GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY SECOND CENTURY INITIATIVE ARCHIVAL PRESS RELEASES/CLUSTER DESCRIPTIONS 2009-2014

Compiled by Jeremy Craig, Office of the Provost
jcraig@gsu.edu

Contents

Georgia State University Launches Second Century Initiative

Nov. 12, 2009

Contact:
Andrea Jones, 404 413-1351
University Relations

ATLANTA - Georgia State University this week launched an ambitious faculty hiring initiative to recruit 100 additional faculty members to the university over the next five years.

The goal of the Second Century Initiative (2CI) is to build internationally recognized scholarly strength in research themes with national significance to enhance GSU's quality, interdisciplinary richness and competitiveness.

President Mark P. Becker said the 2CI will build upon existing strengths to attract internationally recognized scholars to Georgia State.

"Georgia State University's reputation and prominence continues to rise," Becker said. "This initiative will accelerate collaborative faculty research to support the expansion of new knowledge, scholarship and research activities."

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Risa Palm said hiring additional faculty members is a key component in bringing GSU to the next level.

"We need more faculty to permit us to compete with the best in scholarship, research and creative work. This program will permit us to add key faculty to units with existing strength and to explore new areas of collaboration." We hope to achieve a significant increase in our level of competitive, federally funded research, and elevate GSU's overall recognition for excellence in research, scholarship and creative work."

The Provost will oversee the 2CI, and it is structured as a competitive proposal process for recruiting clusters of faculty around defined themes, as well as for recruiting individuals with the demonstrated capacity to have a high impact in scholarship.

The provost will provide financial support for the hires. Proposals will be reviewed in March and funding decisions will be made in April. The first wave of hiring will take place during the next academic year, with the first cohort of faculty hired under the 2CI joining the university in 2011.

To find out more about the Second Century Initiative, please visit: www.gsu.edu/secondcentury.

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https://web.archive.org/web/20100214203340/http://www.gsu.edu/39256.html.

GSU recruits new faculty to strengthen research [Round 1]

April 9, 2010

Contact:
Andrea Jones, 404-413-1351
University Relations

ATLANTA - Georgia State University will recruit new faculty in eight target areas in the first round of a five year hiring initiative aimed to build internationally recognized scholarly strength around research themes.

The Second Century Initiative (2CI), which launched in November, is designed to build upon existing strengths and strategic plans and accelerate collaborative faculty research. The initiative's goal is to add 100 faculty members over the next five years.

This year, faculty and deans submitted 56 proposals to recruit clusters of faculty around defined themes and individual high impact hires with demonstrated capabilities in scholarship. Those proposals were narrowed to eight in a competitive selection process for funding. Faculty hired under this first phase of 2C1 will begin in the fall of 2011.

"We were delighted with the caliber of the proposals," said Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Risa Palm. "Among the goals we hope to achieve through this program are a significant increase in our level of competitive, federally funded research, and the elevation of GSU's overall recognition for excellence in research and scholarly and creative work."

The eight winning proposals and areas of focus include diagnostics, neuroimaging, evidence-based policy, law, media and ethics, new media, Chinese language and culture, bioinformatics, and health justice.

Diagnostics (points of contact: Binghe Wang, Chair, Professor and GRA Eminent Scholar in Drug Discovery, Chemistry/Julia Hilliard Co-Chair, Professor and GRA Eminent Scholar in virology, Biology) - biology and chemistry

The departments of chemistry and biology will collaborate to hire three new faculty in diagnostics: in probe development, biomarkers and sensors. This plan builds on GSU's extraordinary existing strength in the field of biomedical research.

Neuro imaging (point of contact : David Washburn, Chair, Department of Psychology) - psychology and neuroscience

The departments of psychology and neuroscience will hire one high impact hire, a senior scholar with expertise in functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and other neuroimaging paradigms. With the new GSU/GT Center for Advanced Brain Imagining, Georgia State has the facilities to become a world-class center for functional neuroimaging.

