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Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas Awards
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Grants

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) researchers were awarded
more than $3.1 million in grants from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of
Texas (CPRIT). The funds were awarded to support new scientific research projects and
recruits to help fight cancer in Texas. TTUHSC’s grants are part of over $6 million that
was awarded to the Texas Tech University System.

“The world-class institutions of the Texas Tech University System are conducting
important work in cancer research and prevention, addressing cancers of importance and
delivering vital services directly to Texans,” said Wayne Roberts, CPRIT chief executive
officer.

TTUHSC received a $3.1 million Core Facility award that will support a Cancer Animal
Facility. This grant will update the current animal facility in Lubbock, under the
leadership of Scott L. Trasti, DVM, director of the TTUHSC Laboratory Animal
Resources Center. These facility updates will enhance the capabilities for cancer research
in animal models by including advanced imaging and slide scanning, clinical and
anatomic pathology and updated equipment that supports animal care. A major user of
the core will be The Children’s Oncology Group Cell Childhood Cancer Repository,
which establishes, banks, and characterizes patient-derived xenografts from childhood
cancers and provides them to greater than 600 research laboratories across Texas,
nationwide, and 26 countries world-wide.

Komaraiah Palle, Ph.D., associate professor in the TTUHSC Department of Cell Biology
and Biochemistry, also received a $200,000 High-Impact/High-Risk Research award to
study the recurrence of ovarian cancer and treating the disease’s resistance to
chemoprevention. This award mechanism provides short-term funding to explore the
feasibility of high-risk projects that, if successful, would contribute major new insights
into the etiology, diagnosis, treatment or prevention of cancers.

“We are extremely grateful to CPRIT for these grants that will allow our faculty to
continue their fight against cancer,” said Texas Tech University System Chancellor and
TTUHSC President Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D. “This research is vital in the prevention of
cancer and in providing life-saving treatments.”