



2025

GEORGIA LIFE SCIENCES

YEAR IN REVIEW

*Impact You Can See.
Momentum You Can Feel.*

2025 marked a year of momentum—one defined by strategic collaboration, increased visibility, and new initiatives that moved the sector forward. The accomplishments highlighted below showcase how Georgia Life Sciences is laying the foundation for a stronger, more connected, and more competitive future.

Join Us.



Growing Our Identity & Influence

Georgia Bio Officially Rebrands as Georgia Life Sciences (GLS)

A major rebranding signifying that the organization's scope has broadened—reflecting its mission to support not only biotech but the full life-sciences ecosystem (biopharma, medtech, diagnostics, policy, workforce, etc.).

The new name aligns with expanded ambitions and consolidates identity for statewide growth.



BioReady designation, Augusta, GA

GLS Designates the City of Atlanta and Augusta-Richmond County as BioReady® Communities

The BioReady designation identifies municipalities as biotech-friendly: zoning, infrastructure, and readiness to host biotech/life-science facilities. This helps attract companies, startups, and investment—boosting Georgia's competitiveness as a bioscience hub.



Maria Thacker Goethe, and Other GLS Member Executives, Named to the 2025 Georgia 500

The Georgia Trend special issue recognizes the state's most influential leaders shaping Georgia's economy and communities. This recognition isn't about one person's success—it's about the collective strength of Georgia's life sciences community. We would also like to congratulate other community leaders including, Tim Denning, GRA, Lynn Durham, Georgia CORE, and Mason Ailstock, Rowen.

Georgia Life Sciences is rapidly shaping its identity by forging a collaborative ecosystem that amplifies its influence locally and globally—proving that innovation is strongest when community and purpose grow together.

—Steven Damon, CEO,
Micron Biomedical and GLS Board Chair

Growing Our Identity & Influence continued

A Voice for the Industry

In the August 2025 issue of *Georgia Trend*, Maria had the privilege of discussing Georgia's growing life sciences ecosystem, the critical role of federal research funding, and Georgia's economic leadership in biotech innovation.

And in the December issue, Maria shared her perspective on the value of Georgia's research universities in this month's issue of *Georgia Trend*.



Georgia research institutions have felt a significant impact from the federal rollbacks, specifically in NIH and NSF funding. Thacker Goethe's message about the impact of research cuts is simple: Disruption shatters the foundational trust researchers have in grant continuity....



GLS Launches Podcast Series, **Vitals**

This podcast series, developed in partnership with Cloudcast, features in-depth conversations with scientists, entrepreneurs, investors, educators, policymakers, and patient advocates. Each episode explores the challenges and opportunities facing Georgia's life sciences ecosystem—spanning biopharma, medical technology, digital health, and advanced manufacturing.

Inspiring & Developing Tomorrow's Workforce



The Formation of the Georgia Life Sciences Institute to Advance Workforce and Education Initiatives

GLS officially relaunched its charitable nonprofit arm, the Georgia Life Sciences Institute, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to strengthening Georgia's life sciences talent pipeline and expanding access to workforce training and learning resources across the state.



Continuing Our Partnership with the Department of Education

Now in its seventh year of Biotech Teacher Training Initiative (BTTI), we are equipping educators to inspire the next generation of scientists, strengthening the talent pipeline that fuels Georgia's growing life sciences industry.



Equipment Depot—2025 Impact

- **320 teachers served** through on-site visits or coordinated pickups
- **79,843+ students reached** with donated lab materials
- **11,624 lbs** of usable materials diverted from landfills
- **\$295,000+ in value** redistributed to Georgia classrooms
- Advancing **Georgia's circular economy** by repurposing high-value lab supplies for STEM education

Teacher Training—2025 Impact

- **107 teachers** trained across 7 workshops this year
- Participants gain access to the GLS Loaning "Library", enabling deeper classroom engagement
- **\$37,797 worth of equipment** loaned to schools for hands-on science labs
- Training + equipment access supports student readiness for **postsecondary STEM pathways**

Inspiring & Developing Tomorrow's Workforce continued

Georgia Life Sciences Career Network on LinkedIn

GLS formed an online community to connect talent, employers, and professionals across our state's rapidly growing life sciences ecosystem. With more than 700 members, we aim to create a go-to hub for Georgia's life sciences workforce.