Evidence-based policy (point of contact: Paul Ferraro, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies) - economics and public policy

The departments of economics, public management and policy, along with several research centers within the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies will hire three scholars who are leaders in the field of evidence-based policy research, which aims to inform public policy by rigorously established objective empirical evidence. The cluster hires will involve one senior scholar who is a leader in evidence-based policy research in the field of education, a junior scholar with expertise in policy-relevant field experiments, and a senior scholar who is a leader in performance measurement and management research.

Law, policy and ethics (point of contact: Charity Scott, Director, College of Law Center for Law Health & Society) - law, business

The Colleges of Law and Business will collaborate to hire three faculty around the research theme of the legal and ethical governance of businesses in healthcare, life sciences and biotechnology markets. The proposal builds on existing strengths and collaborations between the colleges of law and business.

New media (point of contact: David Cheshier, chair department of communications) - communications, music, art, English

The Welch School of Art & Design, the School of Music and the departments of communication and English will collaborate to hire a three-faculty cluster centered on new media, with an additional line committed by the College. The proposal includes hires in new media production, interactive media design, digital sound design and digital literacy.

Chinese language and culture (point of contact: Gayle Nelson, Coordinator of International Programs, College of Arts and Sciences) - political science, business, modern and classical languages

The College of Arts and Sciences and the Robinson College of Business will establish an inter-college three faculty cluster hire in Chinese Studies. The proposal calls for two positions in the College of Arts and Sciences, one in Chinese language and pedagogy in the department of modern and classical languages, and one in the department of political science, who will specialize in Chinese politics and relationships between politics and economics. The hire in RCB will focus on Chinese business.

Bioinformatics (point of contact: Yi Pan, chair, department of computer science) - computer science, biology, chemistry, mathematics

The computer science department, along with the departments of biology, chemistry, mathematics and statistics will collaborate to recruit one high impact hire in bioinformatics. Bioinformatics research has grown exponentially in the last decade response to the deluge of data generated by biotechnology advances. The computer science department will bring in an eminent scholar in the area to bring national and international recognition to GSU in the field.

Building capacity in health justice (point of contact: Richard Rothenberg, Institute of Public Health) - public health, law

The Institute of Public Health with the collaboration of the Center for Law, Health, and Society will hire three faculty to augment and advance Georgia State's commitment to the issue of health disparities. The three scholars that will be hired, an epidemiologist, a social scientist and a legal scholar, will provide multi-level involvement in these issues and will draw together faculty from many units at the university.

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https://web.archive.org/web/20120815095218/http://www.gsu.edu/secondcentury/60709.html.

Georgia State awards eight new research proposals under the Second Century Initiative [2nd Round]

March 16, 2011

Contact:
Jeremy Craig, 404-413-1357
University Relations

ATLANTA - Georgia State University has awarded eight new proposed research clusters with new faculty hires in a second round of hiring under the university's ambitious Second Century Initiative. The initiative is aimed at bringing GSU to a higher level of research and academic excellence in the 21st century.

The Second Century Initiative (2CI) is a faculty hiring initiative to recruit 100 additional faculty members to the university over the next five years, with the intention to build internationally recognized scholarly research strength in themes with national significance to enhance GSU's quality, interdisciplinary richness and competitiveness.

"The Second Century Initiative is a key part of the new GSU strategic plan. The plan seeks to enhance research and scholarly activity at Georgia State through targeted investments in areas of current or potential strength," said GSU Provost Risa Palm. "The Second Century initiative is aimed to do just that: to identify areas where interdisciplinary collaboration can accelerate research and scholarly productivity and to add new faculty to those areas. Success in this initiative is key to achieving greater stature as a research university."

"Faculty throughout the university have worked very hard to come up with bold and innovative proposals to strengthen the university," Palm added. "The competition for awards was keen, and the eight proposals selected will result in greater levels of achievement and recognition for the research and scholarly work that is the basis of our reputation as a research university."

