



# Annual Report for UTCoP Drug Discovery Center

Year 5: 6/1/2021-6/14/2022  
(Funding summary 5/1/2021-4/30/2022)

Wei Li, Ph.D. on behalf of all DDC members

# DDC Mission and Short-term Goals

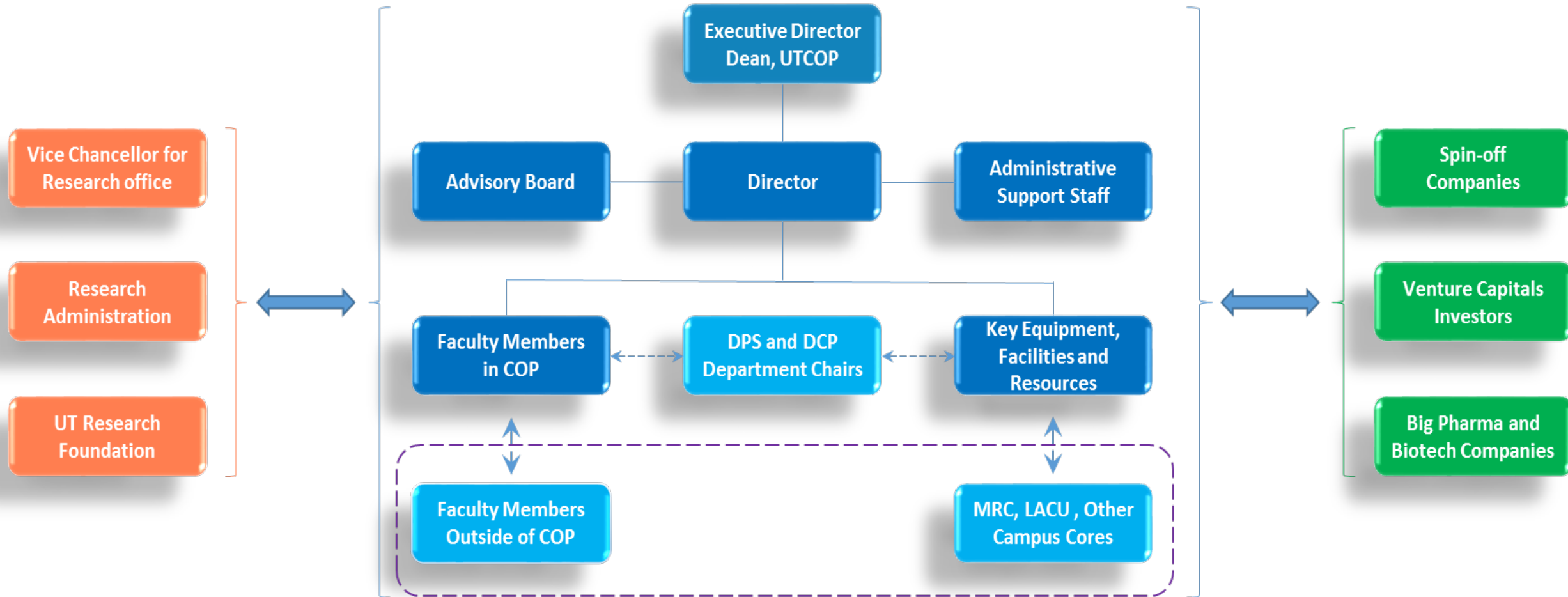
- DDC Missions:

- Support drug discovery research by securing major external funding especially from NIH, although other external funding sources are welcomed
- Support innovative drug discovery research in UTHSC and ultimately clinical translation of new drugs for the diagnosis and therapy of human diseases with spin-off companies or commercial partners
- Attract leading faculty in drug discovery to UTCOP, and train students and postdoctoral fellows in the science of drug discovery

- Short-term Goals:

- Using our existing strength and expertise, focusing on an advanced project with the goal to develop and compete for an NIH Program Project Grant in small molecule drug discovery.
- At the same time, develop and secure other types of external grants from NIH, DOD, Foundations, and other sources of funding agencies.

## UTCOP Drug Discovery Center Organization Structure



## UTCoP DDC Advisory Committee

- **Dr. Richard Magid**, VP of UTRF  
– left UTHSC as 5/1/2022
- **Dr. Gunda Georg**, Chair of  
Dept of Med Chem; Director  
of Institute for Therapeutics  
Discovery and Development  
(ITDD), University of  
Minnesota



# Accomplishment of the DDC in the year 5

- Current DDC members (10, in alphabetic order)
  - Hevener, Kirk; Jiang, Jianxiong; [Kumar, Santosh](#); [Leo, Dennis](#); Li, Wei; Meibohm, Bernd; Miller, Duane; Palmer, Glen; Singh, Udai; Yang, Chao-Yie



- *New awarded funding brought in during this year by DDC members (exclude any internal funds, no cost extension, etc)*
  - Total funding brought as PIs, Co-Is, or subcontractor PIs: \$6,977,955 (see the table Bernd helped to make for details).
  - Average per DDC member: \$512,581 direct cost/member; \$697,796 total cost/member.
  - **Contribute to UTCop NIH ranking: \$6,097,123 by DDC members** (from various NIH institutions)

## Other Major Accomplishments in Year 5

- At least two new R01 equivalents will be awarded by August 1, 2022
- The UTHSC spin-off company, SEAK Therapeutics LLC, submitted several new SBIR grant applications and will be reviewed in late June.
- High-impact papers are continually published by DDC members

# Summary accomplishments for the first five years

- DDC members collectively brought in significant amount of federal funding each year. On average about \$500k/member per year. Contributed to UTCoP NIH ranking.
- Even though we did not get A grant with total cost over \$1M/year, and thus did not get the 50% indirect cost returns. Combined new grants are well over this \$1M/year threshold.
- Assist the department Chair recruited several R01 funded new faculty (Drs Jiang and Yang), who continued to be highly productive faculty
- Published extensive high impact papers
- Established a spin-off company for commercialization of UTHSC invented technology and successfully obtained multiple grants
- Several compounds have been licensed to commercial partners, with one (sabizabulin) holding great promise for the FDA EUA approval as of today.
- Trainees from DDC members received multiple awards in campus, regional and national competitions
- Well-recognized by the campus and in the 2021-2026 campus Operational Strategic Plan for Research
- Overall, the DDC has been very successful in achieving its stated goals for the past five years.