

CPRIT Conference Highlights Cancer Research & Innovation in Texas



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS



The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) held its annual *Innovations in Cancer Prevention and Research Conference* last week in beautiful Galveston, Texas.

The day-and-a-half CPRIT event welcomed researchers, entrepreneurs, start-up founders and healthcare professionals from around the country and featured distinguished speakers, informative panels, and notable cancer research and prevention sessions showcasing innovative CPRIT-funded projects.

Tarleton State Partners with EDA to Fuel Regional & National Growth



TARLETON
STATE UNIVERSITY



A grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration will enable Tarleton State University to operate as an EDA University Center — the only one in North Central Texas and one of just 73 nationwide.

The grant enables Tarleton State to establish an innovation center focused on leveraging assets in our region that support innovation and high-growth ecosystems.

“To be selected as the only EDA Center in our region is remarkable,” said Tarleton State President James Hurley, “and the support of area entrepreneurs proves our reputation as a champion for public good. Together, we’re creating an exceptional quality of life.”

[Read full press release](#)

Nanoscope Clinical Trial Allows Patients to Live Life in Color Again

nanoscope
THERAPEUTICS



Roy, a patient in the Nanoscope Therapeutics Inc. RESTORE clinical trial for Retinitis Pigmentosa, reacts to seeing "real vibrant colors I haven't seen since I was a kid!" and his determination to participate in all aspects of the community.

[Learn more about Nanoscope](#)

NIIMBL Launches Development Program to Expand Gene Therapy Access



The National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL) officially launches the Viral Vectors NIIMBL-led Program focused on developing and making broadly available robust, economically viable, shared manufacturing process and analytical platforms for Adeno-Associated Virus (AAV) gene therapy vectors. NIIMBL has committed to this effort with an ultimate vision to provide access to high quality viral vectors capable of serving the full spectrum of patient need, from prevalent indications to ultra-rare diseases, without cost or speed limitations.

[Learn more about NIIMBL's new program](#)

Curing Mitochondrial Diseases



This month, the Cure Mito Foundation held the 2nd Annual Empower & Inspire: Leigh Syndrome Symposium. A flagship event in the Leigh Syndrome community, the symposium gathered medical experts as well as genetic researchers, advocates, and families for an in depth review of the latest news, developments and breakthroughs in mitochondrial disease.

Professor Steven Gray, Ph.D, and Researcher Qinglan Ling, Ph.D, from UT Southwestern both serve scientific advisory roles for the foundation; ensuring North Texas remains at the forefront of cell and gene therapy innovation.

Created in 2018 by a group of families with children diagnosed with Leigh Syndrome, the Cure Mito Foundation works to unite the global Leigh Syndrome community to accelerate patient-centered research, treatments, and cures.

[Listen to the webinar recording](#)

