

MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST

The following is an announcement from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) regarding a new grant application for a Multi-Investigator Research Award (MIRA). The RFA is available on the CPRIT website, http://www.cprit.state.tx.us/pdfs/rfa_r-10-mira1.pdf.

If you plan to apply for this grant, please send your letter of intent/pre-application to the Provost's Office, jmgenvove@utmb.edu, at least ten days before your planned submission date.



The MIRA request seeks integrated programs of collaborative and cross-disciplinary research among multiple investigators for projects in critical areas of cancer research that cannot be effectively addressed by an individual researcher or a group of researchers within the same discipline. Teams are encouraged to focus on critical areas of cancer research, especially those areas that have been inadequately addressed or where there is an absence of an established paradigm or technical framework. These awards are expected to promote a cooperative environment that fosters intensive interaction among members in all aspects of the research project. The Institute will only fund collaborative approaches that are 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 mortality. Targeted areas include a statewide data/tumor repository, a Texas Clinical Trials Consortium, drug discovery and development platforms, and imaging consortiums.

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 the national and international perspective. Federal programs should not be duplicated. Instead, teams should focus on enhancing the impact of the programs in Texas.

Teams seeking less than \$3 million should file a letter of intent. Teams seeking more than \$3 million should file a pre-application. These will help CPRIT align its peer review committees with the expected applications, to offer suggestions about the optimal response to the RFA, and to encourage/suggest collaborations to assemble Texas "dream teams" representing the best science in state. CPRIT will accept letters of intent and pre-applications through its web-based grant portal www.cpritgrants.org beginning November 13, 2009 until January 5, 2010. Applicants are urged to submit their pre-applications and letters of intent as soon as possible - CPRIT will provide a rolling response to the pre-applications as they are submitted.

MIRA applications will be accepted starting February 12, 2010 through March 1, 2010. Applications will be reviewed March – May, 2010, and award notifications are expected in June 2010.

The MIRA application is intended for institutions, universities, and governmental and non-governmental organizations. Companies may participate as collaborators. A separate RFA specifically targeted for public and private companies is under development and will be released shortly.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Robert Ullrich at bullrich@utmb.edu.

Sincerely,

Garland D. Anderson, MD
Executive Vice President and Provost
Dean, School of Medicine
Thomas N. and Gleaves T. James Distinguished Chair