

Taking the Research Texas tour

Each of the previous two editions of *Research Texas* gave our readers an exclusive and expansive glimpse into the state's wide-ranging efforts to stay ahead of the curve in the rapidly growing knowledge economy. It's been quite a ride. We've gone from El Paso to Texarkana and from Brownsville to the Panhandle and we're still amazed by the depth of research and development in the state.

We've watched and duly noted the great strides made by Texas universities and corporations in research – including their risk-taking efforts in developing cutting-edge technologies that previously went unexplored. They've been “wildcatting,” to borrow a term from the Texas oil fields, and their aggressiveness is paying off.

In March, Gov. Rick Perry announced more than \$13 million in awards to six emerging technology companies and universities to help state businesses take their innovations to the marketplace.

In this issue of *Research Texas*, we take an in-depth look at one of those winners: The University of North Texas Health Science Center and its Center for Commercialization of Fluorescence Technology. Fluorescence-based technologies are being studied for a variety of uses, including optical sensing, enhanced security systems, biomedical diagnostics and tissue imaging.

Texas built itself into an energy powerhouse and the state is too smart to rest on its oil-and-gas laurels, as *Research Texas* reporter Betty Dillard learned when she spoke with U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison about her plans to turn the state into an energy research powerhouse.

Also in this issue, Robert Francis visits with Dr. Arthur Frankel of Scott & White's Cancer Research Center. After winning accolades for his work at Wake Forest University, Frankel returned home to Texas and challenged himself by cutting in half the time it takes for new pharmaceuticals and treatments to reach the marketplace.

All that sound great, but it's far too soon in the process to get complacent. As *Research Texas* Editor Robert Francis points out in his introduction, a new study by the Kauffman Foundation finds Texas back in the pack in transformation to the “New Economy,” which centers on knowledge and innovation.

So there is more work to be done. This ride is far from over.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Deborah Connor'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Deborah K. Connor