The eight new research clusters for which new faculty will be hired under 2CI include:

Atlanta Census Research Data Center: The Department of Economics, the Institute of Public Health and the Department of Sociology have proposed a three-position cluster hire to include experts in health policy, health disparities and risky behaviors in conjunction with the 2011 arrival of the Atlanta Census Research Data Center. The ACRDC is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Census Bureau and a consortium of area institutions led by Georgia State. This program will be lead by Barry Hirsch, professor, and James Marton, associate professor, both in the Department of Economics.

Eliminating Health Disparities for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities from Diverse Backgrounds: Three new faculty members will be hired in communication disorders, psychology and public health to address health disparities among individuals with developmental disabilities. This program will be led by Daniel Crimmins, professor of public health.

Exploring and Testing Strategies for Obesity Reversal (EATSFOR): This proposal will lead to a new center, EATSFOR, aimed at addressing the obesity epidemic in America, with three new faculty hires in

nutrition, biology, and biology or GSU's Neuroscience Institute. This program will be led by Tim Bartness, Regents' Professor of biology.

Health Information Technology: Faculty hires in this area will address the effective use of information technology in health care, which could transform the field, from areas like electronic health records to computerized provider order entry systems. The program is a ollaboration between the Computer Information Systems Department and the Institute of Health Administration in the Robinson College of Business, and the Georgia Health Policy Center in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. This initiative will be led by Ephraim McLean, Regents' Professor of computer information systems.

Neurogenomics: Three new faculty hires in this area will conduct research in an area of neuroscience research that seeks to understand how genes regulate neural circuits and interact with the environment - leading to better insights into disorders like Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease and schizophrenia. The new faculty members will both increase understanding in the nervous system's role in social behaviors at the genetic and molecular levels, and will also identify new routes to create therapies for disorders like mental illness. The new hires will be in the Neuroscience Institute, the Department of Psychology, and the Department of Biology. This area will be led by Walt Wilczynski, professor and director of the Neuroscience Institute.

Primate Social Cognition, Evolution and Behavior: Three new faculty members will complement current scientists at GSU's Language Research Center (LRC), where studies of primate behavior have increased knowledge of the origins of language and other behaviors. This area will be led by David Washburn, professor and director of the LRC.

Stellar Astrophysics and Astroinformatics: GSU's astronomy and computer science programs are joining forces to learn more about stars in their environments using tools such as Georgia State's Center for High Angular Resolution Astronomy Array, where new faculty will create high-resolution images of stars, mine large-scale databases, and develop models of stars and their distribution in space. The leader of this area is Hal McAlister, Regents' Professor of astronomy.

Trans-cultural Conflict and Violence: In this cluster, led by the departments of Communication, Computer Science, Religious Studies, and English, in cooperation with the Middle East Institute, three new faculty will examine trans-cultural conflict and violence. The initiative will hire faculty with expertise in signal and imaging processing, Middle Eastern visual culture, and contemporary violence and religion. This area is led by Carol Winkler, professor of communication.

The university announced the program in 2009; in 2010, it awarded eight different proposals under the first round, including diagnostics, neuroimaging, evidence-based policy, law, media and ethics, new media, Chinese language and culture, bioinformatics and health justice.

"The faculty we are in the process of recruiting as a result of the first set of awards will, in many cases, transform the activity within departments and result in new levels of cross-departmental and cross-college collaboration," Palm said. "This second group of awards will further enhance these efforts."

For more about the Second Century Initiative, visit http://www.gsu.edu/secondcentury/.

Published March 16, 2011

Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20121005101616/http://www.gsu.edu/news/58531.html.

Georgia State awards six new research proposals under the Second Century Initiative [3rd round]

Feb 27, 2012

Contact:
Jeremy Craig, 404-413-1357
University Relations

 ATLANTA — Georgia State University has awarded six new proposed research clusters with new faculty hires in the third round of a university initiative aiming to bolster a higher level of research and academic excellence through interdisciplinary partnerships.

