

THIS was the YEAR

The year we **tried new approaches** — and doubled down on others.

The year we **added** to advocacy and **amplified** our message.

The year we made changes **internally** and grew our support **externally**.

The year we re-committed — to ourselves and to the people of Georgia — that we would **scale the great idea** that is Georgia CORE and build a brighter future for those fighting cancer in our state.

We did not do this alone. Georgia CORE serves as catalyst and convener, strategist and shrewd investor. The true heroes are the many partners we have across Georgia, the organizations and individuals who adapt, accelerate, respond, and innovate – all to strengthen cancer care here at home.

Spend a few minutes with the pages ahead to experience the momentum we and our partners have created. And if you'd like to learn more about Georgia CORE's work, visit us at **GeorgiaCancerInfo.org**.

GEORGIA
core CENTER *for* ONCOLOGY
RESEARCH & EDUCATION

A LOOK BACK AT FY2022

THIS was the **YEAR**

We helped industry partners open clinical trials in Georgia.

We formed a new advocacy network, GCCAN.

We joined others in making a case to direct more tobacco settlement dollars to cancer fighting activities.

We awarded a \$100K grant from the state's cancer research fund to test a drug compound's anti-cancer effects.



We convened cancer researchers in a special summit to share knowledge and progress.

We rolled out a program to encourage more Georgians in rural areas to be screened for colorectal cancer.

We developed new ways for the state's cancer patient navigators to share knowledge and help each other.

We introduced a new license plate for all cancers and redesigned the breast cancer plate (to generate new funds for prevention, screenings and treatment).



We partnered with GA NCORP to recruit and enroll more Georgians in cancer clinical trials.



We launched a webinar and video series to broaden our reach on a range of topics.

And...we worked closely with talented, dedicated partners to get it all done.

A new chapter begins: We're now helping bio companies with trials.

Georgia CORE developed a new way to bring more cancer clinical trials to Georgians **this year**. We partnered with a genetic testing company to help start trials in multiple sites around the state.



The company, Natera, sought to evaluate its test that helps determine the likelihood that chemotherapy after surgery will be effective for people with colorectal cancer.

We've long helped connect physicians and researchers with hospitals and clinics to conduct cancer clinical trials. And we've often gone one step further by acting as the site management organization (SMO) for back-office administration.

The Natera partnership was a first step toward extending this role of broker and administrator to bio industry companies seeking to open clinical trials in Georgia. Given the scientific importance of having diverse participants in clinical research, Georgia CORE's ability to connect trial organizers with healthcare organizations throughout the state is a win for them and a win for Georgia.

Many voices lift cancer care in Georgia.

Cancer has touched so many lives in Georgia. And each one is a voice for bettering cancer care in our state.

This year, we formed a new advocacy network to help those voices be heard. GCCAN (Georgia Cancer Control Advocacy Network) brings together survivors and those who care deeply about cancer control and survivorship in Georgia to serve as advocates.

GCCAN members receive updates on important initiatives and policy issues, and they're encouraged to share their views with state and federal lawmakers and policymakers.



*Interested in joining the GCCAN advocacy network?
Sign up at GeorgiaCancerInfo.org/advocacy.*

Using more tobacco settlement funds to fight cancer would help Georgia.

Just 9 cents out of every \$1 in Georgia's annual tobacco settlement revenue goes directly toward activities to prevent, detect, treat, and cure cancer.



That's why we strengthened advocacy efforts **this year** to encourage lawmakers to direct more funds from the Master Settlement Agreement to

cancer-related activities. As part of the Georgia Cancer Control Consortium (GC3), we worked to solidify partnerships with the Georgia Department of Public Health, the state's Regional Cancer Coalitions, other cancer nonprofits and statewide business and healthcare organizations.

Forged in 1998, the agreement provides nearly \$150 million in settlement funds to Georgia each year with unrestricted use. Over time, the portion of funds used to fight cancer has decreased, according to the Georgia House Budget and Research Office.

First-ever grant moves a promising treatment into testing.

