



CANCER PREVENTION &
RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**REQUEST FOR
APPLICATIONS**

RFA R-10-RF1

**Recruitment of
First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members**

2009–2010

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 seeks to support emerging investigators and research scientists with the ability to make outstanding contributions to the field of cancer research, promote inquiry into new areas, foster collaboration, and stimulate growth in the field. 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 State of Texas seeks to attract very promising investigators who are pursuing their first faculty appointment at the level of assistant professor (first-time, tenure-track faculty

members). These individuals will have demonstrated academic excellence, innovation during predoctoral and/or postdoctoral research training, 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 to provide scientific and programmatic support for promising research faculty in their area(s) of research.

4. RECRUITMENT OBJECTIVES

The goal of this award is to recruit exceptional faculty to universities and/or cancer research institutions in the State of Texas. All candidates are expected to have completed their doctoral and fellowship training and to have clearly demonstrated truly superior ability as evidenced by their accomplishments during training, proposed research plan, publication record, and letters of recommendation. This CPRIT-supported initiative is designed to enhance innovative programs of excellence by providing scientific and programmatic support for promising early-stage investigators seeking their first tenure-track position. CPRIT will provide start-up funding for newly independent investigators, with the goal of augmenting and expanding the institution's community of basic science and multidisciplinary researchers focusing on cancer research. It is expected that the candidate will significantly impact the academic institution's overall cancer research initiative. Candidates will be expected to develop research projects within the designated institution. Participation should be appropriate for a newly independent investigator and should foster the development of preliminary data that can be used to prepare applications for future independent research project grants to further both the investigator's research career and the CPRIT mission. The institution will be expected to work with each newly recruited research faculty member to design and execute a faculty career development plan consistent with his or her previous research emphasis. While the degree of relevance to cancer research is an important evaluation criterion for CPRIT funding, candidates with plans to develop/pursue multidisciplinary approaches to cancer research are encouraged to apply. This funding mechanism considers expertise, accomplishments, and breadth of experience vital metrics for guiding CPRIT's investment in that person's originality, insight, and potential.

5. 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. Grant funds of up to \$2 million for the 4-year period may be awarded. 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. In addition, funds for extraordinary equipment needs may be awarded in the first year of the grant if very well justified. Grant funds may not be used to construct or renovate laboratory space. Consistent with the statutory mandate that the recipient institution demonstrate that it has funds equivalent to one-half of the total grant award amount dedicated to the individual recruited, a total institutional commitment to the candidate of up to \$1 million will be required. The institutional commitment can be made on a year-by-year basis and may be fulfilled by dedicating funds to support salary and fringe benefits for the individual recruited as well as expenses for laboratory renovation and/or relocation to Texas. Grant 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.

6. KEY DATES

RFA release	August 28, 2009
Online application opens	September 15, 2009, 7 a.m. Central Time
Application due	None; continuous receipt
Application review	As necessary
Award notification	As necessary
Anticipated start date	Negotiable

7. 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.

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- 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.
 - At the time of the application, the candidate must not hold an appointment at the rank of assistant professor or above (or equivalent) at an accredited academic institution, research institution, industry, government agency, or private foundation. The candidate may or may not reside in Texas at the time the application is submitted.
 - Successful candidates will be offered tenure-track academic positions at the rank of assistant professor.
 - CPRIT grants will be awarded by contract to successful applicants. Certain contractual requirements are mandated by Texas law or by administrative rules. Although the ability to comply with these contractual requirements is not necessary 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 10. All statutory provisions and relevant administrative rules can be found at www.cprit.state.tx.us.

8. APPLICATION REVIEW

Applications will be assessed based on evaluation of the quality of the candidate and her or his 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 panel 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.

9. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

9.1. Online Registration

Applications will be accepted beginning at 7 a.m. Central Time on September 15, 2009 and must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (www.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.

9.2. Application Submission Deadline

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

9.3. Application Components

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

9.3.1. Contact Information

Provide all required nominator and candidate identification information.

9.3.2. 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, endowment or other support, space, and all other agreements between the institution and the candidate. CPRIT expects that the institutional commitment to the candidate will include full (100-percent) salary support for the candidate until such time as tenure is achieved. 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.

9.3.3. Research (4 pages)

Summarize the key elements of the candidate's research accomplishments, and provide an overview of the proposed research by outlining the background and rationale, hypotheses and aims, strategies, goals, and projected impact of the focus of the laboratory. 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 must be prepared by the candidate.

9.3.4. Publications

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

9.3.5. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

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

9.3.6. Current and Pending Support

Describe the funding source, duration, and title of all current and pending research support held by the candidate.

9.3.7. 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.

10. 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.cpritch.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 10, 2009. The public, including applicants, are invited to provide written comments to CPRIT on the proposed rules by September 28, 2009. Although CPRIT does not anticipate substantive changes to the final rules, to the extent that the final rules adopted by CPRIT materially change application requirements provided herein, applicants will be notified of any changes and provided an opportunity to revise the application to fully comply with the final rules.

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 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.cpritch.state.tx.us.

11. CONTACT INFORMATION

11.1. 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 the scientific aspects of applications.

Dates of Operation: Available starting September 15, 2009

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

Tel: 866-941-7146

E-mail: ResearchHelp@CPRITGrants.org

11.2. Scientific/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