The Second Century Initiative (2CI) calls for the recruitment of 100 additional faculty members to GSU over a five-year period, with the intention to build internationally recognized scholarly research strengths in themes with national significance to enhance the university's quality, competitiveness and richness.

"The 2CI initiative propels research at Georgia State University into the ranks of the most innovative and exciting fields of study," said GSU Provost Risa Palm. "The new faculty will add to the collaborative teams investigating complex and significant problems, and advancing our achievement of goals of the University's Strategic Plan."

The six new clusters include:

Microbial Pathogenesis: This cluster will focus on studying the complex interactions between host cells and medically important pathogens, like viruses, or microbial toxins, with an impact on preventing and treating diseases. The university will preface the launch of this cluster with a search for a senior faculty member. This search will be followed by the hiring of two to three collaborating faculty who demonstrate the ability to do high quality research on microbial pathogens or toxins. Faculty in this cluster will also collaborate with the existing Molecular Basis of Disease focus, the Center for Inflammation, Immunity and Infection, and the Center for Diagnostics and Therapeutics.

Therapeutics: Following up on an earlier cluster hiring proposal in diagnostics, this new proposal will focus on hiring three faculty who will hone in on drug discovery based on biomarkers or interventions on the cellular or molecular level for human diseases. These diseases include cancer, infection and immune diseases. Participating departments include the Department of Chemistry, the Neuroscience Institute, and the Department of biology, and the hires will also aid in the success of the current Center for Diagnostics and Therapeutics.

Neuroethics: There will be three hires – one who focuses on emerging ethical and legal issues raised by neuroscience; one who studies the neuropsychological processes involved in moral cognition and behavior; and one who examines the implications of neuroscientific discoveries for moral theory. The faculty will administer a neuroethics concentration within the university's existing neuroscience Ph.D. Participating departments include the Department of Philosophy, the Neuroscience Institute, the Department of Psychology and the College of Law.

Shaping the Future of Cities: The focus of this proposal is the design of cities, which includes both their physical footprint and social infrastructure, which is shaped by housing policy, transportation policy, and urban amenities such as green space. The cluster will include the hiring of an urban economist in the Department of Economics at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies (AYSPS), an economic development and planning faculty member in the Department of Public Management and Policy in AYSPS, an expert in social structure in the Department of Sociology of the College of Arts and Sciences, and a faculty member in the area of environmental law at the College of Law.

Breaking the Glass Ceiling of Achievement for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Under this proposal, the university will hire two associate and one assistant professor to focus on malleable factors leading to improvements in the linguistic and literary skills of deaf and hard of hearing children, as they learn to read and read to learn. The effort is a collaboration of the Educational Psychology and Special Education Departments in the College of Education and the Psychology Department in the College of Arts and Sciences, with support from College of Computing at Georgia Tech.

Portfolios of the Atlanta Poor: This cluster is a collaboration of the Department of Risk Management and Insurance in the Robinson College of Business, and the Department of Economics of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. The proposal seeks to advance understanding of how the urban poor make savings decisions, how they manage financial and non-financial risks, and how their investment and consumption decisions change over their lifetimes.

The 2CI initiative was announced in 2009. During the first round in 2010, Georgia State awarded eight proposals, including diagnostics, neuroimaging, evidence-based policy, law, media and ethics, new media, Chinese language and culture, bioinformatics and health justice.

During the second round, announced in 2011, the awarded proposals included the Atlanta Census Research Data Center; eliminating health disparities for individuals with developmental disabilities from diverse backgrounds; Exploring and Testing Strategies for Obesity Reversal (EATSFOR), health information technology; neurogenomics; primate social cognition, evolution and behavior; stellar astrophysics and astroinformatics; and trans-cultural conflict and violence. For more information about 2CI, please visit http://www.gsu.edu/secondcentury.

