



Gregory D. Ford, Ph.D.

January 12, 2024

Presidential Search Committee
Grambling State University
Grambling, Louisiana, 71245

Dear Search Committee,

I am writing to express my sincere interest in the President position at Grambling State University (GSU). With a deep commitment to student success, my vision as an academic leader centers on cultivating an inclusive environment that actively engages students, driving higher retention, graduation rates, and post-graduate placements. My overarching aim across the campus is to fortify fundraising efforts, enhance alumni involvement, facilitate faculty growth and research, and elevate academic programs while responsibly managing the institution's resources. I firmly believe that an institution should continue to provide a holistic educational experience and immersive service-learning opportunities to equip students with the necessary skills for success in today's global market.

I am a product of the Grambling community and grew up on the GSU campus. My educational journey began with GSU, spanning from kindergarten at the GSU Early Childcare Center to the university. Growing up in Grambling, I was there when the town of Grambling became the city of Grambling, which was a combined effort between the city and the university. Not only do I know and appreciate the history of GSU, but I was also part of that history. I was there during the filming of Grambling's White Tiger and when the GSU band became "World Famed," playing in Osaka, Japan. I also attended summer activities on campus, including the National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) and High Ability. Interacting with GSU student-athletes GSU faculty provided the foundation for my becoming an academician, competitor, and leader. I was a member of the New Rocky Valley Baptist Church and worshipped with many of the GSU students, faculty, staff, leaders, and legends as well. These are the types of relationships I will foster with our students.

During my tenancy as a student at Grambling State University, I was actively involved in campus life, serving as the Freshman Class Vice President, a member of the Student Union Board, and part of the Gamma Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. Pursuing a major in Biology and a minor in Chemistry, my initial exposure to research alongside Dr. Frank Ohene ignited my passion for earning a Ph.D. This academic journey is deeply rooted in my family's longstanding connection to GSU, spanning multiple generations. Not only am I an alum, but my mother, several aunts and uncles, three brothers, numerous cousins, and a niece have all proudly graduated from GSU. Furthermore, both of my parents worked at GSU, and my early work experiences began on the campus.

I earned my Bachelor of Science in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Grambling State University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Biomedical Science, focusing on Anatomy

and Neurobiology, from Meharry Medical College. I completed my post-doctoral fellowship at Morehouse School of Medicine. My research focuses on therapeutic mechanisms for acute brain injury and other inflammatory conditions, including stroke. The study has resulted in publications in numerous peer-reviewed journals and more than ten United States and International patents. Brain-Gen, LLC currently holds the patent portfolio, a Biotechnology Startup Company I co-founded with Dr. Byron Ford (my brother and a Grambling Alum), Professor and Chair of Howard University Department of Anatomy.

I began my career in academic as an Assistant Professor of Biology at Morehouse College. My previous administrative positions included Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Biology at Southern University at New Orleans, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Fort Valley State University, and Dean of the Division of Natural Science and Physical Education at Georgia Highlands College.

In my capacity as a senior leader, I bring forth a wealth of experience and a robust skill set that positions me as an influential figure both on campus and within the community of my upbringing. This substantial background holds the potential to make a substantial contribution to the progress and enhancement of Grambling State University. In my previous leadership position at SUNO, I have accomplished the following:

- **Increase in Retention/Persistence.** Retention grew by 20% in the first year under my leadership. Fall-to-spring persistence has increased from 50% to 85% in the first two years, and we are on target to reach the University goal of 70% retention of the current first-year class.
- **New Academic Programs.** Under my leadership, SUNO has doubled the number of fully online programs and implemented the first fully online accelerated programs. We received approval for and launched a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program and are launching a Cybersecurity program in Fall 2023. The Board of Regents recently approved my three-year plan to increase the number of program offerings depleted following the traumatic effects of Hurricane Katrina. The plan is focused on developing new and innovative programs based on comprehensive market analyses, faculty input, and community needs assessments.
- **Accreditation.** During my tenure at SUNO, we have completed reaffirmation with no recommendations or warnings from The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACBS), Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), and Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).
- **Community Outreach.** In 2021, I led the mission to partner SUNO with The Rooted Charter School, and we now have a 9-12 high school on our campus that serves as a recruiting mechanism. Housed in our College of Education building, The Rooted School also serves as a laboratory for future K-12 teachers. Next month, with funding from the Kellogg Foundation, we will open our Early Learning Center, which will serve as a resource for our students, faculty, and staff and provide a learning laboratory for the SUNO Early Childhood Development majors. We launched a Forensic Science laboratory at the Martin Luther King High School with funding from the State of Louisiana and a Criminal Justice pathway program with St. Augustine High School. We have established new relationships with local

organizations to provide space for summer enrichment programs. We partnered with Dr. Calvin Mackie to host the STEM NOLA summer camps for elementary-aged kids on the SUNO campus. I recently worked with Demario Davis, team captain and All-Pro linebacker for the New Orleans Saints. We now host his Devoted Dreamers Academy on the SUNO campus for their after-school activities. The Academy allows 8th-12th grade students to gain more significant insights and experience into sports on and off the field.

