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***Golden Helix Awards***

**APRIL 1, 2021 6–8 PM**

Celebrating Georgia's life sciences achievements, innovators & leaders.

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# Welcome

Thank you for joining us for the 2021 Georgia Bio Golden Helix Awards! This evening's virtual awards show serves as a celebration of the contributions and achievements of Georgia's leading life science innovators, and as a potent reminder that we live in a world that has changed dramatically.

As we celebrate and recognize the impact that Georgia's therapeutic, diagnostic, medical device, digital health, agricultural and industrial biotechnology companies are making around the globe, we also take this time to reflect on the vital role our industry has played in addressing the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. When I look back on all that the life sciences community has accomplished and endured this past year, I'm truly humbled and inspired.

This year, narrowing down our winners list was nearly impossible. Because so many of you have gone above and beyond the call of duty in your efforts to combat COVID and health inequity, we decided to include additional videos from you – our companies and community members – showing the innovative ways you addressed COVID at your place of business.

Your collaborative efforts will bring us out of this pandemic and into a new era of medical innovation. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your leadership and tenacity during these challenging times. Together we will continue to press forward and shape a healthier, more equitable world.

We are honored to have you all with us this evening, and I hope you will join me in showing our appreciation to the awardees throughout the program by using the emojis at the bottom of your screen, sending notes in the chat box, and joining us at the end of the program for our breakout rooms where you can congratulate the winners directly.

I hope you all continue to stay safe and well.

Sincerely,

*Maria Thacker Goethe*

Maria Thacker Goethe  
President and CEO, Georgia Bio



# Schedule of Events

## TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

- Dr. Brittney Denier Cantrell, Forsyth County Schools

## EMERGING LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

- Brian Jurgielewicz, University of Georgia
- Tarianna Stewart, Ph.D., IBM Research

## PHOENIX AWARDS

- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Global Health Crisis Coordination Center

## COMMUNITY AWARDS

- Carl Clark, Ph.D., Augusta University
- Nancy Paris, Georgia CORE
- James K. Rains, Jackson Medical & Georgia Institute of Technology
- Shaker J.C. Reddy, Metaclipse Therapeutics

## DEALS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta – Emory University – Georgia Institute of Technology
- CryoLife & Ascyrus Medical
- Georgia Cancer Center
- Medline Industries
- RWDC Industries
- VERO Biotech

## INNOVATION AWARDS

- *3D printed COVID-19 testing nasal swabs*, Dental College of Georgia
- *Blockchain in Clinical Trials*, Patientory, Inc.
- *PPE Face Shields*, Saldana Research Group

## LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

- The Honorable Dean Burke, M.D., Georgia State Senate
- The Honorable David Knight, Georgia House of Representatives

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

- David Lee, Ph.D., University of Georgia

## INDUSTRY GROWTH AWARDS

- Ejane Caraway, Georgia Department of Economic Development
- Susan Shows, Georgia Research Alliance



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## Save The Date for 2021 Georgia Bio Signature Events

May 2021



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### MedTech & Digital Health SUMMIT

September 2021



GEORGIA BIO™

### Patient Advocacy Summit 2021

October 2021

### BIO INNOVATION SUMMIT

More information, including registration and sponsorship opportunities, at [GaBio.org](http://GaBio.org).

# Teacher of the Year Award

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*The Teacher of the Year Award recognizes excellence in STEM teaching and support for the biotechnology pathway by current high school biotechnology teachers.*

## **Dr. Brittney Denier Cantrell** **Forsyth County Schools**

Dr. Brittney Denier Cantrell facilitates educator development and coaches an award-winning iGEM team for Forsyth County Schools. Dr. Cantrell currently serves as an instructional coach at Denmark High School and established the Science Department at Lambert High School with a vision of increasing student access to diverse and rigorous STEM coursework. She is committed to developing STEM programs that prepare students for success in secondary and post-secondary science and encouraging students to develop critical thinking skills. She served as an adjunct professor at UNG and is a Master Instructor for the Georgia BioEd Institute. Dr. Cantrell holds a B.S. in Biology from University of Wyoming, M.Ed. from UNG in Biology Education, Ed.S. in Curriculum and Instruction from VSU, and Ed.D in Curriculum and Instruction with a cognate in STEM Education and Minority Students from VSU. When not at work, she and her husband enjoy backpacking, camping, and traveling.



