



MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA

State of the College Address

David C. Hess, MD

Dean, Medical College of Georgia

Executive Vice President of Medical Affairs and Integration

Interim Executive Vice President for Research

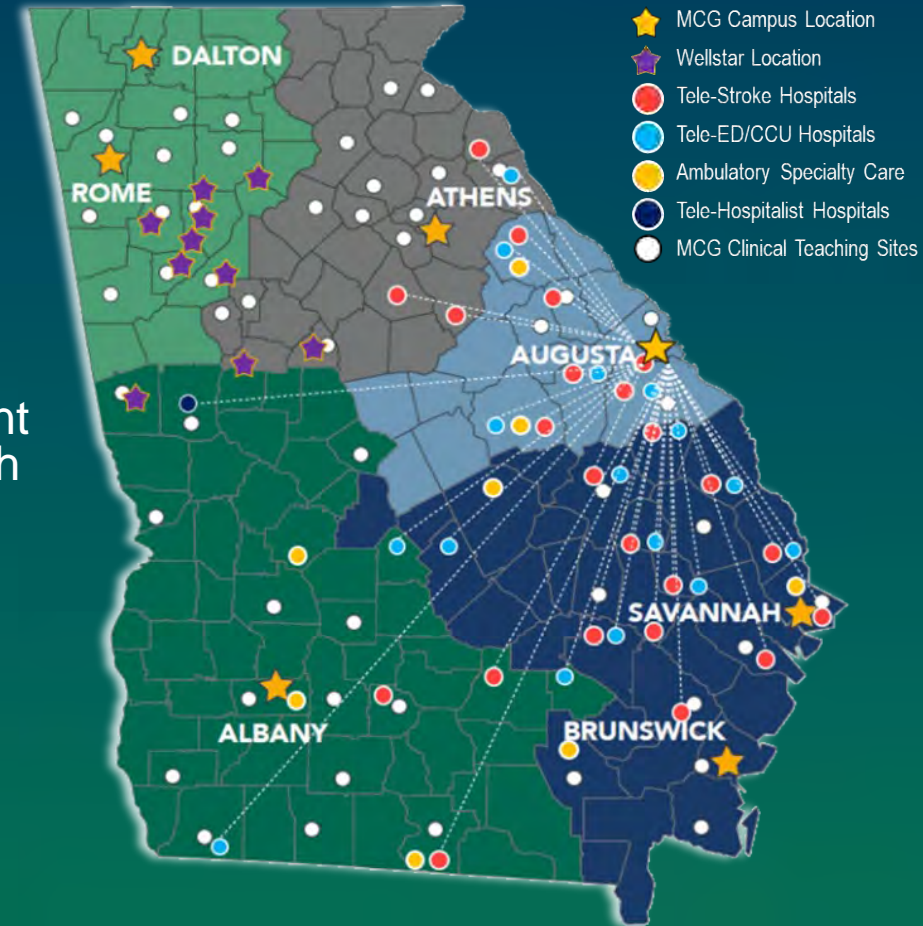
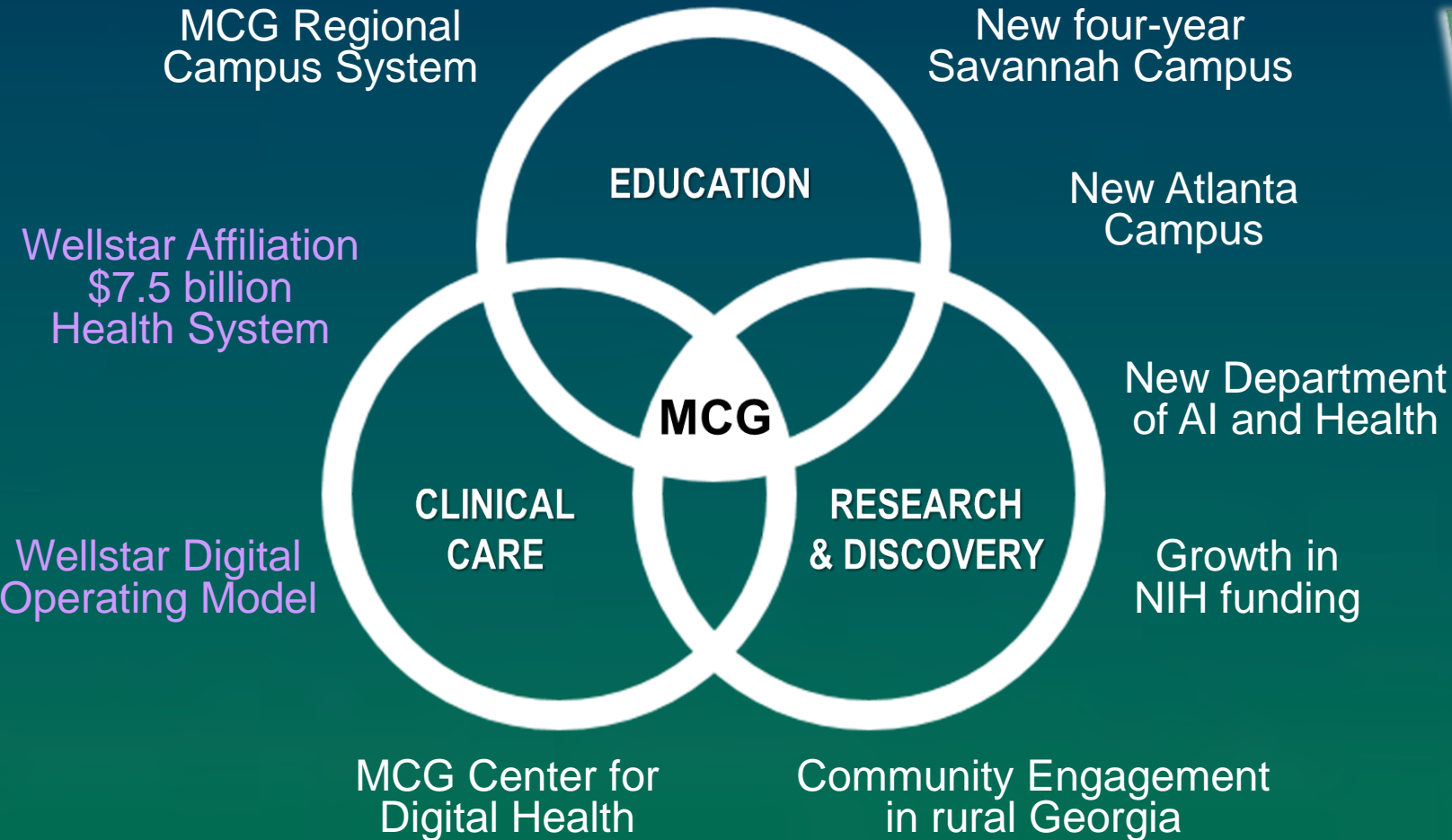
Presidential Distinguished Chair

GREAT DOCTORS, GREAT MEDICINE SINCE 1828.

MCG ...the 13th oldest medical school
in the nation, founded in 1828.



