

Hearts and minds working to improve
cancer care in Georgia:
*2018 highlights on funding, research, education,
screening and survivorship*



Funding from the State of Georgia increased

Through a contract with the Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH), Georgia CORE received \$954,000 for this fiscal year – up from \$667,000 the previous year. The increase is largely a result of the advocacy work in collaboration with members of the Georgia Cancer Control Consortium (GC3). Members of the GC3 have developed funding priorities for implementation of the Georgia Cancer Plan in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019. Angie Patterson, Georgia CORE's Vice President and Dr. Jim Hotz of Albany co-chair the GC3, collaborating with GDPH to develop the state's new Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, a roadmap for comprehensive cancer prevention and control.

6th Annual Matt Mumber Award given

The Navigation Team at the Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion in Savannah won the 2018 Matt Mumber, MD, Visionary Award for Excellence in Patient Navigation. Each year at its annual meeting, the Cancer Patient Navigators of Georgia presents the award with a \$2,000 grant co-sponsored by Georgia Society of Clinical Oncology (GASCO) and Georgia CORE.



The award was accepted by Nancy Johnson, Kasey Wilson, and Dana Coleman.



Breast Cancer License Tag grants continue to support underserved women

Over the past five years, Georgia CORE has awarded \$3.5 million in grants from the Breast Cancer License Tag Fund to 24 organizations. In 2018, \$250,000 was awarded to eight organizations: Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta; Susan G. Komen, Atlanta; Meadows Regional Medical Center, Vidalia; Center for Black Women's Wellness, Atlanta; East Georgia Cancer Coalition, Athens; Northwest Georgia Partnership, Dalton; West Central Georgia Cancer Coalition, Columbus; and YWCA of Greater Atlanta.

GA NCORP receives recognition from NCI

The Georgia NCI Community Oncology Research Program (GA NCORP) met in September to review progress and plans for year five with briefings on NCORP programs and research by investigators Guilherme Cantuaria, MD and Howard A. Zaren, MD; on disparities by Jayanthi Srinivasiah, MD; and on ECOG ACRIN and lung cancer research by Suresh Ramalingam, MD. Among a handful of awards received including a Platinum Award, GA NCORP was recognized for S1400 and TMIST accruals. Georgia CORE currently provides GA NCORP network affiliation for Piedmont Columbus Regional, Columbus; Harbin Clinic, Rome; Navicent Health, Macon; and Northeast Georgia Health System, Gainesville. The GA NCORP renewal application was submitted to NCI for a six-year award beginning in August of 2019.



Collaboration helping to increase genetic testing

Since our genetic testing program started in 2012, Georgia CORE has screened 18,840 women, and thousands more through the use of online screening tools. Through the process, the team identified 1,000 patients to be positive, followed up with 800, and still work with 375 of those women actively. For these results as well as her work on credentialing for genetics nurses, Georgia CORE's Alice Kerber (left) received the President's Award from the International Society of Nurses in Genetics last October.

It's The Journey/Georgia CORE Cancer Research Awards presented

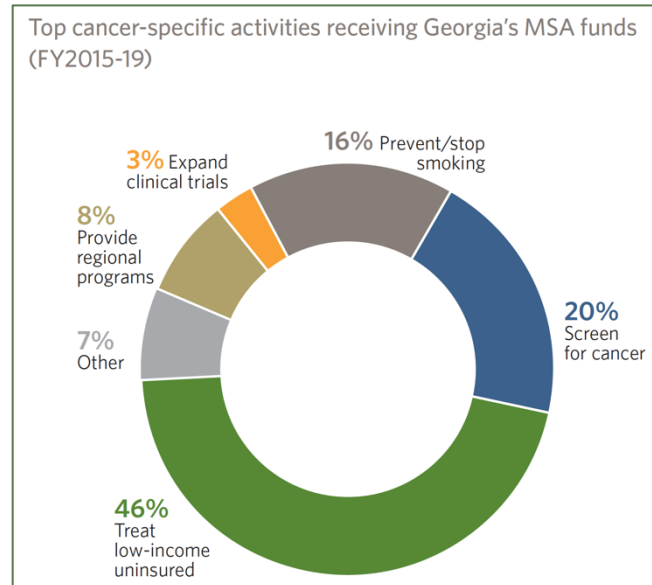
Georgia CORE managed the scientific review process for research awards from It's The Journey and Georgia CORE. Proposals received in response to the RFP distributed to Georgia universities were ranked by a review team composed of Cletus Arciero, MD of Emory University; Bindu Lingam, MD of Kaiser Permanente; Petros Nikolinakos, MD, CPI of University Cancer and Blood Center; Frederick M. Schnell, MD, FACP of Community Oncology Associates; and Jayanthi Srinivasiah, MD of Georgia Cancer Specialists. \$150,000 in awards were given to Cheryl Gomillion, PhD of the University of Georgia Research Foundation, Adam Marcus, PhD of Emory University, and Veena N. Rao, PhD of the Morehouse School of Medicine.



