



Georgia Life Sciences Golden Helix Awards

The Georgia Life Sciences Golden Helix Awards celebrate the incredible leaders and companies in the life sciences industry for their contributions in Georgia.

INNOVATION AWARD		
2025		Myomatrix
2024	Tom Barrows	ProgenaCare Global - ProgenaMatrix®
2024	Jack Huang	University of Georgia - DE-FLUORO
2023	Paenibacillus Larvae Bacterin, Honeybee Vaccine	Dalan Animal Health
2023		Saol Therapeutics
2022	GENOSYL	VERO Biotech
2021	3D printed COVID-19 testing nasal swabs	Dental College of Georgia
2021	PPE Face Shields	Saldana Research Group Global Center for Medical Innovation Georgia Institute of Technology
2021	Blockchain in Patient Trials	Patientory, Inc.
2020	DisasterMed	R6 Industries
2020	AnemoCheck Platform	Sanguina, Inc.
2020	Micro C	OXOS Medical, Inc.
2020	Non-Invasive Technology to Measure Oxygen Delivery & Use in Muscle	Infrared Rx, Inc.
2019	GloShieldTM	Jackson Medical
2019	3D-Printed Tracheal Splint in Pediatric Patient	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta / Georgia Institute of Technology
2018		Aruna Biomedical
2018	George Hsu, M.D., Chief Medical Officer / Interim CEO	Cathaid Inc.
2018	James Ross, Ph.D.	Chief Technology Officer, Axion BioSystems
2018		PanXome
2017	Latha Ganeshan, CEO and Founder	Zywie
2017	Robert Ivarie Ph.D., B.S.	University of Georgia/Synageva
2017	Matthew Lyon, M.D.	Augusta University
2017	David Munn, M.D.	Augusta University



2016		Abeome
2016	Mark R. Prausnitz, Ph.D.	Georgia Institute of Technology
2016		NFANT Labs LLC
2015	Fuse Full Spectrum Endosco	EndoChoice, Inc.
2015	Stephen Hsu, Ph.D.	Camellix, LLC
2015	Leonard Reeves, MD, FAAFP	Georgia Regents University
2015	Tom Robertson	Cogent Education
2014	Amy Baxter, MD, CEO	MMJ Labs
2014	Ami Klin, Ph.D., Director	Marcus Autism Center

COMMUNITY AWARD

2025		ARCS Foundation – Atlanta
2025	Jeffrey Gray	AgeTech Atlanta
2025	Christopher Kunney	IOTech Consulting, LLC
2025	Lisa Middleton, Ph.D.	Georgia Cancer Center/Augusta University
2024	Emily Blum	Global Center for Medical Innovation
2024	Ashley Cornelison	Portal Innovations
2024	Betty Pace	Georgia Cancer Center, Augusta University
2024	Connor Seabrook	Georgia Research Alliance
2024		The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) New Atlanta Regional Office
2023	Juan-Carlos Aguilar, PhD	Georgia Department of Education
2023	Roberto Alva, DVM, MS, PhD	Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health
2023	Jim Forbes	Vizzia Technologies
2023	David C. Hess, MD	Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University
2023	James Lillard, PhD, MBA	Morehouse School of Medicine
2023	Nakia Melecio	Georgia Institute of Technology
2022	Ian Biggs	University of Georgia Innovation Gateway
2022	Angelita Howard, EdD, MBA-PM, MA	Morehouse School of Medicine
2022	Wilbur Lam, MD, PhD	Emory University & Georgia Institute of Technology
2022	Dorothy Leone-Glasser, RN, HHC	Advocates for Responsible Care
2022		Marine Extension & Georgia Sea Grant, University of Georgia
2022	Grace Powers, MS, MBA, RAC	Powers Regulatory Consulting
2022		Ryan White Program, Augusta University
2021	Carl Clark	Augusta University
2021	Nancy Paris	Georgia CORE
2021	James Rains	Jackson Medical & Georgia Institute of Technology
2021	Shaker Reddy	Metaclipse Therapeutics
2020	Michael Fisher	Global Center for Medical Innovation
2020		Gerresheimer