BHAG: Statewide Integrated Public-Private Academic Health System



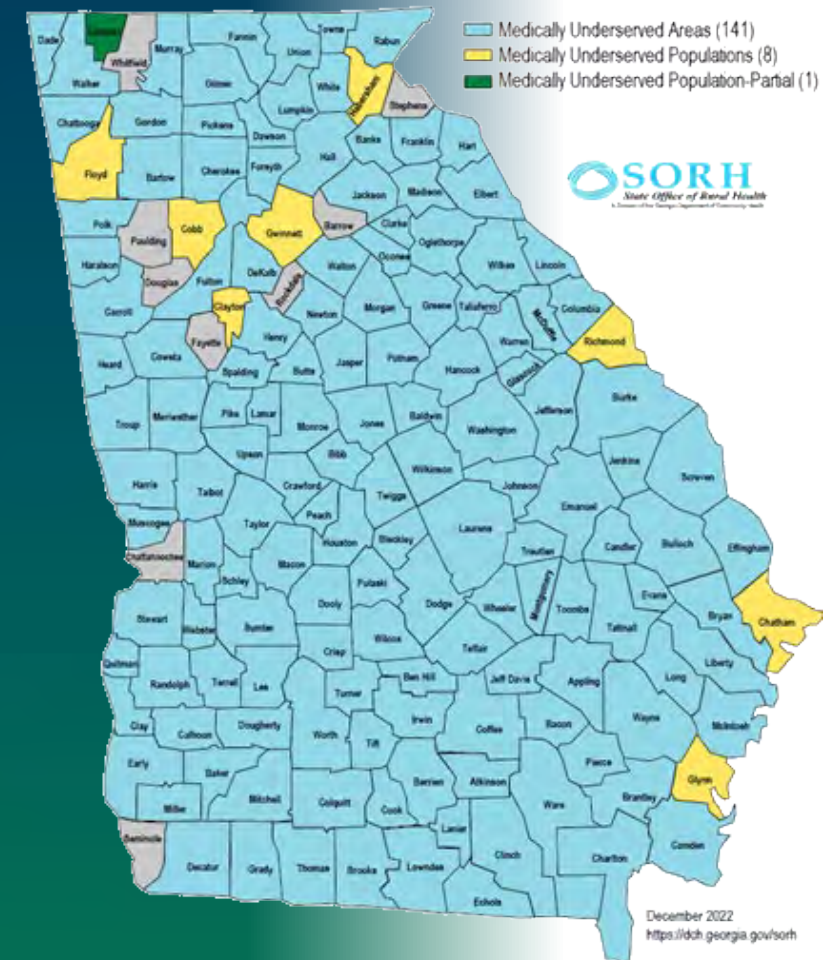
Georgia Needs More Doctors

- Georgia ranks **#42** for total number of physicians (all specialties) and **#40** for number of primary care physicians engaged in direct patient care per 100k population¹
- Georgia ranks **#40** for total number of residents/fellows per 100k population¹
- Of Georgia's 159 counties, **141** are medically underserved areas and **8** are medically underserved populations²
- Georgia ranks **#41** in public MD/DO students per 100K population

¹AAMC Physician Workforce Data Dashboard, 2023

²State Office for Rural Health MUA/P Map, December 2022

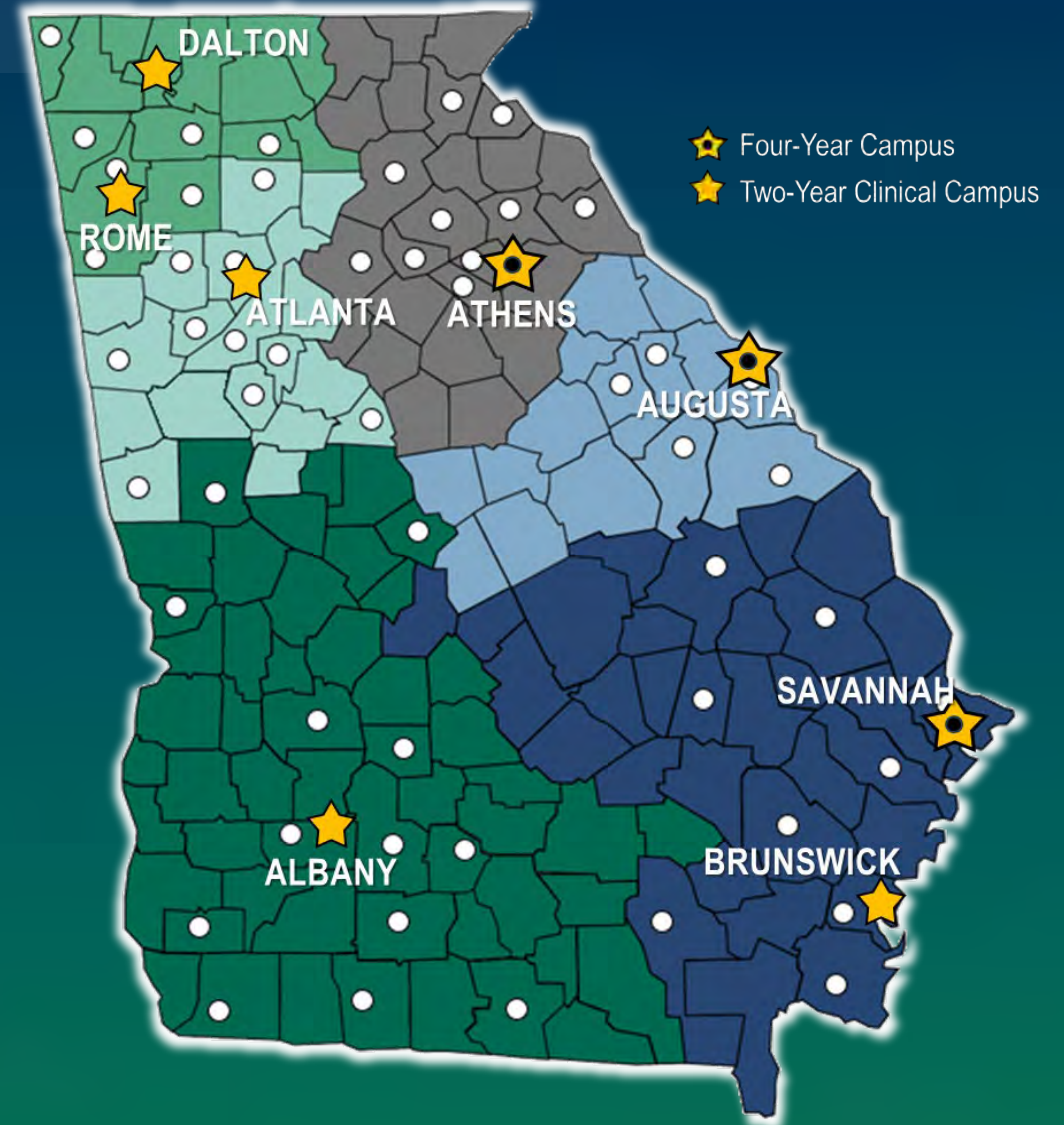
Medically Underserved Areas/Populations



December 2022
<https://idch.georgia.gov/sorh>

Georgia is Our Campus

- Largest entering class ever at MCG with **304** students
- Top five largest first-year classes in nation
- MCG Savannah Campus seated its inaugural class in July 2024
- **Class of 2028: MCG's BICENTENNIAL CLASS**

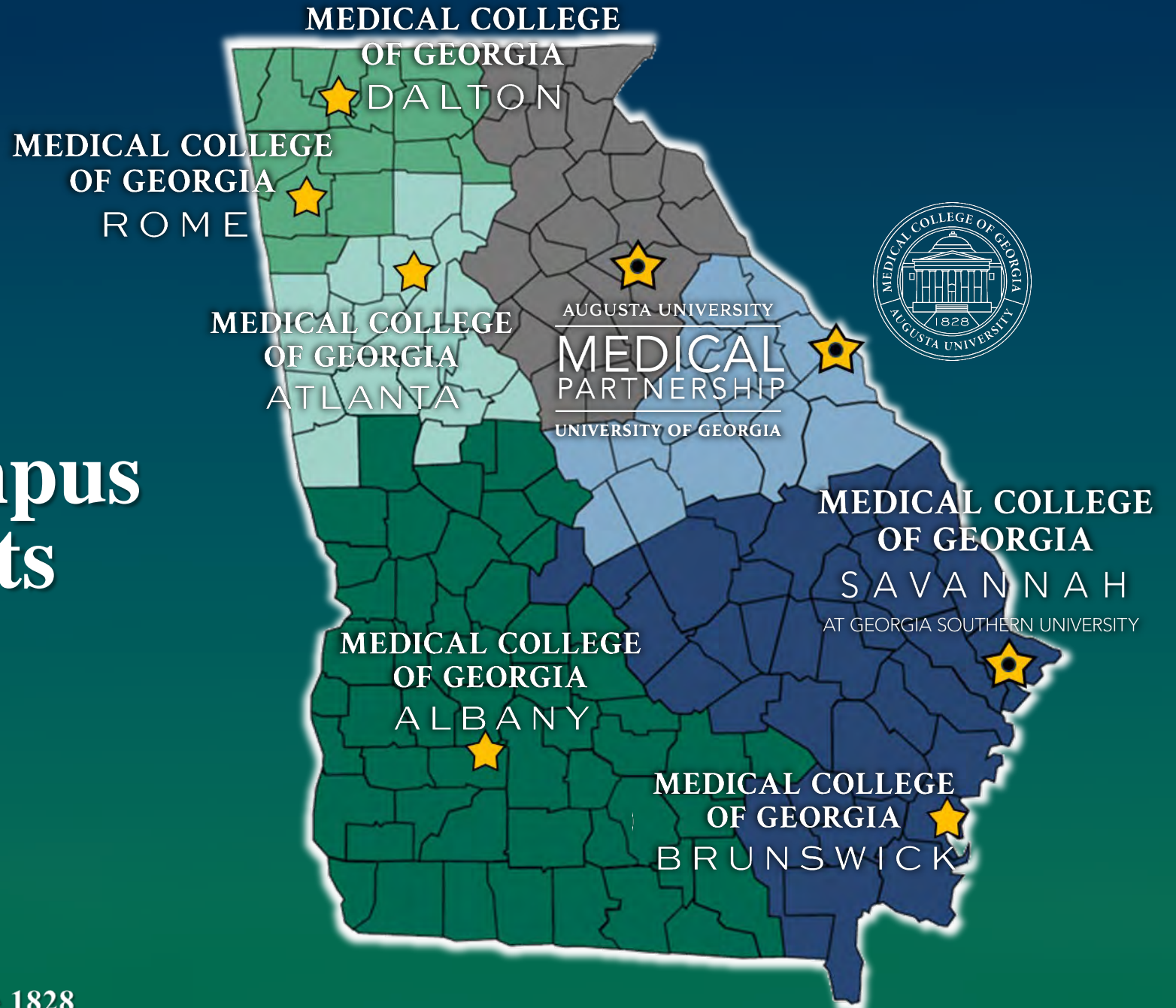


Growing Our Statewide Educational Network

- Our students are trained across Georgia – more than half of the Class of 2027 is being educated outside of Augusta
- Drs. Joseph Hobbs and Ashley Saucier working to expand educational opportunities with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) across the state – currently 53% of Georgia FQHCs are in the MCG network
- Southwest Campus expanding into Thomasville with partners at Archbold Health with plans underway for a cohort for 6 students beginning January 2026



