

GRA'S 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

The latest on why our state's investment in university exploration & entrepreneurship is good for Georgia (and Georgians!)



NEW STAR TALENT

recruited to Georgia as GRA Eminent Scholars

Robin Buell, UGA: She helped lead the first genetic mapping of a crop plant (and was key to mapping the rice genome)

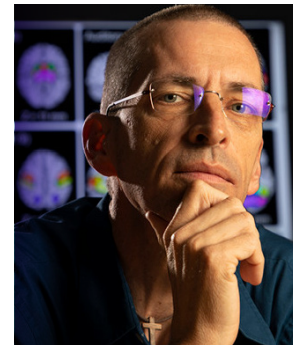
Anu Kanthasamy, UGA: He's broken new ground in solving Parkinson's disease

Larry Heck, Ga. Tech: He pioneered the artificial intelligence behind digital assistants like Siri and Alexa

A TRUE PUBLIC-PRIVATE ENDEAVOR *GRA receives state money to make strategic investments. But it's philanthropic support that powers GRA's operations. We're grateful for the confidence and generosity of organizations and individuals who give to GRA.*

GEORGIA FIGHTS COVID!

5 university contributions GRA helped make possible



Emory DRIVE: Their molecule became the drug molnupiravir (OK'd by FDA for emergency use)

Jeff Skolnick, Ga. Tech: His discovery helps predict adverse effects from the virus

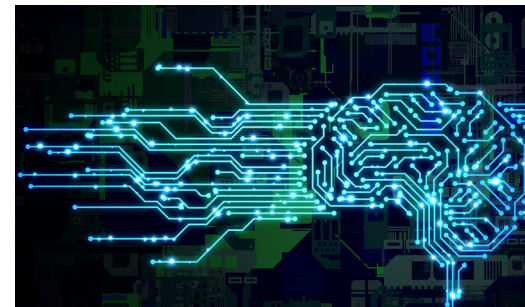
Emory Vaccine Center: Its HOPE Clinic tested, evaluated 3 vaccines, including Moderna

Ralph Tripp, UGA: He moved a new treatment into clinical testing

◀ **Vince Calhoun, GSU, Ga. Tech & Emory:** His lab explored how stress from COVID affects survivors

PREPARING THE STEM WORKFORCE

In summer 2021, **GRA launched a pilot program** to add lab research opportunities for students underrepresented in STEM fields. University students got the chance to work in the labs of GRA Eminent Scholars and GRA Distinguished Investigators. The GRA Student Scholars pilot was supported by The Coca-Cola Company and AT&T.



NEW MAJOR INVESTMENTS

in the ingenuity of Georgia's universities

\$40M to UGA to develop a new way to explore molecular worlds

◀ **\$60M** to Georgia Tech / GRA to pioneer artificial intelligence

7-year contract to UGA to step up the fight against influenza (up to \$92M!)

GRA'S 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

(continued)



STARTUP COMPANIES

A few headlines from a banner year

- Micron Biomedical** tests pain-free shots in kids
- Antios** advances Hep B treatment, attracts \$96 million in investment
- Softwear Automation** reports \$18M funding round
- Matmerize** speeds development of better materials
- CODOXO** closes on \$20M funding round
- FDA OKs evaluation of **Cambium's** dry eye treatment
- Investors add \$19.5M to advance autism detection tech from **EarliTec**
- Aruna Bio** generates \$11M investment round

GREATER YIELDS IN GEORGIA POULTRY

GRA initiative continues to benefit farmers, food producers

Two new investments in 2021 advanced GRA's "Greater Yield" initiative, which brings more inventions to Georgia's farmers and food producers. A **collaborative robot** developed at Georgia Tech Research Institute will help solve labor shortages, speed production and reduce line injuries. And a startup called **AudioT** out of Georgia Tech uses audio signals to promote the welfare and health of broiler chickens.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Other GRA-backed enterprises did quite well in 2021



- Mercer** expands herpesvirus research with NIH grant
- Morehouse School of Medicine** lands grant to expand telehealth in GA
- ◀ **Augusta University** Eminent Scholar **Xin-Yun Lu** identifies new target to treat depression
- UGA** ranks no. 1 for getting new products to market
- Emory** is tops in NIH-funded pediatric research

SOLVING SICKLE CELL

A GRA research endeavor launched in 2021 targets **sickle cell disease**, an inherited blood disorder. Under the plan, a new GRA Eminent Scholar chair — named for longtime state Rep. Calvin Smyre of Columbus — will be created at Morehouse School of Medicine, Emory University and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. GRA is raising additional funds to develop and expand the initiative.



Above: Gov. Brian Kemp, GRA President Susan Shows, Rep. Calvin Smyre and Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan at the 2021 launch of GRA's Solve Sickle Cell Initiative.