



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM[®]

Kent Hance, *Chancellor*

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Randy Neugebauer
1424 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Neugebauer:

On behalf of the Texas Tech University System, I respectfully ask for your support of FY2010 funding in the amount of \$1.26M for the Cancer Center for the South Plains Region.

The people of West Texas and the contiguous region of Eastern New Mexico and Oklahoma represent an underserved population in terms of local access to cancer therapeutics. This vast region lacks a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Cancer Center, and only three NCI-designated Cancer Centers are in the state of Texas. Laboratory discoveries are launching exciting new drugs into clinical trials, but often years pass before investigational drugs become routinely available outside of clinical trials. Thus, robust translational and clinical cancer research, ideally supported by an NCI-designated Cancer Center, is vital to the many cancer patients in the region.

This proposal seeks to obtain funding for infrastructure and to provide seed funding for highly selected research projects to enable them to become competitive for Texas state funding, via Texas Proposition 15, and ultimately NCI funding. The eventual goal is to establish an NCI-designated Cancer Center at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock.

I am grateful for your assistance and truly appreciate your continued support of Texas Tech and all that you do for the great State of Texas. Please feel free to contact me if I or my staff can assist you in any way.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kent Hance". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kent Hance

