



# Annual Report for UTCoP Drug Discovery Center

Year 7: 7/1/2023-6/30/2024

(Funding summary 5/1/2023-4/30/2024)

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

# DDC Mission and Short-term Goals

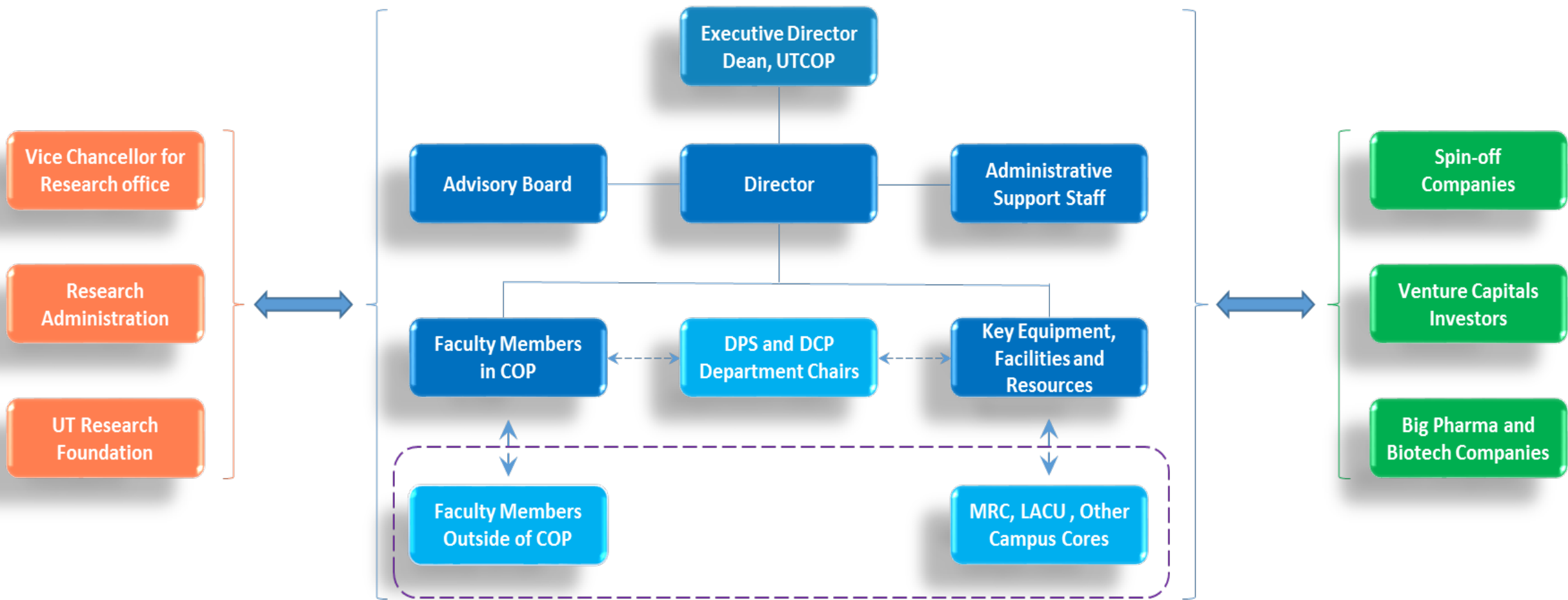
- DDC Missions:

- 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 during this year (year 7)

- Current DDC members (11, in alphabetic order)