# Emerging Leader of the Year Awards

*Awarded to individuals who have made a significant impact on the life sciences industry through their studies or employment. An “emerging leader” is someone who is currently involved with graduate or postdoctoral studies, or who has completed their education within the past 10 years.*

## **Brian Jurgielewicz** **University of Georgia**

Brian Jurgielewicz is a Neuroscience Ph.D. Candidate in the Regenerative Biosciences Center at the University of Georgia. Under the direction of Dr. Steven Stice, Brian’s research interests focus on the translational potential of extracellular vesicles as therapeutic delivery vectors for neurological disorders.

Outside of the laboratory, Brian has played an active role within Georgia Bio – first as the University of Georgia’s Lead Liaison and recently as the Vice-Chair of the Emerging Leaders Network.

He has earned the UGA Graduate School Certificate in Entrepreneurship. Brian has participated in the UGA Innovation Corps Program, interned with numerous biotechnology companies, including the UGA Innovation Gateway, and has become a voice for students to pursue industry careers. Brian earned a double BS degree in Biological Sciences and Animal Sciences from Cornell University in 2015 and his MS in Animal and Dairy Science (Regenerative Biosciences) from University of Georgia in 2017.



## Emerging Leader of the Year Awards

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### **Tarianna Stewart, Ph.D.** **IBM Research**

Tarianna Stewart is an Intellectual Property (IP) Business Development Executive for IBM Research. She is passionate about the intersection of research and business and is motivated to transfer promising early-stage technologies to make an impact in real world applications. Her current efforts are directed towards the marketing and licensing of existing IP to established companies and investors. Dr. Stewart is an experienced Biomedical Scientist and Intellectual Property professional, she has spent time working for intellectual property law firms and university technology transfer offices.

Tarianna is an active board member for Georgia Intellectual Property Alliance and has served in different leadership roles for Women In Bio and MIT Enterprise Forum Atlanta chapters.





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# Phoenix Awards

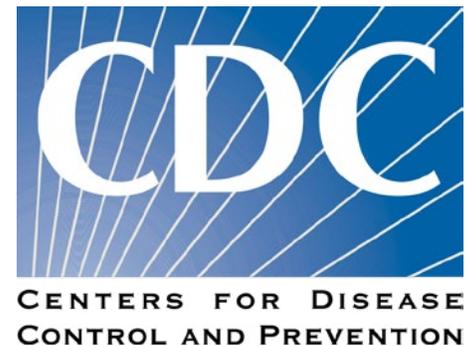
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*The Phoenix award represents the iconic “rising from the ashes” of the Phoenix, a symbol of strength, tenacity and leadership. This year, it is presented to those who have fostered innovation and collaboration within the Georgia community and beyond in response to the coronavirus pandemic.*

## U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

As the nation’s public health agency, CDC works 24/7 to save lives and protect people from health threats. Since launching its agency-wide response in January 2020, CDC has played an essential role in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 8,600 CDC personnel have supported the outbreak response, and 1,556 CDC deployers have conducted 3,113 deployments to 262 cities across the United States and abroad. CDC has been preparing healthcare workers, learning more about how the disease spreads, providing comprehensive surveillance data, and supporting state, local, tribal, and territorial governments on the front lines of public health. Throughout the response CDC has created new partnerships and leveraged existing ones to ensure that multi-sector entities and communities have the resources, guidance and scientific expertise to respond to COVID-19. To support these and other response efforts, 225 COVID-19 studies have been published in CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), and CDC has posted 5,479 documents providing information and guidance for government agencies, businesses, and the public.