2020	Jayne Morgan, M.D.	Piedmont Healthcare
2020	Cynthia Sundell, Ph.D.	Georgia Institute of Technology
2020		University of Georgia Poultry Diagnostic & Research Center
2019		Atlanta Science Festival
2019	Charles G. Fogelgren, MBA	med fusion – a Quest Diagnostics Company
2019	Pediatric Technology Center	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
2019	Joseph Hobbs, MD	Augusta University
2019	Kornelius Bankston	Color Genomics, Inc.
2019	International Biomedical Regulatory Sciences Program	University of Georgia, College of Pharmacy
2018	Sherry N. Farrugia	Georgia Institute of Technology; Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
2018	Christopher D. McKinney, DA, MBA	Augusta University
2018		Center for Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases
2018	Suzanne Prichett	VWR International LLC
2018		Atlanta Center for Medical Research
2017	Rafael V. Andino	Clearside Biomedical
2017	Derek Eberhart, Ph.D.	University of Georgia
2017	Abel De La Rosa, Ph.D.	Drug Innovation Ventures at Emory & The Emory Institute for Drug Development
2017		Georgia Power
2017		UGA Complex Carbohydrate Research Center
2016	Michael P. Diamond, M.D.	Augusta University
2016	Kevin C. Lei, M.B.A., M.S., C.L.P.	Emory University
2016	Stacy Shuker Reece, Ph.D.	Down South Innovation
2016	David Stern	
2016		Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
2015	Robert E. Guldberg, Ph.D.	Parker H. Petit Institute for Bioengineering & Bioscience, Georgia Institute of Technology
2015	Jamie L. Graham	Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP
2015	Lynn Hood	Crackerjack Marketing
2015	Tiffany Wilson Karp	Global Center for Medical Innovation
2015	Robert E. Powers, M.Div., Ph.D.	Gwinnett Technical College
2014	Richard diMonda, BEE, MSBME, MBA	
2014	Judy M. Gantt, M.Ed	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2014	Joseph M. Patti, Ph.D.	Biota Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
2014	Todd Sherer, PhD, CLP	Emory University
2013	Chris Lepore	Johnson & Johnson Services Inc.
2013	Barbara D. Boyan, PhD	Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University
2013	Tina McKeon PhD	Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP
2013	Harold H. Shlevin, PhD	Galectin Therapeutics Inc.
2013	Lewis Franklin Bost, MBA, IDSA	Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University

2012		REACH Health, Inc.
2012		Task Force for Global Health
2012		Metro Atlanta Chamber Bioscience Leadership Council
2012	Ann Schmierer, PhD	Georgia Tech
2012	Kitty Vogt	Georgia Research Alliance
2011	Harriet L. Robinson, Ph.D.	GeoVax
2011	Carol Henderson	Georgia Department of Economic Development
2011	William F. Kitchen	WFK Consulting and former Director of Government Affairs for UCB Inc.
2010	Debra M. Lyons	Georgia Governor's Office of Workforce Development
2010	Norene Quinn	Association Management Services
2010	Wayne Reid	Frazier & Deeter, LLC
2009	Stephen Dalton, Ph.D.	University of Georgia
2009	H. Wayne Hodges	Georgia Institute of Technology, Enterprise Innovation Institute
2009	Paul Ohme, Ph.D.	Georgia Institute of Technology, Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics and Computing
2009	Jin-Xiong She, Ph.D.	The Center for Biotechnology and Genomic Medicine, Medical College of Georgia
2008	Georgia State Representative Charlice Byrd	
2008	Carl V. Patton, Ph.D.	Georgia State University President
2008	Margaret Offermann, M.D., Ph.D.	American Cancer Society Deputy National Vice President for Research
2008		Southeast Bio
2007	Michael Wanner	
2007	Legislative Response Team (William Kitchen; Charles Craig; Dr. Marie Csete; and Dr. Steven Stice)	
2007		The Georgia Research Alliance VentureLab Program
2007		The Emory Vaccine Center
2006	William H. Kitchens	
2006		The American-Israel Chamber of Commerce
2006		The Center for Behavioral Neuroscience
2006		Georgia Venture Partners
2005	Margaret Wagner Dahl	
2005	Frank Hunt	
2005		Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering
2004	Michael Gabridge	
2004	Frank McDaniel	



2004		Georgia Power
2004		Georgia Research Alliance
2003	Clifton A. Baile	
2003	Ray E. Hannah	
2003	Lauren Owenby	
2003		Inhibitex, Inc
2002	John G. Edwards	
2002	William A. Hawkins	
2002	John N. Spencer, Jr.	
2002		AtheroGenics, Inc.