Regional Campus Virtual Visits



Community Advocate Award



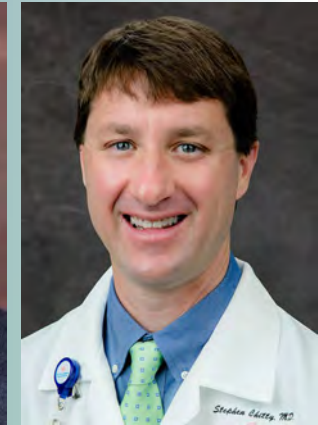
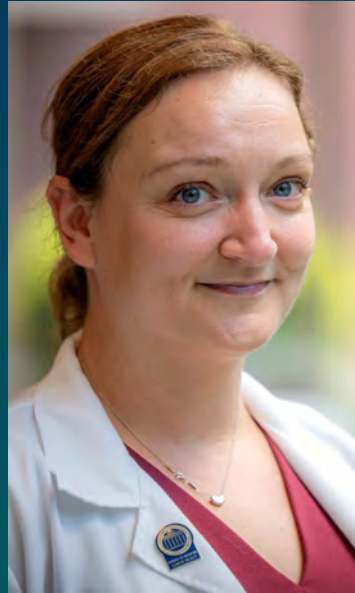
Doug Patten, MD
*Campus Associate Dean
Southwest Georgia Regional Campus*

MCG Savannah at Georgia Southern



New Partnership Campus in Savannah

- New four-year partnership campus in Savannah with Georgia Southern University
- Support from Chancellor Perdue, Governor Kemp, Speaker Jon Burns, Rep. Butch Parrish, and the General Assembly
- BOR approved \$1.7 million for renovations at GSU Armstrong Campus
- St. Joseph's/Candler continues to be our clinical educational partner for the Savannah Campus



St. Joseph's-Candler Health System

Our Long-Standing Educational Partners

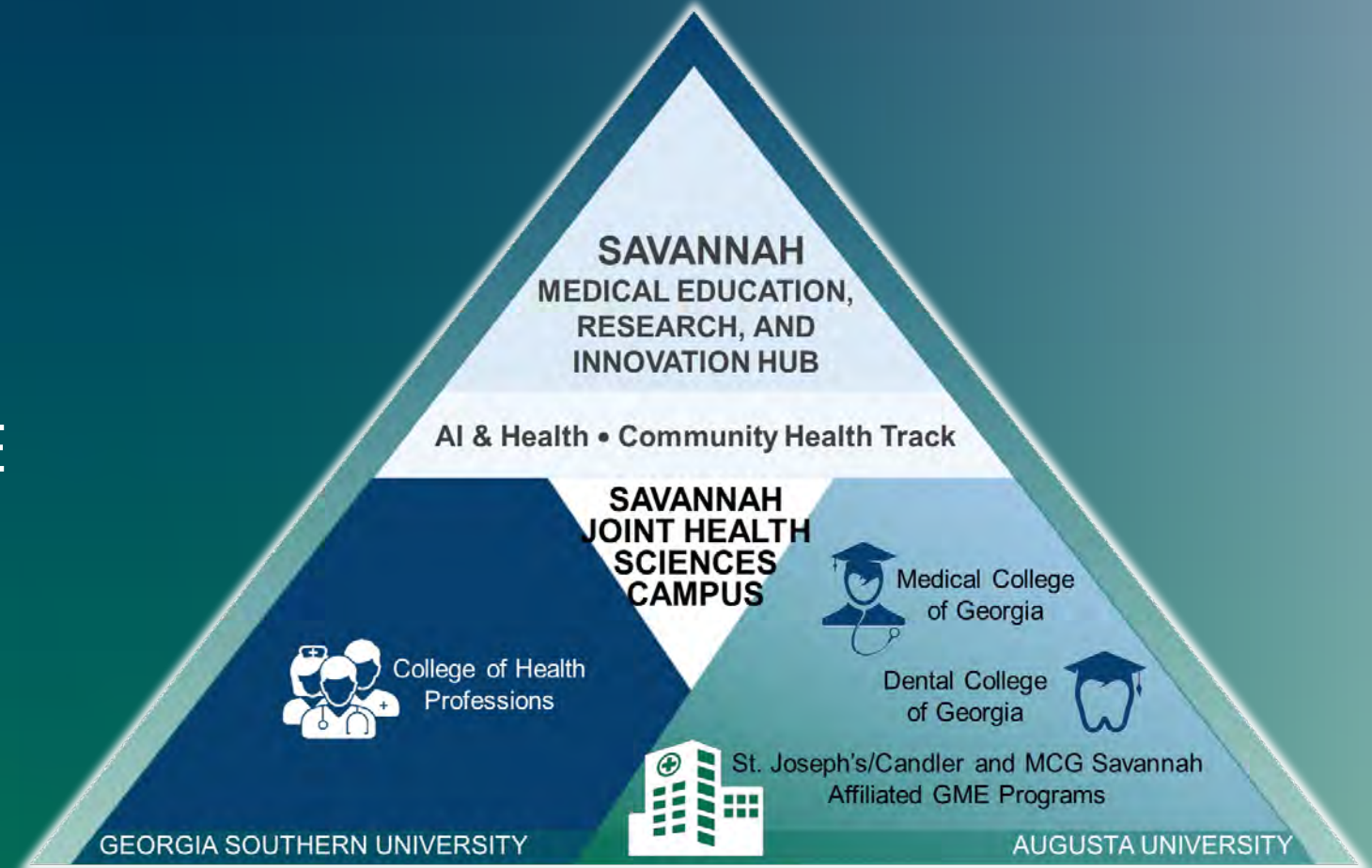


St. Joseph's Hospital is conveniently located across the street from the Georgia Southern University Armstrong Campus in Savannah



