



CANCER PREVENTION &
RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS
FOUNDATION

Roundtable Participants

Moderator - Dr. Al Gilman,
CPRIT Chief Scientific Officer

Dr. Joseph Bailes, Board
Member, CPRIT Foundation

Dr. Anna Barker, National
Cancer Institute

Dr. Susan Blaney, Baylor College
of Medicine

Mrs. Cindy Brinker Simmons,
Board Member, CPRIT
Foundation

Dr. C. Thomas Caskey, Brown
Foundation at UT Health
Science Center

Dr. Mark Clanton, American
Cancer Society

Dr. Adam Clark, Lance
Armstrong Foundation

**The Honorable David
Dewhurst,** Texas Lieutenant
Governor

Dr. Raymond DuBois, The
University of Texas M.D.
Anderson Cancer Center

Dr. Patricia Ganz, Jonsson
Comprehensive Cancer Center at
UCLA

Dr. Becky Garcia, CPRIT Chief
Prevention Officer

Mr. Bill Gimson, CPRIT
Executive Director

Dr. Ernest Hawk, The University
of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer
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Breakthrough Roundtable Meeting October 21, 2009

On October 21, 2009, the CPRIT Foundation held its inaugural Policy Roundtable, bringing together scientists from Texas and across the nation who are prominent in the field of cancer research, treatment, and prevention. These experts discussed goals and objectives for the groundbreaking mission undertaken by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). Highlights of the discussion included:

- CPRIT should not duplicate existing research and prevention efforts
- Enormous opportunities in collaborative efforts and team science approach
- Expanding field of personalized medicine offers significant avenues for CPRIT-funded research
- Texas is perfectly positioned to leverage functional genomics and comparative effectiveness research into real results for patients and drug development
- By engaging the business community and promoting commercialization opportunities for the state, the Institute will see return on Texas' investment
- A crucial element of CPRIT's prevention efforts will be screening for breast, colorectal, and cervical cancer
- Legislators encourage CPRIT to identify, fund, and communicate early successes

Roundtable Participants

continued

Dr. Roy Herbst, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Mr. James Mansour, Chairman CPRIT Oversight Committee, Board Member CPRIT Foundation

Dr. John Mendelsohn, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Dr. John Minna, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Dr. W. Jack Pledger, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center

Dr. David Poplack, Texas Children's Cancer Center

The Honorable Patrick Rose, State Representative

Dr. John Sweetenham, Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute

Dr. Adolfo Valadez, Texas Department of State Health Services

Dr. James Willson, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Dr. Robert Young, RCY Medicine

In 2007, Texans overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment to create the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) and fund \$3 billion in grants to support cancer research and prevention efforts in Texas. For the next decade, CPRIT will work on behalf of all Texans to:

- Create and expedite innovation in the area of cancer research and enhance the potential for medical or scientific breakthrough in the prevention of cancer and cures for cancer;
- Attract, create, or expand research capabilities of public or private institutions of higher education and other public or private entities that will promote a substantial increase in cancer research and in the creation of high-quality new jobs in Texas; and
- Develop and implement the Texas Cancer Plan.



Dr. Robert Young, Dr. Joseph Bailes, Moderator Dr. Alfred Gilman, Dr. Anna Barker, and Dr. C. Thomas Caskey during the roundtable meeting October 21, 2009.

As CPRIT prepares to issue its first funding awards, invited participants representing some of the top cancer institutes and organizations in the nation convened

in Austin for a wide-ranging conversation addressing CPRIT's mission. Throughout the two hour discussion, participants returned several times to the question of how CPRIT can distinguish itself from other national level funding organizations like the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Dr. Anna Barker, Deputy Director, NCI, started the discussion by affirming NCI's willingness to help in the Texas effort through collaborations, but advised that in order to maximize CPRIT's potential contributions, the Institute should not duplicate research options and resources available through other federal grant programs. Playing off this point, several participants encouraged CPRIT to take advantage of the opportunity to chart a different course from structuring review panels differently to seeking out and encouraging riskier, high-impact research projects.

