

# The impact and value of the **Georgia Research Alliance**



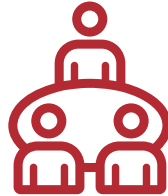
Georgia Research Alliance

# How GRA works



## INVESTING IN TALENT + TECHNOLOGY

GRA partners with universities to **recruit world-class scientists** as GRA Eminent Scholars. GRA provides each recruit with **state-of-the-art lab technology**.



## LAUNCHING STARTUP COMPANIES

GRA's venture development program fuels the launch of **more startup companies** out of university labs — by providing grants, loans and seasoned advice.



## ACCELERATING COMPANY GROWTH

The most promising startups get added investment and guidance from **GRA Venture Fund**, a unique public-private fund.

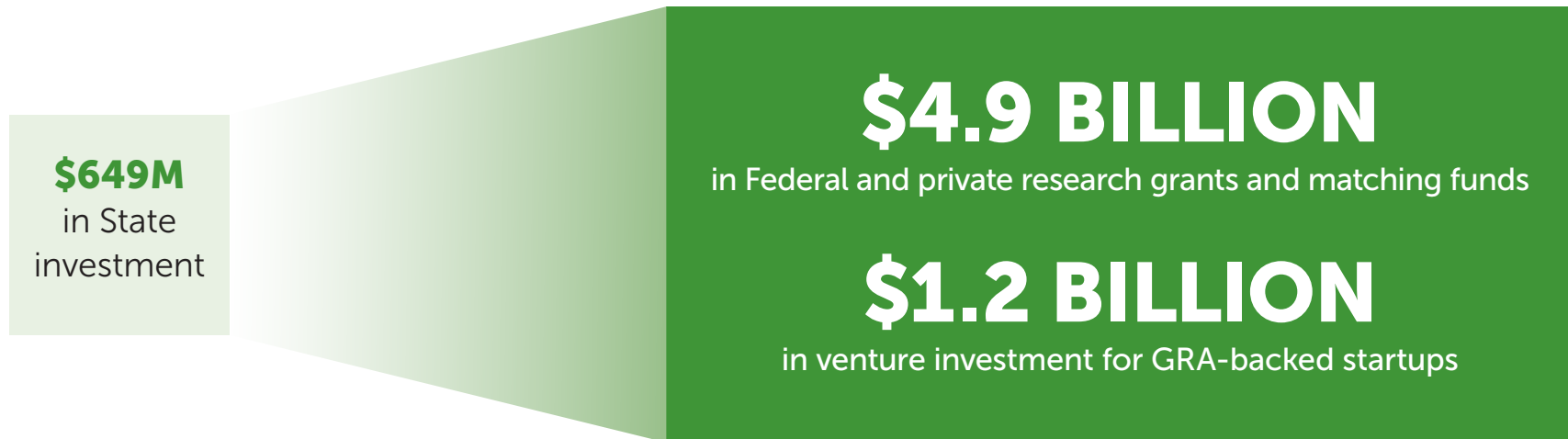
# GRA's value

MONEY  **Financial gain for Georgia through extraordinary ROI**

ANSWERS  **To the needs of Georgians and the rest of humankind**

REPUTATION  **Stronger credibility and competitiveness for our state**

# GRA's work has generated \$6.1 Billion ROI



## YEARLY RETURNS ON GEORGIA'S INVESTMENT:

**\$500 Million+**  
in research grants  
awarded to Scholars & their teams

**160** new Georgia companies  
generating \$155 million in revenues (2018)

**1,300+** new  
Georgia jobs  
in Scholar labs, supported by non-state \$\$

**1,539** professionals  
employed in new Georgia companies

# ! ANSWERS



GRA Eminent Scholar Scott Jackson (UGA) was first to map the peanut genome, opening the door to hardier, higher-yield **peanut crops**. GRA Distinguished Investigator David Bertoli also improves cultivated peanuts.

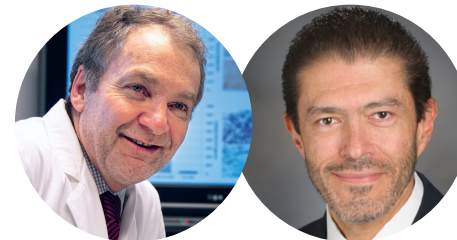


People in **rural areas** can be treated by doctors far away, thanks to technology pioneered by GRA-backed startups Digital Vision and Reach Health.



This tiny, bandage-like patch can deliver **pain-free vaccinations**. Micron Biomedical, a startup supported by GRA, is bringing it to market.

GRA Eminent Scholar Ami Klin invented a way to **detect autism** in infants as young as 3 months old, speeding early treatment. He leads the acclaimed Marcus Autism Center, one of the largest of its kind.



Two of Georgia's prominent **cancer centers** in Augusta and Atlanta are led by GRA Eminent Scholars.



