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Georgia Tech supercomputer to advance drug research

Wednesday February 8, 11:37 am ET

Researchers at Georgia Tech are hoping to speed up drug discoveries with a new supercomputer.

Georgia Tech's new Center for the Study of Systems Biology will be home to one of the world's most powerful supercomputers provided by IBM Corp. (NYSE: [IBM](#) - [News](#)).

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The center will use the technology to advance the research of new drugs for deadly diseases such as cancer. The research will be led by Jeffrey Skolnick, who is a Georgia Research Alliance eminent scholar in computational systems biology. Skolnick was recently recruited from center of excellence in bioinformatics at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Funded by \$8.5 million in grants from the state of Georgia, the Georgia Research Alliance and the National Institutes of Health, the center will merge Skolnick's biomedical research expertise with IBM's computing capabilities.

"By using IBM technology for our research, we can significantly shorten the time to market for new drugs," Skolnick said. "Systems biology integrates mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology with

advanced, high-performance computing and engineering."

Specifically, the technology will help students and professors quickly and accurately analyze DNA and proteins to determine the biological and chemical processes of human cancer genes and proteins. This will help develop more targeted drugs.

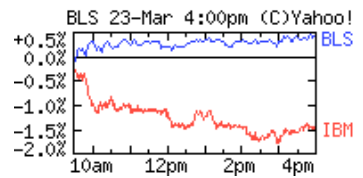
The "Cluster 1350" system, which is capable of performing more than 8.5 trillion calculations per second, ranked as the world's 41st most powerful supercomputer in a 2005 ranking, say center officials.

The new technology will help researchers "make more accurate decisions in research and raise the profile of the institute among the nation's most elite research facilities," said Doug Balog, vice president of IBM BladeCenter.

Atlanta-based BellSouth Corp. (NYSE: [BLS](#) - [News](#)) worked closely with Georgia Tech and IBM to design the environment required to support the new supercomputer.

Published February 8, 2006 by the Atlanta Business Chronicle

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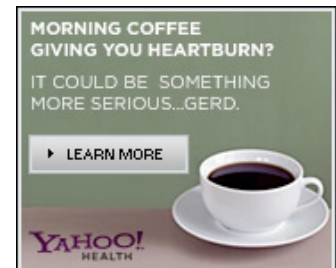
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