

Georgia State Senate Sickle Cell Anemia Study Committee

AUGUST 19, 2021

Susan Shows, President



Georgia Research Alliance

Georgia Research Alliance

A unique 30-year public-private partnership of research universities, industry and government

- Strengthens **research, discovery, and collaboration** at Georgia's public and private universities
- **Eminent Scholar Academy: 75 world-class scientists** who receive competitive research funding, oversee large enterprises, and address scientific and technological challenges facing humankind
- **Venture Development:** Some **200** university-based startups creating new jobs and bringing new investment to Georgia
- A **12-to-1 return on investment** for the state of Georgia
- Much more information can be found at [*gra.org*](http://gra.org)



Anu Kanthasamy

Isakson/GRA Eminent Scholar in Parkinson's

- John H. “Johnny” Isakson Chair arrives **Fall 2021**
- Expert in **Parkinson's Disease** research
- **Identified biomarkers** to detect Parkinson's early
- Discovered **potential new drugs** for treatment
- Has started **two companies**



Georgia's Sickle Cell Disease Initiative

Expanding sickle cell disease research and treatment for Georgia and beyond

OUR PARTNERS



EMORY



FUNDING

\$15.85 Million Investment over 5 years

- \$8.1M public (GRA)
- \$7.57M private

INVESTMENT DETAILS

Program Director: Calvin Smyre / GRA Eminent Scholar
(Joint appointment at MSM, Emory, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta)

Research Director: AFLAC Teresa White / GRA Eminent Scholar

2 GRA Distinguished Investigators

Lab infrastructure, Venture Development grants/loans to commercialize discoveries

NEXT STEPS

- Calvin Smyre / GRA search committee formed May 11, 2021
- GRA leads fundraising to complete Smyre/GRA endowment



May 12, 2021



The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Georgia Research Alliance announces \$15 million effort to fight sickle cell disease



Governor announces sickle cell research chair to be named for Columbus lawmaker Calvin Smyre



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