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Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA
Chancellor

December 23, 2019

Senator Cecile Bledsoe, Chairman
Arkansas Legislative Council
500 Woodlane Street, Room 171
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Chairman
Arkansas Legislative Council
500 Woodlane Street, Room 171
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Bledsoe and Representative Wardlaw,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the report for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) National Cancer Institute Designation Trust Fund. A semiannual report of the use of funds from the trust fund is required pursuant to Act 181 of 2019.

The attached report provides information regarding the balance of the fund, administrative costs paid for from the fund, total revenue received by the fund and a detailed description of the steps taken and the progress made toward achieving status as a National Cancer Institute designated cancer center.

As documented in the attached report, we are pleased to inform you that Dr. Michael Birrer has joined UAMS as director of the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute (Cancer Institute). In addition to hiring Dr. Birrer as the new director of our Cancer Institute, we are diligently working on recruiting physicians and researchers and expanding the infrastructure at the Cancer Institute as we prepare our application for designation.

Earning NCI designation for our cancer center will allow UAMS to provide cancer patients throughout the state of Arkansas with specialty cancer care close to home as well as providing access to cutting-edge clinical trials while expanding our work on cancer prevention.

Please contact me should you have any questions or need further information regarding this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cam Patterson".

Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA
Chancellor

4. Arkansans will have access to clinical trials and new cancer treatments that are only available to cancer centers that are NCI designated.
 - Access to grant funding opportunities that are only available to NCI designated cancer centers
 - Access to cutting edge clinical trials and investigative drugs that are only available to NCI designated cancer centers
5. Cancer researchers at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute will have access to cancer research grants that are only available to NCI designated cancer centers. This provides the opportunity to increase the amount of cancer research designed to benefit Arkansans by about 60%.
6. The opportunity to partner with an NCI Designated cancer center will attract biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies to Arkansas.

Process to Attain NCI Designation

NCI Designation is attained through strategic recruitment of cancer researchers and establishment of a sophisticated cancer research infrastructure prescribed by the NCI in its p30 Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG).

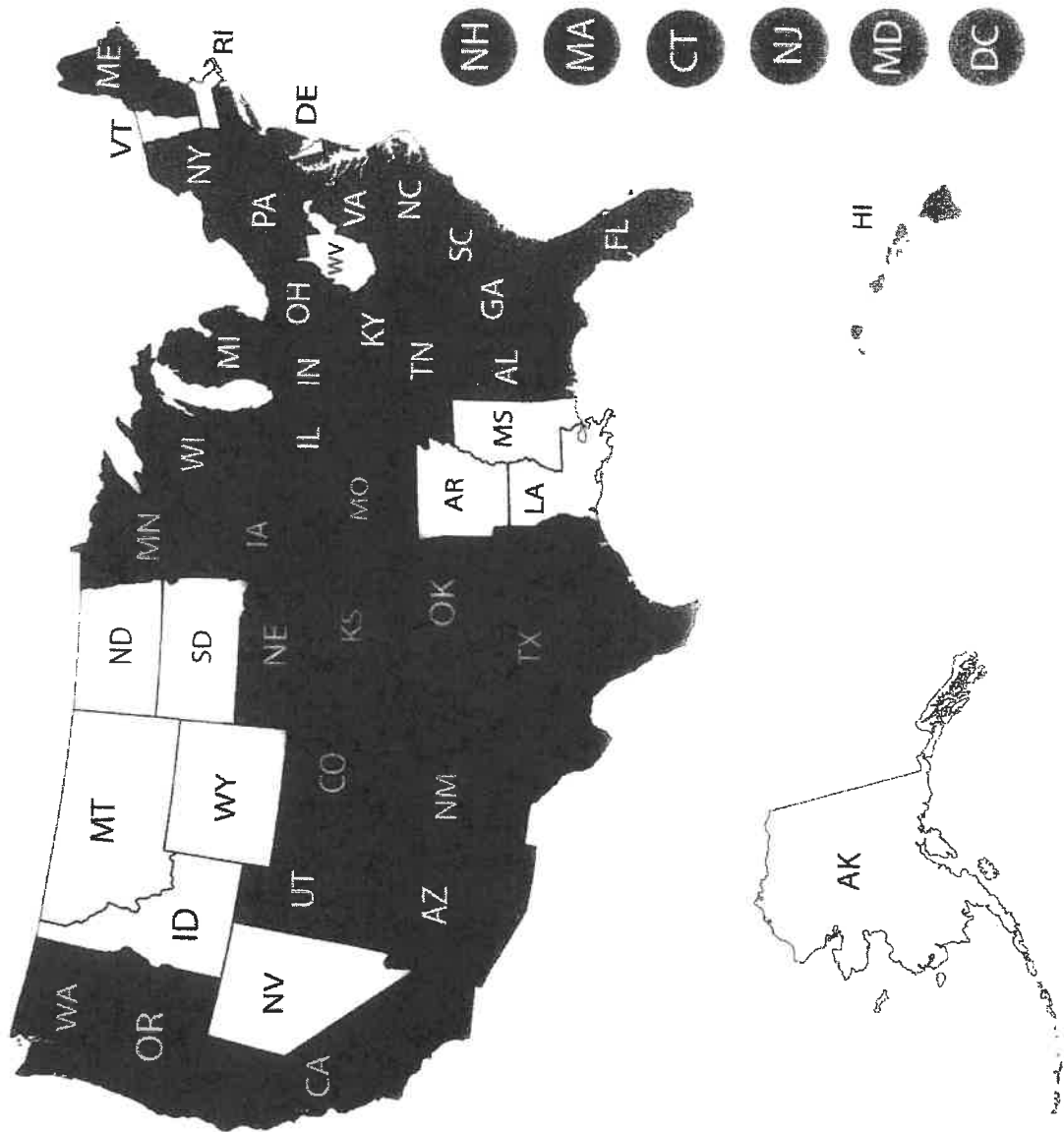
Cancer centers seeking NCI Designation undergo annual review by an External Advisory Board (EAB) to ensure that NCI's standards for a designated center are being met. These EAB meetings are critical to keep a cancer center on track for designation and result in a formal report about the cancer center being filed with NCI. Once an EAB has determined that a cancer center is ready to apply for NCI Designation, the cancer center must meet with NCI and get their approval to apply for NCI Designation.

