

Texas House of Representatives Passes \$3B Brain Bill in Major Step for Mental Health and Brain Research



A bill that will funnel investment toward brain research in Texas passed an initial vote on the Texas House floor this month. HB15/HJR135, establishes the Brain Institute of Texas. This Institute for mental health and brain research is being called MBRIT and mirrors the successful CPRIT, model in Texas. The impact of MBRIT will be groundbreaking, as of the approximately 30 million Texas residents, one in five have a diagnosable mental health condition or disease. Texas ranks fourth in the number of Alzheimer's disease cases and second in the number of Alzheimer's disease deaths.

Texans are encouraged to reach out to their local Senators to help see the Mental Health and Brain Research Institute of Texas (MBRIT) bill passed, in what would be the largest mental health and brain research institute in the state, and one of the largest in the US.

[Read full press release](#)

[Find your Texas Senator](#)

UTSW Brain Institute Uses AI to Detect Alzheimer's Disease Before Symptoms Appear

UTSouthwestern
Medical Center®

New technologies that can capture subtle changes in a patient's voice may help physicians diagnose cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease before symptoms begin to show. If confirmed with larger studies, the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning to study vocal recordings could provide primary care providers with an easy-to-perform screening tool for at-risk individuals.

[Read full press release](#)

FDA Approves Brexpiprazole as Potential Therapy for Alzheimer Agitation

The FDA's Peripheral and Central Nervous System Drugs Advisory Committee has voted that the current data on brexpiprazole, an agent under review for Alzheimer disease (AD) agitation, have shown enough evidence of benefit to outweigh its potential risks. The agent currently has a PDUFA date of May 10, 2023, and, if approved, would be the first agent specifically to treat AD agitation.

The committee was asked to vote on whether the provided data was sufficient to allow the identification of a population in whom the benefits of treating agitation associated with Alzheimer dementia with brexpiprazole outweighed its risks. At the end of the hearing, the committee voted 9–1 (9 yes; 1 no; 0 abstain) in favor of the agent.

[Read full press release](#)

New Biomarker, Suggests Potential Therapy For Multiple Sclerosis & Related Disorders



New research published this month in *Cell Metabolism* by Drs. Hugo J. Bellen, Hyunglok Chung, and Hyun Kyoung Lee at the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute (Duncan NRI) at Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine, reveals the intricate details of how demyelination leads to neuronal loss.

Researchers discovered that myelin breakdown results in an accumulation of Very Long-Chain Fatty Acids (VLCFA) and their intermediates; triggering an autoimmune response that damages brain cells. They also showed that reducing the levels of VLCFA and S1P using known drugs, Bezafibrate and Fingolimod, had a synergistic beneficial effect on the MS pathologies in animal models, revealing an even more effective treatment for MS patients.

[Read full press release](#)

Baylor
College of
Medicine



Caris Life Sciences Partners with Flare Therapeutics to Advance Oncology Pipeline



Caris Life Sciences, the leading molecular science and technology company actively developing and delivering innovative solutions to revolutionize healthcare, and Flare

Therapeutics, a biotechnology company targeting transcription factors to discover precision medicines for cancer and other diseases, announced a multi-year strategic collaboration to accelerate precision medicine approaches across five of Flare's therapeutic programs into clinical trials through advanced molecular profiling approaches that guide patient selection and participation.

[Learn more about Caris' partnership](#)

Lantern Pharma Receives Patent Allowance Notice for Molecular Therapeutic



Lantern Pharma Inc., a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company using its proprietary RADR® artificial intelligence and machine learning platform to transform the cost, pace, and timeline of oncology drug discovery and development, announced that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has issued a notice of allowance for U.S. patent application no. 17/192,838 directed to Lantern Pharma's drug candidate LP-284 ((+)-N-hydroxy-N-(methylacylfulvene)urea). The allowed application entitled "Illudin Analogs, Uses Thereof, and Methods for Synthesizing the same" covers the molecule LP-284, including claims covering the new molecular entity itself.

[Read full press release](#)

OncoNano Presents Compelling Data for Novel Tumor-Specific Delivery



OncoNano Medicine, Inc. presented three posters at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting 2023. The posters detail positive nonclinical data for ONM-501, the Company's dual-activating STING (STimulator of INterferon Genes) agonist and lead therapeutic development candidate, formulated with the company's OMNI™ polymer technology as well as positive data for encapsulated bispecific antibody and cytokine using ON-BOARD™ tumor specific delivery technology.

[Learn more about OncoNano's ONM-501 positive data](#)

Congratulations BioNTX Members for Becoming Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year Finalists



Congratulations to our region's Entrepreneur Of The Year® finalists, who were selected by an independent panel of judges based on their demonstration of long-term value

through entrepreneurial spirit, purpose, growth and impact, among other core contributions and attributes.