Feb. 27, 2012

Retrieved from https://web.archive.org/web/20121005101616/http://www.gsu.edu/news/58531.html.

Dec. 19, 2013

Big Data and Analytics

Continuing increases in computer processing speed, advances in data storage devices, and the development of new communication technologies have led to dramatic reductions in the cost to acquire, share and process information. As a result, the world has the ability and desire to collect digitized data at rates where we now double the amount of stored information created since the dawn of human history every few hours.

Sometimes referred to as the "Big Data Revolution," the term itself is a misnomer since it defies quantification. Societies now realize Big Data transcends our current ability to both envision and define the destination of the journey that we have collectively undertaken in the area of capturing, and learning from, the proliferation of digital information. The resulting pace of innovation impacting a variety of settings is highly rapid because the underlying technologies that enable the analysis of Big Data are idea based – mostly software and algorithms. The code has no storage costs and it takes no time to replicate once created. Since code is also modular, it can be combined and recombined in any number of ways to create new applications and strategies. And, once created, the resulting applications can be delivered and implemented globally via the Internet almost instantaneously.

According to the Director of the National Science Foundation, Dr. Subra Suresh, "Data are motivating a profound transformation in the culture and conduct of scientific research in every field of science and engineering." He further suggests "American scientists must rise to the challenges and seize the opportunities afforded by this new, data-driven revolution."

As will be demonstrated in this proposal, the Georgia State University community already has some significant pockets of resources that are relevant for research and educational initiatives around Big Data and Analytics. In particular, we have high visibility faculty members and research centers working on applications of Big Data; we have access to and relationships with commercial and governmental organizations in the Atlanta area, some of whom are driving the Big Data Revolution and others who are seeking guidance and direction; we have degree programs where faculty have already or are currently moving to incorporate enhanced analytical components into curricula; and the Robinson College is preparing a major new MS in Analytics (MSA) program that will propose in spring 2013. Similarly a new MS degree in preparation in the Andrew Young School will have a concentration on big data and policy evaluation.

But to have a major impact that will bring national and international distinction to Robinson specifically, and Georgia State University more generally, we require a core leadership team that can pull our disparate resources together to create a whole that will be greater than the sum of the individual efforts. More specifically, the major assets that we have to leverage today are primarily focused on applications of the Big Data Revolution working in relative isolation from one another in specific functional areas. What we lack to achieve national and international distinction are faculty scholars who are focused on the fundamental scholarly work of data analytic methodologies and who can bring an international reputation for scholarship in the application of those methodologies, while also accelerating the creation of curricular innovations across the campus.

This 2ci proposal seeks to fill that leadership void. In particular, we propose attracting a team of scholars that will develop and lead a campus wide initiative charged to accelerate our understanding of what is possible by taking advantage of the dramatic reduction in the cost of acquiring and analyzing Big Data for the commercial, non-profit, and governmental sectors of our economy. The specific steps that will accomplish the goal are as follows:

Attract a senior researcher with an international reputation and demonstrated capability to develop and deploy new methodologies into applications spanning multiple disciplines and/or sectors of the economy.
This senior scholar will work with existing faculty resources across multiple departments in Robinson and across multiple colleges at GSU to develop a proposal to cluster hire three additional faculty members that will complete the multi-college leadership team.
The newly acquired faculty members will form the focal point for a coordinated research effort and to elevate the distinction and reputation of numerous academic degree programs.