- Grant Funding/Fundraising. I am the Principal Investigator on a two-year, \$3M grant from the National Telecommunication and Information Administration- Connecting Minority Communities program. I am also the PI on a Board of Regents Open Education Resource (OER) grant for \$96,000 to assist in the elimination of textbook costs for students. Along with the funding from Kellogg (\$250,000) and the State of Louisiana (\$50,000), we launched a Grief and Trauma Center and received \$400,000 in private funding to support the effort. We opened the Southern University at New Orleans Museum of Art with over \$1M in federal grants and private funding. The College of Education received a \$183,000 grant to credential dual enrollment teachers, as 20% of our current enrollment is dual enrollment, and there is a need to grow the workforce to sustain the growth.

My work before SUNO most relevant to the referenced position is my six years of higher education leadership experience and accomplishments with the University System of Georgia at GHC and FVSU. During my tenure at GHC, I was an effective leader and member of the SACSCOC committee as we completed the reaffirmation process for the college. I worked closely with our Institutional Research Director to track student success measures by pathway. I saw significant increases in those measures, including decreases in DFW rates, increased enrollment in STEM pathways, and an increased number of students choosing STEM pathways. I serve on the president's cabinet, on the Academic Council, and as the lead for the New Academic Science Building Construction Team (which opened in Spring 2019). I graduated from Leadership Rome XXXIV, a member of the Rome-Floyd Chamber of Commerce Education Committee and the Paulding County School College and Career Academy Planning Committee. I served on the Bartow County School Strategic Planning Committee. Under my leadership, the division made service the cornerstone of our mission to improve engagement with the college community and the communities in the service areas.

At FVSU, I served as the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) committee chair and as a leader and member of the SACSCOC reaffirmation team. Both institutions completed the visits with no warnings or recommendations. I led the Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) initiatives for the institution, serving on the executive board for the LEAP State Georgia program, an affiliate of AAC&U. I was a member of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents Advisory Council (RAC) and the General Education Redesign Team. I also participated in the Regents Engineering Pathways, Arts and Sciences, and Health Science RACs. I was also the FVSU representative of the Bipartisan Congressional Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU) Caucus. I worked with legislators in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to highlight the unique challenges and needs of HBCUs. My primary duties as the Dean of the College of Arts and Science included budgeting management, the promotion and tenure process, new program development, grant writing, fundraising, program review, and curriculum

review. I led seven academic departments that offered Bachelor of Science and Art degrees, with seven fully online programs. Under my leadership, the Social Work program was accredited by the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE). I spear-headed the formulation of certificate programs in Financial Technology and Film Production (in cooperation with the Georgia Film Academy). My responsibilities also extended to leadership roles overseeing the Honors Program, the FVSU radio and television stations, and the FVSU “Blue Machine” Marching Band. I formed a partnership and MOU with the Warner Robins Air Force base, which awarded FVSU and the CAS a \$1.5M in-kind gift to enhance the cyber security program and offer students coursework and internship opportunities.

In summary, my extensive experience, boundless enthusiasm, and unwavering determination uniquely position me to serve my alma mater, GSU, with dedication. As a lifetime member of the GSU National Alumni Association, I wholeheartedly embrace GSU's mission, rooted in the fundamental principle of providing educational opportunities. My commitment to excellence extends to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment, particularly for minorities who aspire to contribute significantly to their academic disciplines. I pledge to instill in GSU students a deep commitment to service and the enhancement of overall quality of life. As a proud product of this esteemed institution, I draw upon my educational and professional journey to lead the university community, ensuring that GSU remains a place where everyone is valued – embodying the spirit of "where everybody is somebody." Grambling State University has poured into me, providing the foundation for my achievements. I believe it is now my time to reciprocate by pouring back into GSU the knowledge, experience, and understanding gained throughout my journey.

Thank you for considering my application for the President position at Grambling State University. I am excited to contribute my skills and experience to elevate the university's academic excellence and commitment to student success. I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to discuss in greater detail how my expertise aligns with our institution's vision during an interview.

Sincerely,

Gregory D. Ford, Ph.D. – ‘93



GREGORY D. FORD, Ph.D.

