Pleased to welcome John McDonald as chair of the School of Biology and to welcome the Ovarian Cancer Institute to our campus.

Convinced that Georgia Tech needs a strong sciences program if we are to achieve the level of excellence to which we aspire.

- Have been working deliberately to strengthen the sciences and to create opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration that enable the sciences to leverage the excellence of our engineering program.
- That effort is clearly visible in the growing excellence of the School of Biology and its collaboration in the School of Biomedical Engineering.

Georgia as a state has not been a cancer center. Do not have a single one of the 37 U.S. comprehensive cancer centers as designated by the National Cancer Institute.

Nor has anyone associated Georgia Tech with curing cancer in the past.

- No medical school.
- Not too long ago that we considered renovation of part of Coon Bldg as sufficient to hold our biotechnology endeavors.

Biologist Professor Al Merrill pioneered cancer research at Georgia Tech. Others began to get interested and involved, especially as Emory-Georgia Tech biotech partnership grew and strengthened.

Al Merrill now chairs new Georgia Tech Cancer Research Council to promote and facilitate interdisciplinary research and education at Georgia Tech and coordinate collaboration with other initiatives like:

- Georgia Cancer Initiative, which provides a statewide focus and funding for cancer research, treatment, and education.
- Emory University Winshape Cancer Center

Today, celebrate the addition of another piece of the picture at Tech – the Ovarian Cancer Institute.

- Ovarian cancer a “stealth” disease
  - If diagnosed early (Stage I), 85% cure rate.
  - But is virtually symptom-free and very difficult to detect until it has spread, at which point treatment is harsh and cures infrequent.

- Institute dedicated to development of early and widely available diagnostic test and more effective, less invasive treatments.

- Represents broad spectrum of collaboration:
  - Researchers from all 6 universities in GRA
  - Represent disciplines from biology and chemistry to medicine, genetics, nutrition, bioinformatics, and statistics.
  - Partners with Southeastern Gynecologic Oncology Group, which provides continual stream of high-quality, documented tissue samples complete with medical histories.

Proud to welcome Ovarian Cancer Institute to GT:
- Good fit with our biomedical engineering program, ranked 2\textsuperscript{nd} in nation by \textit{US News} and our growing volume of NIH research, which has more than doubled in just past two years.
- Good fit with our culture of interdisciplinary collaboration and partnerships.
- Good fit with our goals of creating opportunity for the state of Georgia and enhancing the quality of life for people everywhere.