TTU Researcher to Study Sequence-Based Lung Cancer Biomarkers



TEXAS TECH
UNIVERSITY



Adam Smith, PhD

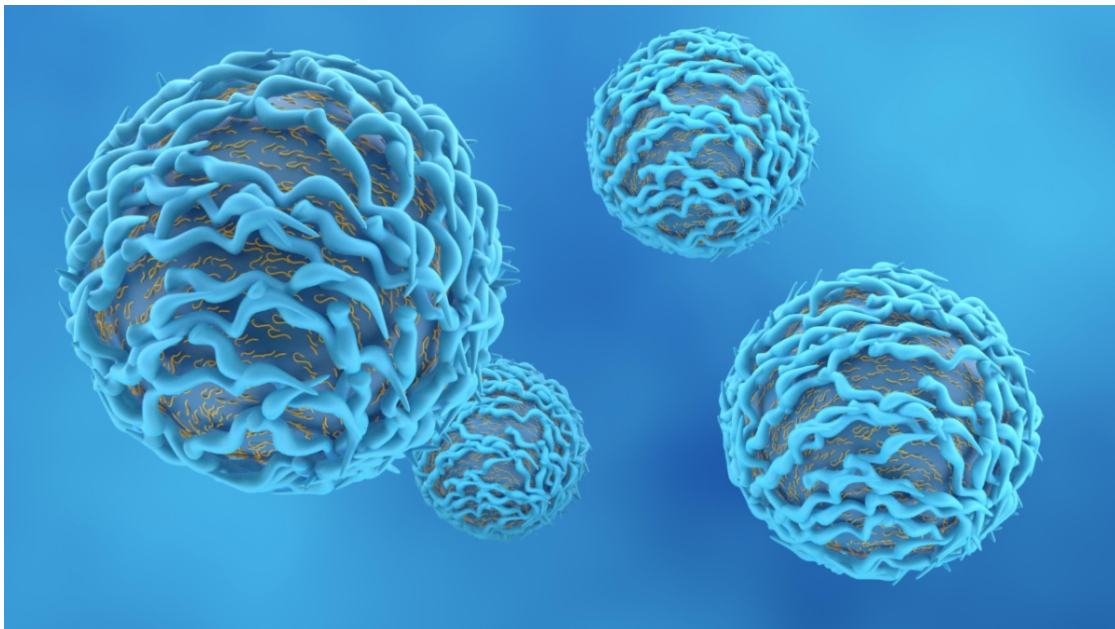
Dr. Adam Smith from Texas Tech University was awarded the Lung Cancer Discovery Award to study sequence-based biomarker testing to better identify variants. Smith's team at Texas Tech University will work to gather additional information to fully identify variants involved in lung cancer. Additional data focused on the lung cancer mutations will allow new strategies to emerge given more data points.

"Our research investment is key to unlocking solutions to alleviate the burden of lung disease. The Lung Association's Awards and Grants Program promotes innovative research, collaboration, translation of discoveries and scientific exchange to transform today's science into tomorrow's solutions. Because when you can't breathe, nothing else matters," said Charlotte Maffia, Executive Director of the American Lung Association.

[Read full press release](#)

UTSW Discovers New Avenue for Cell Therapy in Cancer

UTSouthwestern
Medical Center®



Immune checkpoints modulate the immune response and represent important immunotherapy targets for cancer treatment. However, as many tumors are resistant to current immune checkpoint inhibitors, the discovery of novel immune checkpoints could facilitate the development of additional immunotherapeutic strategies to improve patient responses.

UTSW identified increased expression of the adhesion molecule immunoglobulin superfamily member 9 (IGSF9) in tumor cells and tumor-infiltrating immune cells across multiple cancer types. IGSF9 overexpression or knockout in tumor cells did not alter cell proliferation in vitro or tumor growth in immunocompromised mice.

[Learn more about IGSF9](#)

Taysha Doses Second Patient in Pivotal Rett Syndrome Clinical Trial



The second patient has been dosed in the phase 1/2 REVEAL clinical trial evaluating Taysha Gene Therapies' TSHA-102, an investigational adeno-associated virus (AAV) vector-based gene therapy, for the treatment of adult patients with Rett syndrome.

"Dosing the second adult patient in the REVEAL phase 1/2 adult trial in Canada marks important progress in the ongoing clinical evaluation of TSHA-102 for Rett syndrome," Sukumar Nagendran, MD, the president and head of research and development, at Taysha, said in a statement.

[Read full press release](#)

Cell & Gene Therapy Events On The Horizon



Key Considerations for Driving Gene Therapy Programs Successfully Through IND/CTA and Beyond

Join Labroots to hear novel innovations and strategies to accelerate timelines within preclinical development of your gene therapy.

October 24, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



Rare Disease Dilemmas and Solutions

Join Climedto to hear from experts share their insights and expertise on how advancements in technology, data analysis and evidence-based strategies can reshape the landscape of rare disease management and close important knowledge gaps.

October 26, 2023

[Learn more here](#)

ARPA-H Launches APECx Program to Transform Vaccine Discovery



The Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) launched a research program to develop a computational toolkit that helps design vaccines that target many viruses at once. The program is called the Antigens Predicted for Broad Viral Efficacy through Computational Experimentation, or APECx.

