



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

May 30, 2012

Ronald A. DePinho, M.D.
President
MD Anderson Cancer Center
1515 Holcombe Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77030-4009

Dear Ron:

Thank you for your letter today. We at CPRIT have a legal obligation – and moral imperative – to make investments that have the potential for breakthroughs in the prevention and cure of cancer. The Houston-area incubator, a collaboration between Rice University and MD Anderson's Institute for Applied Cancer Science (IACS), is positioned to be perhaps one of CPRIT's greatest successes, bringing together two outstanding Texas academic institutions.

This type of project is exactly what CPRIT was created to encourage and sets an example for the rest of the state. The Houston-area incubator is the first that CPRIT has approved, and certainly won't be our last incubator award.

We accept your offer to resubmit for review the IACS portion of the Houston-area incubator proposal to CPRIT. Please keep in mind that CPRIT's Oversight Committee approved the Incubator RFA in March 2011 with the stipulation that proposals be reviewed by the Commercialization Review Council (CRC). The development of the incubator RFA was a very deliberate and lengthy process by a large group of experts. The incubator RFA is designed for commercial ventures and any proposal submitted must comply with that criterion.

Upon completion of the review and assuming recommendation for funding by the CRC, the proposal will be forwarded for ratification to our Oversight Committee. If approved, we intend to make the grant effective immediately at the funding level and for the period of time recommended by the CRC. While we appreciate your offer to delay funding for twelve months, this is inconsistent with CPRIT policies as applied to our other grant portfolios – prevention and research.

We are confident that the IACS, under the leadership of Dr. Giulio Draetta, working hand-in-hand with the incredible team at Rice University, will rapidly demonstrate commercial viability for which Texas will quickly begin to reap the benefits. I wish to thank you for all you are doing for Texas and the world as President of MD Anderson. Your "moon shot" goal is an inspiration for cancer patients and their families around the globe.

Sincerely, .

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping tail.

William Gimson
Executive Director

Cc: Jimmy Mansour