Education:

	Degree Conferred	Scientific Field
¹ 2008-2010: Morehouse School of Medicine Atlanta, Georgia	Post-doc	Neuroscience
² 2005-2008: Meharry Medical College 1993-1995: Nashville, Tennessee	Ph.D.	Biomedical Science
1989-1993: Grambling State University Grambling, Louisiana	B.S.	Biology

Employment History:

Southern University at New Orleans

2021-Present

Tenured Associate Professor of Biology (2021-present)

- Teach courses in biological science and mathematics as well as course materials such as syllabi, homework assignments, and handouts.
- Conduct research, write for grant support, and publish findings in professional journals, books, or electronic media.
- Evaluate and grade students' classwork, assignments, and papers.
- Initiate, facilitate, and moderate classroom discussions.
- Compile, administer, and grade examinations or delegate this work to others.
- Plan, evaluate, and revise curricula, course content, course materials, and methods of instruction.
- Maintain regularly scheduled office hours to advise and assist students.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (2021-23)

Oversaw the three Colleges and the School of Social Work, Office of Graduate Studies, the University College, Department of Online Learning, the Registrar's Office, the Leonard S. Washington Memorial Library, and the Southern University at New Orleans Museum of Art (SUNOMA).

Students Success:

- Implemented the University College model, increased fall-to-spring persistence from 50% to 85% in two years, and increased fall-to-fall retention by 20%.
- Implemented an honors college and summer bridge program.

¹ Post-Doctoral work under the tutelage of Dr. Joe Martinez and Dr. Byron Ford. Fellowship funded by the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.

² Major Advisors: Dr. Peter MacLeish and Dr. Darryl Hood

New Program Development:

- Developed a Bachelor of Nursing program to address the shortage of nurses and teachers of color. The program was approved and implemented in the fall of 2022.
- Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity program designed to use the taxonomy and lexicon of the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Cybersecurity Workforce Framework. This innovative approach to cybersecurity will meet the National Security Agency (NSA) Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (CAE-C) 's rigorous requirements for designation as a Center of Excellence.
- Expanded online degree offerings, including Health Information Management Systems (HIMS), Public Administration, and Psychology. We also added the first accelerated degree programs in Museum Studies, Criminal Justice, Interdisciplinary Studies, and HIMS. We received a \$2M allocation for the Louisiana State Legislation to expand online education.
- Submitted to the Louisiana Board of Regents a comprehensive three-year plan for new program development that was approved in the spring of 2022.

Community Engagement:

- Led the opening of the Southern University at New Orleans Museum of Arts (SUNOMA), which has three galleries, gallery one is the permanent African Diaspora collection, gallery two will house a rotating gallery for national and international artists around a central theme, and gallery three will include works from partnerships with local high schools, SUNO student and local artists. We have received grants for over \$500,000 to support the Museum Studies program and SUNOMA.
- Established a Forensic science laboratory and courses in the MLK Jr. High School as part of a collaborative Criminal Justice Academy with the Friends of King Charter. We received a \$50,000 grant to support the implementation.
- Contracted space in the College of Education for the Rooted School, a local charter high school, and the Wilcox Academy, an early childcare center. With the assistance of Kellogg grants for over \$400,000, we will provide a service to the community, provide our students with internship opportunities and provide faculty with research opportunities.
- Established a Grief and Trauma Center with the City of New Orleans. We recently received a \$400,000 in private donations to support the Center.
- Established a collaboration with the Devoted Dreamers Academy (DDA) for evening use of classrooms and fields. The DDA, founded by the New Orleans Saints All-Pro linebacker and team captain, Demario Davis, is a college prep program that includes education and business of sport experience labs for 8th grade through 12th grade and participates in a 7v7 travel football team.
- Partnered with STEM NOLA to support STEM Saturday events with local elementary and middle school ages kids. We also provide space, interns, and volunteers for the STEM NOLA summer program.

**Dean and Associate Professor,
College of Arts & Science, Fort Valley State University**

2018-2021

- Developed academic policies and programs. Programs included a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, a cybersecurity badging program, and online Bachelor of Science degree programs in Business Administration, Accounting, and Marketing.
- Oversaw the strategic planning, assessment, and evaluation of the college's programs and services. We completed our decennial SACSCOC reaffirmation process, where I served as an advisory team member and chair of the QEP Steering Committee.
- Directed and coordinated activities of the four chairpersons of individual departments.
- Served on the Strategic planning committee for the 2021-2025 strategic plan. I also served on the implementation committee.

- Led the effort for the accreditation of the social work program through the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).
- Advised on personnel matters and evaluation of college faculty and staff.
- Initiated and managed articulation agreements, including transfer agreements with Central Georgia Technical College and Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. We also formed MOU agreements with the Georgia Film Academy and the Georgia Fintech Academy.
- Participated in activities of faculty committees
- Developed the college and departmental budgets.
- Advised the provost and president on academic matters.
- Grant writing and fundraising to meet the fiscal needs of the college and the University. I worked with the Warner Robins Air Force Base to secure a gift of \$1.2M in equipment to enhance our cyber security program. They also provide instruction for newly developed courses.

