

# Sponsor A Scientist

Salaries range from \$25,000 to \$65,000 per year



**Yuehua Wang**

MD from China, Research Scholar

I worked in the Department of Pathology, Shanxi Tumor Hospital in China before I came to the United States in 2013. My major is biochemistry and molecular biology. I have been engaged in the study and the clinical testing for individual therapy of lung and colorectal cancer patients. It was very lucky for me to do cancer related work, because I wanted to help people around me who suffered from different kinds of cancers. When I first came to the United States in 2013, I just wanted to take care of my daughter, my only child, who received her Masters Degree at GT. But later after I came to the McDonald lab at Georgia Tech, I found that I love staying here because the work here is very close to what I did in China. I am very curious about the United States and want to know why everything around me in the US is in such good order, and what are the values and outlooks of the American people.



**Evan Clayton**

Bioinformatics PhD Student

I started my education at Ramapo College of New Jersey where I earned my B.S. in Bioinformatics. During that time I began working at Pfizer in the Oncology Research Unit and became passionate about applications of bioinformatics to cancer. I am particularly interested in cancer genomics and personalized medicine, and joined Dr. John McDonald's lab at Georgia Tech this year. Currently my research entails comparing gene expression patterns between healthy individuals and those diagnosed with cancer. In my spare time I enjoy traveling, eating good food and playing/watching sports.



**Mengnan Zhang**

Ph.D. graduate student

My research is mostly about exploring the role of miRNAs on mRNA and the resulting protein expression during ovarian cancer metastasis. By integrating data, we found protein expression is not always correlated with mRNA expression. We use different computer prediction algorithms to help with this research. Outside of research, I am a big fan of outdoor activities, such as hiking and camping. Getting away from the city and enjoying nature is best way to relax for me.

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**Harshmi Shah**

Bioinformatics Masters Student

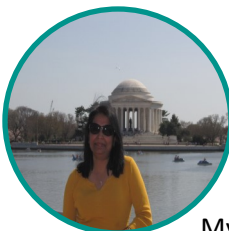
I was born & brought up in Mumbai (India). I loved watching wildlife and science shows on National Geographic and the Discovery Channel since I was a child. This led me to pursue a career in the sciences. I did my bachelors in Bioinformatics and came to Georgia Tech for a Masters. I'm an avid reader and



**L. DeEtte Walker, Ph.D.**

Research Scientist

I started my career studying the genetics of fishes, turtles, birds, crayfish, whelks, and horseshoe crabs in order to better understand the mating strategies and therefore aid in the conservation of these different animals. As the genetic material of all organisms is the same, when I moved to Georgia Tech I switched to human genetics, in particular the genetics of cancer. My main interest is in the early diagnosis of ovarian cancer. I am married to Dr. John McDonald and we are discussing science almost 24/7! However, we take some time off to travel different regions of the world via a motor-



**Minati Satpathy, Ph.D.**

Research Scientist

My research is mainly focused on early diagnosis, metastasis and development of new therapies against drug resistance in late-stage ovarian cancer patients. In the beginning, I was working on characterizing proteins that are involved in ovarian cancer metastasis. I was also involved in a project to identify whether these proteins could be used as new diagnostic and prognostic markers for ovarian cancer. Later at Emory University, I started working on the development of nanoparticles for the targeted delivery of therapies. Currently at Georgia Tech, the overall goal of my project is to develop new nanoparticle platforms for the targeted delivery of RNAi therapies to achieve maximum effectiveness against metastatic chemotherapy-resistant ovarian cancer, as well as to monitor the therapeutic outcomes by optical imaging. My other interest includes Indian classical dance (Odissi). I have several years of formal training and performed on stage as a solo dancer or in a group in the past.

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**Roman Mezencev, Ph.D.**

Research Scientist

I wanted to be a scientist since I was 10 years old. A few years later I built a lab in my parents' cellar in the Slovak Republic and stocked it with chemicals that I got for free as surplus from various universities and research laboratories. Thereafter, I spent most of my weekends in this cellar lab and learned chemistry and biology by actually doing it. At the age of 17, I was granted regular access to physical chemistry and medical microbiology labs in my hometown university.

After graduation in the mid 1990s, I found myself in a society that put low priorities on science and engineering, and high priorities on law and trade. Having to feed my family of 4, I abandoned my dreams of doing science and took non-research jobs that included at least some minimum of science, such as work as a United Nations weapons detective. However, I could not resist temptations to do science again and to search for a cure for cancer, so I resigned from my international civil servant position and began my research efforts to uncover the secrets of cancer. In rare moments when I am not doing or thinking about research, I read about history (...of cancer research), classical novels and poetry. I also like hiking around Atlanta, canoeing in the Georgia swamps, caring about my garden, my pets, and watching wildlife in the backyard.



**Lilya Matyunina, Ph.D.**

Research Scientist

I am originally from Siberia in Russia. I don't miss the snow and I never complain when it's hot. My "road" to cancer research began with the biochemistry of active ingredients in deer antlers, then the study of fruit fly genetics, then plant genetics, then back to fruit flies when I joined Dr. John McDonald's lab at the University of Georgia. I strongly believe that "one size doesn't fit all" and our future lies in personalized medicine. I like to travel and my folding bike travels with me.