The Texas Medical Center Accelerator for Cancer Therapeutics (TMC ACT) prepares academic researchers and early-stage companies for success in every stage of growth by creating a solid foundation to support a critical stage of company formation and launch, while bringing together founders, talent, knowledge, and investors.

The ACT program is a Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) funded accelerator launched in collaboration with the Gulf Coast Consortium (GCC) and the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) to support Texas-based biotech entrepreneurs, researchers contemplating translations, and internal comprehensive drug development programs.

CURRICULUM AND RESOURCES

Each ACT project transforms into a detailed development plan encompassing major necessary business and therapeutic development milestones. Founders work with EIRs, advisors, and expert consultants to identify critical gaps and key experiments. The program culminates with at least one grant submission, and an option to pitch to investors, corporate partners, media, and other influential guests.

Participants can expect:

- Curated mentor network
- Dedicated EIRs
- Critical gap identification and problem solving
- Key experiments identification to enable funding
- Computational chemistry resources
- Grant writing support
- Access to competitive intelligence
- GCC Drug Development Core Network
- JLABS@TMC lab space
- Investor relationship development and pitch opportunities
- Proximity to world-class researchers and experts in the Texas Medical Center

Craig Ramirez, PhD
Co-Founder & CEO,
TEZCAT Laboratories

“The constant push for us to be better has really helped our program and team evolve. TMC ACT has not only taught us the necessary steps and components to a successful drug development program, but also how to categorize and speak to our technically complicated therapeutic approach. We highly recommend other individuals join this program because it is hard to find such great guidance anywhere else, especially without a monetary or equity fee!”

Learn more about the 2021 inaugural ACT cohort [HERE]. The projects represent diverse areas of focus, including immunotherapy, cell therapy, targeted therapy, cancer pain and drug platforms.
EXTERNAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EAC)

The ACT EAC is composed of accomplished expert advisors assisting TMC in the development of this exceptional program. The committee contributes key resources, trusted expertise and guidance to advance transformative cancer therapeutics commercialization efforts within Texas.

COMPUTATIONAL CHEMISTRY RESOURCES

TMC ACT offers complimentary computational resources and expertise to select hit discovery and lead optimization stage projects for Texas-based academic founders and startups.

Resources available to support discover high-quality, novel cancer therapeutics more rapidly at a lower cost:

- High performance computational hardware resources featuring advanced CPU and GPU processors
- Access to cutting-edge open source and commercial drug discovery application packages including widely used Schrodinger and Cresset platforms
- Computational chemistry application support
- Large scale virtual screening
- Protein-ligand interactions
- Predictive modeling
- Cheminformatics and ligand-based drug design
- Molecular dynamics simulations
- Binding free energy calculations