Jack Arbiser MD, PhD and Lisa Flowers MD, MPH have reason to believe a protease inhibitor used to treat the skin disease rosacea holds promise for an entirely different purpose: treating people with HIV who suffer from anogenital disease related to the human papillomavirus (HPV).

Now the two physician researchers will test their hypothesis in a phase I clinical trial, thanks to Georgia taxpayers who chose to direct money from their tax filing to a special cancer research fund.

This year, Georgia CORE awarded a \$100,000 grant from that fund to Dr. Arbiser, of the Emory University School of Medicine, and Dr. Flowers, who's part of the Georgia Cancer Center for Excellence at Grady Health. (The fund specifies that the research undertaking take the form of a collaboration.)

Their clinical trial will determine whether the topical compound ACU-D1 triggers anti-cancer effects in HPV-related precancers — and increases the presence of immune cells that target HPV infection.

"Their proposal is deeply rooted in science and focused entirely on a population reflecting health care disparities and unmet needs," says Sheryl Gabram, MD, Georgia CORE's chief scientific officer, who oversees the grant process.



Jack Arbiser MD, PhD



Lisa Flowers MD, MPH

To improve genetic screenings, just add tech.

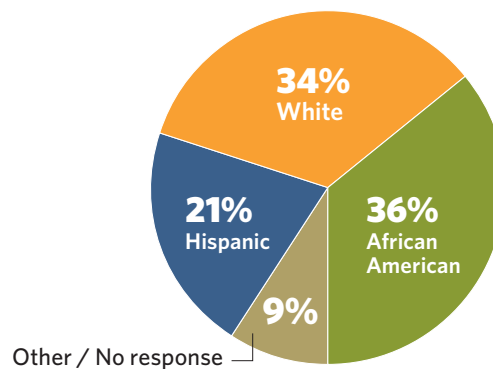
None of us knows if we'll get cancer someday. But the Georgia Genetics Program helps more Georgians better understand their risk and plan accordingly.

A partnership with the Georgia Department of Public Health, the program serves mostly under- and uninsured women who receive care at public health clinics across Georgia. Women who have a family history of breast or ovarian cancer are guided through testing for genetic mutations. In some cases, they get follow-up counseling.

This year, the program took a big technological step forward. To better serve patients who should consider being tested for gene mutations, we now use CRA Health, an app that makes it easier to gather, track and act on information. CRA Health lets us create an actual picture of risk — thus helping women decide whether to be tested for 48 genes related to hereditary cancer.

We also started using OhMD, a tool that makes it possible to send texts to women while protecting their privacy and complying with HIPAA regulations. Texting is often a preferred form of communication about screenings, and OhMD also allows us to translate texts from other languages to English — a powerful tool for expanding our reach.

GEORGIANS PRE-SCREENED FOR GENETIC MUTATIONS LINKED TO CANCER (FY22)



'SURE ENOUGH, SHE HAD THE GENE MUTATION'



Cindy Snyder, DNP shares this example of how the Georgia Genetics Program helped one patient. Snyder is Georgia CORE's advanced clinical genomics nurse practitioner.

"I remember one young woman who lived in a rural area of the state. She was told that she had a pathological type of polyps — it's called juvenile polyposis syndrome. She had no insurance, so she had never been tested for a gene mutation to determine her likelihood for colorectal cancer. I said, 'We can get that done for you.'

"Sure enough, she had the gene mutation. So now she understands how important regular screenings and lifestyle choices are.

"This illustrates how important the Georgia Genetics Program is to lessen the incidence of cancer in every part of our state. It's like the difference between fishing with a pole and fishing with a net. The genetics screenings allow us to bring so many uninsured and underinsured Georgians into the fold."