Contact: Richard D. Phillips, Associate Dean for Academic Initiatives and Innovation, Robinson College of Business, and C. V. Starr Professor of Risk Management and Insurance

Integrating Geographic Information Science, Geovisualization and Community Engagement in the Study of Hazards in Urban Environments

Geosciences (lead), Sociology, English, History, the Institute of Public Health, and the Honors College propose a high-impact 2CI cluster hire around the multi-disciplinary theme of "Integrating Geographic Information Science, Geovisualization and Community Engagement in the Study of Hazards in Urban Environments." This hire perfectly matches multiple funding calls that integrate social and scientific research using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and geovisualization along with community engagement to examine urban environments. Geovisualization presents scientific knowledge through the manipulation, interaction and visualization of multiple geospatial datasets in real time through the connection of interactive maps, databases, and multimedia. The cluster hire builds upon successfully funded interdisciplinary collaborations across the proposing departments, including 1) the Community-Soil-Air-Water Research Initiative funded by a National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experiences for Undergraduates Site Grant and a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Environmental Health Core grant; 2) the ATLMaps collaboration focused on spatial narratives and GIS in urban environments funded by GSU's Cities Initiative; 3) two grants from the Kobe Center to develop an Urban Health Index for evaluating small area health disparities; and 4) multiple NSF- and NIH-funded housing studies focused on crime, social networks, and neighborhood change. This hire will elevate the international prominence of the combined departments and colleges through a research agenda focused on the theory and application of geovisualization to everyday hazards (i.e. flooding, air and water pollution, soil contamination) in urban environments. The cluster will have two unique and strategic goals. First, we will address the social and environmental disparities of hazards, especially important as impacts of many hazards are felt disproportionately across urban environments. Second, we will embrace strong community engagement as the team works with citizen scientists (urban residents and community organizations) to understand the uneven historical, social, environmental, and financial factors/impacts of hazards across urban environments.
Contact: Timothy Hawthorne, Assistant Professor, Department of Geosciences

Mathematical and Computational Modeling of Diseases

Several disease-related areas have been identified as unique strengths at GSU in the recent Life Sciences Review, including microbial pathology and infection, inflammation and immune response, metabolic syndromes, neural disorders, and obesity. We have significant strength in studying disease, from molecular level target design to cellular level biology, to tissue and system level immune response at GSU. However, while mathematical and computational modeling has been increasingly recognized as an integral and important part of biological studies by both researchers and funding agencies such as NIH and NSF, its presence in the big picture at GSU is limited. This lack is preventing our research from reaching a higher level. A senior leader hire in this direction is judicious, timely, and promises sustained growth.

The departments of Mathematics and Statistics (Lead), Center for Inflammation, Immunity and Infection (CIII), Chemistry, Biology, and Computer Sciences, join force in and fully support this 2CI proposal. This interdisciplinary new leader will amplify current GSU strengths, and build a synergistic core of collaboration for high impactful and significant research on disease modeling. This senior leader will complement our current research strength, expand existing research expertise, and elevate GSU to another level of research reputation in quantitative life sciences.

Contact: Yi Jiang, Associate Professor, Mathematics and Statistics

Translational Immunology

Appropriate inflammatory/immune response plays a critical role in host defense against bacteria, virus and other harmful stimuli. However dysregulated response not only fails to provide protection, but also leads to disease condition. Indeed, overactive inflammation is a hallmark of many inflammatory diseases, including infectious diseases, cancer, chronic obstructive diseases, otitis media, inflammatory bowel diseases, obesity and autism. Over the past decades, significant progresses have been made in understanding the basic mechanisms underlying how inflammatory response is initiated and regulated at the molecular, cellular, organ and whole-organism levels. One such example is the 2011 Noble prize-winning discovery of host defense receptors involved in regulating immunity and inflammation. More than ever, there is currently an urgent need for translating advances in basic immunology from the laboratory into new clinical therapies for inflammatory diseases. To meet this significant challenge, Translational Immunology (TI) has thus emerged recently as an increasingly important interdisciplinary area of research of both national and international significance. To significantly and rapidly escalate Georgia State University (GSU) as a recognized leader in this area, we propose this plan to hire a high-impact cluster leader in Translational Immunology. This proposal's key strength is that it builds upon GSU's existing strength areas, inflammation, immunity and infections, fits well within the University's and the Georgia Research Alliance's strategic priorities as well as within federal funding priorities such as NIH. Dr. Jian-Dong Li, GRA Eminent Scholar in Inflammation and Immunity, and the Director of University Center for Inflammation, Immunity and Infection (C3I), will serve as the point-of-contact of the proposal. The proposal has the full support from C3I (Lead Unit), Department of Computer Science, Department of Chemistry, Department of Mathematics and Statistics and Department of Biology with the participation of a total of 21 faculty members including 4 GRA Eminent Scholars and 3 Regents' Professors.

