



Georgia Research Alliance



# IMPACT '25

How GRA powers Georgia's innovation economy

# 2025 IMPACT ON GEORGIA

**\$1 Billion+**

**Outside public-private funding** awarded to GRA Scholars and their teams

**\$1 out of every \$4**

received for research at a GA university goes to a **GRA Scholar**

**3,428**

**new workforce opportunities created** through GRA-supported labs, startup companies

**\$350 Million**

**Revenue + outside funding** flowing to GRA-backed startups

**#8 in U.S.**

**Georgia's ranking** in university R&D (up from #12 in 2021)

## A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR



### RECRUITED TO UGA: **Ag tech pioneer**

Liang Dong invents sensors to monitor the health of crops



### RECRUITED TO AUGUSTA U: **AI / data policy expert**

Jeffery Talbert launched a Center for AI and Health



### RECRUITED TO GA TECH: **Wireless wizard**

Sriram Vishwanath leads GA testbeds for 6G tech



### RECRUITED TO EMORY: **For Georgia's Solve Sickle Cell Initiative**

Francesca Vinci made discoveries that advanced a drug treatment into clinical trials

### AWARDED TO EMORY: **\$21.9M for Alzheimer's research**

Fourth straight renewal of 5-year NIH grant to center led by GRA Senior Fellow Allan Levey

### AWARDED TO MERCER: **\$3M to explore blood pressure treatments** | NIH

made the grant to a team led by Raquibul Hasan

### AWARDED TO GEORGIA STATE: **\$6.3M to advance brain research**

| NIH award went to TReNDS Center led by GRA Eminent Scholar Vince Calhoun

**Some of the big investment rounds for GRA-backed startups in 2025**

**\$35M**



**\$29M**



**\$20M**



## A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

### FDA clearance

of inventions from GRA-backed startups in 2025

Tumor ablation surgical platform  
**(Focused Cryo)**

Heart arrhythmia monitoring  
**(Huxley Medical)** ▼



Start of clinical trials for peanut allergy treatment **(Moonlight TX)**

### 5 of the 79 exciting technologies GRA helped advance toward the market in 2025

1. Human antibodies that mitigate multiple **snake venoms** (UGA)
2. 3-D printed joint to **lighten the load** of aircraft (Georgia Southern)
3. Novel cannabinoid drugs to **treat chronic pain**, seizure disorders and anxiety (Emory)
4. A drug that promotes **safe weight loss** by burning fat (Georgia State)
5. Nano filters that **remove forever chemicals** from water (Georgia Tech) ▼



## Scenes from a year of progress



### 1 Grand opening of UGA Grand Farm

Georgia dignitaries joined UGA leadership in opening the agriculture research hub. Preceding the opening, GRA President Tim Denning delivered the keynote at the Precision Agriculture Summit in Perry, Ga.

### 2 Presentation to USG Board of Regents

GRA Scholar Anumantha Kanthasamy shares progress he's making in developing a novel treatment for Parkinson's Disease. GRA is investing in his startup, Priobiome Therapeutics.

### 3 Launch of Georgia Solve Sickle Cell Initiative

GRA partners and state leaders gathered to welcome GRA Eminent Scholar Solomon Ofori-Acquah (center), who leads the multi-institutional initiative. Pictured here with Dr. Ofori-Acquah: Children's Healthcare President & CEO Donna Hyland and former state Rep. Calvin Smyre.

### 4 35th anniversary meeting of GRA Trustees

Gov. Brian Kemp and First Lady Marty Kemp welcomed GRA Trustees to the governor's mansion in September to mark GRA's anniversary year. Among the Trustees: Chancellor Sonny Perdue, far left, and GDEcD Commissioner Pat Wilson, far right.

### 5 Convening of the GRA Academy

Georgia Chamber President Chris Clark (right) joins GRA President Tim Denning in a fireside chat on the innovation economy in Georgia. The event brought together Scholars at GRA member universities.

# Innovation is key to Georgia's future prosperity.

Because innovation ecosystems power economic growth.

Great research universities are the bedrock of these ecosystems. Which is why GRA works with Georgia's universities and partners across the state to **drive more innovation** – and deliver inventions to industry and products to people.

## OUR WORK



### STAR TALENT

Recruiting world-class scientists to GA universities



### HIGH-TECH LABS

Adding state-of-the-art tools for GA scientists to share



### NEW BUSINESSES

Bringing inventions to GA industry and people

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**On the cover:** GRA Distinguished Investigator **David Bertioli** and wife **Soroya Leal Bertioli** head UGA's Wild Peanut Lab, which improves peanut crops through plant genetics. David led a groundbreaking study that mapped the entire genome of the modern, cultivated peanut, sequencing 2.5 billion base pairs of DNA.

# Powering Georgia's Innovation Economy

## GRA'S UNIQUE + UNIFIED APPROACH



**ALIGNED**  
with State priorities  
and industries



**COLLABORATIVE**  
to maximize mind  
power and efficiency



**RESOURCEFUL**  
by finding + using  
leverage to drive  
greater results

GRA is a one-of-a-kind alliance of universities, government, industry and philanthropy. Our unified approach consistently generates exponential results — and an extraordinary return on investment.

Our vision: Continue growing Georgia's footprint in university research and entrepreneurship ... by strategically adding talent, infrastructure and commercialization support ... to help Georgia grow a powerful and resilient innovation economy for the future.



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## GRA Member Universities

