



Annual Report for UTCoP Drug Discovery Center

Year 6: 6/1/2022-6/8/2023

(Funding summary 5/1/2022-4/30/2023)

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

DDC Mission and Short-term Goals

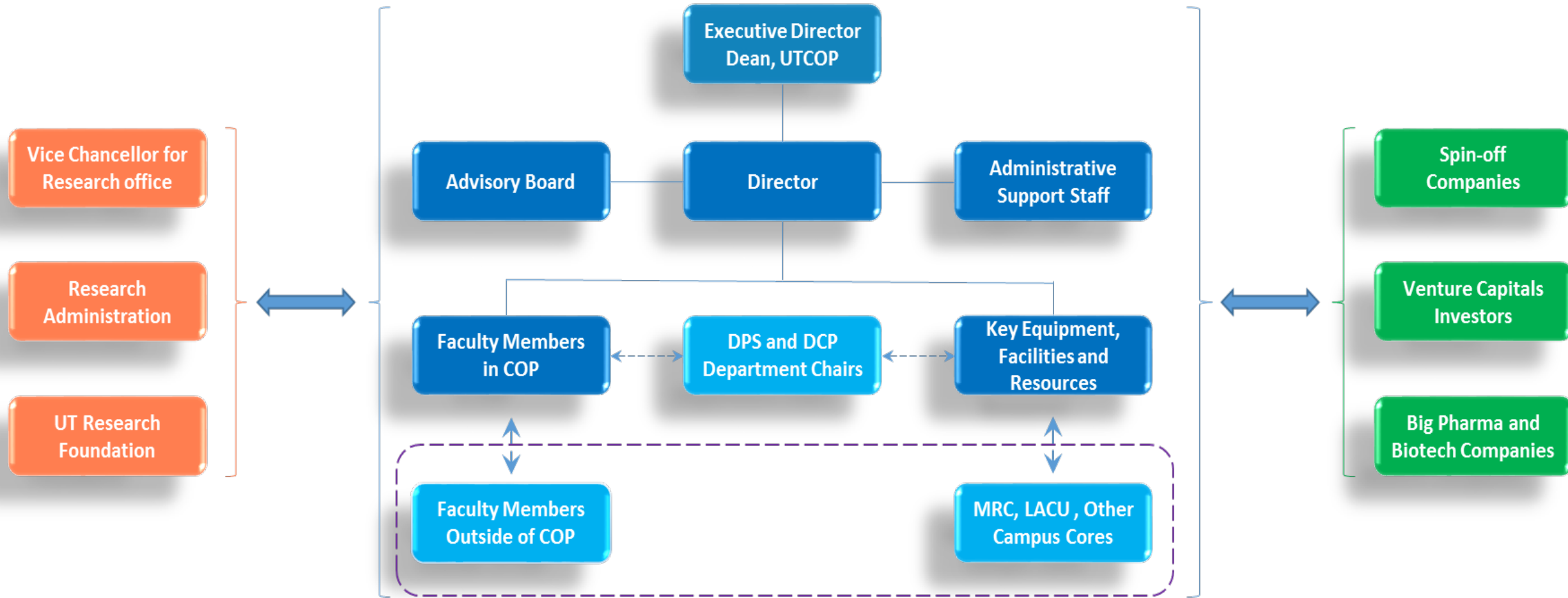
- DDC Missions:

- 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 various types of NIH, DoD or other federal grants in small molecule drug discovery, facilitating the goal of further improving the UTCOP ranking in the national fund rankings
- *If practical*, develop a Program Project application.
- Work with the UTHSC Cancer Center to contribute to its Cancer Center Program Grant application.

UTCOP Drug Discovery Center Organization Structure



UTCop DDC Advisory Committee

- **Dr. Gunda Georg**, Chair of Dept of Med Chem; Director of Institute for Therapeutics Discovery and Development (ITDD), University of Minnesota
- **Dr. Todd Ponzio**, VP of UTRF



Accomplishment of the DDC in the year 6

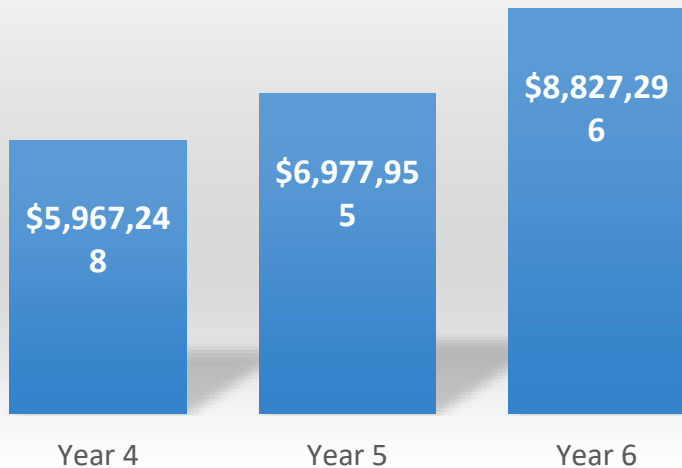
- Current DDC members (10, in alphabetic order, no change from year 5)
 - Hevener, Kirk; Jiang, Jianxiong; Kumar, Santosh; Leo, Dennis; Li, Wei; Meibohm, Bernd; Miller, Duane; Palmer, Glen; Singh, Udai; Yang, Chao-Yie