**Indoor agriculture** is becoming more profitable thanks to UGA startup Candidus, which develops cost-saving lighting.



Technology from startup Pindrop (220 employees) stops **phone fraud**, saving companies hundreds of millions of dollars yearly.

Georgia has real momentum in attracting R&D funding.

**#1**

Growth rate of university research funding in the SE

Source: National Science Foundation, 2015

**#11** *(and climbing)*

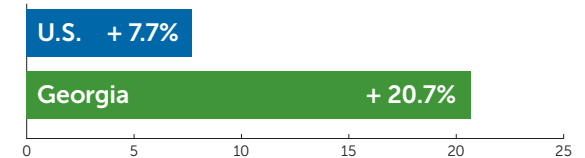
National ranking for total university R&D

Source: NSF Federally Funded R&D Expenditures, 2017

**+13%**

Outpacing the nation in funding life science research (10-yr. period)

National Institutes of Health funding for life sciences research since 2010

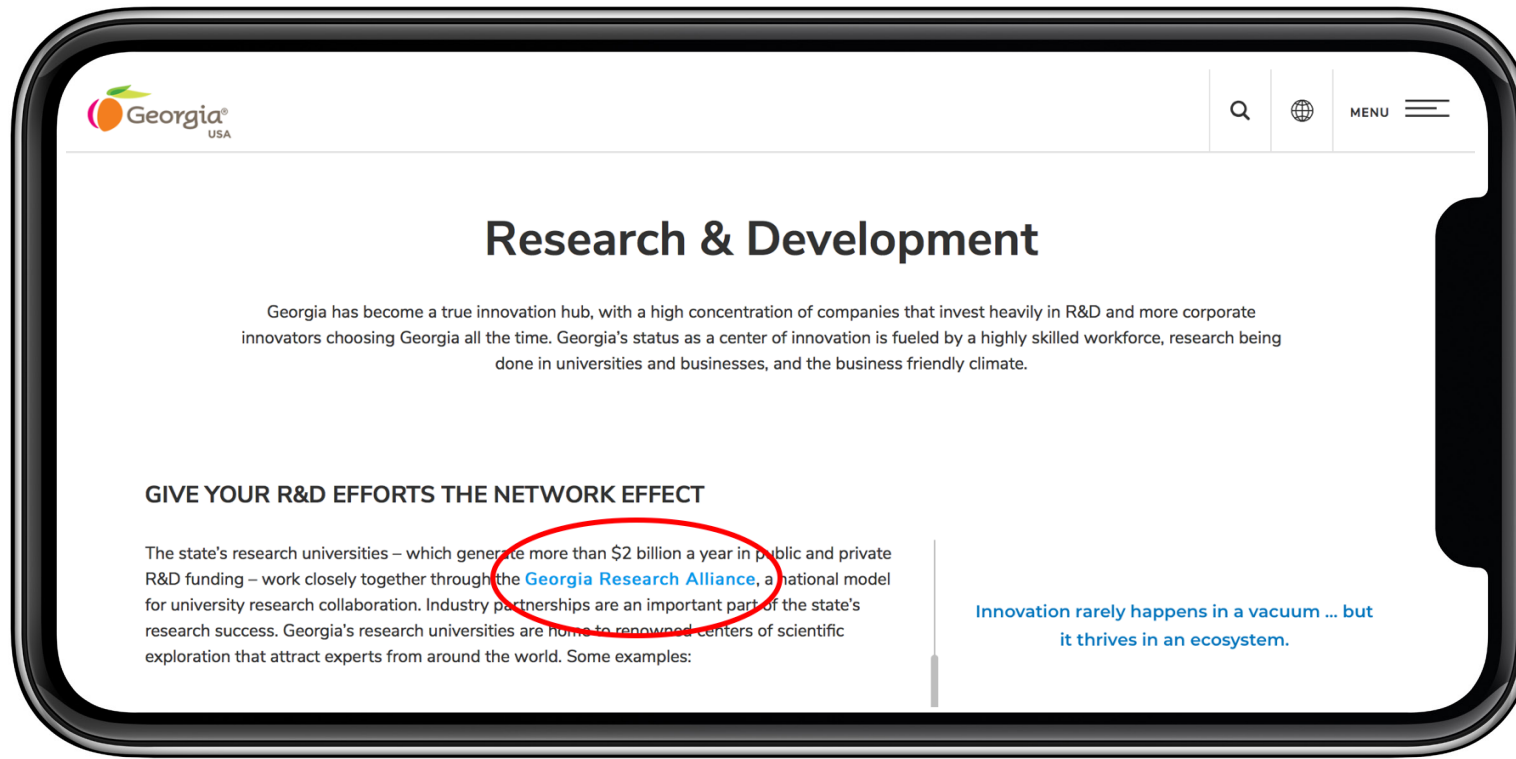


GRA Eminent Scholars and GRA startups often attract the funding and support of major partners.



# GRA is an asset in Georgia's marketing story.

Georgia's Department of Economic Development uses GRA as a central talking point when touting the state's R&D activity.