**Interim Dean,
University College, Fort Valley State University**

**2019-2020
Fort Valley, Georgia**

- Provided leadership in implementing comprehensive student academic assistance, student engagement, experiential learning, study abroad, first-year transition, and academic advising to facilitate successful retention and progression through the Title III grant.
- Developed the agenda for the UC about the university's strategic priorities.
- Supervised staff who lead academic, student success, and engagement programs and services in academic advising; study abroad; honors program; writing center; academic counseling and disability services; assessment and tutorial services; TRIO Student Support Services; and learning support.
- Oversaw the strategic planning, assessment, and evaluation of the UC's programs and services. Guide students' growth and academic development through the first- and second-year experience.
- Provided academic assistance to help students transition into junior and senior courses.
- Served as the academic liaison for dual enrollment students and the local high schools.

**Dean & Associate Professor,
Division of Natural Science & Physical Education, Georgia Highlands College**

**2015-2018
Rome, Georgia**

- During the transfer from Georgia Highlands College to Fort Valley State University, I served as the interim dean for GHC to ensure a smooth transition for the new dean. I managed the daily operations, faculty, staff, student needs, divisional budget, and administrative duties. I served in the dual capacity for two months and trained the new dean I mentored to prepare for planned succession.
- Developed the strategic plan for the Division that included recruiting and retention.
- Under my leadership, we negotiated MOUs with College and Career academies in three of the five counties we served, allowing us to offer classes in those facilities to high school students through dual enrollment. We also initiated minority-specific recruiting activities to address diversity. The results of these and other outreach activities lead to five consecutive semesters of enrollment increase averaging 6.4 to 7.1% after multiple years of negative enrollment growth.
- Led our textbook transformation initiative that converted most of the textbook's traditional and open-source books in the division students to over \$2M in textbook costs annually.
- Directed and coordinated activities of coordinators of programs within the department, including course scheduling, new faculty, and adjunct faculty training and program review.
- I served on the SACSCOC leadership team and served on the QEP steering committee.
- Oversaw assessment and evaluation of the college's programs and services.
- Advising on personnel matters and evaluation of college faculty and staff.

- Initiate and manage articulation agreements with university partners within the University System of Georgia that ensure transfer students' successful transition and completion.
- Launched the Gateway to Completion and Momentum Year programs to address retention.
- Participates in activities of faculty committees.
- Advised the provost and president on academic matters.
- Grant writing to meet the department's and the College's fiscal needs. I led a grant writing effort for a division that had no grants when I arrived, to awards of over \$3M in faculty grants received.

**Co-Founder/President,
Brain-Gen Biotech, LLC**

**2013-Present
Warner Robins, Georgia**

- Maintains Brain-Gen as a State of Louisiana Limited Liability Corporation.
- Manage the patent portfolio, which includes ten full and provisional patents.
- Collaborates with colleagues to advance the science of Neuregulin-1 and acute brain injuries.
- Networks with potential partners and investors to advance the patent portfolio toward clinical trial.

**Assistant Professor,
Department of Biology, Morehouse College**

**2010-2015
Atlanta, Georgia**

- Courses taught included General Biology, Neuroscience, and Anatomy & Physiology.
- Prepare course materials such as syllabi, homework assignments, and handouts.
- Evaluate and grade students' classwork, assignments, and papers.
- Initiate, facilitate, and moderate classroom discussions.
- Compile, administer, and grade examinations or delegate this work to others.
- Plan, evaluate, and revise curricula, course content, course materials, and methods of instruction.
- Maintain regularly scheduled office hours to advise and assist students.
- Conduct research in a particular field of knowledge and publish findings in professional journals, books, or electronic media.

**Research Assistant/ Laboratory Management,
Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology Morehouse School of Medicine,**

**2003-2005
Atlanta, Georgia**

- Manage BSL2 laboratories.
- Assist with and supervise various research projects.
- Assist others with and perform lab techniques and data analytics.
- Manage reporting, monitoring, resources, and laboratory personnel.
- Facilitate effective communication across internal departments by trending and reporting data.
- Ensure adherence to regulatory requirements, budgets, and schedules.

**Store Manager
The Home Depot, Incorporated**

**1995-2003
Atlanta, Georgia**

- Customer service with the most admired company in the world at the time of my employment.
- Held positions as a sales associate, department head, assistant manager, and general store manager.
- Managed human resources, including regular and seasonal hiring, evaluations, and sales goals.
- Managed inventory, including sales projections, purchasing, and auditing.
- Opened new stores in Tennessee, North Carolina, and Texas.