"Viruses continue to threaten our health security and impact American health outcomes so designing vaccines that are capable of protecting against many emerging threats at once is critical," said ARPA-H APECx Program Manager Andy Kilianski, PhD. "We need to

fundamentally shift the vaccine development paradigm to catch up to the many viruses we can't prevent today. APECx strives to remove roadblocks by developing toolkits and vaccines in ways that are currently not possible.”

[Learn more ARPA-H's APECx program](#)

NORTH TEXAS NEWS

DFW Announces State of the Airport 2023

CEIV Pharma
Community



Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) contributes an estimated \$38 billion in direct and indirect payroll support, \$24 billion in visitor spending and about \$5 billion in state and local tax revenue each year, according to the results of an updated economic impact study released today during the 2023 DFW State of the Airport. The airport also supports more than 634,000 direct and indirect jobs, according to the study.

“We are proud to continue serving as one of the main economic engines not just in North Texas, but in the entire state of Texas,” said Sean Donohue, CEO of DFW International Airport. “DFW is committed to making the investments and developing the strategic relationships around the world that will lead to even more destinations, support new flights, create unforgettable travel experiences and attract the best talent in the industry.”

[Read full press release](#)

Baylor Entrepreneurship & Corporate Innovation Climbs National Rankings



The Department of Entrepreneurship and Corporate Innovation within Baylor University's nationally ranked Hankamer School of Business moved up to No. 3 in the world and the highest-ranked program in Texas for research productivity in the 2023 TCU Global University Entrepreneurship Research Productivity Rankings, the only research-focused ranking of entrepreneurial programs.

[Read full press release](#)

TTU Innovation Hub Awards 7 Promising North Texas Startups



TEXAS TECH
UNIVERSITY.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

Texas Tech University's Innovation Hub at Research Park has announced the winners of the 2023 Presidents' Innovative Startup awards, with seven early-stage companies.

The presidents of Texas Tech and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) foster innovative companies through these yearly awards, giving startups the ability to purchase or rent operating space or equipment.

[Learn more about the seven startups](#)

UTA to Break Ground on New Clinical Research Imaging Center



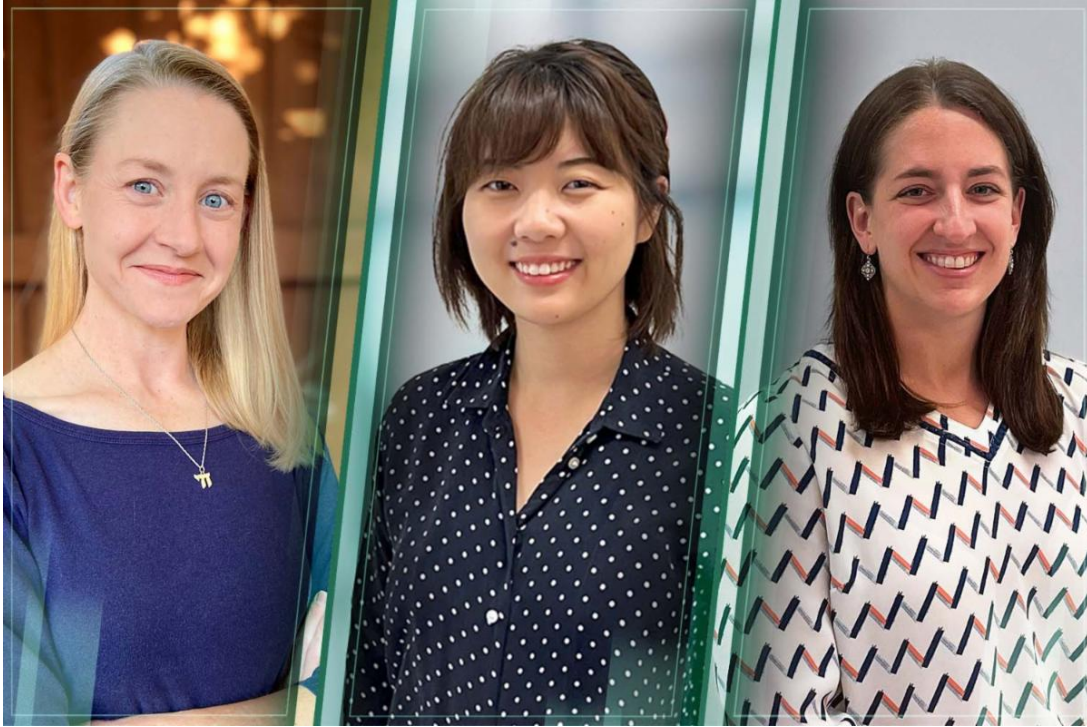
The University of Texas at Arlington has given the green light to build a Clinical Research Imaging Center on its main campus.