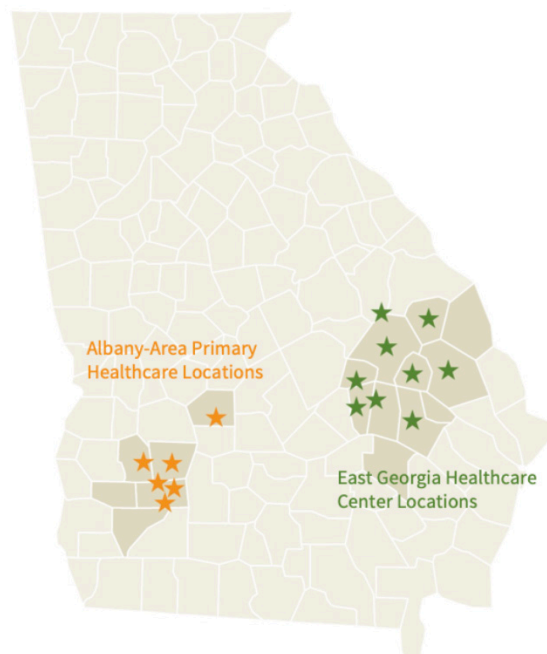
We made it easier for South Georgians to ‘Stay Ahead’.

For various reasons, Georgians in the southern part of the state aren’t screened for colorectal cancer as often as they should be.

In 2020, we and our colleagues at the Georgia Cancer Center at Augusta University and Horizons Community Solutions in Albany, Ga. started a program to change that. **This year**, we rolled out “Stay Ahead of Colon Cancer,” which enlists 15 health care clinics in the region to encourage and perform more CRC screenings.

Funded by a five-year CDC grant, the effort aims to increase colorectal (CRC) screenings – first to 60%, and eventually to 80% — of patients who meet criteria. Right now, on average 62% of residents in southwest Georgia and a third of residents in southeast Georgia who are eligible for CRC screenings actually get them. The good news: One clinic in each region met its year-two goal, and five others were on track to meet their goals as well.

Georgia CORE also helped secure a 17% increase in annual funding for the program from the CDC (\$934,000 grant) to increase the program’s impact.



This network just got a lot closer.



Since 2009, Georgia CORE and GASCO (Georgia Society of Clinical Oncology) have teamed up to sponsor a network of professionals who help Georgians navigate their cancer care.

This year, we strengthened the Cancer Patient Navigators of Georgia (CPNG) network by creating a way for navigators to share knowledge and source each other for answers to needs.

A Microsoft Teams platform now provides channels for navigators to exchange info on an array of topics, from financial toxicity to palliative care to LGBTQ issues.

Discussion and engagement grew throughout the year — a sign that a vital network is getting stronger.

Either of these would look GREAT on your vehicle.

It's the newly designed "Fight Breast Cancer" license plate — and the all-new "All Together Stop Cancer" license plate. **This year**, Georgia CORE secured passage of legislation in the Georgia General Assembly to roll out both plates.

Proceeds from the sale of the license plates are put to work helping Georgians fight cancer. The "Fight Breast Cancer" plate alone generated \$130,000 in grants to provide nearly 1,000 Georgia women with education, screening and cancer navigation help.

Show your support! Start by visiting GaCancerPlates.com to get the details.



FROM THE REAR BUMPER TO THE FRONT-LINE FIGHT

Organizations receiving FY2022 grants from Georgia's "Fight Breast Cancer" license plate sales

Susan G. Komen Greater Atlanta

The Center for Black Women's Wellness

East Georgia Cancer Coalition

West Central Georgia Cancer Coalition

YWCA of Greater Atlanta

Horizons Community Solutions

IT'S TRUE: A LICENSE PLATE CAN SAVE A LIFE

Sheila Hamilton was closing up the kitchen at the YWCA one evening when her colleague, Thomasine Leachman, casually asked: Had she ever had a mammogram?

The question wasn't random — the YWCA was conducting free screenings that Saturday, funded by a grant from Georgia CORE (thanks to sales of the Fight Breast Cancer license plate).

"When Sheila said she'd never had a mammogram, and was 58 years old, I had to convince her to get one," recalls Thomasine.

Saturday arrived, a beautiful day, and Sheila thought about staying home. But she made the trip to the Y — and it saved her life.

