

**Subject:** [Test]: 🐾 FITD: Cancer Breakthrough, Capitol Ideas, Event Photos, and more! 🎉

**Date:** Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 9:30:45 AM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** General Communications

**To:** Hudson, Stacey

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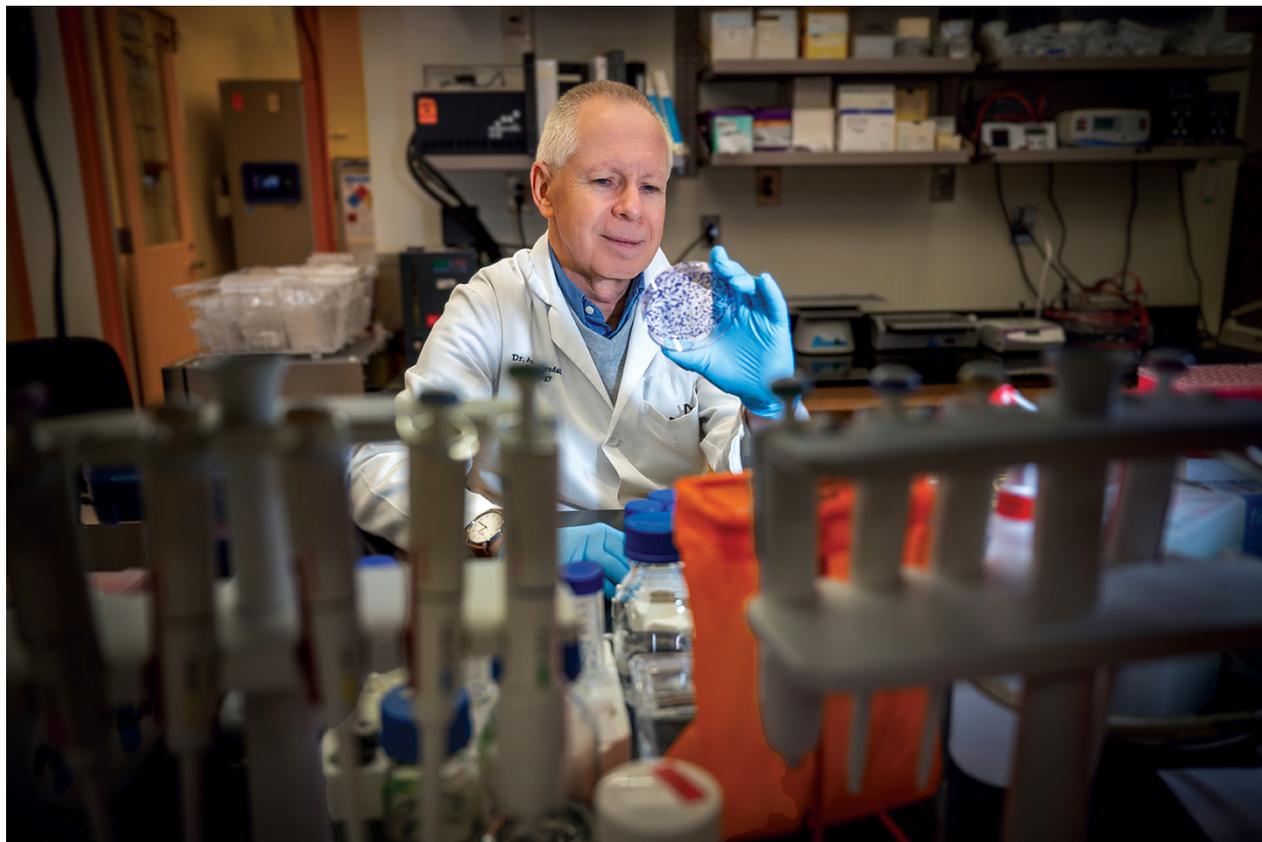
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## Breakthrough Discovery: Single Protein Change Drives Breast Cancer Stem Cell Behavior

Researchers from a team that includes [Dr. Andrew Yeudall](#), Professor and Chair of the Department of Oral Biology at the Dental College of Georgia, have discovered a critical change in a protein that can turn ordinary breast cancer cells into highly aggressive, stem-cell-like threats. This finding could lead to new, more effective treatments for stubborn forms of the disease.