DEAL OF THE YEAR AWARD		
2025	Private Financing	Andson Biotech
2025	Private Financing	Micron Biomedical
2025	Private Financing	Moonlight Therapeutics
2025	Private Financing	Synaptrix
2025	Acquisition	ANI Pharmaceuticals
2025	Acquisition	Stryker
2025	Economic Development	Duracell
2024	Acquisitions	Veranex completes acquisition of T3 Labs
2024	Acquisitions	Werfen completes the acquisition of Immucor, Inc.
2024	Economic Development	Meissner
2024	Private Financing	Dalan Animal Health
2024	Private Financing	Inhibikase Therapeutics
2024	Private Financing	Micron Biomedical
2024	Public Financing	Emory, Georgia Tech & Children's Healthcare land major NIH grant for diagnostics
2023	Acquisitions	UCB acquisition of Zogenix
2023	Economic Development	Boston Scientific
2023	Private Financing	Micron Biomedical
2023	Private Financing	Nyra Medical
2023	Private Financing	OXOS Medical, Inc.
2023	Public Financing	Antiviral Countermeasures Development Center
2023	Public Financing	Center for Healthy Aging, Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University
2023	Public Financing	Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance
2022	Acquisitions	Summa Equity acquisition of Axion Biosystems
2022	Acquisitions	Bean Therapeutics acquisition of Guide Therapeutics
2022	Acquisitions	DJO acquisition of MedShape, Inc.
2022	Economic Development	Danimer Scientific
2022	Economic Development	Intuitive Surgical



2022	Private Financing	Antios Therapeutics
2022	Private Financing	Sharecare
2022	Private Financing	Stados Labs
2022	Private Financing	VERO Biotech
2022	Public Financing	Kennesaw State University
2021	Acquisitions	CryoLife's Acquisition of Ascyrus Medical
2021	Economic Development	Medline Industries
2021	Economic Development	RWDC Industries
2021	Private Financing	VERO Biotech
2021	Public Financing	Georgia Cancer Center
2021	Public Financing	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Emory University Georgia Institute of Technology
2020	Acquisitions	Alcon
2020	Acquisitions	Takeda Pharmaceutical
2020	Acquisitions	Tempus and AKESOgen
2020	Private Financing	Aruna Bio
2020	Private Financing	Danimer Scientific
2020	Private Financing	Guide Therapeutics
2020	Public Financing	Emory Vaccine Center
2020	Public Financing	Georgia Cancer Center
2020	Public Financing	University of Georgia Center for Vaccines and Immunology
2019	Acquisitions	Becton, Dickinson & Co. & C. R. Bard, Inc.
2019	Acquisitions	Wright Medical Group & Cartiva
2019	Economic Development	Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc.
2019	Licensing Agreement	Arbor Pharmaceuticals & Tasly Pharmaceuticals
2019	Private Financing	Antios Therapeutics
2019	Private Financing	Rimidi Diabetes Inc.
2018		Center for Biotechnology and Genomic Medicine at Augusta University
2018		CryoLife
2018		Femasys
2018		Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance
2018		NSF Engineering Research Center for Cell Manufacturing Technologies (CMA ^T)
2018		Vertera Spine
2017	Initial Public Offering & Private Financing	Clearside Biomedical, Inc.
2017	Acquisitions	CryoLife, Inc.
2017	Acquisitions	Arbor Pharmaceuticals, LLC
2017	Private Financing	Axion BioSystems, Inc.
2017	Public Financing	Alimera Sciences, Inc.
2016	Private Financing	Arbor Pharmaceuticals, LLC
2016	Private Financing	Celtaxsys, Inc.