Honors/ Awards:

- 2023 Commencement Speaker, Lincoln Preparatory School, Grambling, Louisiana
- 2022 Commencement Speaker, The Rooted School High School, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2022 Grant Reviewer, National Science Foundation
- 2017 Recipient, Chancellors Outstanding Service Excellence Leader of the Year Award, University System of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2017 Division of the Year, Georgia Highlands College, Rome, Georgia
- 2017 Leadership Rome Alumni Association, Rome-Floyd Chamber of Commerce
- 2017 Volunteer of the Year, Bartow County, University of Georgia Extension Office
- 2017 Reviewer, Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation, round 9 -10, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2017 Reviewer, National Science Teacher Association Conference Presentation Sessions
- 2016 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Evaluator
- 2016 Leadership Rome XXXIV, Rome-Floyd Chamber of Commerce, Rome, Georgia.
- 2014 Presidential Award, T.J. Blocker Society-Office of Health Professional, Morehouse College
- 2012 Speaker, Clayton State Cell Biology Seminar Series, Morrow, GA
- 2010 Southeast BIO Investor Forum (SEBIO) BIO/Plan Competition Winner (2010), (http://www.gabio.org/pr_details.aspx?subid=378)
- 2009 New England Science Symposium Oral Presenter. Third place winner of the Ruth and William Silen, MD award for best overall oral presentation.
- 2007 New England Science Symposium Presenter, The Conference Center at Harvard Medical, 77 Avenue Louis Pasteur, Boston, Ma.
- 2005 Curtis L. Parker Award, Research Symposium, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA.
- 2004 Top Presentation, Student Research Symposium, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA.

Professional Societies & Organizations:

- 2022 Vice President, Parent Steering Committee, Collegiate Academic Charter Network, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2021 Member, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New Orleans Chapter (NAACP)
- 2019 Member, The National Academic Advising Association (NACADA)
- 2017 Member, National Science Teacher Association (NSTA)
- 2017 Member, Georgia Science Teacher Association (GSTA)
- 2016 Rome-Floyd Chamber of Commerce, Education, and Workforce Business Council
- 2015 Member, Bartow County Schools, Strategic Planning Committee
- 2009 Member, The Society for Neuroscience
- 2009 Member, The American Association for the Advancement of Science
- 1994 Grambling State University National Alumni Association, Life Member
- 1991 Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated

Publications:

Gregory Ford, Misty Reed, Christopher McGinley, and Byron D. Ford (2023). Redox State of Glutathione and Cysteine in plasma following acute stroke. Department of Anatomy, Howard University College of Medicine. [Manuscript in progress].

Jessica M. Noll, **Gregory D. Ford**, Catherine J. Augello, Esra Kürüm, Liuliu Pan, Anna Pavenko, Andy Nam, Byron D. Ford (2023) . High Plex-Spatiotemporal RNA Profiling following Ischemic Stroke in Mice. [Manuscript under review].

Jessica M Noll, Yonggang Li, Timothy J Distel, **Gregory D Ford**, Byron D Ford (2019). Neuroprotection

by Exogenous and Endogenous Neuregulin-1 in Mouse Models of Focal Ischemic Stroke. *Journal of Molecular Neuroscience*. July 2019, DOI: [org/10.1007/s12031-019-01362-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12031-019-01362-4).

Sharon Tamir, Yonggang Li, **Gregory Ford**, Todd White, Timothy Distel, Shelton Cochran, Trinayan Kashyap, Sharon Shacham, Byron Ford (2017). KPT-350, a potent and selective inhibitor of XPO1, reduces neuronal injury and regulates expression of genes associated with neuroprotection and inflammation after TBI. *Brain Injury*. January 2017, 13 (6) 992-3.

Lauren J Simmons, Monique C Surles-Zeigler, Yonggang Li, **Gregory D Ford**, Gale D Newman, Byron D Ford (2016) Regulation of inflammatory responses by neuregulin-1 in brain ischemia and microglial cells in vitro involves the NF-kappa B pathway. *Journal of Neuroinflammation*. 13:237. DOI: [10.1186/s12974-016-0703-7](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12974-016-0703-7).

Todd E. White, Monique C. Surles-Zeigler, **Gregory D. Ford**, Alicia S. Gates, Benem Davids, Timothy Distel, Michelle C. LaPlaca and Byron D. Ford (2016). Bilateral gene interaction hierarchy analysis of the cell death gene response emphasizes the significance of cell cycle genes following unilateral traumatic brain injury. *BMC Genomics*. 2016 Feb 24;17(1):130. PMID:26912237.

