



CANCER PREVENTION &  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

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May 8, 2012

Mr. William Gimson  
Executive Director  
The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
Austin, TX

Dear Bill,

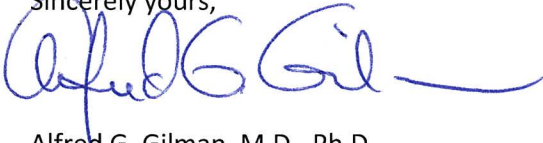
The purpose of this letter is to indicate my intention to resign from CRPIT, effective (with your permission) on October 12, 2012. At that time I will have worked for CPRIT for over three years – I believe longer than originally anticipated. During that time we have launched strong programs because funding decisions have been based on high-level competitions, where the judges have been some of the best cancer researchers and physicians in the country – free of conflicts of interest and all coming from outside of Texas. It was exciting to launch this program, to design effective requests for applications, and to oversee the peer review process. The program is now essentially at a steady state. Research activities that are yielding exciting results should be continued, and new applications should continue to be received – but some programs will perhaps need to be constrained or curtailed because of the desire to fund competitive renewals and expand commercialization activities. I doubt it will be possible to launch new initiatives at this point. The job of Chief Scientific Officer has become routine. You no longer require a full-time person. Your most critical concern will be to keep the external peer review system intact – retaining as many of the current committee chairs as possible. Your ability to do so will be critically dependent on the attitudes of CPRIT leadership, especially including the Oversight Committee.

I have chosen the resignation date of October 12 for a few specific reasons:

- The next Scientific Review Council meeting that is scheduled to approve a slate of recommended research grants is October 5<sup>th</sup>. I will stay until then to be certain that those who are preparing applications to be submitted by May 31 will still encounter a functional peer review system.
- Major decisions about research funding will be made by the Oversight Committee in July. I will attend that meeting to champion the research slate and to make it clear to the Committee that negative decisions about it would have a fatal impact on CPRIT's peer review system. Negative actions would in addition be extremely harmful to the research community's view of science in Texas, and thus on the ability to recruit scientists to the state (or, for that matter, the ability to attract capital for commercialization efforts). The MIRA grants to be presented to the Oversight Committee in July should have been funded in March; further delay simply must not happen. Also, July will see a large number of recommended recruitment applications. The relevant institutions are already engaged in attempts to secure commitments from these excellent candidates; some have already succeeded.

- If additional incubator grants are to be approved at the July meeting of the Oversight Committee, I will be there to hope that the rules governing review and funding of incubators have been revised to prevent further award of vast funds for research programs ostensibly within incubators that were not described and therefore could not have been reviewed.
- A delay of my resignation until October provides you with an extended opportunity to find someone new to fill my position.
- I ask for one additional week after the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scientific Review Council to complete my affairs, dispose of professional books and papers, vacate my office, etc. I will be ending my career during its 42<sup>nd</sup> year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alfred G. Gilman", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Alfred G. Gilman, M.D., Ph.D.  
Chief Scientific Officer

cc: James Mansour