# Phoenix Awards

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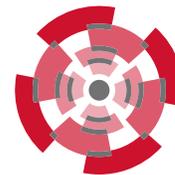
*The Phoenix award represents the iconic “rising from the ashes” of the Phoenix, a symbol of strength, tenacity and leadership. This year, it is presented to those who have fostered innovation and collaboration within the Georgia community and beyond in response to the coronavirus pandemic.*

## Global Health Crisis Coordination Center (GHC3)

The Global Health Crisis Coordination Center (GHC3), was launched in partnership with the CDC Foundation and Microsoft in March of 2020 as a division of the Center for Global Health Innovation.

GHC3 was established to coordinate resources between public health, private sector, and philanthropic organizations to help the world respond when a health crisis strikes.

In response to COVID, the team has built its Back2 Programs to work on getting people back to school, work and worship safely; created the PAVE Vaccine Tool to determine how to allocate vaccine doses to ensure optimized equity and impact; and is currently working on Vaccine Information Equity to ensure COVID-19 vaccine information is accurate, trusted, and equally accessible for all communities and demographics in the U.S. Learn more about these programs and how to get involved at [www.globalhealthc3.org](http://www.globalhealthc3.org).



**GHC3**  
GLOBAL HEALTH  
Crisis Coordination Center



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# Community Awards

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*Awarded to a small number of individuals, companies or institutions whose contributions to Georgia's life sciences community are worthy of special recognition.*

## **Carl Clark, Ph.D.** **Augusta University**

Carl Clark, Ph.D. is the recently retired Director for Technology Transfer at the Office of Innovation Commercialization, Augusta University. He worked with researchers to identify, protect, market, and license intellectual property to companies in order to bring new products and services to the marketplace. He assisted AU entrepreneurs with spin-outs based on AU technologies. Clark spent over 40 years in scientific research and innovation commercialization efforts, which included work at a major biotechnology company. One of his own inventions, Thermo Fisher's "Slide-A-Lyzer" won an R&D 100 award and resides at the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History.



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## **Nancy Paris**

### ***Georgia CORE (Center for Oncology Research and Education)***

Nancy's career is focused on improving health equity in Georgia. She served as CEO of the Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education for 15 years and is a member of its Board. Her leadership contributes to enhanced professional collaboration with marked improvements in cancer screening, genetics and clinical trials. A member of the leadership team of Governor Roy E. Barnes, she published policy briefings on the impact of Georgia's Master Settlement Agreement on oncology care and research. She received Legislative commendations for HIV/AIDS and Servant Leadership and is the author of numerous articles on healthcare quality, equity and collective impact. Educated at the University of Georgia and Mercer University, Nancy is a civil mediator, Chair of the Board of Saint Joseph's Health System, a member of the Boards of Emory Healthcare and the Georgia Health Foundation and a member of the Venerable Order of St. John.



# Community Awards

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## **James K. Rains**

### ***Jackson Medical and Georgia Institute of Technology***

James Rains is the Director of Design at Georgia Tech's Department of Biomedical Engineering, partnering students with clinical and industry collaborators in an educational endeavor to develop solutions to unmet clinical needs. He has mentored over 500 project teams, working alongside local, national, and global hospitals and healthcare companies to develop new technology solutions. He enjoys training and supporting the next generation of Georgia entrepreneurs, as well as helping build economic development for the state. After graduating from Georgia Tech and Purdue University, James worked for 13 years with healthcare leaders Stryker and Smith & Nephew in Advanced Technology Development. He also is the co-founder and CEO of Jackson Medical, a spinout of Georgia Tech, that develops surgical safety products. Their flagship product, GloShield, has been used in making over 30,000 surgeries safer. James mentors and coaches entrepreneurs and med device startups along their journey of bringing an idea to market.