2016	Joint Venture	Emory Genetics Laboratory & Eurofins Scientific
2016	Initial Public Offering	EndoChoice, Inc.
2016	Mergers & Acquisitions	Cocrystal Pharma, Inc. and RFS Pharma, LLC
2016	Mergers & Acquisitions	Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. & Synageva BioPharma Corp.
2016	Economic Development	Alcon a Novartis Company
2016	Economic Development	Halyard Worldwide Inc.
2015	Private Financing	Alimera Sciences, Inc.
2015	Private Financing	Clearside Biomedical, Inc.
2015	Acquisitions	CardioMEMS & St. Jude Medical
2015	Acquisitions	Velocity Medical Solutions & Varian Medical Systems
2015	Acquisitions	Immucor
2015	Public/Private Collaboration	AKESOGen & VA Million Veteran Program
2014		Arbor Pharmaceuticals, LLC.
2014		Clearside Biomedical Inc.
2014		CorMatrix Cardiovascular, Inc.
2014		EndoChoice, Inc.
2014		Royal Philips & Georgia Regents Health System
2013	Private Financing	Clearside Biomedical
2013	Private Financing	Reach Health
2013	Public Financing	MiMedx Group
2013	Public Financing	GeoVax Labs
2013	Public Financing	Alimera Sciences
2013	Economic Development	Baxter International Inc.
2013	Public/Private Collaboration	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta & Georgia Institute of Technology
2013	Company Growth	Meredian
2013	Company Growth	Mikart
2012	Public Financing	Immucor, Inc.
2012	Public Financing	Inhibitex, Inc.
2012	Private Financing	The Innovation Factory
2012	Fast Growing Company	EndoChoice, Inc.
2012	Acquisitions	CryoLife, Inc.
2012	SBIR Grant/ Preclinical Funding	NeurOp, Inc.
2011	Public Financing	Alimera Sciences
2011	Private Financing	Arbor Pharmaceuticals
2011	Private Financing	Carticept Medical
2011	Private Financing	InVasc Therapeutics
2011	Strategic Partnership	CardioMEMS
2011	Strategic Partnership	NeurOp
2011	Product Launch	Dendreon
2010	Licensing Agreement	Altea Therapeutics



2010	Company Formation	The Georgia Research Alliance (GRA) Seed Fund
2010	Public Financing	Inhibitex
2010	Mergers & Acquisitions	Porex Corporation
2010	Mergers & Acquisitions	Solvay Pharmaceuticals
2010	Private Financing	Iconic Therapeutics
2010	Private Financing	Medshape Solutions
2010	Private Financing	Synageva Biopharma
2010	Private Financing	Visioneering Technologies
2009	Mergers & Acquisitions	Sciele Pharma Inc.
2009	Strategic Alliance	Altea Therapeutics Corp.
2009	Medical Devices	Accuitive Medical Ventures
2009	Diagnostics	Immucor, Inc.
2008		Sciele Pharma
2008		GeoVax
2008		Metastatix
2008		The Innovation Factory
2007		Metastatix
2007		CardioMEMS
2007		AtheroGenics
2007		Solvay Pharmaceuticals
2007		GeoVax Labs
2007		Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Medical College of Georgia- Nanomedicine Development Center
2006		Emory University
2006		CardioMEMS
2006		Altea Therapeutics
2006		Alimera Sciences
2006		Proxima Therapeutics
2005		Alimera Sciences
2005		Inhibitex Inc.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2024

H. Lee Heron, DVM, Georgia Research Alliance

2021

Dr. David Lee, Vice President for Research, University of Georgia

2016

Norene Quinn, Association Management Services



2015

Clifton A. Baile, PhD, The University of Georgia
Wayne Reid, Frazier & Deeter, LLC

2013

Ferrell S. Ryan

PHOENIX AWARD

2025

Boehringer-Ingelheim / University of Georgia for the Sustainable Development Excellence Certificate Program

2024

Wellstar MCG Health

2023

Grady Health System

2022

Delta Air Lines Foundation / UGA Innovation District

2021

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Global Health Crisis Coordination Center, a division of the Center for Global Health Innovation

2020

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta / Georgia Institute of Technology

2019

Global Center for Medical Innovation / Rambam Healthcare Campus

2018

UGA Center for Vaccines and Immunology / Sanofi Pasteur

2017

National Cell Manufacturing Consortium

2016

MHG-Meredian Holdings Group, Inc.