See the EY's Southwest Finalist

Baylor Researcher Pushes Back Africa's Prehistory Timeline by Over 10M Years



Daniel Peppe, PhD

[Read full press release](#)

Since 2013, Daniel Peppe, PhD, associate professor of geosciences at Baylor University and an international team of researchers have focused their research on understanding how ancient environments influenced the evolution of early apes in eastern Africa.

As participants exchanged information and expertise about geological features, isotopes and plant and ape fossils found at the sites, the bigger picture came into focus. The paradigm that during the early Miocene period equatorial Africa was completely forested was wrong.

Further, the result of this decade long research pushes back the oldest evidence of C4 grass-dominated habitats in Africa – and globally – by more than 10 million years, calling for revised palaeoecological interpretations of the development of plants and mammals.

Texas A&M Researcher Receives Inaugural Chancellor's Innovation Award



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



Scott Dindo, PhD

Dr. Scott Dindot, an associate professor in the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences was named the inaugural Chancellor's Innovation Award recipient at The Texas A&M University System Innovation Luncheon. The Chancellor's Innovation Award recognizes one employee from an institution within the Texas A&M University System who has made a remarkable achievement through their discovery and invention.

Dindot works with a specific gene implicated in a rare disorder, Angelman syndrome (AS), and has

[Read full press release](#)

developed a targeted drug therapy – now known as GTX-102 – that “goes after the heart of the condition,” according to Dindot. His drug therapy was the subject of a \$75 million acquisition by Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical, Inc., which is leading the continued development of the treatment.

Texas Environmental Science Expanding Energy Boundaries

Science plays a significant role in protecting and preserving the environment. It offers innovative solutions to some of the major environmental challenges we face today, such as climate change, pollution, and food insecurity. More than 50 Biorefineries are being built across North America to test and refine technologies that produce biofuels and chemicals from renewable biomass, which will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



TEXAS TECH
UNIVERSITY.



Robert V. Duncan, PhD

Robert V. Duncan, professor and president's distinguished chair in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, and his team within the Center for Emerging Energy Sciences (CEES) lab recently received a grant to work with other teams at major research institutions in the United States in exploring alternative nuclear energy possibilities that promise to be safe and to produce no fuel-related nuclear waste.

The end goal is to find a new source of energy that can be created in large quantities in a reasonably quick and economic manner without producing additional atmospheric carbon stress. Duncan said conventional nuclear energy has promise, but some emerging alternatives may offer additional options, based on early efforts.

[Read full press release](#)



UT Tyler
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER



University of Texas at Tyler has been awarded a National Science Foundation Grant to help find ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the environment. Dr. Aaditya Khanal, UT Tyler assistant professor in the Jasper Department of Chemical Engineering, serves as principal investigator for the project.

“Data-Driven Modeling and Analyses of CO₂ Transport in Porous Media” is intended to create computationally efficient models to predict the complex behavior of carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide, or CO₂, Khanal said, is a gas that leads to global warming and has challenging impacts on human

[Read full press release](#)

"We are so proud of Dr. Khanal and the work he is doing to gain a better understanding of energy use, climate change and strategies to help our environment and limit greenhouse gas emissions," said Dr. Steven Idell, UT Tyler senior vice president for research.

University Innovation & Lab Expansion in NTX

Brought to you by the BioNTX Facilities Committee



The BioNTX Facilities Advisory Committee is hosting a panel on Monday, May 22nd to highlight the ways in which our world class universities have lead the charge in building a strong life science ecosystem in North Texas.

Sponsored by

Perkins&Will

[Register now](#)

Apply for an Opportunity to Speak with NCI at BioLabs Pegasus Park



During this program, you will have the opportunity to hear from experts at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) at BioLabs Pegasus Park about SBIR/STTR opportunities in cancer, learn about the nuances of research funding for small businesses, and apply for one-on-one meetings.

[Register now](#)

HSC Next SBIR Phase 0 Program



The HSC Next SBIR Phase 0 Program provides innovative Tarrant County companies with one-on-one guidance, beginning with technology assessment. Select companies will enter a comprehensive one-month, cohort-based program that meets weekly and guides them through the grant writing processes. Additionally, participants receive one-on-one mentorship with SBIR experts that help founders fine-tune their proposals to increase the likelihood of receiving federal funding.

[Apply now](#)

Showcasing International Talent

Apply to become a judge or volunteer at the Regeneron ISEF



The Regeneron International Science and Engineer Fair (ISEF) is the world's largest international pre-college science competition. Regeneron ISEF provides an annual forum for more than 1,800 students in grades 9-12 from nearly every state in the US and about 80 countries, regions and territories to showcase their talent on an international stage.

