

# LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

# SAN ANTONIO LIFE SCIENCES INSTITUTE (SALSI)

A bold investment in UTSA's R&D enterprise for improving health outcomes, advancing discovery and building a talent pipeline for Texas's health sciences workforce

FUNDING REQUEST | \$8,319,142 per year; \$16,638,284 per biennium



The San Antonio Life Sciences Institute (SALSI) serves as a catalyst for interdisciplinary collaborations and curriculum alignments in the health, biomedical and biotechnology industries for San Antonio and south Texas. SALSI is a significant new investment for transdisciplinary collaborative R&D to enable competitive grant proposals to the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

## STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

SALSI is a strategic R&D investment, helping us to understand and improve health outcomes in **neuroscience**, **cancer prevention**, **infectious diseases** and **regenerative medicine**. The program **builds Texas's health sciences workforce** by providing salaries, stipends, fellowships and start-up packages for strategic faculty hires, post-docs, technicians, graduate students and undergraduate researchers. Additionally, SALSI advances bioinformatics and discoveries in developmental biology through state-of-the-art instrumentation acquisition and specialized facilities upgrades for genomics, metabolomics, cell and tissue culture, and tissue characterization.

### THE IMPACT

SALSI directly contributed to UTSA securing a Carnegie R<sub>1</sub> research classification in 2022. This level of recognition, along with SALSI investment, are fueling UTSA's national reputation for world-class research and biomedical and health innovation. Over the past four years SALSI has supported:

- Undergraduate and graduate internships in the life sciences
- Faculty recruitment in artificial intelligence, bioinformatics, brain health, health disparities and human performance
- Collaborative pilot programs in brain health, COVID-19, drug discovery and precision therapeutics, leading to \$20M+ in follow-on funding
- Dozens of conferences and collaboration events, including the San Antonio Military Health System and Universities Research Forum





### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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### THE CHALLENGE

SALSI funding has become the foundation for San Antonio's health and biomedical research community supporting a range of impactful collaborative programs including the San Antonio Partnership for Precision Therapeutics (SAPPT), the Brain Health Consortium, the Vaccine Development Center of San Antonio, RegenMed SA and the Center for Innovative Drug Discovery. Each have led to significant progress in brain health, cancer, health disparities, mental health and regenerative medicine.

To continue to foster the incredible successes of SALSI, support research endeavors of the new School of Public Health, and position UTSA to be competitive for federal funding, **now is the time to invest in SALSI**.



# **SUCCESS STORY**

Making a bold commitment to develop groundbreaking approaches for treating brain diseases and injuries, SALSI supported the launch and ongoing success of a nationally recognized Brain Health Consortium, supported by more than 40 of the nation's leading brain health researchers, dedicated to conquering the greatest mysteries of the brain.

This collaborative uses transdisciplinary approaches to advance the basic understanding of the brain in order to prevent and treat the most debilitating brain disorders.



Dr. Jenny Hsieh, Semmes Foundation Chair in Cell Biology and the director of the UTSA Brain Health Consortium