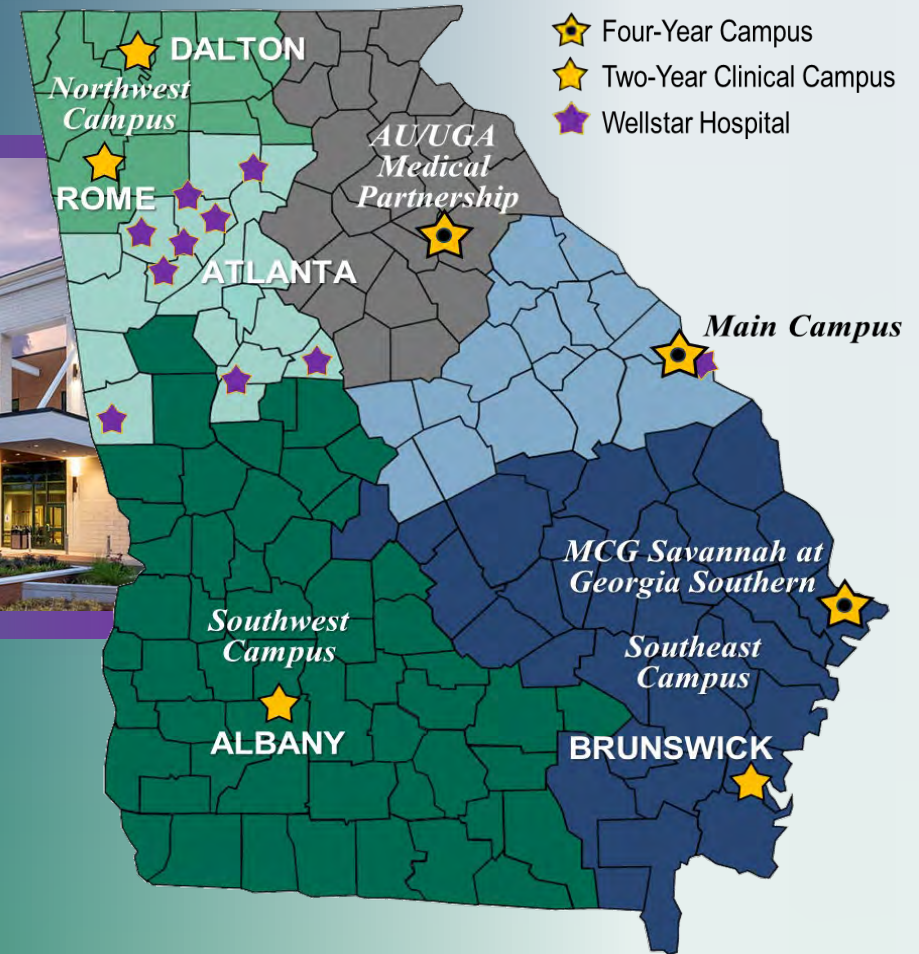
Vision for MCG Savannah

- Joint Health Science Campus with Georgia Southern University and Dental College of Georgia
- Cobranding new planned St. Joseph's/Candler GME program (Internal Medicine) with MCG
- Medical Research and Innovation Hub



New Regional Campus in Atlanta with WellStar

- Two-year clinical campus in Atlanta with Wellstar-Kennestone became official January 2025
- Wellstar-Kennestone currently offers core clerkships to 17 residential third-year MCG students
- Wellstar-Kennestone's educational platform has been highly rated by students and successfully meets clerkship objectives
- New campus will have a class size of 24





MCG Class of 2028

- **304 students**
 - 204 in Augusta
 - 60 in Athens
 - 40 in Savannah
- Men: 146
- Women: 158
- Average Age: 23 (range 20-42)
- Avg MCAT: 512
- Total GPA: 3.8
- Sci GPA: 3.7
- Colleges & Universities: 50
- Georgia Residents: 98%
- Underserved counties: 106

MCG 3+ Pathways

1

Georgia PGY-1
Peach State Scholar

2

Advanced
Residency Prep

3

Dual Degree

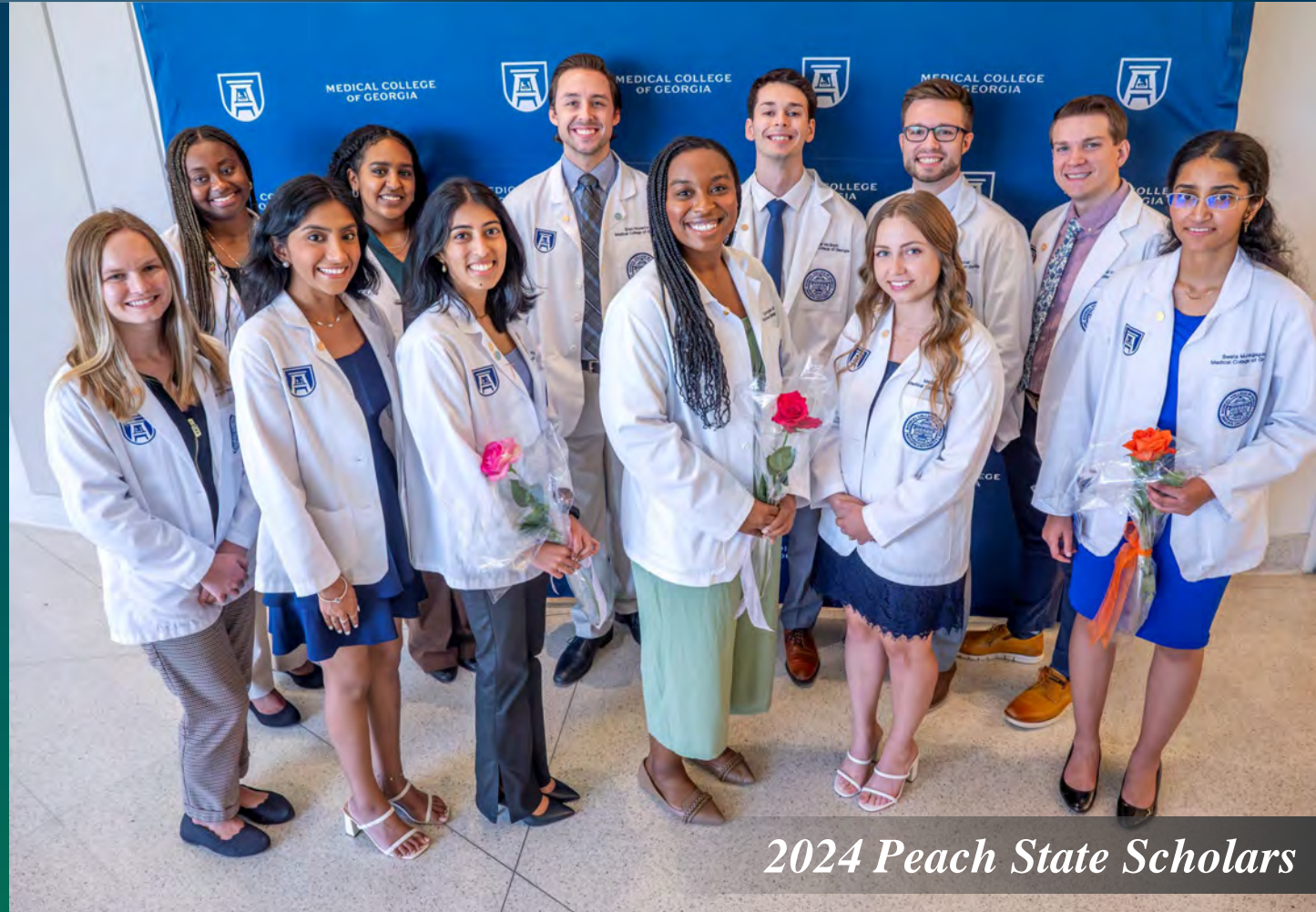
4

Research
Concentration



More Doctors for Rural Georgia

- 144 Georgia counties are designated Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas
- MCG 3+ Georgia PGY-1 allows students to complete medical school in three years
- Peach State Scholars commit to practicing a primary care specialty in an underserved area in Georgia after completing residency training



2024 Peach State Scholars

2024 Peach State Graduates



Reggie Benson
Emergency Medicine



Cayman Bickerstaff
OB/GYN



Sarah Chappell
Pediatrics



Scotty Hall
Internal Medicine



Selvaganesh Maduraiveeran
Internal Medicine



Adir Mohaban
Emergency Medicine



Edil Nour
Psychiatry



Bailey Rodgers
OB/GYN

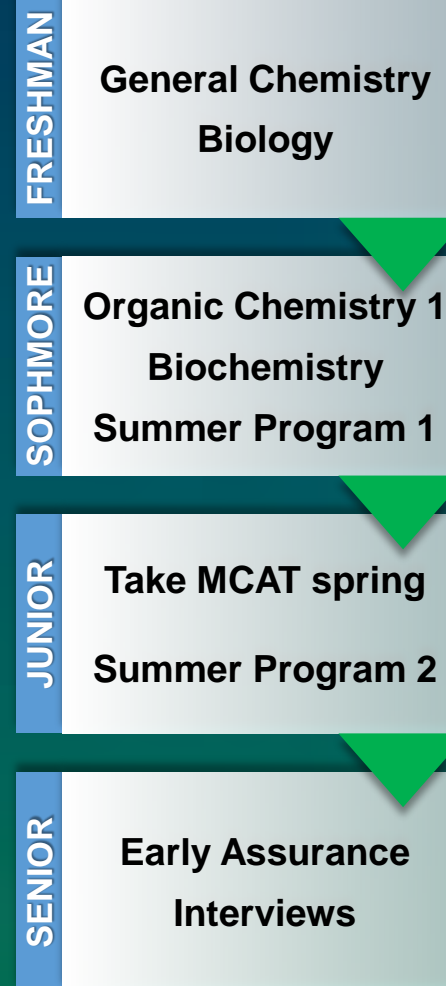


MCG Class of 2024 Match Results

- 99.7% Match rate!
- 69 (28%) remained in Georgia for their first postgraduate year
- 60 (25%) will remain in Georgia for their second postgraduate year
- 25 (10%) matched at an Wellstar MCG-affiliated residency
- Students matched in 25 specialties
- 136 students (56%) matched into primary care residency programs