GLS Partners with U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's EPIC (Employer Provided Innovation Challenges) Program to Bring "Real-World Innovation Challenges" into Georgia High Schools.

Over 60 students in 12 teams participated in this workforce- and education-oriented effort which aims to develop future biotech talent—exposing students early to regulatory, biomanufacturing, and ag-tech problems, helping build a sustainable pipeline of future scientists, engineers, and innovators.

Georgia Life Sciences Named Bhavya Alapati, a Junior at Fulton County Schools Innovation Academy, as the Winner of the 2025 Georgia BioGENEius Challenge

This year's challenge took place during the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair in April in Athens. This state-wide program, which GLS has led since its inception in 2012, provides high school age students with expanded opportunity to compete and be recognized for outstanding research in biotechnology.

Georgia Life Sciences Served as a Founding Member of the Life Sciences Workforce Collaborative (LSWC)

The LSWC is a national initiative uniting state bioscience associations, industry, academic institutions, workforce partners, and community organizations to strengthen our nation's talent pipeline. Maria serves on the board and frequently speaks at industry events, including the BIO International Convention and Council of State Bioscience Associations (CSBA) about the importance of their work.

“GLS announces a new partnership with Apprenti—a key step toward expanding Registered Apprenticeship programs across Georgia's thriving life sciences sector.”

Advancing Innovation & Industry Growth



The 2025 Georgia Life Sciences Summit Took Place in Atlanta—GLS's major Annual Industry Event

The Georgia Life Sciences Summit brought together more than 300 leaders, innovators, researchers, and investors for two-days of connection and discovery. This year's Summit proved that Georgia is one of the fastest-growing life sciences hubs in the nation.



Highlights from the Summit

- Packed sessions featuring top executives, policymakers, and researchers
- Keynote and Fireside Chats that inspired action and set the tone for the future of life sciences in Georgia
- Startup Showcase spotlighting the next generation of Georgia-grown innovations
- Networking at scale—countless new partnerships and collaborations formed
- Solutions Corridor where attendees connected directly with leading service providers and Universities
- Golden Helix Awards honoring the incredible leaders and companies for their contributions in Georgia



GLS hosts Discoveries in Focus: A Showcase for Academic Research Showcase

Held at Portal Innovations, a dozen emerging companies focused on commercializing technologies and discoveries from Georgia's research universities presented to a panel of advisors to receive real time pitch feedback on their concept, team, market, path to market, and valuation.

Advancing Innovation & Industry Growth continued

Manufacturing Working Group Prioritizes Talent Retention

GLS convened its manufacturing working group at the UGA Delta Innovation Hub, where key takeaways included workforce recruitment and retention as the most pressing challenges across the sector.



First Manufacturing Council meeting

More Savings. More Research

GLS announced a five-year extension of the long-standing partnership with Avantor, through the BIO Business Solutions Program. Collaborations such as this continue to provide significant cost savings and access to critical business products and services for our members.

GLS's cost savings program offers members exclusive pricing and favorable terms on a variety of general business solutions, such as insurance, finance and PEO, as well as access to lab products, waste management services and more—all in one place and tailored to save your company time and money.

Championing Pro-Innovation Policy



Congressional meetings with Sen. Ossoff and Rep. Buddy Carter



GLS Lobbies Congress about Policies that Support Medical Advancements

Maria joined the Council for State Bioscience Associations' 2025 Washington DC Fly-in where she met with Senators Ossoff and Warnock, Reps. Rich McCormick, Rick Allen, Buddy Carter, and Lucy McBath, where she discussed Georgia's bioscience footprint and the value of innovation, R&D amortization legislation and SBIR program reauthorization.