Register to volunteer

Apply to be a judge

Accepting Applications for 2023 Cohort Accelerator Programs

Apply Now!



Apply to Health Wildcatters Accelerator Program to connect with a vast network of mentors and investors and accelerate your startup growth in a 3-month program with 8 to 12 other startups.

Applications due
May 31, 2023

Apply now



Apply to Techstars Accelerator Program to join one of their 3-month, mentorship-driven accelerators, receive up to \$120,000 in funding, get hands-on mentorship & access to the Techstars network for life.

Applications due
June 7, 2023

Apply now

Coming Soon: 2023 iC³ Life Science Summit



The iC³ Life Science Summit serves as the forum where bioscience and healthcare innovation leaders convene to discuss strategy, exhibit the broad spectrum of North Texas bioscience research, and where the latest innovation, products and services can be seen.

New Location - Irving Convention Center
Thursday, September 28th - Friday, September 29th

Early Registration Open Now

Submit Your Abstracts for CPRIT's Innovations in Cancer Prevention &

Research Conference VI

Abstracts due July 31, 2023



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Submit your abstracts to the Innovations in Cancer Prevention and Research Conference VI. Each accepted abstract will be presented as a poster during poster sessions to be held on each day of the conference with ample time for attendees to talk with presenters.

CPRIT's Innovations in Cancer Prevention and Research Conference VI will highlight the exceptional progress across cancer research, prevention, and product development at medical and academic research centers, in communities, and at companies around Texas. The conference will feature informative sessions on CPRIT-funded initiatives on computational biology and modeling for drug discovery, the use of artificial intelligence in imaging, the expansion of drug development resources and biomanufacturing facilities in Texas, and immunology and vaccine development in cancer.

Submit your abstracts now

Upcoming Events & Opportunities in North Texas



Celebration of Research & Innovation *UT Arlington*

Join UTA in celebrating the ingenuity and creativity of our faculty, students, and staff. The Celebration of Research and Innovation will feature panels, posters, exhibits, speakers, and a luncheon.

April 24, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



Hot Topics in Venom *Fort Worth Life Sciences Coalition*

Join the Fort Worth Life Sciences Coalition for an event featuring clinical aspects & treatment of snakebite, & the use of 'Omics to study many important physiological processes.

April 27, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



Patent Filing 101 *Biotech Club at UTSW*

Join the Biotech Club at UTSW to learn more what you need to know during the patent process.

April 27, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



IECC Code Changes *I²SL Texas Chapter*

Join I2SL Texas Chapter for a presentation on the latest energy conservation code changes followed by networking happy hour.

April 27, 2023

[Learn more here](#)

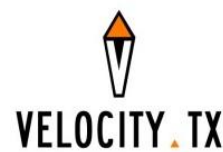


UTARI Research Day
UTARI

Join UTARI to meet their research team and learn more about the cutting edge technologies being developed with the help of their student research assistants.

April 28, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



Military Medical Industry Day IV
VelocityTX

Join VelocityTX to learn how products and services are developed, commercialized, and marketed to the military medical community.

May 2, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



NAMIWalks
NAMI North Texas

Join NAMI North Texas to make an unprecedented impact on mental health in our community.

May 6, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



Fort Worth Business Plan Competition
City of Fort Worth EDC

Join the City of Fort Worth Economic Development Corporation to celebrate the Top 8 finalists in this year's Fort Worth Business Plan Competition!

May 11, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



Hedge Funds in Venture Capital
Southern Methodist University

Join SMU to connect with entrepreneurs looking to start or expand their businesses, meet with venture investors and the professional community to solicit financing and obtain advice.

May 18, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



2023 Research & Quality Symposium
JPS Health Network

Join JPS Health Network for a free two-day event featuring research and quality abstracts.

Thursday evening's event will include a networking event showcasing abstract presentations and prize giveaways. Friday morning's virtual session will feature live poster and gallery presentations.

May 18 - 19, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



An Evening Under the Stars
Carson Leslie Foundation

Join Carson Leslie Foundation for dinner, crafted cocktails, and an extraordinary auction. Funds from Evening Under the Stars

BioNTX works to build a strong bioscience and healthcare innovation community through collaborative peer to peer networking events and educational programming.

[Let us know about your event!](#)

[View the North Texas community calendar of events](#)

will be invested in research leading to the prevention of medulloblastoma.

May 21, 2023

[Learn more here](#)

[Look at upcoming BioNTX events](#)



Celebrate Earth Day!

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

Jane Goodall



April 21, 2023

<http://www.BioNTX.org> | 5000 Riverside Drive, Building 6, Suite 100E, Irving, TX 75039

[Unsubscribe kotto@biontx.org](mailto:kotto@biontx.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by kotto@biontx.org