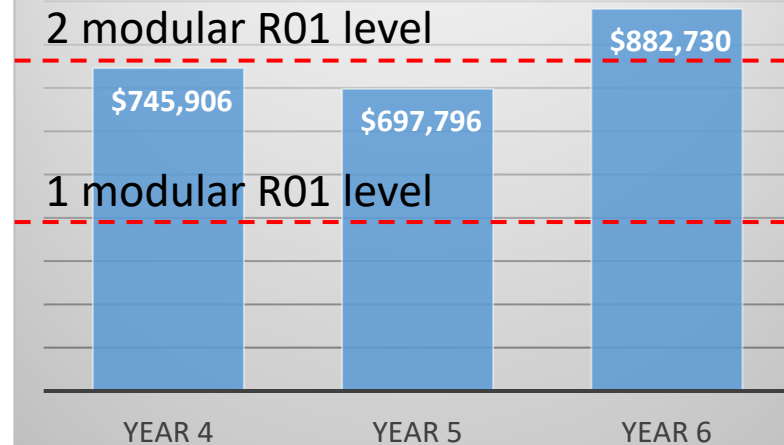
- *New awarded funding brought in during this year by DDC members (exclude any internal funds, no-cost extension, etc)*
 - Total funding brought as PIs, Co-Is, or subcontractor PIs: \$8,827,296 (see the table Bernd helped to make for details).
 - Average per DDC member: \$646,689 direct cost/member; \$882,730 total cost/member.
 - **Contribute to UTCoP NIH ranking: \$8,339,385** (from various NIH institutions, compared with \$6,097,123 in year 5)

Accomplishment of the DDC new grants: available historical numbers (we began to calculate the numbers from the year 4 meeting)

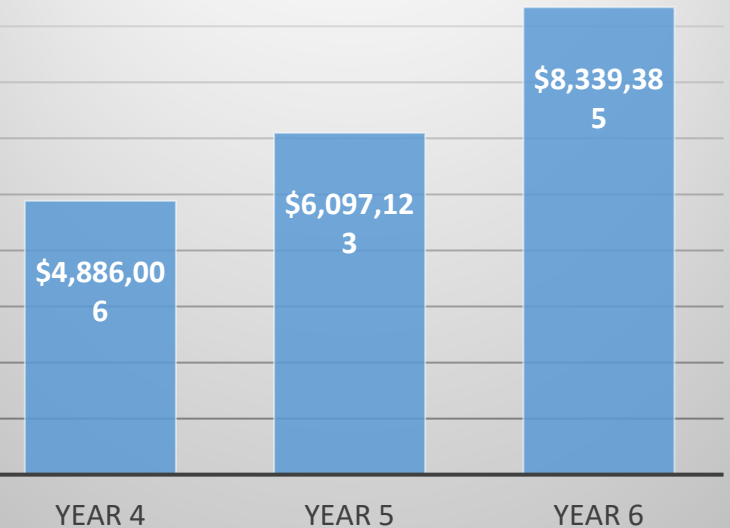
Total New Funding During the year



Average New Funding Per Member



Total New NIH Funding



It fluctuates, but overall very significant contributions collectively

Other Major Accomplishments in Year 6

- At least three new federal grants have been or will very likely be awarded after 5/1/2023 (Li: DoD; Miller: NIH R01; Jiang: R61/R33), maybe others that I am not aware of.
- The UTHSC spin-off company, SEAK Therapeutics LLC, submitted two new STTR grant applications and they will be reviewed in late June.
- High-impact papers are continually published by DDC members.
- New leadership roles by DDC members.
- Trainees are receiving competitive awards (Bob Magarian Award from MALTO; CoP and Pharmsci awards, etc).
- Well-recognized on campus levels, as reflected in the new Campus Strategic Plans.
- Others that I may not be aware of

New Items Established in Year 6

- **Obtained 2-year bridge support** from the Interim Dean for years 6 and 7 for the DDC. This support will provide up to three pilot grants annually, with additional financial support for other DDC-related operations. Potential future continuation and support will be evaluated and decided by Dean Frye.
- Establish the annual “**Duane D. Miller Lectureship in Drug Discovery**”. The inaugural lectureship will be given by Dr. Miller himself on June 20.
- Establish the first named Ph.D. graduate student award in UTCoP, “**Duane D. Miller Award in Drug Discovery**”. The first awardee is Madison Slutter (Jiang lab). The award will also be given out on June 20, and the awardee will present a 10-minute talk for his/her research work. Dr. Miller will graciously provide a \$250 monetary award to the awardee.
- Working with UT Foundation, initiated the “**Duane D. Miller Endowment Fund**” associated with the above two activities to honor Duane’s impact on UTCoP. I have written the letter along with Bernd, and I am working with UT Foundation to set up a website site link for soliciting pledges. Note: UT will not publicize and/or accept donations unless they have received pledges \geq \$25k. The pledged donations can be spread over up to 5 years.
- The income from this Endowment fund will help to pay for the Lectureship travel/honorarium and student award. This will also help UTCoP to stand out for the Chancellor’s initiatives.