MD Anderson CPRIT Graduate Scholar Award – Call for Applications

The MD Anderson CPRIT Research Training Program provides fundamental, interdisciplinary, and innovative training in cancer research at MD Anderson. This program is the continuation of a highly successful and comprehensive training program supported by CPRIT. The program includes 3 tracks: the CPRIT Graduate Scholar, CPRIT TRIUMPH (Translational Research In Multidisciplinary Programs) Postdoctoral, and CPRIT Summer Undergraduate Programs. The program is led by Drs. Khandan Keyomarsi (PI) and Stephanie Watowich (coPI), with assistance from Dr. Kari Brewer Savannah. Additional information is found at www.mdanderson.org/CPRITGradScholar.

The MD Anderson CPRIT Research Training Award and institutional funds will support nine CPRIT Graduate Scholars per year. The funds will cover graduate student stipends, fringe benefits, and provide a modest annual travel allowance. CPRIT Graduate Scholars will be appointed for one year.

Renewed funding may be awarded via a competitive annual review process. Renewals will be dependent upon successful academic and research progress, participation in activities related to the CPRIT Graduate Scholar Training Program (e.g., an annual CPRIT Symposium, journal clubs), and competition with new applicants.

Eligibility:

Post-candidacy Ph.D. students affiliated with MD Anderson graduate (GSBS) faculty are eligible for the CPRIT Graduate Scholar Award. Successful candidates will have a competitive cancer research project and be directly supervised or co-mentored by a CPRIT Graduate Scholar Faculty Member.

Applications will be limited to one per laboratory for each funding announcement cycle. While all students affiliated with MD Anderson graduate (GSBS) faculty member laboratories are eligible, the faculty member must nominate only one per his/her laboratory per funding announcement.

MD Anderson students who are directly supervised by CPRIT Graduate Scholar faculty members (list attached) have the option to choose a co-mentor from the training grant faculty. MD Anderson students who are supervised by other faculty have equal opportunity to receive a CPRIT Graduate Scholar Award. In these cases, the PI and coPI strongly advise the applicant to select a co-mentor from the CPRIT Graduate Scholar Training faculty to serve as a member of his/her advisory committee. In the latter case, the co-mentor should provide a letter of recommendation stating his/her commitment to serving as CPRIT Graduate Scholar co-mentor.

Application Instructions:
Required documents must be compiled into a single PDF file (less letters of recommendation) in the order listed (under “Required documents”) and submitted via email to Dr. Savannah: ksavannah@mdanderson.org.

Page formatting: 1-inch margins on all 4 sides.
Font: Arial or Helvetica, 12pt.

Deadline: Friday, February 14th, 2020 (by 11:59pm)
Late applications or applications that do not follow the guidelines will not be considered.
**Required Documents:**

Submitted by Applicant:

1. A 2-page research proposal written by the CPRIT Graduate Scholar Candidate. This should include the significance of the project and its relevance to cancer, theoretical aspects guiding the study (e.g., hypothesis), goals of the project, and expected outcomes. A two-page limit is enforced but references may be included in additional pages (text and figures on the additional pages will not be considered).

2. A current curriculum vitae for the applicant

3. Applicants are required to submit their undergraduate transcripts (unofficial is sufficient), a GSBS status report, and all advisory committee reports to date to demonstrate academic achievements and progress. Please contact Ms. Bunny Perez at Lourdes.V.Perez@uth.tmc.edu for GSBS reports.

4. A statement of commitment by the CPRIT Graduate Scholar candidate and dissertation mentor that indicates intent to participate in all required activities of the CPRIT Graduate Scholar Training Program, including monthly journal clubs and the CPRIT symposium. (1-page limit)

Submitted by Mentor/Co-Mentor:

1. A training plan written by the applicant's dissertation mentor, including plans for scientific oversight of the project, mentoring of the candidate, how the project is expected to facilitate the trainee's career goals in cancer research, career development opportunities that will be encouraged/supported, and the mentor's overall research goals. In addition, the mentor must affirm that only one application per lab will be submitted per award announcement cycle. (1-page limit)

2. A statement from the CPRIT Faculty Mentor or Co-Mentor indicating willingness to serve as a member of the CPRIT Graduate Scholar's supervisory committee.*

3. A letter of recommendation from the primary graduate mentor. This recommendation may be combined with the training plan if desired, but will not increase the 1 page limit for the training plan. Alternatively, a separate letter may be provided with no page limitations.

Submitted by Recommenders:

1. Two additional letters of recommendation should be submitted in support of the CPRIT Graduate Scholar’s application.* Recommendation letters should be sent in PDF format from the referee's institutional email address to ksavannah@mdanderson.org. Please include the applicant's name and CPRIT Graduate Scholar in the subject line. Letters of support should be received on or before the day the application closes.

*A CPRIT Faculty Co-Mentor may combine their letter of recommendation with their statement of willingness to serve as co-mentor. In this case, a letter of recommendation from the primary graduate mentor, the CPRIT Graduate Scholar Co-Mentor, and one additional faculty are required.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application and letters of support are submitted by the deadline of February 14, 2020.

Anticipated start date: May 1, 2020.
CPRIT Graduate Scholar Training Faculty

Allison, James, PhD
Arur, Swathi, PhD
Bankson, Jim, PhD
Barton, Michelle, PhD
Behringer, Richard PhD
Chandra, Joya, PhD
Chen, Junjie, PhD
Curran, Michael, PhD
Dent, Sharon, PhD
DePinho, Ronald, MD
Draetta, Giulio, MD, PhD
Galko, Michael, PhD
Gandhi, Varsha, PhD
Hazle, John, PhD
Hwu, Patrick, MD
Johnson, David, PhD
Keyomarsi, Khandan, PhD
Krahe, Ralf, PhD
Lozano, Guillermina, PhD
Ma, Li, PhD
Maitra, Anirban, MBBS
McCrea, Pierre, PhD
Myers, Jeffrey, MD, PhD
Navin, Nicholas, PhD
Piwnica-Worms, David, MD, PhD
Piwnica-Worms, Helen, PhD
Plunkett, William, PhD
Rezvani, Katy, MD, PhD
Richie, Ellen, PhD
Sun, Shao-Cong, PhD
Sood, Anil, MD
Watowich, Stephanie, PhD
Wood, Richard, PhD
Yee, Cassian, MD
Yu, Dihua, MD, PhD