2015

Forge

2014

Meril LTD & the University of Georgia

EMERGING LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD		
2025	Benjamin Siciliano, PhD	Radyus Research
2024	Eddie Lai	Metro Atlanta Chamber
2023	Andrew Short	Georgia Institute of Technology
2022	Aaron Enten, PhD, MBA	Insight Optics
2021	Brian Jurgielewicz	University of Georgia
2021	Tarianna Stewart, Ph.D.	IBM
2020	Alexa Morse	Global Center for Medical Innovation
2019	Benjamin Boward	University of Georgia
2019	James R. Lewis, Co-Founder/CEO	Innovation Hub Enterprises
2018	Ashley Bohn	Georgia State University
2018	Tami Hutto, MSPP, Program Manager	Emory University & Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta BEST Program
2017	Christine Hang	Flow MedTech, Inc.
2017	JoAnna Pendergrass, DVM	JPen Communications
2016	Peter Borden	Georgia Institute of Technology
2016	Kausar N. Samli, Ph.D.	Glycosensors and Diagnostics
2016*	Beatrice Wan	Bard Medical Division – Community Service Award
2015	Erico Mattos, PhD	Phytosynthetix
2015	Anu Parvatiyar	eHealth Africa
2015*	Paul R. Evans	Emory University – Community Service Award
2014	Dana Fallaize	Emory University
2013	Amber Young, Ph.D.	
2013*	Rose Santangelo Freel	Emory University Office of Technology Transfer – Community Service Award
2012	Valarie M. Truax, PhD	Emory University
2011	Jim Heitner	Ripple Management
2010	Sapna Hornyak	Clinimetrics Research Associates, Inc.
2009	Grace Powers	CardioMEMS, Inc.
2008	Stephen MacDonald, Ph.D.	King & Spalding
2008*	Chris Lessing	Georgia Institute of Technology – Community Service Award
2007	Melissa Wendt	Hood Marketing Solutions



LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

2025

Senator Chuck Hufstetler, 52nd District, Rome

2024

The Honorable Mark Newton M.D., Georgia House of Representatives

2023

The Honorable Mike Cheokas, Georgia House of Representatives

2022

The Honorable Chuck Hufstetler, Georgia State Senate

The Honorable Shaw Blackmon, Georgia House of Representatives

2021

The Honorable Dean Burke, MD, Georgia State Senate

The Honorable David Knight, Georgia House of Representatives

2020

The Honorable Ellis Black, Georgia State Senate

The Honorable Robert Dickey, Georgia House of Representatives

The Honorable Terry England, Georgia House of Representatives

The Honorable Jack Hill, Georgia State Senate

The Honorable Randy Nix, Georgia House of Representatives

The Honorable John Wilkinson, Georgia State Senate

2019

Awards not presented in 2019.

2018

Award not presented in 2018.

2017

Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle (*Awarded 'Lawmaker of the Year'*)

2016

Representative Sharon Cooper (R-43)

Senator Dean Burke (R-11)

2015

Representative Lee Hawkins (R-27)

Representative Butch Parrish (R-158)



2014

Representative Ben Watson (R-166)

2013

Senator Ronnie Chance, Senate Majority Leader, (R-16th District) of Tyrone

2012

Representative Terry England, House Appropriations Chair (R-108th District) of Auburn