“The addition of the Clinical Research Imaging Center is a key part of UTA’s vision to expand our clinical research infrastructure,” said Kate C. Miller, vice president of research and innovation. “We believe adding this facility on our main campus will be a beacon for researchers to come together to innovate, discover and perform interdisciplinary research.”

[Learn more about UTA's Clinical Research Imaging Center](#)

UTD Research Trio Recognized for Schizophrenia Research





(from left to right) Amy Pinkham, PhD, Pumpki Lei Su, PhD, CCC-SLP and Kelly Jahn, AuD, PhD

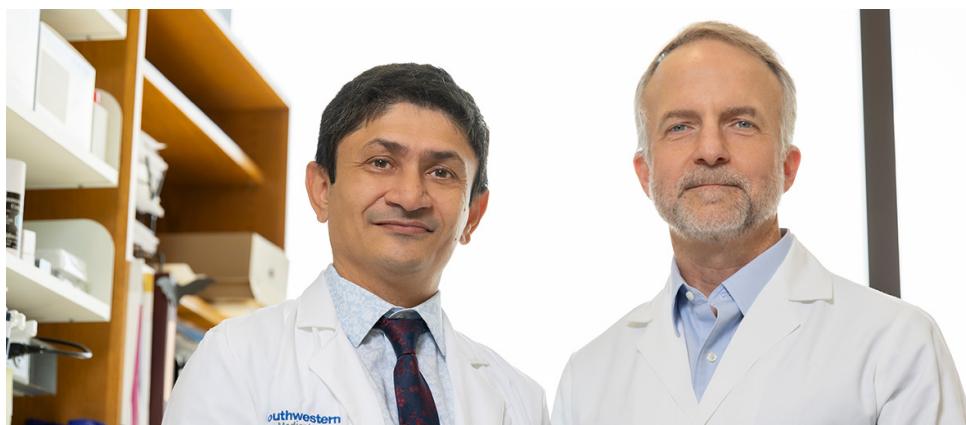
Dr. Amy Pinkham is the 2023 recipient of the Maltz Prize for Innovative and Promising Schizophrenia Research, which provides \$40,000 to an investigator conducting research into the mental disorder. The Maltz Prize is one of five Outstanding Achievement Prizes awarded annually to scientists recognized for outstanding research leadership and contributions to mental health research.

Dr. Pumpki Lei Su and Dr. Kelly Jahn, both assistant professors of speech, language, and hearing in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at The University of Texas at Dallas, were among 11 U.S. researchers chosen by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) for the 2023 Advancing Academic-Research Careers (AARC) Award. The honor supports the academic research careers of early-career faculty in communication sciences and disorders.

[Read full press release](#)

UTSW Duo Receive Award to Commercialize Kidney Therapies

UTSouthwestern
Medical Center®



(from left to right) Vishal Patel, MD and Michael Buszczak, PhD

Two faculty members have received an award designed to help UT Southwestern researchers move new technologies to market, in this case for their investigative work involving kidney disease and cancer. Michael Buszczak, PhD, Professor of Molecular Biology, and Vishal Patel, MD, Professor of Internal Medicine, will share the UTSW Biotech+ at Pegasus Park Commercialization Milestone Award.

“As part of the funding, awardees meet with investors and business advisers to provide feedback on their work and its potential,” said Brad Phelan, MBA, Assistant Vice President of Technology Commercialization and Business Development.