Georgia CORE board member Dr. Roland Matthews of The Morehouse School of Medicine joined Georgia CORE and It's The Journey to present a check to Dr. Rao.

Otis Brawley, MD, delivers the Seay Lecture

The 2018 Thomas E. Seay, MD, PhD Lecture was delivered by Dr. Otis Brawley just before he stepped down as Chief Medical and Scientific Officer and Executive Vice President of the American Cancer Society to become a Bloomberg Distinguished Professor at Johns Hopkins University. Northside Hospital Cancer Institute was the presenting sponsor; co-sponsors included Atlanta Cancer Care, GASCO, Dr. Andrew Pippas, Dr. Roland Matthews, and the Schnell Family Trust.



Revealing tobacco funds report released

In December, Georgia CORE published a policy briefing of the history, purpose, and uses of Georgia's tobacco settlement. *Tobacco's Master Settlement Agreement: How Funds are Allocated in Georgia* highlights how more than \$3 billion for cancer and healthcare was distributed, as well as the relationship between tobacco and cancer. Georgia will continue to receive tobacco settlement funds "in perpetuity," so the Georgia Cancer Control Consortium (GC3) is advocating for increased funding of cancer programs and services. A downloadable copy of the report is available at GeorgiaCancerInfo.org.

Survivor-led research concept in development

Georgia CORE received a multi-year award from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to focus on cancer survivorship care. The partnership produced a survivor-driven and designed telephonic intervention for cancer survivors post-treatment. The intervention is designed to provide peer-based support for survivors as they re-enter daily life while adjusting to the well-documented physical, emotional, and relational issues after undergoing a cancer diagnosis and treatment. In 2019, Georgia CORE is applying for funding to conduct a pilot-study.





Dr. Patel was a contractor who helped design the OCM and gave background on the model.

Oncology Care Model evolves in our state

In 2016, a handful of practices in Georgia received grants from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as part of its Oncology Care Model to enter into new payment arrangements to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of specialty care. Last year, more than 40 representatives from Georgia cancer centers and practices attended a day-long meeting in Atlanta convened by Georgia CORE and co-sponsored by Pfizer Oncology in partnership with the GASCO and Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) to discuss the OCM. National experts Kavita Patel, MD, FACP, of the Brookings Institution and Gabrielle Roche, MD, of the University of Alabama at Birmingham served as presenters. Drs. Fred Schnell and Bruce Gould served as facilitators; James Hamrick, MD, MPH, served as a presenter as did representatives from the Community Oncology Alliance, ACCC, Cancer Center of Middle Georgia, Harbin Clinic and Longstreet Clinic.

The Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education is a public-private partnership that connects cancer care providers, leaders, organizations, and advocates throughout the state. Led by a board of directors of cancer experts from academic institutions, hospitals and cancer centers, collaboration orchestrated by Georgia CORE improves access to clinical trials, as well as personalized cancer care and support for patients, survivors, and caregivers. It created GeorgiaCancerInfo.org, the only statewide online information center of its kind, where details can be found on oncologists, clinical trials, treatment centers and survivorship resources throughout the state.

Georgia CORE is grateful to our partners for their support in this endeavor and others.

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Georgia Department of Community Health/State Office of Rural Health

Georgia Department of Public Health

Georgia Health Foundation

Georgia Research Alliance

Georgia Society of Clinical Oncology

Healthcare Georgia Foundation

National Cancer Institute

Northside Hospital

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