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Abstract: The article focuses on the role of research in the economy of Georgia. Research in Georgia not only improves the way people live and work, it also provides a big boost to the state's economy. According to the Georgia Research Alliance, investments in people, laboratories, equipment and technology transfer has brought more than \$2 billion in new federal and private funds into the Georgia economy, and has led to the creation of more than 4,000 high-paying jobs and 125 new companies.

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Research Helping Fuel Georgia's Economy

Research in Georgia not only improves the way we live and work, it also provides a big boost to the state's economy.

Scientists, engineers and other researchers at colleges and universities throughout Georgia are searching for new ways to improve our health, our lifestyles and our work lives. The work they are doing and the discoveries they are making are also playing a major role in the state's economic growth, bringing new dollars into Georgia and creating new businesses that in turn add new jobs.

According to the Georgia Research Alliance, investments in people, laboratories, equipment and technology transfer has brought more than \$2 billion in new federal and private funds into the Georgia economy, and has led to the creation of more than 4,000 high-paying jobs and 125 new companies.

An indication of how the state is growing in research dollars is shown by the growth in the number of research grants received by the state's universities. For Fiscal Year 2004, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia reports income for extramural funding set another record, reaching \$980.7 million. The numbers represent a 14 percent increase over Fiscal Year 2003's total of \$861 million. Extramural funding includes grants and contracts for research, public service and instruction.

Of the \$980.7 million, \$651.6 million was for research, \$235 million was for public service and \$94.1 million was for instruction. In Fiscal Year 2004, funding for research alone jumped 22.3 percent over Fiscal Year 2003. The report for Fiscal Year 2004 shows that 71.6 percent of the System's research income came from federal sources, while 4.2 percent came from the state of Georgia. The non-profit sector accounted for 8.6 percent of the total, with business contributing 8.6 percent. Other sources combined for the remaining 7 percent.

"This type of activity provides another engine to help Georgia's economy," said a University System official when the 2004 results were announced. "When we are successful in this arena, the national reputation of our programs and institutions grows, which fuels additional increases in research funding and, ultimately, more economic growth for the state."

The report also details technology transfer and license and equity income in the University System. In 2004, there were 420 research disclosures in the University System, 185 patents filed, 137 licenses approved and 18 start-up companies.

The University System total does not include research projects at the state's private educational institutions, such as Emory University, which account for millions more in research dollars.

For example, last year Emory received \$351.5 million in external research funding — more than any other university in Georgia. Also, the Emory School of Medicine grew faster than any other medical school in terms of research support, the Rollins School of Public Health ranked 10th among all U.S. public health schools in National Institute of Health (NIH) funding, and Emory's School of Nursing ranked 19th among all schools of nursing and 5th among private nursing schools in NIH support.

The new discoveries, the new drugs and the new technologies coming out of Georgia's research labs fuel business growth, either helping established companies expand into new areas or spurring the creation of new companies. For example, Emory University alone has launched 35 start-up companies over the past decade.

On the following pages are examples of the important research currently under way at Georgia universities and research organizations.

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