

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

**MDAnderson**  
**Cancer Center**

Making Cancer History®

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May 30, 2012

Mr. Bill Gimson  
Executive Director  
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
211 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Bill,

I know you share my concern with the inaccurate allegations that appear in some of the published reports on the CPRIT incubator infrastructure awards. Both CPRIT, which has a deserved reputation of integrity and rigorous, unbiased reviews, and MD Anderson, which values our equally deserved reputation of exemplary faculty and incredible track record in awards, are understandably dismayed by these false allegations. It is also understandable why my scientific colleagues would be concerned, in the absence of all of the facts, on how we got to the present situation. At this point, both institutions have critical work to conduct and must do everything possible to move beyond this controversy and reassure the public of this award's value to future cancer patients.

We were gratified that CPRIT came to us because they recognized the transformational nature of MD Anderson's Institute for Applied Cancer Science (IACS), and its collaborations with Rice University. These commercialization incubator awards are uncharted territory for all of us, and there are lessons to be learned from the process. For example, at MD Anderson, these business plans should not be reviewed by the Provost's office, but by Business Affairs, and we are instituting that process.

We appreciate CPRIT's time and help in answering questions that ensured we submitted the best proposal possible following CPRIT's processes. We also were made aware that we should expect to proceed to post-award review and contracting between CPRIT and MD Anderson if the award was granted. While CPRIT designated Dr. Lynda Chin as the PI, it should be noted that Dr. Giulio Draetta is the IACS director and he and the entire IACS leadership team prepared the business plan in response to CPRIT's request for application.

We are absolutely convinced that our proposal is strong, commercially viable and would stand up to additional review. Thus, we would be pleased to resubmit the proposal to CPRIT for any further review that it deems appropriate

Additionally, we are sufficiently confident of the demonstrable benefits of the proposal that we would be willing to agree to have the award funds placed in an escrow account for one year, and let the results we anticipate be judged before our receipt of the award.

These are just proposals for you to consider, but we are open to any thoughts you may have to validate MD Anderson's submission and the work of CPRIT. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. DePinho', with a large, sweeping initial 'R'.

Ronald A. DePinho, M.D.  
President

cc: Jimmy Mansour