The screening revealed a lump, and Sheila was referred to the YWCA's partner organization, the Center for Black Women's Wellness (another Georgia CORE grantee) to get a clinical breast exam. A biopsy later confirmed Sheila had Stage 1 breast cancer.

That was in 2016. After treatment, Sheila has been cancer-free ever since.

Says Thomasine: "Sheila is a model for what early detection is all about."

Cancer clinical trials continue to move closer to Georgians.

Three out of four Georgians are now within reach of clinical trials to prevent, control and treat cancer — and our partnership with GA NCORP has been a big factor in that success.

We've been working harder to attract more participants from rural and underserved communities, as evidenced by GA NCORP's progress **this year** in recruiting and enrolling participants in cutting-edge studies and treatment.

GA NCORP stands for Georgia NCI Community Oncology Research Program, and it's part of a larger national effort developed by the National Cancer Institute. The collaboration is comprised of Georgia CORE, Northside Hospital Cancer Institute in Atlanta and the Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion at St. Joseph's/Candler in Savannah.

~200

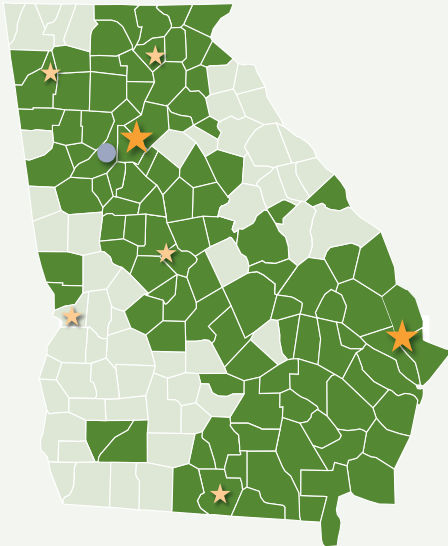
No. of Georgians newly enrolled in cancer clinical trials this year (through NCORP partnership)

3 out of 10

Clinical trial participants were a racial / ethnic minority

GEORGIANS' ACCESS TO NCORP TRIALS

3 out of 4 Georgians are within reach of an NCORP site



★ Community oncology clinical trial program

★ Clinical trial affiliate sites

● Georgia CORE

NCORP SITES:

Northside Hospital Cancer Institute (Atlanta)

The Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion at St. Joseph's/Candler (Savannah)

Harbin Clinic (Rome)

John B. Amos Cancer Center at Columbus Regional Health (Columbus)

Peyton Anderson Cancer Center, Atrium Health Navicent (Macon)

Cancer Services at Northeast Georgia Medical Center (Gainesville)

SGMC Pearlman Cancer Center (multiple locations)

The next frontier is in our backyard.

Constantly improving the caliber of cancer care in Georgia requires exploration of the unknown. Years ago, a cadre of top researchers in our state took to the labs to do just that.

They were the Distinguished Cancer Scholars, and they once numbered 150 — all conducting basic and translational research in cancer here in Georgia.

State funding for the program reached a sunset moment in 2012, but 80 of these scientists continued their work in Georgia with grants from public and private sources. **This year**, Georgia CORE convened a summit to review some of these projects and exchange knowledge and ideas.

At the all-day summit, healthcare leaders discussed the state of cancer care, control, and research in Georgia. Two panels of the Distinguished Cancer Scholars followed with presentations about the program's impact on their work.

"Research universities and medical centers continue to fund and support our cancer scholars and their colleagues," said Andrew Pippas, MD, who chairs Georgia CORE's Board of Directors and serves as director of clinical oncology research for Piedmont Columbus Regional–John B. Amos Cancer Center. "They are continually bringing forth new discoveries and technologies that directly impact patients in our state and beyond."



Bring on the experts!

We stepped up our webinar game **this year** by bringing in some of the leading voices in an array of areas, particularly in cancer survivorship and patient navigation.

Georgia CORE webinars present good ideas and best practices to those working the front lines in all aspects of cancer care. The webinars are usually free of charge and are recorded for later viewing.

Cancer-Related Fatigue

Cancer related fatigue is a syndrome that affects mind, body, and spirit.