Once NCI approves a center to apply for NCI Designation, the center submits its CCSG to NCI according to the timeline set by NCI. Preparation of a CCSG generally takes two years and is often begun well before NCI approves a center to apply for designation. Following submission of the grant, the cancer center will host a site visit from NCI and leaders from other cancer centers to review the cancer center. Both the written grant and site visit comprise the scores that determine if an NCI Cancer Center becomes designated.

After NCI Designation is attained, it must be renewed every five years with the submission of another CCSG and hosting of a site visit. This ensures that the standards set forth by NCI for a Designated Cancer Center continue to be upheld. If a cancer center applies for NCI Designation and is not successful, the cancer center is not eligible to apply again for five years.

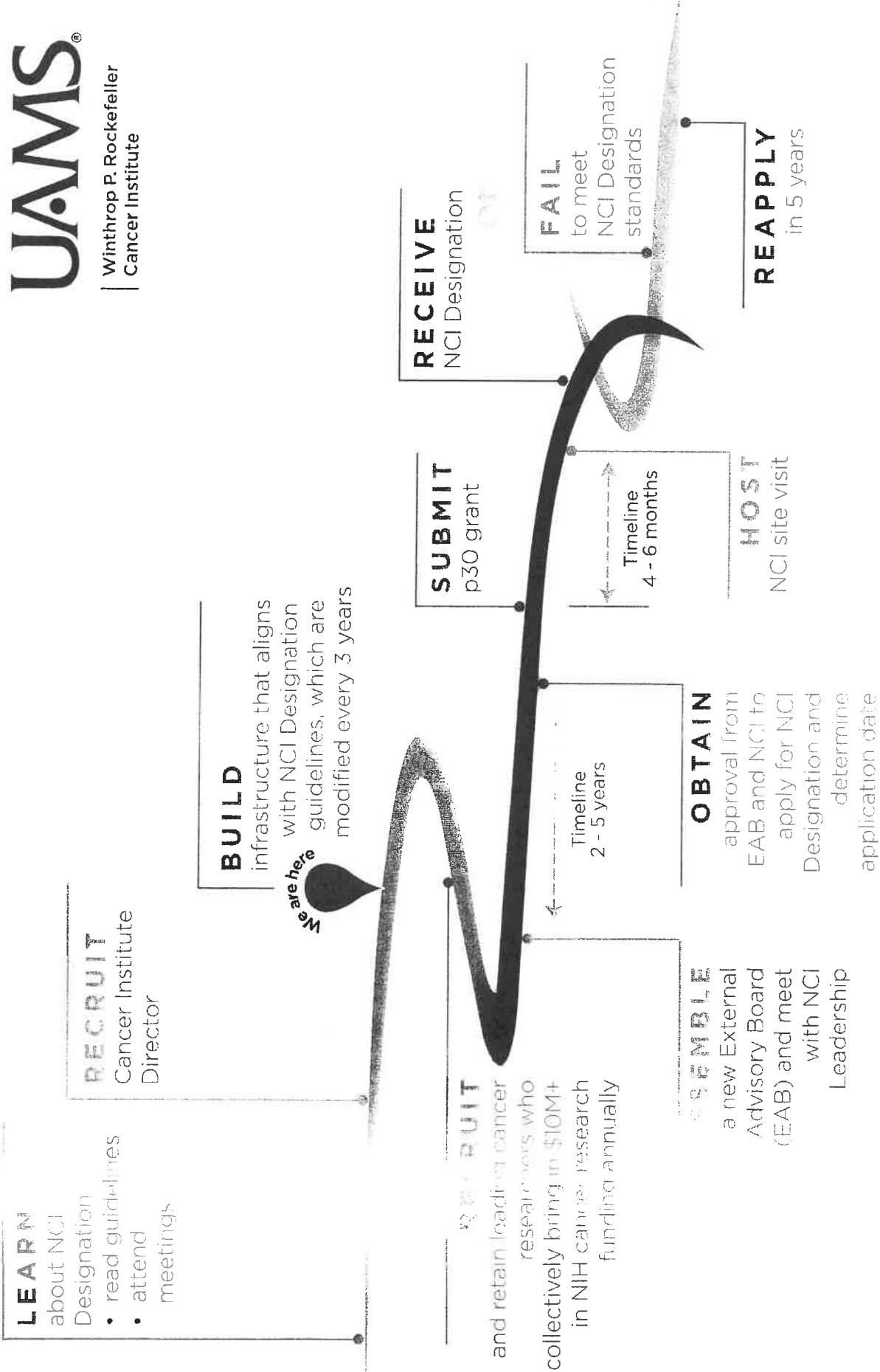
Expected Timeline

The Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute is targeting submission of its CCSG in about five years. Two critical factors may extend or decrease this timeline: 1) how quickly strategic cancer research recruitments can be made and 2) the timeline set by NCI for submitting a CCSG application (Figure 2).



Roadmap to NCI Designation

Figure 2



UAMS[®]

Winthrop P. Rockefeller
Cancer Institute

Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute
Senate Bill 151
Trust Fund - Pursuit of a National Cancer Institute Designation
FY2020 Biannual Report Due January 1, 2020

¹Reporting Period (7/1/19 - 11/30/19)

Balance of Trust Fund (7/1/2019)	\$0.00
Total Transfers In	\$10,000,000.00
