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Texas Life Science Foundation Receives CPRIT Planning Grant Award

Austin, TX (January 27, 2010) - Texas Life Science Foundation (TLSF) is among the first group of grant recipients from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas's (CPRIT) \$3 billion in funds for cancer research. TLSF's grant from CPRIT will support collaboration among Texas cancer clinical trial researchers, patient navigators and cancer advocacy groups in planning for a full CPRIT multi-site grant later this year to create a Texas-wide patient matching and navigation system. Texas has the largest number of cancer clinical trials in the nation, and investments from CPRIT are expected to expand the number and types of clinical trials available to Texas residents.

"Cancer clinical trials are the lynchpin in the discovery of life-saving drugs and the development of improved prevention, diagnostic and treatment methods: most of today's treatments are the result of patients volunteering to participate in trials," said Armin D. Weinberg, PhD, the TLSF's Principal Investigator. Dr. Weinberg is a founding member of TLSF's Advisory Board and the Director of Baylor College of Medicine's Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Research Center. Dr. Weinberg continued, "For clinical trials to be useful to all populations, we need to make it easier for Texans from all backgrounds, racial/ethnic groups, ages and locations to be able to participate."

"Cancer patients and their families want to understand all of their options for prevention, care and treatment," said Deborah Vollmer Dahlke, Director of TLSF's Clinical Trial Network. "We can empower patients and their physicians with easy to access, personalized information about trials in Texas. Matching patients to trials and removing barriers through the support of trained clinical trial navigators will accelerate moving CPRIT-funded cancer prevention and treatment discoveries from the laboratory, to the bedside, and into Texas' communities," Vollmer Dahlke stated.

Dr. Weinberg and Vollmer Dahlke will initiate a series of collaboration meetings early this spring with cancer researchers, clinical trial sponsors, community oncologists, navigators and cancer advocates from across Texas. These collaborations will support the design and set the base of operations for the trial matching services.

About Texas Life Science Foundation (TLSF) TLSF is an entrepreneurial nonprofit foundation working to increase access to clinical trials, expand and accelerate recruitment, especially among underserved and minority populations and to support patient communications and retention in trials. Through supporting cancer clinical trial enrollment via personalized patient matching and navigation to trials TLSF will deliver services to Texas cancer patients and their families. More information about TLSF is available at its website. www.TLSFoundation.org.

Additional information about CPRIT's mission, goals and funding opportunities can be found at www.cprit.state.tx.us.