Assurance in Medicine (AIM) Program

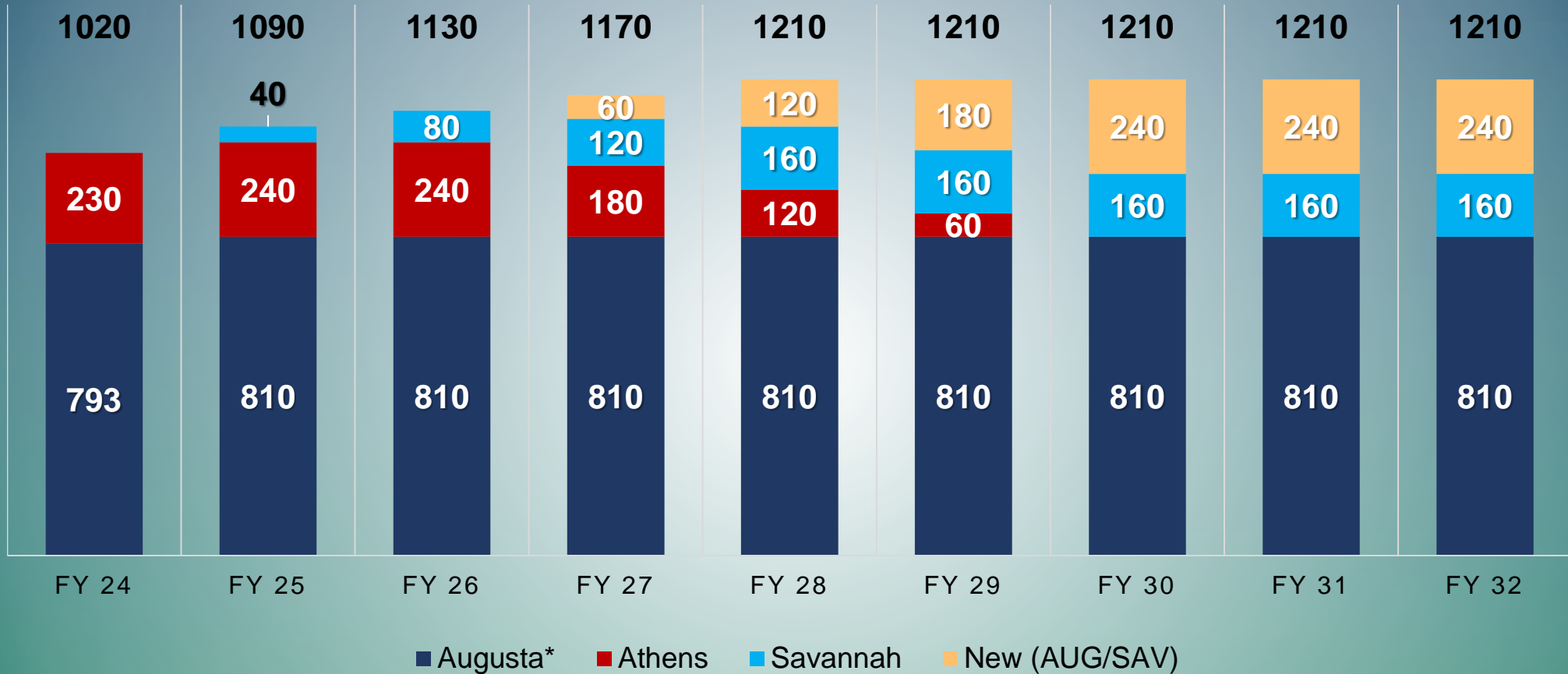
- Undergraduate pathway program for qualified Georgia students from underserved backgrounds
- Provide longitudinal academic support, clinical exposure, and mentorship for students to successfully matriculate at MCG
- Increase the recruitment and retention of students who will help fill the Georgia physician need
- Build partnerships with 7 regionally located undergraduate institutions across the state
 - Includes Georgia Southern and Augusta University
 - Increase exposure to regional campuses and their GME programs



Congratulations UGA School of Medicine on being granted candidate status for accreditation by LCME