Special Revenue: Cigarette Paper Tax	\$271,789.63
² Total Revenue Received to Trust Fund	<u>\$10,271,789.63</u>
³ Processing Charges by DF&A on Special Revenue	(\$8,425.48)
⁴ Workers Compensation Charged Directly by DF&A	(\$2,771.54)
Net Revenue Received to Trust Fund	<u>\$10,260,592.61</u>
 Expense Draws Processed:	
⁵ Expense Draws Posted for Period (7/1/19 - 11/30/19)	(\$76,799.00)
⁶ Ending Balance of Trust Fund (11/30/2019)	<u>\$10,183,793.61</u>

¹This initial progress report includes activity for the five month period of July 2019 through November 2019. As of January 1st, December 2019 information is not yet available. All subsequent reports will include a full six months of activity. In subsequent reports, the July 1st report will contain activity for the months of December through May and the January 1st report will contain activity for the months of June through November.

² See Arkansas Code Annotated §19-5-1149 (g)(1)(C) reporting requirement of total revenue received by the fund during the reporting period.

³The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration charges administrative fees for maintenance of special revenue funds. The fee calculation is 3% + .1%, for a total of 3.1% that were applied to the net tax of \$271,789.63.

⁴The workers compensation charge is for claims administration and operations costs to the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration. The fee is based on a percentage of claims of each state agency during each quarter.

⁵ See Arkansas Code Annotated §19-5-1149 (g)(1)(B) reporting requirement of the administrative cost paid for from the fund, including without limitation salaries, pensions and packages.