Etiology is multi-factorial: chemotherapy, radiation, surgery, nutrition, anemia, sleep disturbances, pain, stress, deconditioning, depression...

Fatigue has repeatedly been identified as one of the most common and distressing problems for individuals with cancer.

It has a significant impact on **quality of life**.

48% of patients with cancer report fatigue.

70-100% of breast cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy report fatigue.



Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Oklahoma State University

Survivors have perspectives like no other.

From the moment someone is told of a cancer diagnosis, that person is considered a survivor. We have so much to learn from survivors – so **this year**, Georgia CORE launched a new video series, “CORE Conversations,” that feature the first-hand perspectives of cancer survivors.

You can watch “CORE Conversations” at GeorgiaCancerInfo.org – or subscribe to our YouTube channel (Search: Georgia CORE).



FY22 was a fine time for fine-tuning.

A hallmark of Georgia CORE’s evolution this year involved some adjustments to the Georgia CORE Board of Directors. This year, we took steps to:

- Diversify representation from sectors of Georgia’s cancer care community
- Embrace more fully a “working board” concept, with new committees and a forward-looking meeting format

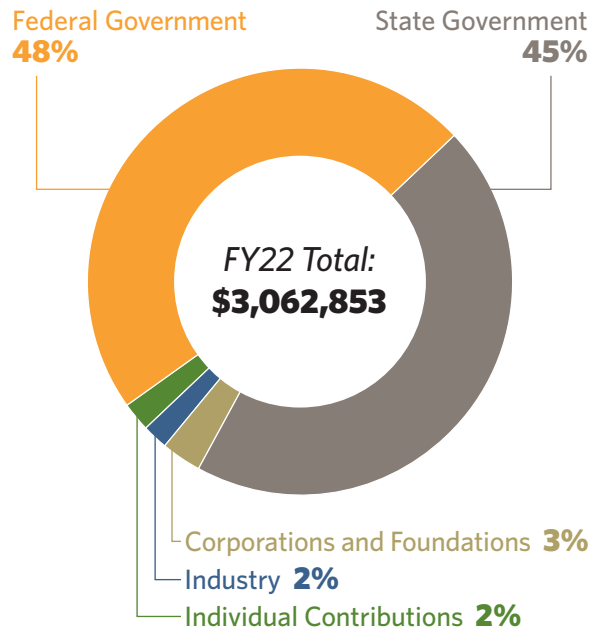
- Develop ways to broaden and deepen financial support

The board emerged from these efforts freshly engaged in Georgia CORE’s mission – and more resolved than ever to build on the momentum from the 2021-22 year.

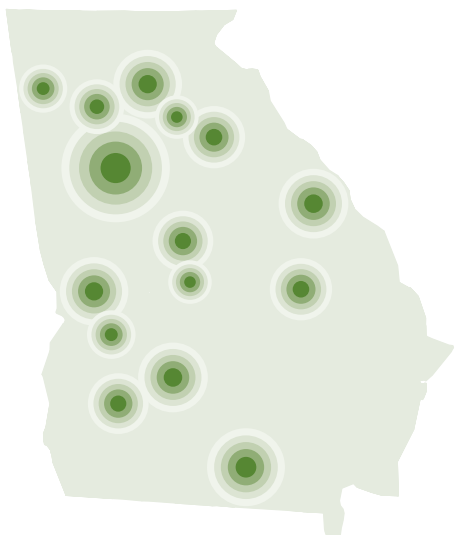


FY22 Financials

WHERE OUR SUPPORT CAME FROM



WHERE THE MONEY WAS SPENT



HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT

PROGRAM

Research: \$796,925

Advancing research by promoting collaboration and attracting more clinical trials and research studies to Georgia

Education: \$1,613,799

Reducing disparities among under resourced Georgians through education, awareness, and grants for prevention and screening

Advocacy: \$95,265

Aligning with Georgia's cancer community to advocate for policies, programs, and funding for cancer care and research

OPERATIONS

\$387,073

