- (i) Application title
- (ii) Period of performance
- (iii) Approximate total award requested
- (iv) For the PI:
 - a. Name and institutional affiliation
 - b. Approximate budget stating the anticipated support to be requested
- (v) For each Co-PI performance site:
 - a. Co-PI name and institutional affiliation
 - b. Approximate budget stating the anticipated support to be requested
- (vi) Major goals of the proposed work (3 pages); include a tabulated summary of support requested each year by the PI and the Co-PIs.

10.3. Letter of Intent

Letters of intent will be accepted beginning at 7 a.m. Central Time on November 13, 2009 and must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System. Letters of intent are required of those investigators requesting less than \$3 million per year in support in any year of the award.

10.3.1. Letter of Intent Submission Deadline

All letters of intent must be submitted by 3 p.m. Central Time on January 5, 2010.

10.3.2. Letter of Intent Components

Applicants are advised to follow all instructions to ensure accurate and complete submission of the letter of intent. Applicants will be required to submit the following information:

- (i) Application title
- (ii) Period of performance
- (iii) Approximate total award requested
- (iv) For the PI:
 - a. Name and institutional affiliation
 - b. Approximate budget stating the anticipated support to be requested
- (v) For each Co-PI performance site:
 - a. Co-PI name and institutional affiliation
 - b. Approximate budget stating the anticipated support to be requested
- (vi) Statement of the proposed work (1 page); include a tabulated summary of support requested each year by the PI and the Co-PIs.

10.4. Planning Award

Submissions for planning awards will be accepted beginning at 7 a.m. Central Time on November 13, 2009 and must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System. Investigators may request a planning award of a maximum of \$25,000 to help submit excellent applications for the *next* Multi-Investigator Research Awards RFA deadline.

10.4.1. Planning Award Submission Deadline

All planning award applications must be submitted by 3 p.m. Central Time on January 5, 2010.

10.4.2. Planning Award Components

Applicants are advised to follow all instructions to ensure accurate and complete submission of the application for the planning award. Applicants will be required to submit the following information:

- (i) Planning award title
- (ii) Period of performance
- (iii) Total award requested (maximum \$25,000)

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- (iv) PI and institutional affiliation
 - (v) Budget justification (2,000 characters). There must be a specific need for planning funds beyond the usual costs of preparing a grant application. For example, routine secretarial expenses are not an adequate justification.
 - (vi) Description of the proposed work (1 page)

10.5. Application

Applications will be accepted beginning at 7 a.m. Central Time on February 12, 2010 and must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (<https://CPRITGrants.org>).

10.5.1. Application Submission Deadline

All applications must be submitted by 3 p.m. Central Time on March 1, 2010.

10.5.2. Application Components

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

10.5.2.1. Contact Information

Enter all required applicant and Application Signing Official (ASO) information along with the application title.

10.5.2.2. Abstract (3,000 characters)

Clearly explain the question or problem to be addressed and the approach to its answer or solution.

10.5.2.3. Significance (3,000 characters)

Clearly address how the proposed project, if successful, will have a major impact on the field of cancer research or on the care of patients with cancer. Summarize how the proposed research creates new paradigms or challenges existing ones.

10.5.2.4. Research Plan

Background: Present the rationale behind the proposed project, emphasizing the pressing problem in cancer research that will be addressed.

Goals or Hypotheses and Specific Aims: Concisely state the goals to be achieved or the hypotheses to be tested or addressed by the research described in the application.

Research Strategy: Describe the experimental design, including methods, anticipated results, potential problems or pitfalls, and alternative approaches. Preliminary data that support the proposed hypothesis are encouraged but not required.

Human Studies: If human subjects or human biological samples will be used, provide a plan for Institutional Review Board approval or exemption and for recruitment of subjects or acquisition of samples that will meet the time constraints of this award mechanism.

Synergy: Describe how individual components of the project provide synergistic value to the entire study.

Timeline: Provide an outline of anticipated major milestones tracked in the proposed project. Timelines will be reviewed for reasonableness, and adherence to timelines will be a criterion for continued support of successful applicants.

Note: No page limit has been imposed on the Research Plan. *However, CPRIT encourages brevity!* Applicants should be as clear and concise as possible in describing the proposed research activities. *Excessive verbiage usually leads to poor evaluations.*

10.5.2.5. Supplemental Documents

References: Provide a concise and relevant list of references cited for the application.

Budget and Justification: Submit a detailed budget for each component project and also a composite budget for the entire project. Provide an outline and justification of the budget for the entire proposed period of support, including salaries and benefits, supplies, equipment, patient care costs, animal care costs, other expenses, and indirect costs. Equipment having a useful life of more than 1 year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit must be specifically approved by CPRIT. Applicants should be aware that Texas law limits the amount of indirect costs that may be funded by CPRIT grants. Guidance regarding indirect cost recovery can be found in the administrative rules proposed by CPRIT. The proposed rules and the statute can be found at www.cpr.it.state.tx.us. Unless invited following preapplication review, applications requesting over \$3 million per year in any given year will be administratively withdrawn from consideration. The maximum annual salary (also referred to as direct salary or institutional base salary) that an individual may receive under a CPRIT award for FY 2010 is \$200,000; CPRIT FY 2010 is from September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010. 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.

Biographical Sketches: Applicants should provide a biographical sketch that describes their education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, and publications relevant to cancer research. Biographical sketches are required for the PI and all Co-PIs. Up to two additional biographical sketches for other key personnel may be provided. Each biographical sketch must not exceed 2 pages.

Current and Pending Support: Describe the funding source, duration, and title of all current and pending support for all personnel who have included a biographical sketch with the application. For each award, also provide a two-line summary of the goal of the project and, if relevant, a statement of overlap with the current application.

Applications that are missing one or more of these components or do not meet the eligibility requirements listed above will be administratively rejected without review.

11. 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 proposed administrative rules, which are available at www.cprit.state.tx.us. The proposed rule related to CPRIT contract provisions, as well as other proposed rules regarding the CPRIT grant process, are expected to become final by November 18, 2009.

All CPRIT awards will be made to institutions, not to individuals. Applicants who change their institutional affiliation during the time period of the award must submit a written request to CPRIT to transfer the award to the new institution.

CPRIT requires award recipients to submit an annual progress report. These reports summarize the progress made toward 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.

12. REQUIREMENT TO DEMONSTRATE AVAILABLE FUNDS

Texas law requires the cancer research grant recipient to demonstrate that it has an amount of funds equal to one-half of the grant dedicated to the research that is the subject of the grant. CPRIT has proposed an administrative rule regarding how a grant recipient may fulfill this requirement. The proposed rule is available at www.cprit.state.tx.us. The public, including potential applicants, were invited to provide written comments to CPRIT on the proposed rules by September 28, 2009. The rule is expected to be final by November 10, 2009.

13. CONTACT INFORMATION

13.1. HelpDesk

HelpDesk support is available for questions regarding user registration and 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:

Preapplication, Letter of Intent, Planning Award: November 13, 2009 to January 5, 2010

Application: February 12, 2010 to March 1, 2010

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

Tel: 866-941-7146

E-mail: ResearchHelp@CPRITGrants.org

13.2. 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