

Forefront



An introduction to some of the leading researchers
in Georgia's war on cancer



They're among the very best in their fields.

They come to Georgia from all over the world, often arriving with millions of dollars in research grants. ■ They are the Distinguished Cancer Clinicians and Scientists. And they serve at the forefront of discovery in Georgia's war on cancer. ■ With each recruit, the Georgia Cancer Coalition opens a new window of hope for preventing, treating and curing cancer ... and sparks a new chain-reaction of economic impact. Because each clinician and scientist drives a unique combination of matching investments, external grants and new jobs. ■ The level of depth and energy these individuals bring to their work is extraordinary. From mentoring students to running labs to seeing as many as 100 patients in a single day, Georgia's Distinguished Cancer Clinicians and Scientists are focused on achieving a single goal: *A day that knows no cancer.*

To learn more about this valuable program, download the Coalition's Report on the Distinguished Cancer Clinicians and Scientists at www.georgiacancer.org/forefront. Or contact the Georgia Cancer Coalition at 404.584.7720 and request your copy.



Scientists in the University of Georgia's Complex Carbohydrate Research Center. From left: CCRC Director Alan Darvill; Distinguished Cancer Scholar Lance Wells; pancreatic cancer survivor Howard Young; Ron Orlando; and Carl Bergman. Not pictured: Michael Pierce, Kelley Moremen, Michael Tiemeyer.

A new reason to hope

Pancreatic cancer kills nearly every person it strikes. The reason is that it's very difficult to diagnose early. But scientists in the University of Georgia's Complex Carbohydrate Research Center (CCRC) are conducting research that could lead to the world's first early-diagnostic test for pancreatic cancer. Led in part by Dr. Lance Wells, whom the Coalition helped recruit to Georgia from Johns Hopkins, the team is working with clinicians at the Translational Genomics Research Institute (T-Gen) in Arizona to identify the modified proteins secreted by cancer cells. The researchers believe that their collaborative work – which is funded by a \$2.2 million grant from the National Cancer Institute – could result in a test similar to the PSA blood test used to diagnose prostate cancer early, as well as reveal new therapeutic targets. Howard Young, an Atlanta businessman who survived pancreatic cancer, introduced the two teams to each other. Says Young: “The program in Athens is such a jewel, I just had to get the word out about them.”



Researchers in the Emory Prevention Research Center. From left: Distinguished Cancer Scholars Jo Ellen Stryker, Kyle Steenland, Joseph Lipscomb and Karen Glanz.

Stopping cancer before it starts

Understanding what compels people to adopt or eschew healthy behavior is key to preventing cancer. Emory University's Prevention Research Center, led by Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Cancer Scholar Dr. Karen Glanz, is breaking new ground in that understanding. A partnership between Emory University and the Southwest Georgia Cancer Coalition, the Prevention Research Center is conducting exhaustive research into the many dimensions of prevention. In one study, Dr. Glanz and others are learning how home, work and church environments influence nutrition, physical activity and tobacco use in south Georgians, who get cancer at rates that are 35 percent higher than the state as a whole. In another, Dr. Glanz and her team examined the availability, quality and price of healthy foods in stores and restaurants in several communities – thus inventing a way to measure nutrition environments in the community. The wealth of this knowledge is being shared across the nation: Dr. Glanz and her colleagues have trained researchers in 34 states on how to do the same in their communities.



The research team at the William and Iffath Hoskins Biomedical Institute at Memorial Health University Center in Savannah. Front: Distinguished Cancer Scholars William Hoskins and Jeff Boyd. Second row, from left: Ranjan Perera; Distinguished Cancer Scholars Steven Brower, John Risinger and Trib Vats; Dominique Broccoli; and Cindy Yee.



Pioneers on the Georgia coast

Building a translational research enterprise often takes a decade or longer. Savannah's Memorial Health University Medical Center accomplished that feat in less than six years. But then, Memorial Health had Dr. William Hoskins leading the effort. The Georgia Cancer Coalition helped recruit Dr. Hoskins, a renowned oncologist at Sloan-Kettering, to Georgia in 2001 with a mission in mind: Put Memorial Health on the research map. Today, the 66,000-square-foot William and Iffath Hoskins Center for Biomedical Research is open and operating under the leadership of Dr. Jeff Boyd, whom Dr. Hoskins and the Coalition brought to Georgia in 2005. There, researchers are focusing their efforts on molecular genetics and how to tailor cancer treatments based on an individual's genetic makeup. It's a niche that will help Memorial Health become a national leader in cancer care.



Dr. Leland Chung (second from left) directed his Distinguished Cancer Scholar award to supporting a new generation of scientists. Among the younger scientists who call Dr. Chung a mentor are (from left) Shareen Iqbal, Shian-Ying Sung and Clayton Yates.