Participants also focused on another opportunity with enormous untapped potential for CPRIT-funded research -- promoting team science and collaborative endeavors, such as the development of a statewide clinical trials network. By fostering a non-competitive, team science concept that brings together multidisciplinary approaches (prevention, basic biology, clinical science, statistics,

bioinformatics, computer science, imaging, etc.), CPRIT can stimulate proposals with extraordinary potential. Closely related to this effort would be CPRIT support for statewide data and tumor biorepositories. By creating a statewide biorepository with high quality samples, the information gained from sampling would be turned into real results for patients. Texas can be a leader in this area by developing streamlined administrative and legal systems that enhance the operations of tumor and tissue banks.

Medicine is moving further in its reliance upon information technology and electronic patient-specific data. The expanding field of personalized medicine provides significant opportunities for CPRIT-funded research as new genetic markers are identified with increasing frequency. By aligning information technology platforms that combine patient information and clinical research data, more opportunities develop for targeted intervention and new methods of care -- ultimately expediting the transition of research from the bench to the bedside. Sequencing an individual's cancer genome will assist in identifying whether a patient is at risk for certain cancers, will respond to a drug, and help the patient avoid treatments that

will not work. If CPRIT-funded research discovers additional genetic markers, CLIA certified tests for genetic signatures and screening platforms could be developed with enormous commercial potential.

Because of the resources available in Texas, including unsurpassed research institutions and diverse patient populations, the state is perfectly positioned to leverage functional genomics into real results for patients and drug development. The state's diverse patient populations (urban, rural, poor, wealthy, various ethnicities) also provide an opportunity for comparative effectiveness research to inform patients, providers, and decision-makers about effective interventions for particular patients under specific circumstances. Dr. Mendelsohn, President, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, provided an example regarding childhood leukemia, where the overall cure rate is 80 percent but is much lower for Hispanic children on the same drug protocol.

Elaborating upon CPRIT's capacity to distinguish it from traditional funding sources, many participants focused upon the Institute's ability to promote commercialization pathways. Participants spoke of the need to integrate experts into the system that

assists researchers from discovery to phase one clinical trials. By engaging the business community and encouraging entrepreneurial approaches, Texas will see a return on its investment in research.

In addition to its role in identifying and funding the best science, CPRIT is also committed to revolutionary



Dr. John Mendelsohn, Dr. Roy Herbst, Dr. Ernest Hawk, Dr. Becky Garcia and Dr. Raymond DuBois enjoy some lighthearted commentary from another panelist.

approaches to cancer prevention. Participants spoke of the need to address tobacco and obesity issues through community and political strategies and public awareness campaigns. A crucial element to CPRIT-supported prevention efforts will be screening programs for breast, colorectal, and cervical cancer. Creating and implementing effective screening programs with penetration into communities throughout Texas can reduce the rate of mortality and

provide a measurable impact of CPRIT's efforts that is tangible to Texans.

CPRIT was fortunate to also have Lt. Governor David Dewhurst, Rep. Jim Keffer, and Rep. Patrick Rose participating in the Roundtable discussion. Texans who are funding the investment in research and prevention are interested in the payoff of CPRIT's efforts. Given that major scientific breakthroughs and meaningful prevention strategies may take years to demonstrate real results, the lawmakers provided candid advice regarding how the Institute can demonstrate progress on the state's investment. Lt. Gov. Dewhurst urged the Institute to communicate the story of CPRIT's work and document early successes in order to keep the community riveted. Rep. Keffer underscored this advice, pushing the Institute to use every arrow in its



CPRIT Executive Director Bill Gimson, Chairman James Mansour and Lt. Governor David Dewhurst listen as Rep. Patrick Rose speaks on the importance of CPRIT's role in cancer prevention.

quiver to identify and fund early successes. Rep. Rose singled out CPRIT's prevention efforts as a way to relate the impact of the Institute's work across the state. Recruiting top talent to the state, as well as using CPRIT funds to draw down additional money to the state through collaborations are other ways that documenting early successes.