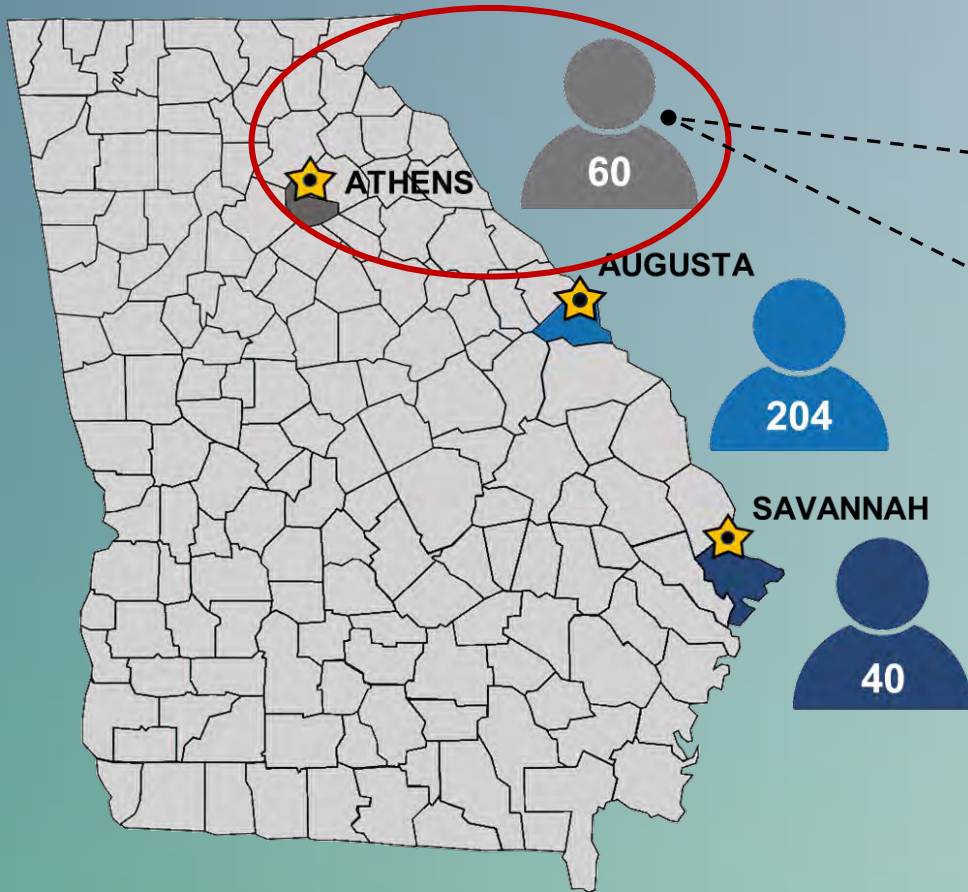
Projected MCG Class Size FY 2024-32



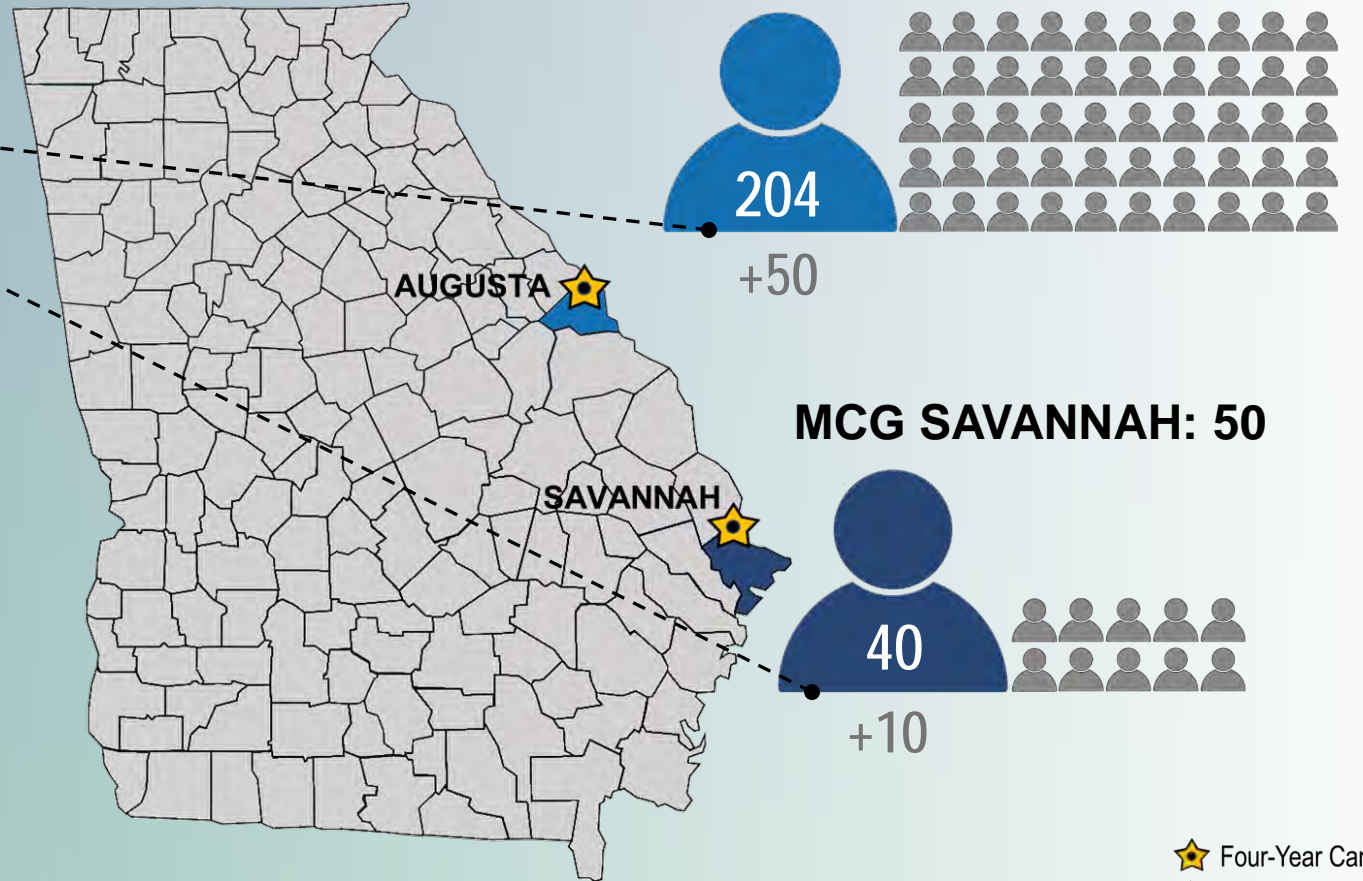
**Total enrollment in Augusta may fluctuate by approximately 5-10 students, depending on the number of students graduating in three years through the MCG 3+ Georgia PGY-1 program.*

Proposed Student Distribution: PRE-CLERKSHIP

AY 2025-26



AY 2026-27



★ Four-Year Campus

Proposed AY 2027-28 Student Distribution: CLERKSHIP

NORTHWEST CAMPUS
(ROME/DALTON): 20



WELLSTAR CAMPUS
(ATLANTA): 24



SOUTHWEST CAMPUS
(ALBANY): 20



MAIN CAMPUS/AUGUSTA:
180



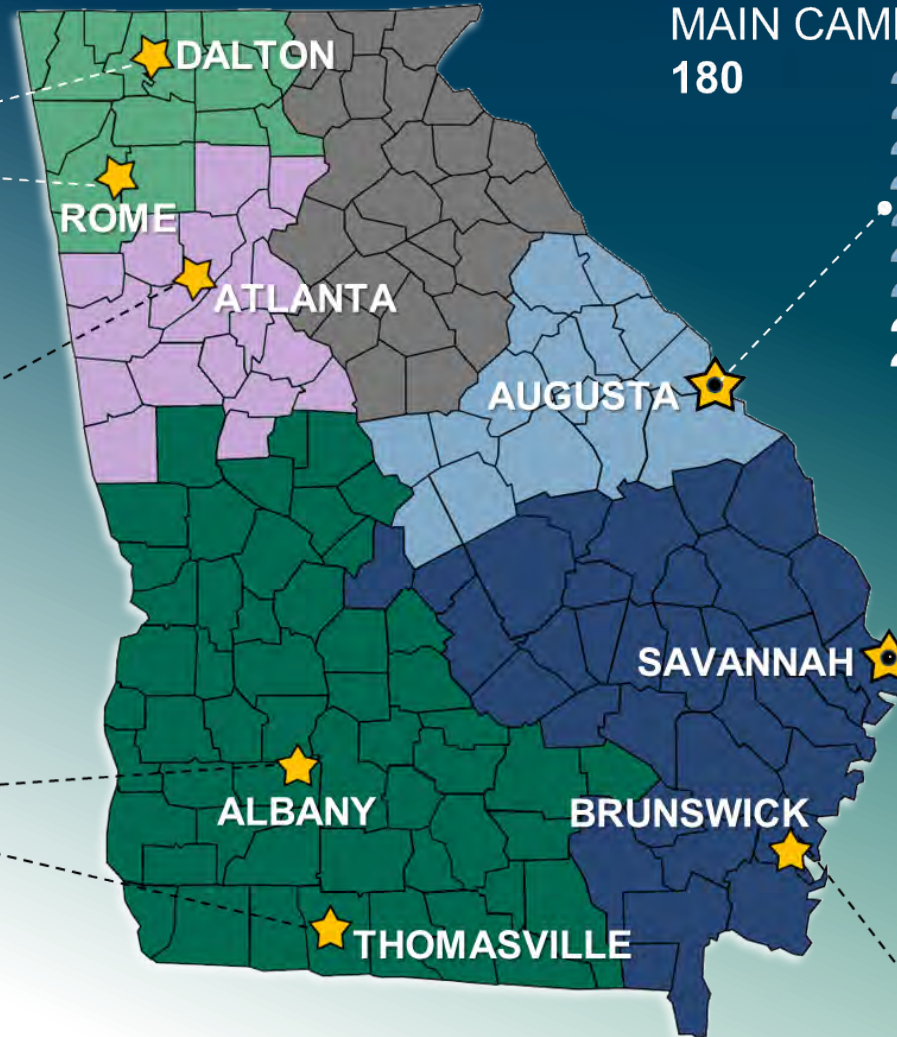
(22 new slots)

MCG SAVANNAH: 50



(10 new slots)

SOUTHEAST CAMPUS
(BRUNSWICK): 10



- ★ Four-Year Campus
- ★ Two-Year Clinical Campus

New MCG Departmental Leadership

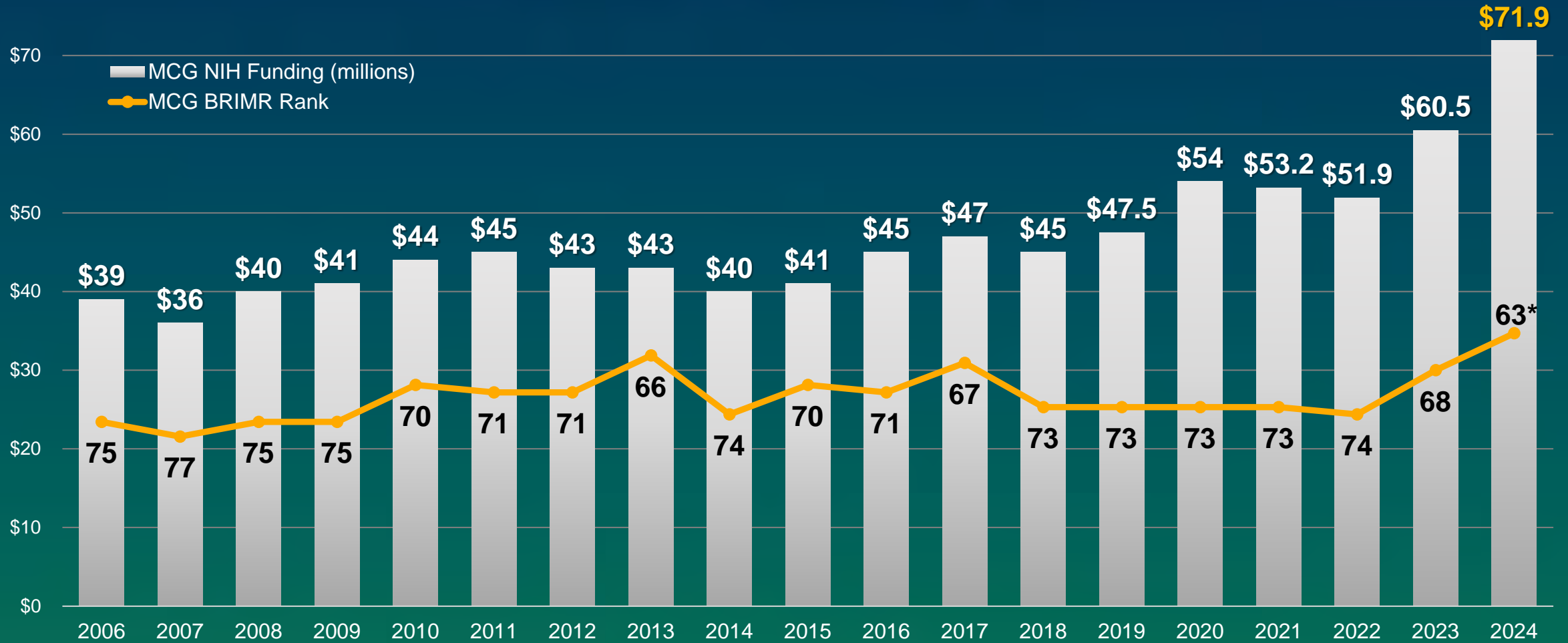


Ravindra Kolhe, MD, PhD
Chair, Department of Pathology
June 2024



Meghan McGee-Lawrence, PhD
Chair, Department of Cellular
Biology and Anatomy
October 2024

