



Renowned Cancer Specialist Becomes Newest Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar

*Dr. Kapil Bhalla Will Direct New Medical College of Georgia Cancer Center
and Focus on New Treatments*

ATLANTA, April 27, 2006 – Dr. Kapil N. Bhalla, an internationally known investigator and clinician, has been named the Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Cancer. He is the founding director of the new Medical College of Georgia Cancer Center, the school's comprehensive program of cancer research, education, prevention and treatment, and will occupy the Cecil F. Whitaker, Jr., M.D. Chair in Cancer at MCG.

The current scientific director of the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute in Tampa, Fla., Dr. Bhalla will play a key role in the development and support of all initiatives at the Medical College of Georgia aimed at better understanding cancer mechanisms, their risks and potential therapeutic interventions, as well as programs and clinical research that will help bring promising treatments to clinical trials.

The hub of the Medical College of Georgia Cancer Center, the \$54 million MCG Cancer Research facility, opened on March 10 to provide a modern environment specifically designed to facilitate and inspire cancer research. The 167,000 square foot building will house major cancer-related research programs and accommodate 35 or more new research faculty and approximately 175 associated personnel.

As a part of his hiring, the Georgia Research Alliance will provide support for new technology and lab facilities for Dr. Bhalla and his team.

“We are proud of having someone of the stature of Dr. Bhalla come to Georgia,” said C. Michael Cassidy, president and CEO of the Georgia Research Alliance. “The efforts of Dr. Bhalla and his team will undoubtedly make Georgia a pioneer state for cancer research. He will help us accomplish the state's goal to become one of the nation's leaders in cancer care by the year 2012.”

With more than \$6 million in current grant funding from the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the United States Department of Defense and private industry, most of Dr. Bhalla's current research – which he now brings to Georgia – focuses on breast cancer and leukemia. He is the principal investigator on a \$2.8 million grant from the NCI to study the use of molecular profiles to screen for breast cancer.

Dr. Bhalla is a former member of the National Cancer Institute's Scientific Review Group Special Emphasis Panel for Program Review and has chaired the National Institutes of Health's Developmental Therapeutics Study Section since 2003.

He is a member of numerous professional societies, including the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the American Society of Hematology, the American Federation of Clinical Research and the American Association for Cancer Research. Dr. Bhalla is a past recipient of the National Cancer Institute's FIRST Award and the Leukemia Society of American Scholar Award.

The author of more than 120 scholarly articles on cancer research and clinical trials, Dr. Bhalla also serves as the associate editor of *Cancer Research* and is a member of the editorial board of *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*, *Clinical Cancer Research*, *Cancer Biology and Therapy* and *Cell Cycle*.

A 1976 graduate of the University of Delhi's Maulana Azad Medical College in India, Dr. Bhalla completed internships in pathology and internal medicine and a residency, also in internal medicine, at St. Michael's Medical Center in Newark, N.J. He completed a fellowship in hematology and oncology in 1983 at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York.

About GRA

A model public-private partnership between Georgia universities, business and state government, the Georgia Research Alliance helps build Georgia's technology-rich economy in three major ways: through attracting Eminent Scholars to Georgia's research universities; through improving laboratories and equipment at these research universities; and through converting research into products, services and jobs that drive the economy. To learn more about GRA, visit www.gra.org.

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