# Community Awards

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## **Shaker J.C. Reddy** ***Metaclipse Therapeutics***

Shaker J. C. Reddy is the President & Founder of Metaclipse Therapeutics. He has been a serial entrepreneur since 1988. His first company Accura Analytical Laboratory grew to be one of the most respected laboratories in US providing environmental and geotechnical services. During his thirty years, he has been involved in starting multiple companies such as AALI, Gyrocon, Naturite Agro, Buildspan, Accura Engineering, Accurx Biopharma and Metaclipse Therapeutics. He started Metaclipse licensing technology from Emory University to make a difference in curing cancer. Has been very successful in raising over \$10 million Non-dilutive funding from National Institute of health for Metaclipse. Has established R&D laboratories and process development facilities and implemented Quality Programs to meet stringent federal requirements. Shaker is very involved in TIE Atlanta, which supports entrepreneurs through all stages including mentoring, funding and providing access to a global network. Shaker has B.S, Agriculture and M.S, Biochemistry.



# Deal of the Year Awards

*Awarded to one or more companies or institutions for the most significant financial or commercial transactions closed from January 1 - December 31, 2020, based on the importance of the transaction to Georgia's life sciences industry.*

## **Children's Healthcare of Atlanta – Emory University – Georgia Institute of Technology** **Public Financing**

In response to the pandemic, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) initiated the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) program to identify the best COVID-19 diagnostic tests that will enable the public's safe return to normal activities. Due to the combined expertise in clinical medicine and technology development, Emory University, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and the Georgia Institute of Technology received \$54 million from the NIH to validate and verify the best performing COVID-19 diagnostic tests in RADx. Led by Oliver Brand, PhD (Georgia Tech), Wilbur Lam, MD, PhD (Emory, Georgia Tech, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta), and Greg Martin, MD, MSc (Emory), researchers from the three institutions have been 'testing the tests' for the nation and objectively assessing the accuracy and viability of each one. So far, their center has assessed 50+ COVID-19 tests, several of which are now on the market and being scaled up to serve the American public.



**Children's**<sup>SM</sup>  
Healthcare of Atlanta



**EMORY**  
UNIVERSITY



## Deal of the Year Awards

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### **CryoLife and Ascyrus Medical Aquisitions**

CryoLife, a leading cardiac and vascular surgery company focused on aortic disease, announced in September 2020, that it had acquired Ascyrus Medical, a Florida-based, privately-held developer of the Ascyrus Medical Dissection Stent (AMDS™). AMDS is the world's first aortic arch remodeling device used for the treatment of acute Type A aortic dissections. Globally, approximately 48,000 patients suffer from acute Type A dissections, an emergent and life-threatening condition. In the clinical trial for CE Mark and Health Canada approvals, AMDS was shown to reduce mortality, complications and reoperations, compared to the standard of care, thereby improving the care of patients and offering significant cost savings for the health care system. The acquisition further strengthens CryoLife's position as a leader in the growing aortic repair market. CryoLife acquired Ascyrus for up to \$200 million, consisting of \$80 million in upfront cash and stock plus future cash and stock payments of up to \$120 million, based on global regulatory approval milestones.



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## **Georgia Cancer Center Public Financing**

In 2020, the Georgia Cancer Center, Augusta University received a \$3.3 million grant from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation to address cancer health disparities and inequities among minority and underserved, rural and urban populations. The grant, c-CARE-II, follows c-CARE-I (focused on lung cancer). c-CARE-II has two components: 1) a research study enrolling 600 participants targeting breast, multiple myeloma, and prostate cancers, using a train-the-trainer approach with community health workers who will provide five educational sessions at their respective churches; study team members will navigate those eligible and willing to screening, including genetic, for early detection, and navigation to care when needed. Modifiable risk factors of tobacco use and obesity are also addressed. 2) A collaboration with Africa to replicate c-CARE-I in six countries: Kenya, Ghana, Lesotho, South Africa, Eswatini, and Zimbabwe. Martha S. Tingen, PhD, RN, FAAN is principal investigator of the award that includes a multidisciplinary and diverse research team.

