Our year of growing university research and entrepreneurship in Georgia

MEMBER UNIVERSITIES
Augusta University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia State University
University of Georgia
Clark Atlanta University
Emory University
Mercer University
Morehouse School of Medicine

Georgia Research Alliance
We recruited 6 GRA Eminent Scholars.

KLAUS LEY AND LYNN HEDRICK  
Launched Immunology Center of Georgia at Augusta University

TODD GOLDE  
Relocated groundbreaking research in Alzheimer’s Disease to Emory

QIN WANG  
Expert in how drugs affect the neurological system arrived at Augusta University

SUMAN DATTA  
Pioneer in next-gen transistors and semiconductors came to Ga. Tech

LYNN KAMERLIN  
Uses supercomputers to make enzymes better catalysts; moved to Ga. Tech from Sweden

We welcomed 3 new GRA Distinguished Investigators.

Debra Bangasser, Georgia State  
Neuroscience

Jason Azoulay, Georgia Tech  
Optoelectronics

Melissa Davis, Morehouse School of Medicine  •  Breast Cancer

And we introduced a new category of superstar talent.

GRA Senior Fellows  •  Seasoned scientists who lead large, multidisciplinary research centers

Alan Darvill, UGA
Paul Johnson, Emory
Allan Levey, Emory
Suresh Ramalingam, Emory
Krishnendu Roy, Georgia Tech

NSF released data showing Georgia’s universities climbing national rankings for research.

We moved from #9 to #8 in university R&D expenditures. GRA’s work has contributed mightily to our state’s rapid rise in the last five years.

Key metrics from 2022

$899 Million  
R&D Expenditures by GRA Academy

+26%  
Increase in Academy’s R&D expenditures in just two years

1,987  
Jobs created last year in university labs

2016  •  2021
1. California  •  1. California
3. Texas  •  3. Texas
4. Pennsylvania  •  4. Pennsylvania
5. Maryland  •  5. Maryland
6. Massachusetts  •  6. Massachusetts
8. Georgia  •  8. Georgia
10. Illinois  •  10. Michigan
11. Ohio  •  11. Ohio
12. Georgia  •  12. Florida
Entrepreneurship

Georgia’s universities continued to invent products with market potential.

University scientists submitted 98 proposals and pre-proposals to GRA’s venture development program in 2022. GRA awarded $2.8 million in grants and loans to 55 projects and startups.

Here’s one to watch: Andson Biotech (Ga. Tech) makes technology to analyze biochemicals
Here’s another: Agrithera (Emory) makes cannabidiol more effective as a therapeutic

GRA Venture Fund grew its portfolio.

Nine startups joined the Fund in 2022; Sanguina and Huxley Medical received investment (along with the seven companies below, right). One of the fund’s earliest investments, Urjanet, had a successful exit after being acquired by Arcadia, a company that creates technology to fight the global climate crisis.

FDA awarded diagnostic 510(k) clearance to technologies produced by four of our startups.

• BioCircuit’s NerveTape, which repairs damaged nerves
• EarliTec’s eye-tracking device to detect autism earlier
• TendoNova’s surgical tool Ocelot (to repair chronic tendinopathy)
• AngioCloud’s medical imaging/processing platform

Three projects joined the Greater Yield portfolio – all of them benefitting the poultry industry.

• AudioT safeguards the welfare of broiler chickens by identifying and analyzing the sounds they make.
• VR-driven automation gives workers remote control over robotics in poultry processing.
• PoultryE uses imaging technology to track broiler chickens and hens to monitor health, egg-laying

Several enterprises in our portfolio scored big funding rounds in ’22.

Apptega $37M
Codoxo $20M
Nyra Med $20M
EarliTec $19.5M
Micron $14M
BioCircuit $ 9M
Altesa $ 4M
All are receiving investment from GRA Venture Fund.

Key metrics from 2022

$373 Million
Outside venture capital in GRA university startups last year

1,710
Jobs created in university startups (more high-tech workforce preparation)

$191 Million
Revenue generated + grants attracted by GRA portfolio companies (last year)

Our venture development program hit a MAJOR milestone.

$2.1 Billion
Total outside investment in GRA-backed projects and startups
We forged a strategic partnership with the Georgia Chamber.

An affiliate agreement signed in June identifies eight potential areas of collaboration and outlines the formation of a task force to develop cooperative activities to further boost Georgia’s economy and drive innovation.

GRA helped stage Georgia’s AgTech Summit.

Held in Tifton in March, the summit convened innovators at Georgia universities and the state’s farmers and food producers – all to review technologies that improve efficiency, increase yields and identify new revenue streams. GRA co-produced the summit with the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

We gathered in the name of exploration.

In August, GRA convened its Academy of Eminent Scholars in person after two years of virtual meetings. We were honored to be joined by University System of Georgia Chancellor Sonny Perdue. In November, Georgia universities participating in our equipment sharing program, GRA Core Exchange, got together at Emory. GRA President Susan Shows was the keynote speaker.

Our GRA Student Scholars program was a major success.

Fifteen undergraduates from across Georgia worked alongside top scientists on funded research projects. Designed to address underrepresentation of women and minority populations in STEMM-related fields, the GRA program is set to expand in 2023.

We reported GRA’s economic ROI.

In 2022, GRA’s return on Georgia’s investment was just under $1.5 billion. Since our founding in 1990, we’ve generated an ROI of $11.7 billion.

ANNUAL ROI

$1.49 Billion

TOTAL ROI (since 1990)

$11.7 Billion

Generated by GRA programs including Eminent Scholars, Distinguished Investigators, Senior Fellows and startup companies

Stay current with university research + entrepreneurship in Georgia.

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