# The Face of High-Value Jobs

*Why talented professionals want to work at Axion BioSystems, one of the hottest companies in the GRA Venture Fund portfolio*



## **Mike**, *Scientific Director*

- Helps grow the company by unifying science and product development
- Recruited from GE Healthcare in the United Kingdom

*"We have gifted scientists here. I help shape the question, they find the answers. Axion has been really good at making things people actually want to buy."*

## **LeBraun**, *Software Engineer*

- Tests and refines Axion's software, providing quality assurance
- Looked seriously at moving to Nevada, but Axion was "the perfect fit"

*"There are a couple of companies out there that have similar technology, but no one can match what we have. Our technology does things other systems can't do."*

## **Heather**, *Applications Scientist*

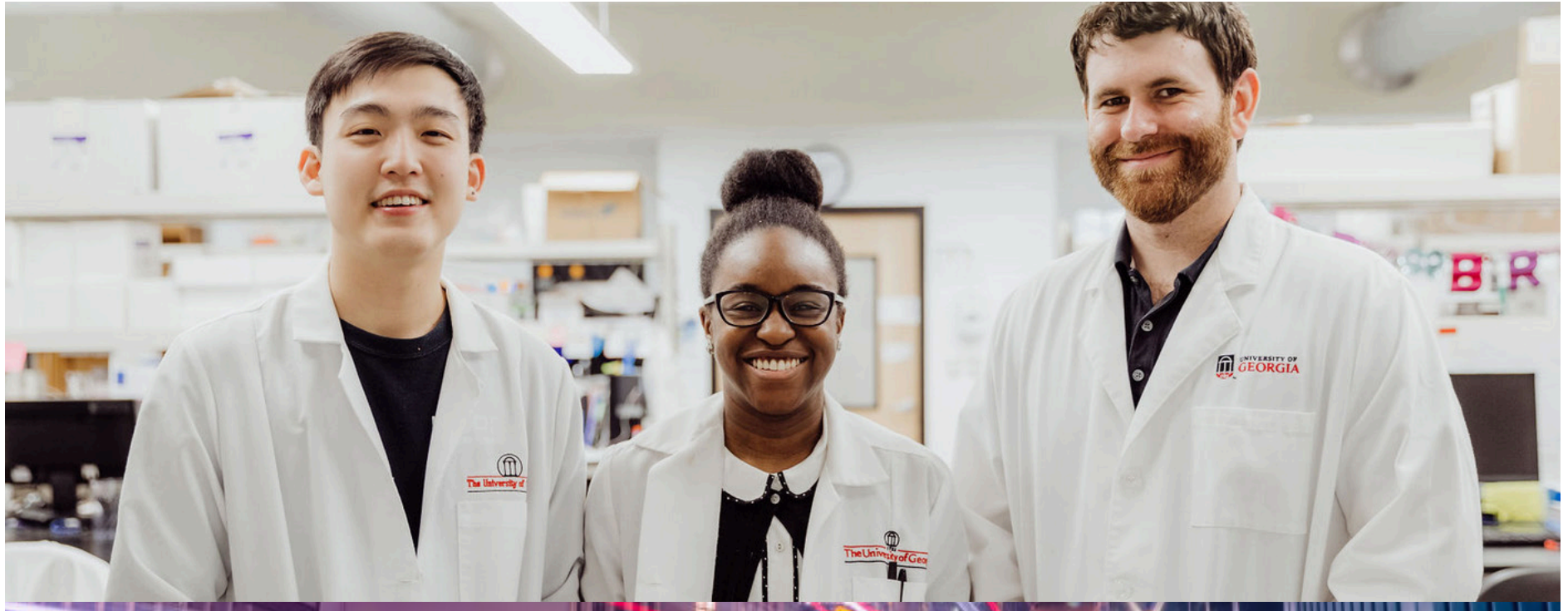
- Develops applications that give scientists the power to test and see what they couldn't before
- Joined from academia because "I could work on so many different projects"

*"Having a cutting-edge company like Axion allows people who have gotten their Ph.D. in Georgia to be able to stay here."*



# Research-Funded Job Creation

*Young professionals on why they work for UGA's Center for Vaccines and Immunology*



## **David**, *Research Technician*

- Runs blood tests on vaccinated people to help shape vaccine exploration
- Accepted a lab position in 2018 as a newly minted UGA grad

*"I wanted to get experience with a good research lab before starting medical school. I grew up always wanting to help people."*

## **Gabrielle**, *Research Professional*

- Purifies proteins for testing and potential use in new vaccines
- Joined after her pharmaceutical employer downsized its workforce

*"Our team focuses on vaccines for people whose immune systems are compromised. These are people who die from things that should not make them sick."*

## **James**, *Project Leader*

- Helps develop vaccines that could protect from multiple forms of flu
- Worked with Dr. Ross in Georgia and followed him to Georgia

*"The way they make flu vaccines hasn't changed since 1940. Using modern technology, we're working to bring medical practices up to the 21st century."*