MCG NIH Funding and Rank 2006-2024



*Anticipated ranking based on 2023 Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research report

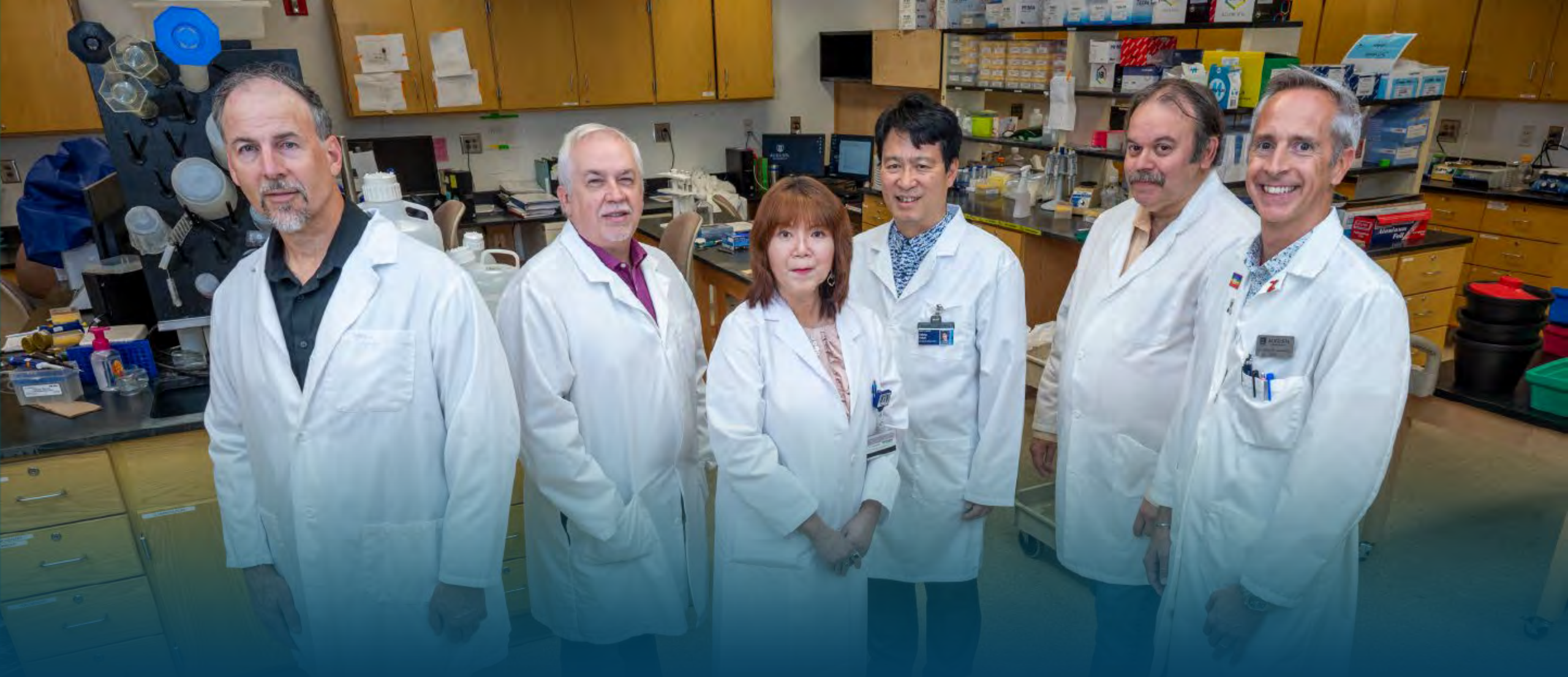
Growth in Research

- New AU President, Dr. Russell Keen has provided funding for 30 new MCG research Faculty over three years
- **New Department of AI and Health**
 - Search for Department Chair underway
- EVP for Research and Innovation search
- New \$150 million Translational Research Building in Governor's Amended Budget recommendation this year (FY2025)



New Translational Research Building





Tohru Fukai and Masuko Ushio-Fukai, co-program directors on \$11.3 million Program Project Grant from NIH to help identify causes of vascular disease.

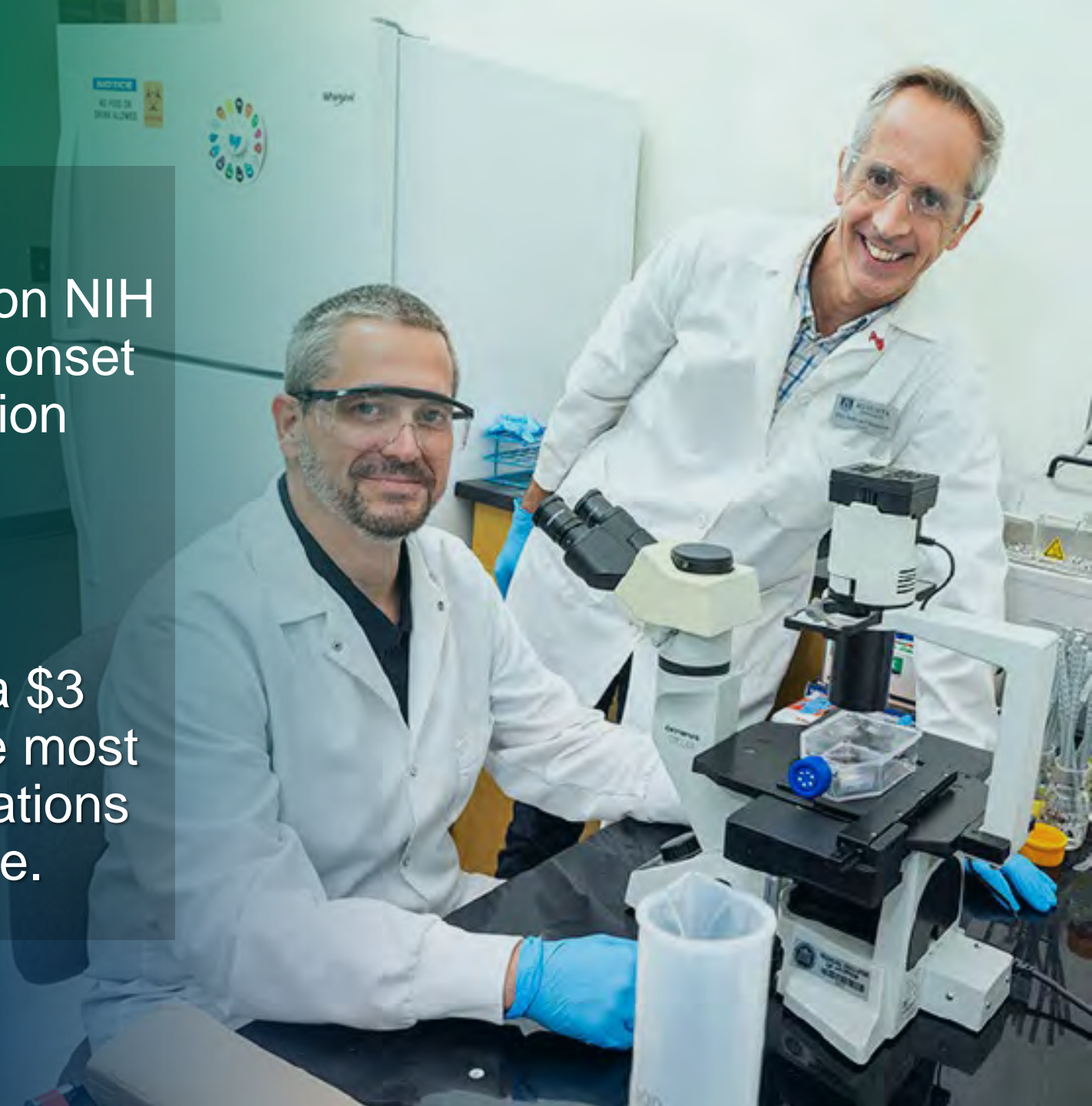


Danielle Mor, awarded \$2.3 million in funding as part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) High-Risk, High-Reward Research program.