Li, Y., Lein P.J., **Ford, G.D.**, Liu C., Stovall, K.S., White, T.E., Bruun D.A., Tewolde T., Gates, A.S., Distel, T.J., Surles-Zeigler, M.C. Ford, B.D. (2015) Neuregulin-1 Inhibits Neuroinflammatory Responses in a Rat Model of Organophosphate-Nerve Agent-Induced Delayed Neuronal Injury. *J. Neuroinflamm.* 12(1):64. PMCID: PMC4391606.

Todd E White, **Gregory D Ford**, Monique C Surles-Zeigler, Alicia S Gates, Michelle C LaPlaca, Byron D Ford. Gene expression patterns following unilateral traumatic brain injury reveals a local pro-inflammatory and remote anti-inflammatory response. *BMC Genomics*. April 2013, 14:282

John Pulliam; Zhenfeng Xu; **Gregory Ford**; Cuimei Liu; Yonggang Li; Kyndra Stovall; Teclemichael Tewolde; Carlos Moreno; Byron Ford. Brain research. Computational identification of conserved transcription factor binding sites upstream of genes induced in rat brain by transient focal ischemic stroke. *Brain Research* 2013 Feb 7; (1495): 76-85.

Rafael Rodriguez-Mercado, **Gregory Ford**, Zhenfeng Xu, Edmundo Kraiselburd, Melween I. Martinez, Vesna Eterović, Edgar Colon, Idia V. Rodriguez, Peter Portilla, P.A. Ferchmin, Lynette Gierbolini, Maria Rodriguez-Carrasquillo, Michael D. Powell, John V.K. Pulliam, Casey McCraw, Alicia Gates, Byron D. Ford. Acute Neuronal Injury and Blood Genomic Profiles in a Non-Human Primate Model for Ischemic Stroke. *Journal of Comparative Medicine* 2011 *Journal of Comparative Medicine*. 2012 Oct 12; 65(5) 427-438.

Li Y, Lein PJ, Liu C, Bruun DA, Giulivi C, **Ford GD**, Tewolde T, Ross-Inta C, Ford BD. Neuregulin-1 is neuroprotective in a rat model of organophosphate-induced delayed neuronal injury. *Toxicol Appl Pharmacol*. 2012 Jul 15;262(2):194-204.

Li Y, Lein P, Liu C, Bruun D, Tewolde T, **Ford GD** and Ford BD. Spatiotemporal Pattern of Neuronal Injury Induced by DFP in Rats: A Model for Delayed Neuronal Cell Death Following Acute OP Intoxication. *Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology*. 2011 Jun15: 253(3):261-9.

Ford GD, Ford BD, Steele E, Gates A, Hood D, Matthews M, Mirza S and MacLeish PR. Analysis of Transcriptional Profiles and Functional Clustering of Global Cerebellar Gene Expression in PCD3J Mice. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun*. 2008 Dec 12; 377(2):556-61.

Croslan DR, Schoell MC, **Ford GD**, Pulliam JV, Gates A, Clement CM, Harris AE and Ford BD. Neuroprotective effects of neuregulin-1 on B35 cells following ischemia. *Brain Research* 2008 May 19;1210: 39-47.

Li Y; Zhenfeng Xu Z; **Ford GD**; Croslan D; Cairobe T; Li Z; Ford BD. Neuroprotection by Neuregulin-1 in a Rat Model of Permanent Focal Cerebral Ischemia. *Brain Research* 2007 Dec 12; 1184::277-83.

Ford GD, Xu Z, Gates A, Jiang J and Ford BD. Expression Analysis Systematic Explorer (EASE) Analysis Reveals Differential Gene Expression in Permanent and Transient Focal Stroke Rat. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun. Brain Res.* 2006 Feb 3;1071(1):226-36.

Bhat GK, Sea TL, Olatinwo MO, Simorangkir D, **Ford GD**, Ford BD, and Mann DR. Influence of a leptin deficiency on testicular morphology, germ cell apoptosis and expression levels of apoptosis-related genes in the mouse. *Journal of Andrology* 2006 Mar-Apr; 27(2):302-10.

Xu Z, Croslan DR, Harris AE, **Ford GD** and Ford BD. Extended therapeutic window and functional recovery after intraarterial administration of neuregulin-1 after focal ischemic stroke. *J Cereb Blood Flow Metab.* 2006 Apr;26(4):527-35.

Xu Z, **Ford GD**, Croslan DR, Jiang J, Gates A, Allen R and Ford BD. Neuroprotection by neuregulin-1 following focal stroke is associated with the attenuation of ischemia-induced pro-inflammatory and stress gene expression. *Neurobiol Dis.* 2005 Aug;19(3):461-70.

