

Overview of the Georgia Cancer Research Awards Program

Background

As a result of Georgians contributing to the Cancer Research Fund on their state income tax returns, the annual Tour de Georgia, and private contributions, the Georgia Cancer Coalition (GCC) has awarded almost 50 research grants totaling over \$2 million to Georgia scientists researching the prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of various forms of cancer.

Description of the Program and Its Benefits

In a competitive application process, proposals are reviewed and scored by a national panel of oncology experts. Grants have been awarded to the Medical College of Georgia, Emory University, Morehouse School of Medicine, Georgia Institute of Technology, and the University of Georgia for proposals rated “outstanding” by the expert panel. The amount of the award per researcher ranges from \$30,000 to \$50,000. The Georgia research awards are aligned with the National Cancer Institute’s top research priorities.

The Georgia Cancer Research Awards Program provides researchers with an important foundation upon which to build groundbreaking research on cancer prevention and treatment. Thanks to the generosity and foresight of thousands of Georgians who contributed to this fund, cancer research will continue to grow and develop right here in Georgia.

Through its cancer research symposia, the Georgia Cancer Coalition will convene scientists from across the state to exchange ideas and learn about the progress of these studies. It is anticipated that these studies will lead to new and expanded grants from the National Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society, and other national supporters of cancer research.

Making a donation on the state income tax return is a simple and popular way for Georgians to take action against cancer. The contributions are used to fund in-state research projects conducted by Georgia scientists. As little as \$1 can be donated; there is no upper limit. The program has helped make Georgia a national model for income tax donation programs.

The state income tax contribution program is an example of the effectiveness of public-private partnerships. Making support for cancer research available has been a cooperative effort of the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Georgia Department of Revenue, Jackson-Hewlett, H & R Block, Liberty Tax Service, Georgia Public Broadcasting, American Cancer Society, Cancer Survivor Leadership Council of Georgia, and many other individuals and organizations working with the Georgia Cancer Coalition to reduce the number of cancer deaths in Georgia.