Senator Cecil Staton, Senate Majority Whip Staton (R-18th District) of Macon

2011

Representative Sharon Cooper (R-41st District) of Marietta

Senator Hardie Davis (D-22nd District) of Augusta

2010

Senator David Adelman (D-42nd District) of Atlanta

Representative Amos Amerson (R-9th District) of Dahlonega

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

2025

Amanda Barrett, Marietta High School

2024

Emily Gunderson, Empower College and Career Center, Jackson County

2023

Robert Kuhn, FCS Innovation Academy STEM High School

2022

Cynthia Greer, North Hall High School

2021

Dr. Brittney Denier Cantrell, Denmark High School

2020

Stan Harrison, Morgan County High School

2019

Tricia Pedersen, Paulding County High School

Elizabeth Proctor, Jasper County High School

2018



William E. Schuyler, Forsyth Central High School

2017

Marc Pedersen, Ed.S., Paulding County High School – Dallas, GA

2016

Janet Standeven, M.S., Lambert High School – Suwanee, GA

2015

Janice Cheshire, M.Ed., Walton High School – Marietta, GA

2014

Julie A. Johnson, RN, MSN/MBA, Ed.S., Social Circle High School

2013

Ellen Katzowitz B.S. MTASCP, M.Ed.,EdD, South Cobb High School

GROWTH AWARD (RETIRED CATEGORY)		
2023	Sherry Farrugia	Global Center for Medical Innovation
2023	Jeffrey Rapp, PhD	Athens Technical College
2022	Rafael V. Andino	Clearside Biomedical, Inc.
2022	Krishnendu Roy, Ph.D.	Georgia Institute of Technology
2021	EJane Caraway	Georgia Department of Economic Development
2021	Susan Shows	Georgia Research Alliance
2020	Patty Fritz	UCB, Inc.
2020	Philip G. Gibson	Georgia BioScience Training Center at Quick Start
2019	C. Russell Allen	Georgia Research Alliance
2019	Richard A. Hillstead, Ph.D.	FAHA
2018	Robert E. Guldberg, Ph.D.	Georgia Institute of Technology
2018	James Weyhenmeyer, Ph.D.	Georgia State University
2017	Tiffany Wilson	Global Center for Medical Innovation/T3 Labs
2017	Steven L. Stice, Ph.D.	University of Georgia
2016	Todd Sherer, Ph.D.	Emory University
2016	Daniel White	Clearside Biomedical, Inc.
2015	Steven G. Anderson	CryoLife Inc.
2015	Frank McDaniel, Esq.	McDaniel Law Group, PC
2014	David Hartnett	Metro Atlanta Chamber
2014	David Perryman	DRIVE LLC
2013	Jay S. Yadav, M.D.	CardioMEMS, Inc.
2013	Commissioner Chris Cummiskey	Georgia Department of Economic Development
2012	Edward J. Schutter, RPh, MBA	Arbor Pharmaceuticals, Inc.



2012	James W. Wagner, PhD	Emory University
2011	Annie Hunt Burriss, Ed D.	GA Health Sciences University (formerly Medical College of Georgia)
2011	Russell H. Plumb, MBA	Inhibitex, Inc.
2010	Louis W. Sullivan, M.D.	Morehouse School of Medicine
2010	John P. Richard	Georgia Venture Partners
2009	Dr. Thomas H. Callaway	Life Science Partner; Georgia Venture Partners
2009	Commissioner Kenneth C. Stewart	Georgia Department of Economic Development
2008	Phil Moïse	Immucor Inc.
2008	Dr. Lee Herron	Georgia Research Alliance
2007	Dr. Don P. Giddens	Georgia Institute of Technology
2007	Dr. Eric Tomlinson	Altea Therapeutics
2006	Michael Cassidy	Georgia Research Alliance
2006	Dr. Russell Medford	AtheroGenics
2005	Dr. Michael Johns	Emory University
2005	David Dodd	Serologicals Corporation
2004	Dr. Robert McNally	Cell Dynamics LLC
2003	Dr. Dennis Liotta	Emory University
2003	Dr. Raymond Schinazi	Emory University
2002	Roy Barnes	Governor, State of Georgia
2001	Dr. Robert M. Nerem	Georgia Institute of Technology
2000	Parker H. (Pete) Petit	Matria Healthcare
1999	Bill Todd	Georgia Research Alliance