



CANCER PREVENTION &
RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

May 9, 2012

Friends of CPRIT,

At our most recent Oversight Committee meeting, I reported on the accomplishments made during CPRIT's successful first two and a half years of operations and our expectations for CPRIT's future. We at CPRIT knew when we started on our mission that change would come quickly and in many forms. Dr. Al Gilman, Nobel laureate and CPRIT's chief scientific officer, let me know yesterday that he plans to leave CPRIT effective October 12, 2012. Al stated in his letter to me that his three-year tenure at CPRIT has been longer than he originally anticipated. CPRIT has benefitted tremendously from his guidance and dedication to our mission.

Al has played an integral role in CPRIT's early success. He has been a steadfast champion of CPRIT's mission to invest only in the brightest minds and best initiatives in oncology for the benefit of Texas and beyond. When talking about CPRIT's unique research goals, Al has said, "little of great importance is achieved without taking some risk, and the Institute is more willing than many other agencies to move beyond research projects that promise predictable outcomes resulting in only incremental progress."

As CPRIT's founding chief scientific officer, he helped shape the framework and policies that distinguish CPRIT's research portfolio from other cancer research funding agencies. Under Al's leadership, CPRIT recruited the best peer review committees in the world while implementing a conflict-free system that is the cornerstone of our cancer research grant award process. CPRIT has invested \$500 million in groundbreaking cancer research projects and has attracted almost 40 CPRIT Scholars in Cancer Research to the state under his scientific direction.

Al has had an illustrious 42-year career, most of which has been spent serving the state of Texas. We will initiate a national search for a successor as soon as possible; however, we will be hard pressed to fill his shoes.

Sincerely,

Bill Gimson
Executive Director