

PROJECT FOCUS Real-Time Medical Testing

Georgia Tech researchers have helped an Atlanta medical technology company to develop a prototype home-testing device for a rare metabolic disorder that can have serious effects on children.

PKU is a genetic disorder in which the body lacks a liver enzyme needed to process the essential amino acid phenylalanine into another amino acid used by the body. Left unconverted, excessive amounts of phenylalanine in the bloodstream are toxic to brain tissue. There is no cure for PKU, but it can be controlled through a strict low-protein diet that requires monitoring of blood levels.



Tim Strike (left), of GTRI's Technology Applications branch and Ron Bohlander, director of GTRI's Commercial Product Realization Office, hold a prototype PKU monitoring device.

Georgia Tech Photo: Nicole Cappello

Because the disease is rare, large medical technology companies haven't pursued home-testing solutions, meaning many people with PKU face frequent trips to medical facilities able to do the testing.

The new device, developed by MetGen Inc., with help from researchers in the Georgia Tech Research Institute and the Georgia Tech School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, could therefore make managing the disease easier.

Developed in part with funding from the Georgia Research Alliance (GRA), the device is awaiting FDA approval.

gtresearchnews.gatech.edu/newsrelease/pku.htm

NAME THE PICTURE

Help us to identify the many pictures from our archives. If you know the name(s) of persons or projects that are depicted, send an email to CommInfo@gtri.gatech.edu



TECHNICAL PREEMINENCE

Consistent with GTRI's goal to continue to be known for our technical preeminence, several staff members received recognition during the past month. **Mike Harris** and **Gary Gimmestad** were notified of their selection as Fellows of the IEEE (International Electrical and Electronic Engineers). **Kevin Massey**, **Rick Gaeta**, **Rob Michelson**, and **David Parekh** were notified of their selection as Associate Fellows of American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). **Ann Carpenter** is now accredited as a certified planner by the American Institute of Certified Planners.

INDUSTRY OUTREACH

Watch real-time construction of the Food Processing Technology Research Facility from the webcam perched above the site.

<http://foodtech.gatech.edu/>

Food Processing Technology Research Division Chief Craig Wyvill stands in the recently completed Food Processing Technology Research Building, giving Georgia Tech an additional 36,000 feet of space for academic, research and economic development.

The building is located to the west of the main campus in the North Avenue Research Area and is the Georgia Tech Research Institute's first new research building in almost 20 years. The facility will bring together food processors, equipment manufacturers and software developers in collaboration with Georgia Tech on automation, information technology and environmental systems in the poultry and food processing industries.

Funding for the first phase of \$7.3 million project was raised through a combination of state, industry and private gifts. A second phase, to house additional laboratory and office space, is part of the division's future plans.



Article and photo courtesy of The WHISTLE

Giving Back to GTRI

GTRI General Fund 351172 – managed by GTRI Director Steve Cross

Research Leader Program 352993 – helps support researchers

Shackelford Fellows Program 352994 – helps support graduate student employees

Research Equipment Facilities 352995 – helps fund research equipment purchases.

DenTeC Research Center 357569 for employees, **557569** for non-emp — applies technology to challenges to dentists, their staffs, oral surgeons and others.

<http://gtalumni.org/site/Page/FacultyCodes>.

The general Roll Call mailing does not include these codes; they must be written in by hand.

Gifts may be made electronically at

<http://gtalumni.org/site/Page/GiveBack>

(www.alumni.gatech.edu>give back>roll call>faculty> designation codes).

Gifts may be sent via postal mail to
Georgia Tech Foundation, Inc.
760 Spring Street, N.W. 4th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30308.

Remember to include the name and number of the fund you want your contribution to benefit.

Questions? Tom Horton, 404 894-0239,
tom.horton@gtri.gatech.edu.

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