[The research, published in the journal eLife](#), reveals that a single alteration in the vimentin protein can trigger significant changes in breast cancer cells, making them behave like stem cells. Normally, vimentin isn't found in healthy breast epithelium, but it appears when cells become cancerous. It can help cancer cells change shape and spread throughout the body.

[Click here to read more](#)

**DCG Students Rep Augusta**

**University on Capital Day**



## University on Capitol Day

Excitement was in the air in the early morning hours of Feb. 26, as faculty, staff and students traveled to the Georgia State Capitol (*see header photo*).

Abi Chatham, a first-year dental student at DCG, served as an intern at the capitol before beginning dental school.

“It means so much to be a part of this Capitol Day with Augusta University,” said Chatham.

[Click here to read more](#)

## Haywood Appears on Respected Dental Podcast

[Dr. Van Haywood](#), Professor Emeritus in the Department of Restorative Sciences, recently appeared on the [Dental Digest](#) podcast to talk about leveraging bleaching for minimally invasive dentistry.

The Dental Digest Podcast ranks among the top 1 percent of all dental podcasts globally. Episode 258 of the podcast is available now.

[Click to listen to the episode](#)



## Elashiry Joins Journal Editorial Board

[Dr. Mohamed Elashiry](#), Assistant Professor in the Department of Endodontics, has been invited to join the editorial board of

[BMC Oral Health](#), published by Springer





Nature.

BMC Oral Health is an open access, peer-reviewed journal that considers articles on all aspects of the prevention, diagnosis and management of disorders of the mouth, teeth and gums, as well as related molecular genetics, pathophysiology and epidemiology.

Congratulations to Dr. Elashiry!



## Homecoming 2025: Just Stranger Jaguar Things

[Homecoming](#) is a time for alumni to return to what could be considered their home-away-from-home. It's a time of celebration and remembering the past. It's also a time for current students to take pride in their university and for the community around Augusta University to come out and support both groups

community outreach programs emergency response and support groups.

The week leading up to Homecoming weekend at AU, which featured the theme “Forever Blue: No Stranger to Homecoming,” was packed full of events for alumni, community members, students, faculty and staff to enjoy together.

[Click here to read more and enjoy photos](#)



## Community Outreach Programs Joins Project Refresh

On Feb. 28, DCG Community Programs (COP) participated in the monthly community health fair hosted by Project Refresh and the Department of Public Health (DPH). This event provides free mobile showers to those in need, a hot meal and connects individuals with community resources.

Thanks to our dental student volunteers, COP educated hundreds of individuals about oral health, gave over 300 dental hygiene essentials and provided free dental health screenings with the gracious support of Dr. Gregory Griffin, Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

Many patients were screened, learning about their oral health status and possible treatment options available. We are excited to have nearly 40 prospective patients for our school.

A special thanks to the COP team - Director Ketarya Hunt Bass and Oral Health Outreach Coordinator Steve Huston - for their leadership.

For more information about the DCG's upcoming outreach events, please visit [JagPulse](#).



## AAWD Hosts Women in Dentistry Conference

The AU chapter of the [American Association of Women Dentists](#) held its annual Women's Conference on Feb. 28. This year's theme, Women in Dentistry, highlighted the unique experiences and challenges women face in the field.

Three local women dentists shared their insights:

- [Dr. Marisa Elliot](#), a second-year periodontics resident at the DCG, spoke about the challenges and rewards of being a woman in residency. She shared her personal experiences and provided valuable advice on how to stand out when applying for residency programs.
- [Dr. Brooke Ursy](#), DCG Clinical Instructor and owner of [North Augusta Dental Care](#), discussed the balancing act of running a business, raising children, and thriving as a woman in dentistry. She also shared insights on incorporating Botox and fillers as adjunct services in dental practice.
- [Dr. Chandra Williams](#), owner of [Dr. Chandra Williams Family Dentistry](#) in Martinez, closed the event with an inspiring discussion on her journey as a private practice owner. As one of the first Black women to own a private practice in Augusta, she shared her experiences breaking barriers and building a successful career.

The event celebrated the strength, resilience and success of women in dentistry.





## Annual Vendor Day Creates Contacts for Future Grads

The DCG chapter of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) recently hosted their annual Vendor Fair.

Students, faculty and staff enjoyed an opportunity to meet dozens of dental industry vendors and learn about the products and services they provide.

Attendees were able to review and try products, as well as discuss their needs with industry professionals who might be able to offer solutions.

