

Georgia can be proud of its Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholars®. These scientists at Georgia's universities are among the top researchers in their fields. Here are just a few highlights of ...

What they achieved in 2015

GRA EMINENT SCHOLARS, 2015



RAFI AHMED, Emory University

Helped land \$15 million research grant

Dr. Ahmed, founder of the Emory Vaccine Center, and researchers will work to improve how the immune system responds to vaccination. The grant is from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and Emory's Bali Pulendran will join Dr. Ahmed as principal investigator.



STEPHEN DALTON, The University of Georgia

Preparing ambitious research enterprise for new home

The University of Georgia broke ground in 2015 on a new Center for Molecular Medicine, which Dr. Dalton is leading. The \$25 million facility will house teams of researchers exploring the causes of human disease at the cellular level.



MAX COOPER, Emory University

Celebrated for a historic discovery

2015 marked the 50th anniversary of Dr. Cooper's discovery that the human body has two types of blood cells to battle infection. His breakthrough changed the course of research and drug development. Dr. Cooper continues to conduct research at Emory and has founded a company based on his work.



AJEET ROHATGI, Georgia Institute of Technology

Elected to the National Academy of Inventors

The Academy welcomes only the most prolific inventors in the United States. Dr. Rohatgi, who developed groundbreaking solar cell technology, is among the world's top solar energy experts. His invention propelled the launch of Georgia-based Suniva.



JOHN CRITTENDEN, Georgia Institute of Technology

Awarded top prize for water research

The National Water Research Institute bestowed Dr. Crittenden with its top honor for water research in 2015. With a career spanning 37 years, Dr. Crittenden has pioneered the research and development of water treatment technologies, particularly physical-chemical treatment processes.



JIAN-DONG LI, Georgia State University

Won grant to develop anti-inflammatory drug

The award of a \$1.6 million grant from NIH will fuel Dr. Li's investigation of new anti-inflammatory therapies for middle ear infections. Dr. Li will focus on repurposing existing drugs to develop non-antibiotic treatments for the ear.



Georgia Research Alliance



MING-HUI ZOU, Georgia State University

Awarded \$2.4 million for diabetes/CV research

The NIH grant will advance Dr. Zou's exploration of the effects of diabetes on cardiovascular disease. Working with colleague Zhonglin Xie, Dr. Zou believes the research will shed new light on possible therapies to stop or slow diabetes.



BINGHE WANG, Georgia State University

Discovered potential weapon against MRSA

As co-author of a major study, Dr. Wang found that a novel class of antimicrobials could be effective in fighting MRSA, one of the major drug-resistant bacterial pathogens. The antimicrobial inhibits the function of a key disease-causing component of MRSA.



STEVE STICE, The University of Georgia

Identified possible process for stopping poultry disease

Working with colleague Franklin West, Dr. Stice developed a way to selectively stop the production of certain nucleic acids that cause disease in chickens. The two helped advance a tooling process that enhances resistance to Newcastle virus and other diseases that devastate poultry flocks.



ROBERT HALTIWANGER, The University of Georgia

Named tops in a specialized field

Dr. Haltiwanger's exploration of how cells communicate — and how such knowledge can be used to develop new medicines — earned him international recognition in 2015 from the Society of Glycobiology.



JOHN COPELAND, Georgia Institute of Technology

Capped a career with an epic company sale

Dr. Copeland — the first GRA Eminent Scholar — developed network security technology in the 1990s that led to the launch of Lancope (named for him). In 2015, Cisco bought Georgia-based Lancope for \$453 million. The deal is set to close in early 2016.



JIN-XIONG SHE, Augusta University

Discovered new clues to the cause of Type 1 diabetes

Patients with Type 1 diabetes have significantly lower levels of four proteins that help protect the body from attacks by the immune system, Dr. She found. The discovery is one outcome from an epic study Dr. She is conducting that tracks thousands of children over decades of time.

ABOUT THE GRA EMINENT SCHOLARS

GRA Eminent Scholars are among the brightest minds in their fields. They also represent a driver of Georgia's technology-rich economic development strategy; start-up companies are often born from the work of these brilliant scientists.

To recruit these world-class scientists to Georgia, GRA partners with Georgia's research universities and helps fund endowed chairs. As of 2016, Georgia's universities were home to 66 Eminent Scholars and their research laboratories.