Mor was one of only 40 scientists across the country to receive a NIH Director's New Innovator Award.

Eric Belin de Chantemèle, principal investigator on a \$2.7 million NIH grant looking at earlier-than-normal onset and higher prevalence of hypertension among people living with HIV.

Belin de Chantemèle and Laszlo Kovacs, principal investigators on a \$3 million NIH grant to study one of the most devastating cardiovascular complications of HIV – pulmonary vascular disease.





- Discovery of role of IDO in tolerance of pregnancy (D. Munn and A. Mellor, *Science*, 1998)
- Development of Indoximod, an IDO Inhibitor, as cancer immunotherapy
- Indoximod well tolerated and strong hints of efficacy in clinical trials in pediatric brain tumors (T. Johnson)

Groundbreaking Bench to Bedside Translation in Pediatric Brain Tumors

We're building something big.



IMMUNOLOGY
Center of
Georgia



Lynn Hedrick and Klaus Ley



Redouane
Aherrahrou



Hossam
Abdelsamed



Austin
Chiang



Rafael
Czepielewski



Kunzhe
Dong



Nicholas
Gascoigne



Marco
Orecchioni



Adil
Rasheed



Yangfang
Zhu

NIH Budget Cuts

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced a 15% cap on indirect expenses on February 7
- Drastic change impacting institution budgets, operations and medical research
- Temporary restraining order issued to prevent the NIH from immediately beginning cuts
- Hearing before District Judge in Massachusetts today at 10:00 a.m.

Forbes

New NIH 'Indirect Costs' Funding Cuts Threaten Universities, Science

Bruce Y. Lee Senior Contributor @

Bruce Y. Lee, M.D., MBA, covers health, medicine, wellness and science

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Feb 8, 2025, 11:58am EST

Updated Feb 10, 2025, 09:09am EST



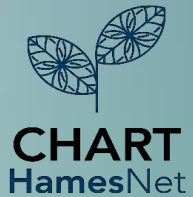
On Friday, the National Institutes of Health announced massive cuts to the funding that they will ...

[+] GETTY

Evidence-Based Healthcare for Georgians and Their Communities



Co-Researcher Activation Network (CRANE): *Co-creating with communities*



Community Health and Research Translation network (CHART): *Translating science to practice*



Clinician Academic Development and Research Education network (CADRE): *Preparing physicians to apply emerging evidence*



NIH Build Up Trust Challenge
PCORI Grant

Professionalism Award

Christy J.W. Ledford, PhD, FACH

Professor and Vice Chair of Research

Curtis G. Hames, MD, Distinguished Chair

Department of Family and Community Medicine



Graduate Medical Education

- MCG is the 2nd largest provider of GME in GA
- 575 residents and fellows in 50 ACGME-accredited programs
- Georgia ranks #40 for total number of residents/fellows
- New GME slots through the Consolidated Appropriations Act
 - Surgery: 5
 - Obstetrics and Gynecology: 4
 - Psychiatry: 4



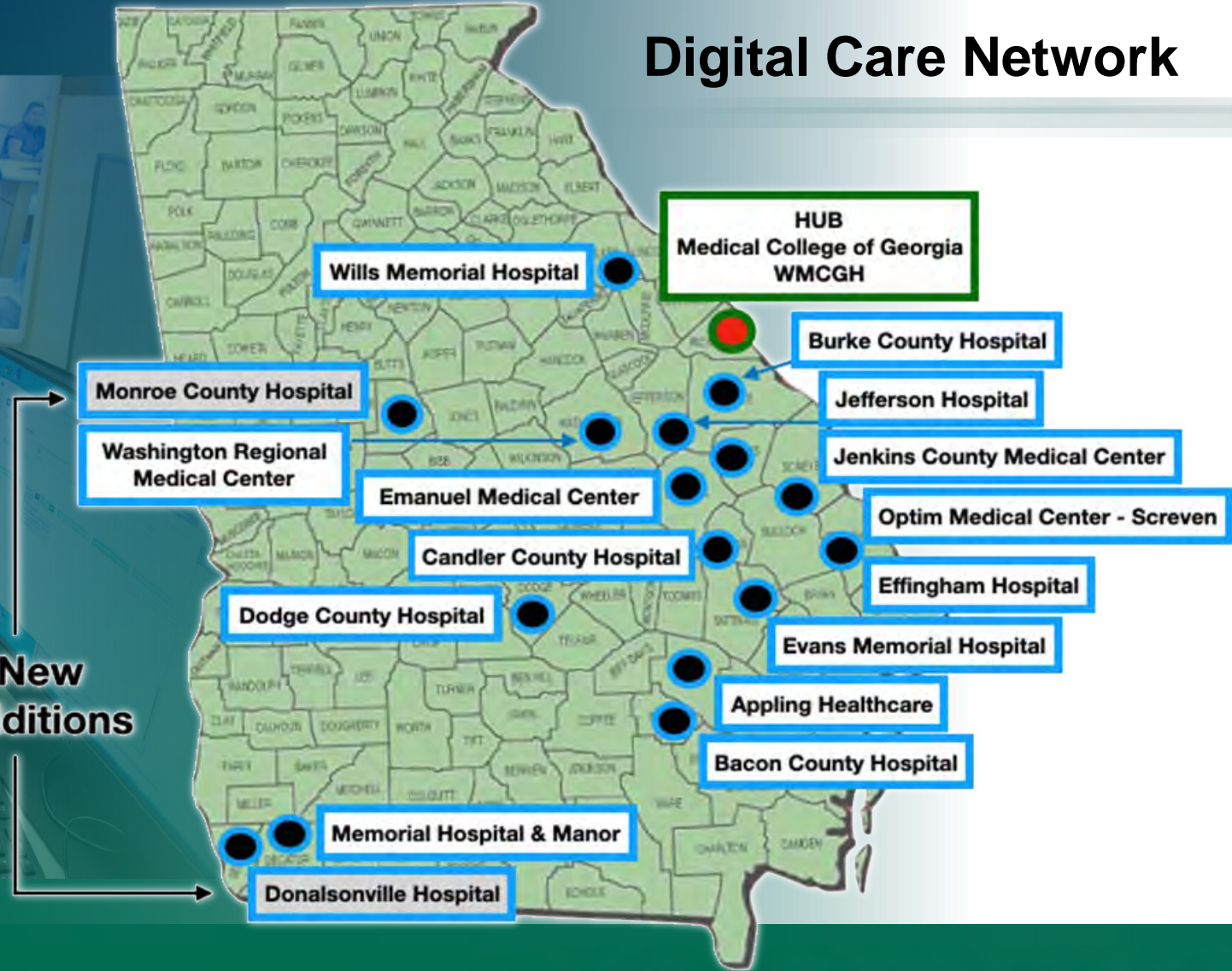
Wellstar MCG Health

- Our academic medical center and statewide Regional Campus system ***combined*** with a large urban-based community health system ***with academic leanings*** is unique in the U.S.
- **Digital health**, telemedicine, EMR, wearable devices and integration
- New care models: in the home, virtual, accountable care organization (ACO)
- Clinically Integrated Networks



MCG Center for Digital Health

Digital Care Network



First Hospital Care at Home Program in Georgia

Hospital Care At Home (Inpatient Service)

Low-Complex Care Treated in Patient's Home

Virtual Hospital

SAME Care

LESS Cost of Care

MORE Resources for Complex Care



Wellstar MCG Health Medical Center Provides Hospital-Level Care in Patients' Homes

First hospital in Georgia to offer innovative Hospital Care at Home program

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Recovery Care At Home (Outpatient Service)

Complex Care

High Readmission Risk, Complex Care Patients

Coordinated Digital Care



SHORTER LOS

4.6 vs 7.7 Days

LESS Cost of Care

\$54K vs \$84K

LOWER Readmissions

11.2% vs 12.8%



Dr. Sergio and Roxann Bustos

Wellstar MCG Health

- EPIC implemented November 2024
 - “Keyboard liberation” is on the horizon
 - DAX Copilot integrated with EPIC
- Wellstar investing \$1.1 billion in Wellstar MCG Health
- Positive operating margin
- Columbia County Hospital opening July 2026



Columbia County Hospital and MOB




Construction Started – May 2023

Anticipated Opening – Summer/Fall 2026


Hospital Program

 **100** Acuity adaptable patient rooms

 **10** 6 ORs; 2 Cath/IR rooms; 2 GI rooms

 **40** ED bays

MOB Program

 **4** Floors w/ exam rooms
Primary Care, Surgical & Medical
Specialties



MCG Advocate Award

Ralph D. Turner, DBA
*President, Wellstar MCG Health
Medical Center*





Thank you for all you do!