***c-CARE: cancer-Community, Awareness, Access, Research & Education***



**GEORGIA  
CANCER CENTER**  
AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

# Deal of the Year Awards

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## **Medline Industries** ***Economic Development***

Headquartered in Northfield, Illinois, Medline is a healthcare company that manufactures and distributes more than 550,000 products with more than 26,000 employees worldwide. Combining its large size and the agility of a family-owned business, Medline can invest in its customers for the long-term and rapidly respond with customized solutions.

Medline's "Deal of the Year" award recognizes their investment of over \$70 million to build a new distribution center in Richmond Hill that will create 150 new jobs with capacity for more than 600 workers as the company grows. The new one-million-square-foot facility will be built in Belfast Commerce Park, which is a Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) site. The expected completion date is 2021. Careers at the facility will focus on supply chain support, warehouse operations – including supervisors and managers – and other branch administration. The company currently operates two facilities in Georgia. Its distribution center in McDonough and manufacturing plant in Lithia Springs together employ approximately 800 people.



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## **RWDC Industries** **Economic Development**

RWDC Industries is an international biotech company, based in Athens and Singapore, helping global consumer brands address sustainability objectives driven by corporate goals, policy evolution and consumer passion. We partner with clients to understand their specific needs before developing solutions that leverage our expertise in the production of PHA, a biovanescent alternative to petroleum-based plastic products.

RWDC's "Deal of the Year" recognition honors our commitment to build a \$260 million PHA production facility in Athens, employing 200 people. Construction and commissioning of a 4,000 MT/year pre-commercial facility is nearly complete, and construction is underway on a 50,000 MT/year commercial facility.

Our focus is helping clients develop the following applications: aqueous-based dispersion coating for paper (used in food and consumer packaging industries); single-use consumer items (primarily in the food service and packaging area, such as drinking straws, cutlery, cup lids, stirrers, etc.); bottles and closures; and PHA fibers used in personal care products, including wet wipes and diapers.



## Deal of the Year Awards

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### **VERO Biotech** **Private Financing**

VERO Biotech LLC (“VERO”) is an Atlanta-based biotechnology and biopharmaceutical company focused on the design, development and commercialization of next-generation inhaled nitric oxide delivery systems to address the unmet needs of patients with cardiopulmonary conditions. On December 20, 2019, VERO, received approval of the GENOSYL® Delivery System, the first and only tankless inhaled nitric oxide delivery system in 20 years. This innovative system has helped hospital and healthcare systems remove significant costs from their operating systems, saving valuable and scarce resources for direct patient care. The innovation of VERO Biotech’s GENOSYL Delivery System has been recognized by the financial community through significant external investments. Their confidence is a testament to the dedicated leadership and researchers at VERO Biotech. In December 2020, VERO Biotech closed a \$50 million funding agreement with Runway Capital, a leading provider of growth loans to both venture and non-venture backed companies. For more information, visit [www.vero-biotech.com](http://www.vero-biotech.com).

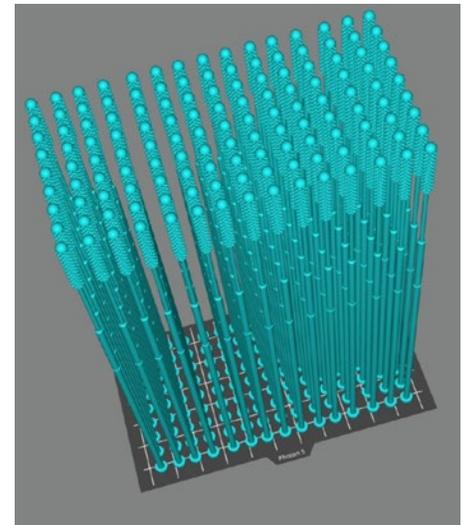
VERO  
BIOTECH

# Innovation Awards

*The Innovation Award honors the department, institution, company or individuals who are forging new ground by thinking outside traditional paradigms to create some unique technology.*

## **3D printed COVID-19 testing nasal swabs** **Dental College of Georgia**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a global impact. As the country attempted to combat the pandemic, the American worker was forced into quarantine to prevent the spread or faced the illness itself. Supply chains broke down and left the willing and able medical centers across the country helpless to render care. A part of this supply chain failure included the nasal swabs used to test for the virus. That's when the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department (OMFS) at the Dental College of Georgia stepped in to lend a hand. 3D printing technology is used for oral and craniomaxillofacial surgery often. Using this familiarity, a 3D printed nasal swab first designed by University of South Florida was improved upon and printed at the Dental College of Georgia to supplement the failing supply of nasal swabs. This innovation allowed the AU medical center to provide COVID testing throughout Georgia when others were unable.