⁶ See Arkansas Code Annotated §19-5-1149 (g)(1)(A) reporting requirement of balance of fund as of reporting date.

**Expense Breakdown - Act 181 - Trust Fund For NCI Designation¹
Reporting Period: 7/1/2019 - 11/30/2019**

Program Account Description	Fund Center Account	Salary	Fringe	M&O	Total Expense	Notes
Cancer Service Line Support	3012859	4,995.51	421.74	0.00	5,417.25	\$24K Total attachment for Jonathon Laryea, MD, Director Cancer Service Line for FY20 only.
Martin Hauer-Jensen, MD, PhD (COP - Radiation Health)	3012860	8,040.87	2,284.27		10,325.14	Bridge funding for resubmission of COBRE grant
Robert Bodenner, MD, PhD (COM - Geriatric Endocrinology)	3012864	16,073.25	4,551.30	390.88	21,015.43	Part of salary for two research technicians to complete the canine grant submission in final stage.
Gary Lewis, MD (COM - Radiation Oncology)	3012865	11,000.00	5,365.13		16,365.13	Recruit package support
Ricky Leung, PhD (COM Pharmacology Toxicology)	3012866	18,300.00	5,376.05		23,676.05	Recruit package support
Total Expense		58,409.63	17,998.49	390.88	76,799.00	

¹ See Arkansas Code Annotated §19-5-1149 (g)(1)(B) reporting requirement of the administrative cost paid for from the fund, including without limitation salaries, pensions and packages.

Table 1. Cancer Research Recruitments July 1, 2019 - November 30, 2019

Candidate	Current/Previous Institution	Recruited Rank	Recruitment Status	Recruitment Home Department	Research Interest	Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Funding at Time of Legislative Reporting	*Cancer Institute investment
Ricky Yuet-Kin Leung, B.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D.	Univ Cincinnati	Associate Professor	Began July 1, 2019	Pharmacology/ Toxicology	Prostate	Co-I on grants with Shuk-Mei Ho, PhD (UAMS Vice Chancellor of Research)	\$967,500
Teresita Bellido, Ph.D.	Indiana University	Professor, Department Chair, Arkansas Research Alliance (ARA) Scholar	Begins part time January 2020; full time July 1, 2020	Physiology/ Biophysics	Myeloma and Bone	NCI R01; VA Career Scientist Award	\$750,000
Fenghuang (Frank) Zhan, M.D., D.D.S.	Univ Iowa	Professor	Begins January 2020	Internal Medicine	Myeloma	Leukemia Lymphoma Society grant; 1DoD grant; NCI grant to be awarded at UAMS	\$3.9 M
Mark Manzano, PhD	Northwestern	Assistant Professor	Begins July 1, 2020	Microbiology and Immunology	Kaposi's sarcoma associated herpesvirus (HSHV); lymphoma; may switch to myeloma	Has received a fundable score on an NCI K22 grant	\$600,000 3-5 year startup; \$48,500 annual salary for 3 years

*Cancer Institute investment represents the total commitment made by the WPRCI to support the cancer research candidate and generally represents a three to five years period. This support is to pay for operating expenses including lab equipment, personnel salary and fringe, supplies, services, and other relative cancer research costs.

Table 1. Cancer Research Grant Activity				
	External Peer-Reviewed New Grants Awarded (#)	Awarded External Peer-Reviewed New Grant Funding (Project Period Total Costs)	External Peer-Reviewed New Grants Submitted (#)	Proposed Peer-Reviewed Grant Funding Submitted (Project Period Total Costs)
July 1, 2019 – Nov 30, 2019	10	\$2,342,579	66	\$103,754,332