Contact: Jian-Dong Li, GRA Eminent Scholar, Professor of Biology, University Center for Inflammation, Immunity & Infection

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https://web.archive.org/web/20150327202107/http://secondcentury.gsu.edu:80/2013/12/19/fourth-round-awarded-proposals.

Georgia State Starts Innovative Research Groups Through Second Century Initiative [5th Round]

July 14, 2014

Georgia State University is starting four new innovative and interdisciplinary research groups under the fifth round of its Second Century Initiative, aiming to bolster a higher level of research and academic performance.

The Second Century Initiative (2CI) calls for the recruitment of top-notch faculty members to the university, with the goal of building internationally recognized research strengths in areas of national significance.

"With the fifth round of the Second Century Initiative awards, Georgia State continues to strengthen multi-disciplinary research in areas of significance for the 21st century," said Risa Palm, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. "The program has permitted our university to hire very productive and innovative faculty, and these new awards will continue this trajectory. This program has been transformative and is a wonderful investment in faculty quality."

The new clusters include:

Adult Literacy:

This research group, which includes three new faculty members, will focus on basic research in adult literacy and its translation to applied areas of health, family and workplace literacy. With one in six U.S. adults reading at elementary levels, adult literacy is a serious issue that affects an individual's health and employment, as well as the education of his or her children.

Building on the National Research Center for the Study of Adult Literacy (CSAL) at Georgia State, funded by a $10 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the new cluster will involve the College of Education, School of Public Health and the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. CSAL's director, Professor Daphne Greenberg in the Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education, will head the cluster.

Neurobiology of Language:

This cluster, which includes three new faculty members, will address normal and abnormal language problems. For example, aphasia, a language disorder affecting more than 1 million people in the U.S., is commonly caused by stroke, a disease that is highly prevalent in the Southeastern United States and is the leading cause of long-term adult disability.

Collaborating departments and initiatives include the Communication Sciences and Disorders program, the Department of Psychology, the Neuroscience Institute, the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience and the Research on the Challenges of Acquiring Language and Literacy initiative.

Researchers in this cluster will collaborate with Emory University and the Marcus Stroke Center at Grady Memorial Hospital. Jacqueline Laures-Gore of the Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education and Rose Sevcik of the Department of Psychology will lead the group.

Digestive Biomarkers:

This research area with three new faculty members will work on identifying biomarkers for digestive diseases such as inflammatory bowel disease, colon cancer, metabolic syndrome, and gastric and liver diseases.

Participating departments and institutes include the departments of Chemistry, and Mathematics and Statistics, the Institute for Biomedical Science, and the Center for Diagnostics and Therapeutics. Didier Merlin, professor in the Institute for Biomedical Science, will lead the research group.

Tobacco Product Regulatory Science:

Building on Georgia State's long-standing expertise in research on tobacco use and interventions, this new group includes three new faculty members in the School of Public Health, College of Law and the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies.

The group will perform research that will advance the scientific regulation of tobacco, helping to affect health policy surrounding the leading preventable cause of death in the United States and around the world. Such research will help governments develop policies that effectively address tobacco use, such as regulations aimed at the relatively new problem of e-cigarettes. Michael Eriksen, dean of the School of Public Health, heads the cluster.

From http://newsarchive.gsu.edu/2014/07/14/georgia-state-starts-four-innovative-research-groups-fifth-round-second-century-initiative/.