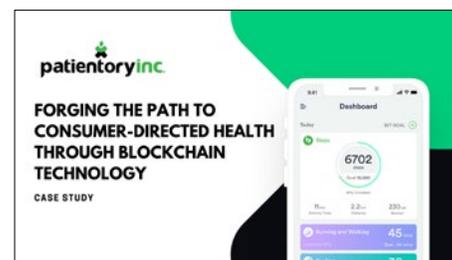


# Innovation Awards

*The Innovation Award honors the department, institution, company or individuals who are forging new ground by thinking outside traditional paradigms to create some unique technology.*

## Blockchain in Clinical Trials *Patientory, Inc.*

Patientory democratizes individual ownership of the world's health data and incentives to improve health outcomes. Patientory Inc. is a population health data management and analytics company. Through its two decentralized applications, the Patientory mobile app and enterprise software tool Neith, Patientory Inc. provides patients with access and insights and enterprises with comprehensive healthcare data, risk management analytics, and AI-driven clinical trial recruitment management systems to improve population health outcomes and employ personalized care plans that consider the entire history of the patient, including the social determinants of health. This is achieved by integrating a blockchain enabled network to gather and analyze siloed healthcare data, which includes daily lifestyle factors, and in turn, reduce the cost of care.



# Innovation Awards

*The Innovation Award honors the department, institution, company or individuals who are forging new ground by thinking outside traditional paradigms to create some unique technology.*

## **PPE Face Shields** **Saldana Research Group**

The Saldana Research Group, out of Georgia Tech, and the Global Center for Medical Innovation developed and rapidly produced a new face shield design for healthcare workers. The Georgia Tech face shield provides full front and side-to-side barrier coverage for the healthcare worker. The face shield features a clear disposable barrier film affixed to a reusable headband. In material shortage scenarios, the film can be replaced by more readily available transparent films using a standard 3-hole punch for mounting holes. The reusable headband has design features to allow for compliant adjustment for various head sizes and to enable clearance for other personal protective equipment (e.g., respirators). The design adheres to resilient manufacturing principles, wherein production volumes in the scale of thousands is enabled by rapid prototyping (e.g., laser cutting, waterjet) and volumes in the millions of units is enabled by scale manufacturing (e.g., die cutting, extrusion). More than 2 million units were produced for the Nation.



# Legislator of the Year Awards

*Recognizes state legislators for their support of the life sciences industry in Georgia.*

## **The Honorable Dean Burke, M.D.** **Georgia State Senate**

Senator Dean Burke (R-11) represents Senate District 11, consisting of Colquitt, Decatur, Early, Grady, Miller and Seminole counties along with portions of Mitchell and Thomas counties. Sen. Burke serves as the Chairman of the Insurance and Labor Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Health and Human Services and Ethics Committees, an Ex-Officio of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Secretary of Appropriations, and is a member of the Reapportionment and Redistricting and Rules Committees. He also serves as the Chairman of the Community Health Sub-Committee, which is responsible for 14.1 percent of the states total budget. Prior to being elected to the State Senate, Sen. Burke was a practicing physician for 27 years before serving on the Bainbridge City Council and the Lower Flint Water Council. He now serves as a rural hospital administrator in the role of Chief Medical Officer at Memorial Hospital and Manor in Bainbridge. Sen. Burke and his wife, Thea, have two children, and three grandchildren. The family belongs to the First United Methodist Church in Bainbridge.