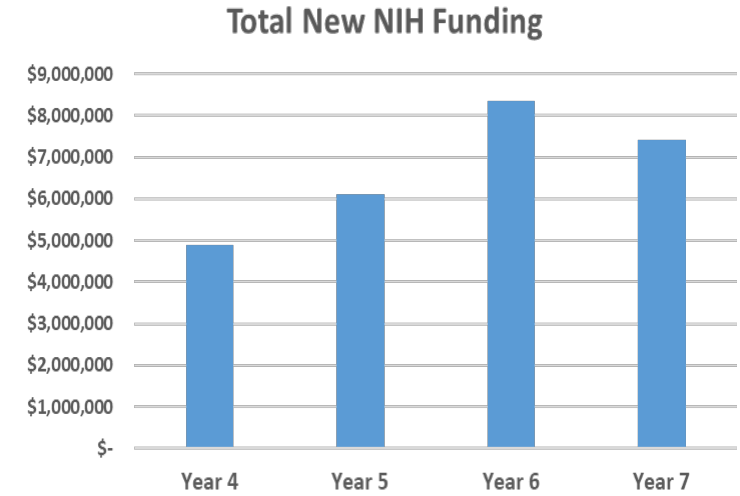
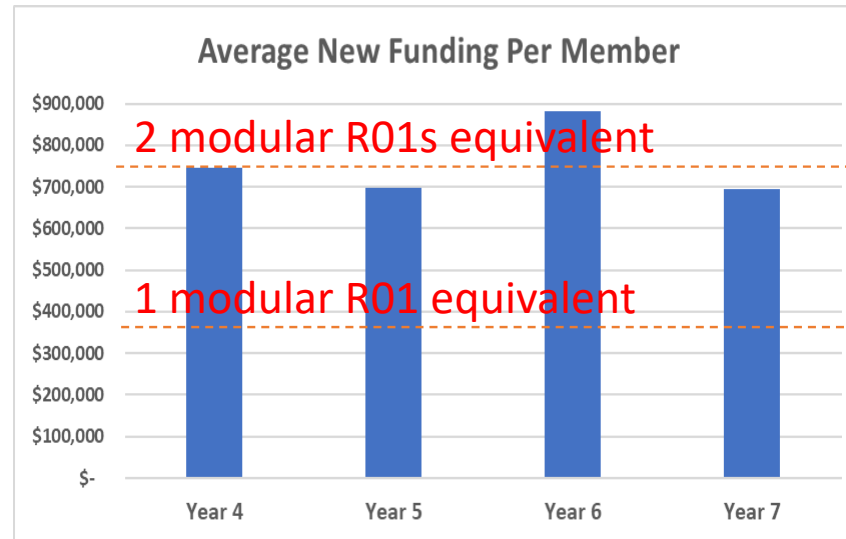
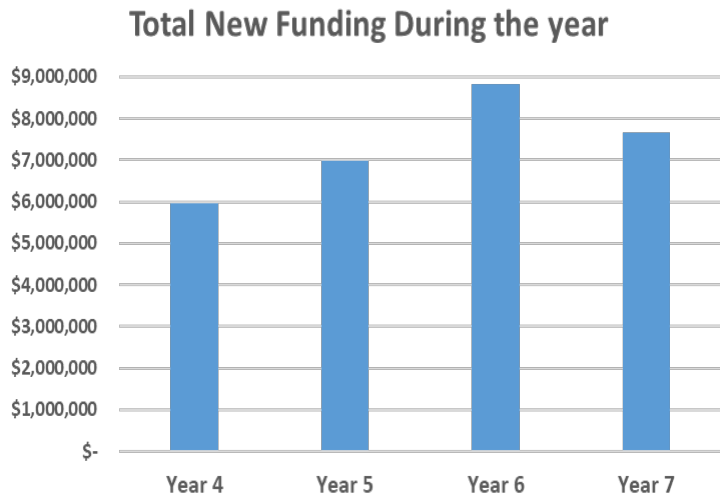
- Hevener, Kirk; Jiang, Jianxiong; Kumar, Santosh; Leo, Dennis; Li, Wei; Meibohm, Bernd; Miller, Duane; Palmer, Glen; Singh, Udai; Tan, Charlet; Yang, Chao-Yie



- *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: **\$7,652,417** (see the table Bernd helped to make for details).
- Average per DDC member: **\$492,736/member direct cost; \$695,674/member total cost.**
- **Contribute to UTCOP NIH ranking: \$7,421,417** (from various NIH institutions).

# Accomplishment of the DDC new grants for Year 7 (2024): available historical numbers (we began to calculate the numbers from the year 4 meeting)



Funding information has been provided by Dr. Meibohm's office

# Other Major Accomplishments in Year 7

- A new drug developed by DDC member (Miller lab in collaboration with UTCoM faculty) successfully moved on to human clinical trials during the year.
- The UTHSC spin-off company, SEAK Therapeutics LLC, obtained a new NIH/NINDS STTR grant in the amount of \$430k (\$180k goes to the Jiang lab at UTCoP as subcontract, as indicated in the funding summary Excel sheet).
- A major biotech company signed an optional licensing agreement with UTRF and paid a significant amount of upfront fees for a technology developed by DDC members' labs (Li and Jiang)
- DDC member (Li) participated another UTHSC spin-off company (ORRxD), and obtained a new NIH/NIA STTR grant, with about \$90k goes to UTCoM and UTCoP as subcontract.
- DDC member (Li) participated as a minor user in a major NIH S10 instrument grant application submitted by Southern Research Institute (SRI), which was awarded to SRI for the amount of \$1,038,536, for “An Automated Compound Management System for Small Molecule Drug Discovery”.
- Three DDC Pilot grants were selected and awarded. Outcomes of these pilot grants will be reported separately.

## Other Major Accomplishments in Year 7 (continued)

- Raised close to \$30,000 and established the “Duane D. Miller Lectureship Endowment” in UTCoP.
- Organized the 2024 “Duane D. Miller” Lectureship and the associated graduate student award
- High-impact papers are continually published by DDC members.
- New leadership roles by DDC members.
- Trainees are receiving competitive awards in both regional organizations/meetings and within UTHSC colleges.



# Plans for the path forward

- Dean Frye indicated that he will continue to support the DDC for the Year of 2024-2025. Potential long-term support will be discussed in the future.
- DDC Director (Li) attended the annual meeting of the ADDC (Academic Drug Discovery Center Consortium) in conjunction with ASPET meeting, evaluated the costs and benefits of joining ADDC, and concluded to hold off joining this consortium until its further development.
- Will explore the possibility of developing focused program project grant(s).
- Will continue to focus on working collectively for major federal funding, to support the competitiveness in research and NIH ranking of UTCoP.
- Will develop a bylaw for DDC memberships