Progress Toward Achieving National Cancer Institute Designation¹

July 1, 2019 – November 30, 2019

1. **New Cancer Center Director:** The most significant step taken toward achieving National Cancer Institute (NCI) Designation in this inaugural reporting period was the hiring of a new cancer center director. The recruitment of the right individual for this position was critical to ensure success in achieving NCI Designation. Michael Birrer, MD, PhD, is an internationally recognized medical oncologist specializing in gynecologic cancers (CV attached in Appendix A). He was named Vice Chancellor and Director of the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute in September. Dr. Birrer began his tenure at UAMS in December and is bringing approximately \$4M in peer-reviewed cancer research grants with him (details to be provided in the next 6-month report). UAMS is confident it has recruited a superior physician scientist into this position who will be successful in leading us toward a successful NCI Designation application.
2. **Strategic Recruitment of Cancer Researchers:** Cancer researchers recruited since July 1, 2019 are detailed in Table 1. Their CVs are provided in Appendix A.
3. **Cancer Research Infrastructure Development:** NCI Designation requires the implementation of a prescribed formula to support cancer research. NCI Designation requirements that have received updates during this reporting period are noted below:
 - a. **Research Programs realigned:** NCI requires that all research within a NCI Designated Center be aligned according to distinct research programs. Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute senior leadership reviewed its research programs and realigned them according to current funding and strategic recruitment goals. The four research programs at present are: Cancer Biology, Cancer Prevention & Population Sciences, Developmental Therapeutics, DNA Damage & Host Response.
 - b. **Shared Resources continue to be developed:** NCI requires that research conducted in the research programs be supported by shared resources/cores that serve to facilitate efficient conduct of that research. A genomics core was added in early 2019; it became established providing chargebacks by the end of this reporting period. A new bioinformatics core was developed that will go live in January 2020.
 - c. **New Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) guidelines released:** Application for NCI Designation occurs through submission of a CCSG and hosting a site visit. NCI revises the CCSG guidelines every three years. New guidelines were released at the end of this reporting period and a gap analysis was begun to determine alignment with the new expectations.
 - d. **New senior leadership role created:** A new leadership role of Associate Director for Research Education was created in the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute to lead efforts that will be described in the “Cancer Research Training and Education

¹ See Arkansas Code Annotated §19-5-1149 (g)(1)(D) reporting requirement of a detailed description of the steps taken and the progress made toward achieving status as a National Cancer Institute Designated Cancer Center during the reporting period.

Coordination” component of the CCSG. This leadership position identifies where there are opportunities to implement programs that provide exposure to/training in cancer research to individuals in primary school through junior faculty level positions.

- e. **Internal cancer research funding opportunities expanded:** While strategic recruitment of cancer researchers is absolutely essential to reach NCI Designation, it is also critical to continue investing in and provide opportunity to cancer researchers already in place at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute.
 - i. **Seeds of Science.** An eleven year old internal funding mechanism for cancer research was elevated from providing several \$15,000 grants to fewer \$50,000 grants. This provides more funding to awardees enabling them to obtain preliminary data to include in external peer-reviewed grant applications.
 - ii. **Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute Pilot Project Program.** This new program slated for rollout in the first half of 2020 provides pilot funds for cancer research projects led by a single researcher (\$75,000 award) or multiple collaborating researchers (\$200,000 award).
 - iii. **Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute Shared Resource Voucher Program.** This new program slated for rollout in the first half of 2020 provides cancer researchers with access to the fee-for-service Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute shared resources. Support is available for single researchers (\$5,000 voucher) or multiple collaborating researchers (\$10,000 voucher).
- f. **Research infrastructure grants submitted:** NCI and other institutes at the National Institutes of Health offer grants to develop research infrastructure. Two of these with capacity to continue or expand existing research infrastructure at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute were submitted during the reporting period:
 - i. **R25 grant submitted:** Researchers at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute submitted an R25 grant in September to NCI entitled, “Partnerships in Cancer Research (PCAR)”. This was a strategic grant application to meet the CCSG requirements to implement programs that develop a cancer research workforce.
 - ii. **COBRE grant phase II submitted:** Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute researchers submitted their phase II Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant in September entitled, “Center for Studies on Host Response to Cancer Therapy”. This will extend an already obtained COBRE grant into its next phase of maturity.
 - iii. **T32 grant submitted:** Researchers at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute have been preparing a T32 grant entitled “Integrative Biology and Data Science (BioDS) Graduate Training Program” for submission January 25, 2020. This program will bridge interdisciplinary science and biomedical informatics graduate programs by providing training in systems biology through cutting edge research while also implementing rigorous coursework with skill building exercises and an emphasis on reproducibility and integrity in scientific research.

- 4. **Gala for Life proceeds dedicated to support NCI Designation:** The pursuit of NCI Designation is reliant on support from multiple stakeholders including UAMS, the state of Arkansas and

philanthropic funds. On September 25, 2019, the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute held its annual Gala for Life fundraising event. Proceeds from this year's event were strategically dedicated to support the pursuit of NCI Designation. At the event this year, Dr. Birrer was announced as the incoming Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute director, and more than \$1.2 million was raised to support NCI Designation efforts.

5. **Cancer Research Grant Activity:** Table 2 summarizes grant activity for this reporting period.

