Who is eligible for the TMC ACT program? Is company formation required to apply to the ACT program?

To apply to the TMC ACT program researchers and companies should be Texas-based with a cancer therapeutics project. The program’s priority is to select the highest quality concepts, with the greatest potential, unencumbered by a product portfolio or market considerations. Participants will be required to complete a business grant by the end of the accelerator program (SBIR/STTR or CPRIT) and therefore, will need to incorporate during the program.

How do I apply to the TMC ACT program and what are the important program dates?

TMC ACT applications open in September and the application can be completed on the TMC ACT webpage. Researchers and companies will be notified of program acceptance in November and the ACT introductory bootcamp will commence in January for selected researchers and companies.

How are companies selected for participation in ACT?

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, during the open application period, based on the scientific merit, novelty, cancer relevance, and commercial potential of projects. Top ranking applications will be interviewed by the ACT team.

What is the cost of TMC ACT? Are program participants provided funding through the program?

The ACT program is offered at no cost to researchers and companies. The program does not provide funding to participants, does not take equity from participants, and does not generate revenue. The program is funded by CPRIT through 2024.

What TMC ACT computational resources are provided, to who, and at what cost?

ACT offers computational resources and expert support to competitively selected hit discovery and lead optimization stage projects at no cost to all cancer therapeutics researchers and companies.

How will my intellectual property be protected?

Researchers and companies retain the rights to their own intellectual property under discussion or development with the ACT team. The TMC ACT Program Participation Agreement and the TMC ACT Computational Resources Service Agreement will protect confidential information.

How does TMC ACT measure program success?

A successful ACT program will (1) increase cancer therapeutic startup companies based in Texas, (2) support cancer therapeutics companies to secure non-dilutive SBIR/STTR and CPRIT grant funds for continued development, and (3) accelerate the path to IND and clinical trials.

Can I still receive support for my cancer therapeutic project if I am not selected for the accelerator?

Investigators and founders interested in developing cancer therapeutics are encouraged to contact the ACT team for office hours here to receive project specific feedback, individualized coaching, and access to the computational chemistry resources. The ACT team supports Texas-based companies in the cancer therapeutics space at all stages of development.

Additional TMC ACT information can be found on the TMC ACT webpage or by emailing act@tmc.edu.

The TMC ACT program is a CPRIT backed accelerator launched in collaboration with the Gulf Coast Consortium (GCC) and the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB). This program provides life science entrepreneurs an accelerated drug development timeline by bringing together cancer researchers, oncologists, executive mentorship, drug development experts, and investors.