In September, Maria was in Washington DC to moderate a congressional briefing on the critical role that NIH and the SBIR/STTR programs play in advancing American innovation. Maria was joined by member companies, including Moonlight Therapeutics and Emory University.

GLS frequently issues statements and sign-on letters spotlighting key policy issues facing our industry including tariffs, SBIR/STTR funding, National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB) action

plan to Congress, correcting the "pill penalty", opposition to the Most Favored Nation" (MFN) pricing model, medicare coverage of breakthrough medical technology, Health Tech Investment Act, to name a few.

GLS Hosts Day at the Capitol

A dozen executives engaged with state legislators, participate in meaningful discussions on key policy issues, and foster collaboration across industries. It was an exceptional occasion to learn more about the legislative process while sharing insights that influence business and economic development in our state.



GLS Day at the Capitol

Championing Pro-Innovation Policy

continued

Congressional Visits Emphasize the Importance of Pro-Innovation Policies in Georgia

Georgia Life Sciences welcomed U.S. Representative Buddy Carter (GA-01) for a tour of Saol Therapeutics, following his letter to the FDA urging regulatory flexibility in reviewing therapies for Pyruvate Dehydrogenase Complex Deficiency (PDCD).

We were also proud to host Congressman Rich McCormick (GA-06) for a tour of Boston Scientific's new Johns Creek facility, a major

anchor of Georgia's expanding life sciences manufacturing ecosystem.

Together, these visits highlighted how strong federal engagement, policy leadership, and continued investment can accelerate Georgia's position as a national leader in life sciences.

Events like these exemplify our mission to build Georgia's life sciences workforce pipeline, bridging education and industry to prepare the next generation of scientific and technical talent.



State leaders celebrate the opening of Boston Scientific's new state-of-the-art facility in Johns Creek

This year has brought remarkable progress for our ecosystem—Shriners Children's new pediatric medical research facility, Zoetis' \$100M manufacturing plant in Douglasville, Boehringer Ingelheim's Athens R&D growth, BioTouch's logistics expansion in Columbus, and Georgia Tech and Emory's research growth at Science Square—driving increased national visibility for the innovation happening here in Georgia.

Convening Georgia's Life Sciences Community



Elevating the Patient Voice: 2025 Patient Advocacy Forum

The sold-out Forum brought together patients, nonprofits, policymakers, and industry leaders to explore access, transparency, and the power of partnership. An inspiring keynote from Marc Lalande, VP of Research at Shriners Children's, reminded us that innovation is not just about discovery—it's a shared responsibility to deliver meaningful impact for every patient.



Uniting Georgia's Innovators and Industry Leaders Through State-Wide Events

GLS partnered with We Work for Health to host a webinar on the future of biopharmaceutical innovation in Georgia and how forward-thinking policy can reinforce this momentum, or risk undermining it through shortsighted pricing reforms.

GLS and TReNDS Center hosted an industry career day for Georgia State University students to guide them industry career planning and networking.

Convening Georgia's Life Sciences Community continued



GLS visited Johns Creek during Atlanta Innovation Week as a sponsor of *Vitals & Ventures*, a premier gathering celebrating the future of life sciences in Georgia.

#BioBash Roadshow rolled through Augusta and Athens—bringing together large crowds to network and connect.



Georgia Life Sciences was on the ground with our members, gaining firsthand insight into the discoveries, talent, and partnerships driving Georgia's innovation pipeline. These visits strengthened our community ties and informed how GLS advances and advocates for the state's life sciences ecosystem.



Georgia Life Sciences, founded in 1989, is a non-profit, membership-based organization that promotes the interests and growth of the life sciences industry. It is the state's largest and most influential life sciences advocacy and business leadership organization working to improve access to innovative discoveries that have lifesaving impact. The association connects business, academia, government, and other allied entities involved in the application of life sciences products to fuel growth and collaboration through policy development, community programs, national industry initiatives, and a portfolio of educational and networking events.

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