# Legislator of the Year Awards

*Recognizes state legislators for their support of the life sciences industry in Georgia.*

## **The Honorable David Knight** **Georgia House of Representatives**

Representative David Knight was elected to House District 130 of the Georgia House of Representatives in 2004, which includes parts of Spalding, Henry and Lamar counties. He currently serves as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education and the House Sportsman Caucus. His legislative duties also include service as a member of the Banks & Banking, Game, Fish & Parks, Higher Education, Rules, Small Business Development and Ways & Means committees. A native of Griffin, he attended both the University of Georgia and Augusta College, earning a degree in accounting. Rep. Knight has been a practicing certified public accountant for over 20 years and holds memberships in the Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Georgia Society of Certified Public Accounts. He is also a member of the Griffin Rotary Club. Rep. Knight and his wife Marie are the proud parents of John David and active members of the First Baptist Church of Griffin. He is an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoys sporting clays.



## Lifetime Achievement Award

*Recognizes an individual who has dedicated their career to advancing innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development in the life sciences industry of Georgia.*

### **David Lee, Ph.D.** **University of Georgia**

David Lee, Ph.D., is Vice President for Research and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Georgia, positions he has held since 2005. He is responsible for growing and supporting research across the University, and for innovation and commercialization of research activities. During his tenure, UGA's total R&D expenditures have risen to \$500 million, due partly to expansion of biomedical and engineering programs. For the past seven years, UGA has ranked among the top 5 U.S. universities for the number of research-derived products that are introduced into the market annually. The number of startup projects in UGA's pipeline has also grown dramatically, and the University has begun development of the Innovation District, a project aimed at expanding industry engagement that he has helped to lead. During his tenure, he has encouraged partnerships with Georgia's other research universities, including in areas of translational research.



# Industry Growth Awards

*Awarded annually to two people who have made an extraordinary contribution to the growth of the life sciences industry in Georgia.*

## **EJane Caraway** **Georgia Department of Economic Development**

Director of the Georgia Department of Economic Development's (GDEcD) Life Sciences team, EJane Caraway leads her division in providing assistance to companies considering establishing or expanding their presence in Georgia. Since joining GDEcD in the fall of 2009, and working closely with organizations across Georgia to grow the state's Life Science community, EJane has lead more than 160 projects, which have generated over \$5.9 billion in capital investment and created more than 17,500 jobs for Georgians.

Her membership affiliations include the Georgia HIMSS Board, GA Bio Board, Innovation Crescent Board, Georgia Economic Developers Association, Southeast Development Council, Korean Southeast U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and several others. She has lead Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society and has served the Boy Scouts of America for many years.

EJane holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from East Tennessee State University and is a Certified Economic Development Finance Professional.



# Industry Growth Awards

*Awarded annually to two people who have made an extraordinary contribution to the growth of the life sciences industry in Georgia.*

## **Susan Shows** **Georgia Research Alliance**

Susan Shows is President of the Georgia Research Alliance (GRA), a partnership of business, research universities and state government. GRA plays a key role in unifying the state's research institutions and building Georgia's reputation as a center of discovery and invention, especially in the life sciences. In her 20 years with the Alliance, Susan started the GRA Ventures Program, the first one of its kind in the U.S. Since 2003, the nationally recognized program has helped fuel the launch of nearly 200 companies out of Georgia's university labs, attracting outside investment of more than \$1.6 billion and creating more than 1,500 jobs. GRA is best known for its recruitment of top research scientists to Georgia's universities, and Susan has been instrumental in recruiting 84 GRA Eminent Scholars and Distinguished Investigators. The GRA Academy of Scholars is highly productive, achieving more than \$600 million in annual research expenditures and creating more than 2,000 jobs in their labs in FY2020. Before joining GRA, Susan worked at Georgia Tech, where she managed collaborations involving the university, federal agencies, and private industry. She also served as general manager of ATDC, the Institute's technology incubator. She began her career as an industrial engineer at Square D Company. She holds degrees from the University of Tennessee Knoxville and Xavier University.



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