Investing in the next wave of exploration

In the field of prostate cancer research, Dr. Leland Chung is a superstar. Since being recruited to Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute as one of the Georgia Cancer Coalition's very first Distinguished Cancer Clinicians and Scientists, Dr. Chung has advanced discovery on how prostate cancer spreads – and how it might be stopped. He's also published more than 250 papers, been awarded six patents, generated millions of dollars in research grants and helped Emory's urology department build a national reputation. But when asked which accomplishment is most significant, Dr. Chung doesn't hesitate in his answer: Mentoring. That's why he channeled his research award into supporting younger scientists as they worked to develop their research. And there's abundant evidence that Dr. Chung's philosophy of paying it forward is paying off: Many of the 100-plus students Dr. Chung has mentored are now leading investigators and directors in cancer research and treatment all over the world.

Distinguished Cancer Clinicians and Scientists

At the *forefront* of cancer research in Georgia

In helping Georgia's universities, medical and nursing schools and other institutions recruit top cancer researchers from around the world, the Georgia Cancer Coalition accomplishes two important aims: advance scientific discovery in cancer and create a profound economic impact for Georgia. ■ The Distinguished Cancer Clinicians and Scientists are widely regarded as thought leaders in cancer research. They not only pioneer discovery in labs. They speak at international conferences and symposia and teach in Georgia's universities and medical schools. They mentor other researchers and create companies. They care for patients. And they publish: Eight out of 10 Distinguished Cancer Scholars have written at least one article that ranks in the top 10 of most-cited research in its field of study. ■ To support their work, the Georgia Cancer Coalition awards the scholars \$50,000 to \$150,000 in funding per year for five years. Each dollar must be matched on a minimum 1-1 basis.

For more information on the Georgia Cancer Coalition's Distinguished Cancer Clinicians and Scientists program, visit www.georgiacancer.org/forefront.

The Top 4: Funding Recipients

The Georgia Cancer Coalition's Distinguished Cancer Clinicians and Scientists have brought in more than \$200 million in external funding in the program's first five years. Here are the four scholars who have generated the highest amount of outside investment in their work:

1. **Karen Glanz**
Emory University – Prevention research
2. **Shuming Nie**
Emory University / Georgia Tech – Cancer nanotechnology
3. **Fadlo Khuri**
Emory University – Head and neck cancers, lung cancer
4. **Leland Chung**
Emory University – Prostate cancer

The Top 4: Citations & Topics

A measure of leadership is how often a scholar's work is cited by other scholars. Following are the Distinguished Cancer Clinicians and Scientists whose research has been cited most often since the program was launched in 2002:

1. **Hernan Flores-Rozas**
Medical College of Georgia – citations in multidisciplinary fields
2. **Shuming Nie**
Emory University / Georgia Tech – citations in multidisciplinary fields
3. **Stephen Peiper**
Medical College of Georgia – citations in multidisciplinary fields
4. **William Hoskins**
Memorial Health University Medical Center – citations in clinical medicine

The Top 4: Patents

A first step toward commercializing discovery is to receive a patent. Here are the Distinguished Clinicians and Scientists who were awarded the most patents since the Distinguished Cancer Clinicians and Scientists program was launched in 2002:

1. Andrew Karellas

Emory University, 7 patents. Radiographic imaging, digital mammography, X-Ray fluoroscopic imaging

2. Leland Chung

Emory University, 6 patents. Prostate cancer cell growth

3. Shuming Nie

Emory University / Georgia Tech, 3 patents. Nanospecies, quantum dots

4. Binghe Wang

Georgia State University, 2 patents. Medicinal chemistry

The Top 4: Clinical Trials

Clinical cancer research is a vital component of a research program. And Georgia's Distinguished Cancer Clinicians and Scientists are active in developing and managing clinical trials. Following are the Clinicians and Scientists whose trials drew the highest number of participants since 2002:

1. Fadlo Khuri

Emory / Winship Cancer Institute – Lung Cancer Trials

2. Anna Janss

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta – Pediatric Cancer Trials

3. Ruth O'Regan

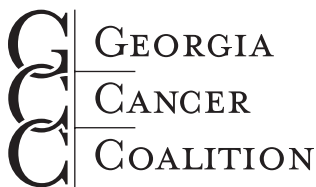
Emory / Winship Cancer Institute – Breast Cancer Trials

4. Trib Vats

Memorial Health University Medical Center – Pediatric Hematology / Oncology

About the Coalition:

The Georgia Cancer Coalition is the organization leading Georgia's war on cancer. The Coalition is an independent, not-for-profit enterprise that unites government agencies, academic institutions, civic groups, corporations and health care organizations in a concerted effort to strengthen cancer prevention, research and treatment in Georgia – with the ultimate goal of making Georgia one of the nation's premier states for cancer care.



50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 700
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

404.584.7720 • www.georgiacancer.org