Xu Z, Jiang J, **Ford GD**, and Ford BD. Neuregulin-1 is neuroprotective and attenuates inflammatory responses induced by ischemic stroke. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun.* 2004 Sep 17;322(2):440-6.

Selected Invited Discussions & Interviews

Keynote speaker (May 2023). Lincoln Preparatory School Commencement Ceremony, Grambling, LA.

Keynote speaker (May 2022). Rooted School High School Commencement Ceremony, New Orleans, LA.

Keynote Speaker (2020). George Howard Memorial Lecture. School of Graduate Studies, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee.

Keynote Speaker (2019). Cooperative Development Energy Program (CDEP) annual scholarship luncheon, Fort Valley, Georgia.

Participant (July 2019). Diversity in Tech Summit. Sponsored by the Bipartisan HBCU Caucus. Washington, D.C.

Participant (March 2019). HBCU STEAM Day of Action Roundtable, Sponsored by the Bipartisan HBCU Caucus. Washington, D.C.

Participant (February 2019). 116th Congress legislative agenda for HBCUs. Sponsored by the Bipartisan HBCU Caucus. Washington, D.

Gregory Ford (2017). GHC Creates Robotics Program for Middle School Students. Rome-News Tribune. http://www.northwestgeorgianews.com/rome/news/education/ghc-creates-robotics-program-for-middle-school-students/article_3b96518c-bf39-11e7-808f-9372dc81e995.html

Gregory Ford (2016). GHC to host UGA Extensions 2016 School Garden Teacher Training in Cartersville. GHC - <https://www2.highlands.edu/site/ghc-to-host-uga-extensions-2016-school-garden-teacher-training-in-cartersville>.

Gregory Ford (2016). Keynote speaker, Phi Theta Kappa Georgia Region Presidential Chapter Conference.

Gregory Ford (2014) Panel Speaker. Morehouse College Innovation Expo. Big Dividends: Make Your Research Marketable. <http://morehouseinnovates.com/index.php?page=content/speakers>

Gregory Ford (2012) Thought leaders series, *Ischemic Stroke: An interview with Dr. Gregory Ford*. News-Medical <http://www.news-medical.net/news/20121101/Ischemic-stroke-an-interview-with-Dr-Gregory-Ford.aspx>

Gregory Ford (2012) 3 Finals in 2 Days: Maximize Study Time. Campus Explorer, Inc. <http://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/4D4A56D9/3-Finals-in-2-Days-Maximize-Study-Time/>

Gregory Ford (2012) Finals: Balancing College Exams and Essays, *Understand how to balance studying for college exams and writing essays during finals*. <http://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/8F3DCE51/Finals-Balancing-College-Exams-and-Essays/>

On-going Research Support

NTIA-CMC (\$3,000,000) Greg Ford (PI) 03/2023-02/2025
This National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) Connection Minority Communities (CMC) grant program is directed to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) for the purchase of broadband internet access service and eligible equipment or to hire and train information technology personnel.

Louisiana Board of Regents – OER (\$96,000) Greg Ford (PI) 10/2022-12/2024
This project seeks to continue the expansion of Open Education Resources (OER) to assist in the elimination of textbook costs for dual enrollment courses through the creation of OER master courses that meet the diverse need of learners.

Completed Research Support

UC-HBCU Initiative Grant Greg Ford (PI) 12/2020-11/2023
The goal of this program is to develop a pathway from undergraduate HBCUs to graduate admissions at the University of California Riverside Biomedical Science and Neuroscience.
Role: Liaison for Fort Valley State University, one of four undergraduate HBCU participant institutions

USG STEM IV Initiative Grant Greg Ford (PI) 08/2020-07/2023
This project aims to increase the success of students enrolled in USG STEM degree programs at Fort Valley State University.

USG STEM Initiative Grant Greg Ford (PI) 07/2016-06/2019
The goal of this project is to increase recruitment, retention, and completion in STEM disciplines at Georgia Highlands College.

Georgia Department of Education - CFDA # 84.366B 10/01/16 – 09/30/18
Mathematics and Science Partnership - Paulding County School System
The Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) program strives to improve teacher quality through partnerships between state education agencies and institutions of higher education.
Role: Higher Education Consultant and Instructor.