[Read full press release](#)

FUNDING & MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Johnson & Johnson + Blue Knight™ Seek Innovative Start-ups

Applications due October 22, 2023

Johnson & Johnson

INNOVATION

You are invited to learn more about BLUE KNIGHT™ and innovators can apply to participate in one on one meetings with representatives from Johnson & Johnson Innovation, BLUE KNIGHT™.

If you are interested in being considered for a one on one in-person meeting, please apply by October 22. Selected companies will be notified by email on October 30.

[Learn more about the Blue Knight™](#)

[Apply now](#)

Bringing Innovative Ideas to Market

Applications due November 9, 2023

 **TANGO2RESEARCH**
FOUNDATION

The T2RF Grant Cycle 4 awards provide essential funding for seed or pilot research projects, fostering the exploration of groundbreaking research concepts. These awards support initial testing phases, allowing researchers to embark on smaller-scale endeavors. The emphasis lies in evaluating feasibility and refining methodologies, shaping the trajectory of potential larger-scale studies. Through the T2RF Grant Cycle 4, they empower researchers to take innovative ideas from conception to a vital stage of validation, contributing to the advancement of knowledge and discovery.

[Apply now](#)

SXSW Applications Portal is OPEN

Applications due November 12, 2023



Apply to SXSW's Pitch Competition for an opportunity to present your latest ideas across eight categories to a panel of industry experts, early adopters, and representatives from the investment community.

[Apply now](#)

PSC Grants Funds for New Therapy Discovery

Applications ends on January 15, 2024



PSC Partners and affiliate PSC Partners Canada award annual grants that drive research to identify treatments and a cure. Their Research Grants Program seeks to encourage investigators to conduct research in promising new areas, with the goal that data generated will lead to further seed funding from additional sources.

[Apply 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](#)

INDUSTRY EVENTS

Celebrate the ARPA-H Win with the North Texas Life Science Community



BIO Break: Dallas' Life Sciences Happy Hour

RSVP

Pegasus Park
3000 Pegasus Park Drive
Dallas, TX 75247

Thursday
November 2, 2023
5:00pm - 7:00pm



Beginning November 2, on the first Thursday of every month, we'll be partnering with our friends at McDermott Will & Emery for a sponsored happy hour at Pegasus Park to help cultivate Dallas' bubbling Life Sciences community.

Dallas was recently named "one of three U.S. hubs for a \$2.5 billion federal biotech research agency...cementing North Texas' place among the nation's major Life Sciences hubs."

**Take a break with us and enjoy an evening full of networking
and support of local businesses.**

Register now

Autumn Happy Hour at Cresa

BI^{TX}NTX



The BioNTX Facilities Committee invites you for an evening of networking at Cresa Real Estate's office overlooking the Cowboys practice field in The Star. We'll be joined by special guest, Gloria Salinas, Vice President at the Frisco Economic Development Corporation.

Thank you for your support!



Register now

Upcoming Events & Opportunities in North Texas



Venture Dallas 2023

Join Venture Dallas to learn more about the early and growth-stage investment climate in DFW, how to capitalize on it, and what's coming next.

October 25, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



2023 Fall Policy Summit and Luminary Awards Dinner

Join THBI to listen to discussions highlighting the innovative science being produced in Texas, and how Texas's policy makers can support policies that expand and protect patient access to innovation and improve health and health programs.

October 25, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



Health Equity Summit

Join Community Council-Community Wellness to hear from experts share data, observations, testimonials and solutions for tackling the barriers to good health that so many of our neighbors experience.

October 26, 2023

[Learn more here](#)

MedCity News

MedCity INVEST Digital Health

Join MedCity News to convene with all the players at the vanguard of this wholesale transformation who are tackling both dazzling opportunities and thorny problems.

October 26, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



LAUNCHBIO

Capital Gains Webinar Series 1

Join LaunchBio to learn the knowledge and skills necessary to attract venture capital funding.

October 26, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



Join Health Wildcatters at their Women In Science and Healthcare Kick-Off where they continue to gather, meet like-minded individuals.

October 30, 2023

[Learn more here](#)

Stay Connected!



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

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