The fair allows DCG employees to connect with vendors on a personal level; and it allows students to network with multiple organizations and future colleagues.

## DCG Hiring and Promotions

The DCG congratulates the following employees. Some may be new hires, others may be transfers or promotions. But all deserve a warm Jaguar welcome!

- **Barbara Cromartie** joined the DCG as a Clinics Support Specialist on March 3.
- **Harry McCool** joined the DCG as an Assistant Professor Part-Time in the Department of General Dentistry on March 1.
- **Kerry Murray** will join the DCG as a Financial Coordinator on March 10.
- **Palak Patel** will join the DCG as a Senior Dental Assistant on April 18.
- **Ashton Scoggins** has been promoted from Office Manager in the Department of General Dentistry to Residency Program Coordinator on March 1.





## Goss Lane Closed; Shuttle Routes Altered

For the next six weeks, [Facilities Operations](#) will be working on the underground chilled water line project that will service the Interdisciplinary Research Center (CA) building. As a result:

- Goss Lane is closed to through traffic in front of the College of Science and Mathematics Building (GE).
- The adjacent sidewalks are also closed to allow for construction activities.

The Goss Lane Parking Deck (CP) and the Carl T. Sanders Research and Education Building (CB) loading dock will remain open, but no through traffic will be allowed on Goss Lane. Drivers will be able to access the deck and loading dock from R.A. Dent Boulevard, but not from Spellman Street. [Click here to view a map of the area.](#)

[JagExpress Shuttle Service](#) stops have been altered to accommodate the closure:

- The Gold Route shuttle stops at Goss Lane and at the DCG have been moved to the J. Harold Harrison, MD Education Commons entrance on R.A. Dent Boulevard.
- The Green Route stops at Goss Lane will be moved to Student Center Eastbound stop on Laney-Walker Boulevard at the crosswalk.

If you have questions or concerns, reach out to Facilities at 706-721-2434.

## Libraries Celebrate Excellence and Culture

[AU Libraries](#) will host upcoming events:

- March 19 - Holocaust Lecture
- March TBD - Spring Book Swap



The library is running a food drive between Greenblatt and Reese. The first library to fill their donation box will get to pie [Dean Bradley Warren](#) in the face. Information at [aulibraries.com](http://aulibraries.com) and events at [calendar.augusta.edu](http://calendar.augusta.edu).



## Recent Media Coverage

**WJBF:** [Dental Screenings Added to Monthly Shower Day Event](#)

**WJBF:** [AU's Capitol Day Takes Students to State Legislature](#)

**WJBF:** Dental Screenings Added to Monthly Shower Day Event



## From the Dean's Office

We were thrilled in the last issue of Filling in the Details to announce that [Dr. Ranya El Sayed](#) has been awarded a substantial \$2.7 million grant from the [National Institutes of Health](#). This significant achievement will support groundbreaking research into Alzheimer's disease.

This news underscores the critical role of funding for the DCG. Support for initiatives like research, student scholarships, community outreach and enhanced clinical services is essential.

We invite you to participate in [Augusta Gives](#) on March 19, an annual day of giving to support specific DCG initiatives.





This year, we are focusing on two key areas:

1. **DCG Student Scholarships:** Your contribution can alleviate the financial burden of education, enabling talented future dentists to concentrate on their studies and training, ultimately becoming leading oral health professionals for Georgia.
2. **DCG Digital Dentistry Initiative:** This initiative will provide our students with access to the latest technology and training, ensuring they graduate with the skills necessary to excel in their careers.

On Augusta Gives, we encourage you to make three brief calls to friends and family, inviting them to support one or both initiatives. Consider it 3 calls, 2 initiatives, for 1 impactful DCG. Further details will be shared shortly.

#### **Additional Achievements to Celebrate:**

We are pleased to recognize the success of the 26th Annual Impressions Day, featuring mock interviews, tours and hands-on simulations for prospective dental students. We commend the Student National Dental Association (SNDA) for their dedication to shaping the future of dentistry. Local media coverage highlighted their commendable efforts.

Furthermore, the ASDA Vendor Day provided our students and faculty with the opportunity to engage with leading dental vendors, explore new products and receive expert consultation. This event offers invaluable exposure to the latest industry equipment for future practice owners.

We are proud of the DCG community and its accomplishments. We encourage your participation in Augusta Gives to collectively demonstrate the power of philanthropy.

This email was sent to the Dental College of Georgia faculty, staff and students.  
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