Georgia Department of Education – DUNS # 832879733 10/01/16 – 09/30/18
Mathematics and Science Partnership – Kennesaw State University
The Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) program strives to improve teacher quality through partnerships between state education agencies and institutions of higher education.
Role: Higher Education Consultant and Instructor

Affordable Learning Georgia Round 9, #328 06/01/17 – 05/30/18
Textbook Transformation Grant – Human Anatomy and Physiology I (BIOL 2121K) and Human Anatomy and Physiology II (BIOL 2122K).
Role: Administrative and support

Affordable Learning Georgia Round 9, #324 06/01/17 – 05/30/18
Textbook Transformation Grant – Open Educational Resource. Principles of Nutrition (BIOL 2190) and Principles of Human Nutrition (PHED 2202).
Role: Administrative and support

Affordable Learning Georgia Round 8, #268 01/15/17 – 12/22/17
Textbook Transformation Grant – Concepts of Fitness and Wellness (PHED 1010) and Walking & Jogging (PHED 1130).
Role: Administrative and support

Affordable Learning Georgia Round 8, #304 01/15/17 – 12/22/17
Textbook Transformation Grant – Principles of Chemistry I (CHEM 1211K) and Principles of Chemistry II (CHEM 1212K).
Role: Administrative and Research Support

ALG-Textbook Transformation Grant T. Harnden (PI) 07/2015-06/2017
This project aims to adopt an Open Educational Resource for an Area D science sequence, Biology 1010 and Biology 2154, at Georgia Highlands College.
Role: Sponsor / Team Member

USG STEM Pathway Grant S. Henderson (PI) 03/2016-09/2017
The goal of this project is to create STEM program maps to communicate “STEM Readiness” to recruit and retain STEM majors.
Role: Team Member

Howard Hughes Medical Institute #52006306 Cooke (PI) 09/2012-08/2017
The goal of this project is to enhance the bioinformatics and neuroscience minors programs through research and instruction enhancement at Morehouse College.
Role: Director of the Bioinformatics/Genomics Core & Co-Director of the Neuroscience Minor Program

UNCF-Henry C. McBay Research Fellowship **G.Ford (PI)** 08/2012-07/2015
Identification and verification of Blood Biomarkers for Diagnosis and Treatment of Ischemic Stroke.

ACTSI/Regenerative Medicine Pilot Award LaPaca/**Ford**/Yepes/Arbiser (Co-PIs) 09/11-07/12
Investigator-Initiated Seed Grant Program in Regenerative Medicine Strategies Priority Team Grant.
The Effect of Oxidative Stress Protection on Neuroinflammation and Neurogenesis following Traumatic Brain Injury.

Howard Hughes Medical Institute #52006306 Cooke (PI) 08/10-07/12
This study aims to identify molecular mechanisms and therapeutic targets of Traumatic Brain Injury.
Role: Investigator

DoD B. Ford (PI) 05/09-04/12
This study aims to examine the neuroprotective efficacy of neuregulin-1 in a non-human primate stroke model and a pilot study using a rat model of TBI.
Role: Bioinformatics specialist

T32-MH18882-22 Martinez (PI) 07/08-08/09
The goal of this study is to characterize the neuroprotection and transcriptional regulation of ischemic stroke. Role: Postdoctoral fellow

T32-MH18882-23 Martinez (PI) 07/09-08/10
The goal of this study is to characterize the neuroprotection and transcriptional regulation of ischemic stroke. Role: Postdoctoral fellow

Patents/Intellectual Property:

- 2019 **US Patent Application No. 15/901,523** “Biomarkers for Stroke” (*Co-Inventor*)
- 2015 **US Patent App. 14/625,817** “Composition and method for reducing tissue damage from inflammatory disorder or pathogenic infection” (*Co-Inventor*)
- 2012 **US Patent No. 8,791,067** "Compositions and Methods for Reducing Tissue Damage from Inflammatory Disorder or Pathogenic Infection" (*Co-Inventor*)
- 2011 **US Patent No. 8,008,249** “Neuregulins for Prevention and Treatment of Damage from Acute Assault on Vascular and Neuronal Tissues and Regulators of Stem Cell Migration”
- 2011 **US Patent No. 7,973,007** “Neuregulins for Prevention and Treatment of Damage from Acute Assault on Vascular and Neuronal Tissues and Regulators of Stem Cell Migration”
- 2010 **US Patent No. 7,776,817** “Neuregulins for Prevention and Treatment of Damage from Acute Assault on Vascular and Neuronal Tissues and Regulators of Stem Cell Migration”
- 2010 **U.S Patent Family ID# 37809614** “Compositions for the Prevention and Treatment of Neuroinjury and Methods of Use Thereof”
- 2009 **U.S Patent Family ID# 37809614** "Methods And Compositions For Protecting And Treating Neuroinjury"
- 2008 **U.S Patent Family ID# 37809614** "Compositions for the Prevention and Treatment of Neuroinjury and Methods of Use Thereof"
- 2005 **US Patent Application No. 11/514,352** “Neuregulins for Prevention and Treatment of Damage from Acute Assault on Vascular and Neuronal Tissues and Regulators of Stem Cell Migration”