

## 25 MOST INFLUENTIAL ASIAN AMERICANS IN GEORGIA



**Dr. Rama Rao Amara, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology Emory Vaccine Center-Yerkes National Primate Research Center Emory University

Dr. Rama Rao Amara, Ph.D. is a Research Associate Professor in the Division of Microbiology and Immunology of the Yerkes National Primate Research Center of Emory University, and Associate Professor in the Emory School of Medicine Department of Microbiology and Immunology. He received his Ph.D. in molecular biology and immunology from the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, India, and did his post-doctoral training at Emory.

As a research associate, Dr. Amara played a major role in the preclinical development of the AIDS vaccine now in Phase I clinical trials. Now as an EVC faculty member, Dr. Amara is working to develop a version of this vaccine that



**Rev. Antonius Pancha Anugerah Deacon, Our Lady Assumption Catholic Church**

Rev. Antonius Pancha Anugerah is passionate in serving the local Indonesian community. He has been living in Atlanta since 1982. Anugerah is respected figure known to defend the rights and dignity of immigrants, the elderly, and discriminated poor. In addition to his work as Deacon for Indonesian Community at Our Lady Assumption Catholic Church in Brookhaven, he also serve as a board member of Indonesian Community Heritage Foundation (IChF).

could be used to control AIDS on the Indian subcontinent, where the strains of HIV that predominant differ from those most frequently transmitted in the U.S. and other Western countries. At Yerkes National Primate Research Center and the Emory Vaccine Center, Rama Rao Amara, Ph.D, is testing therapies for reviving the immune system in monkeys infected with HIV's cousin, SIV. In combination with antiretroviral drugs, this approach may lead to new treatments against HIV/AIDS.

The goal of Dr. Rama Rao Amara is to develop vaccines for HIV/AIDS with a major emphasis on therapeutic vaccines. There are currently about 40 million individuals living with HIV worldwide, with 16,000 people newly infected every day. Without question the AIDS epidemic represents a major threat to public health, economic development, and cultural stability worldwide. The introduction of drugs that control virus replication and improved treatment regimens like HAART have succeeded only in prolonging the lives of some infected individuals fortunate enough to have access to the medications. These anti-viral drugs do not cure infection, and are associated with several significant problems, including serious side effects, prohibitively high cost, the need for rigorous adherence and the potential for developing viral resistance. For these reasons, development of a safe and effective HIV vaccine is imperative. Strategies under his leadership will enormously improve our ability to develop effective therapeutic vaccines and vaccine regimens against HIV/AIDS.



**Jay Eun**  
President, Golden Stella  
President, Korean Association of Greater Atlanta

Eun attended Pusan National University in Korea, served three years of compulsory national service with the Korean Army, and then decided to join his parents already in the US. He managed his family's restaurant business for six years. Eun and his wife started Golden Stella Inc. a fashion jewelry and accessories wholesaler business in 1987.

She is a community and political activist for years. While living in Hong Kong, she was President of the League of Women Voters and served on the board for Republicans Abroad. Her background also includes serving as President of the Republican Women's Club and the executive board for the Republican Party. She is a graduate of Coverdell Leadership Institute, Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), Georgia Legislative Leadership Institute (GLLI), Leadership Cherokee and Leadership Academy for Asian Pacific American Elected officials.

An advocate for advancing life sciences innovation and promoting public's health and well being in Georgia. She was named "Legislator of the Year" in 2007 by Biotechnology Industry Organization. Byrd is also the recipient of the 2008 Georgia BIO Community Award.

In addition to her political activities, Charlice donates her time and finances to the Friends of the Library, the Historical Society, the Volunteer Aging Council, The Optimist Club, the Chamber of Commerce and Town Lake Arts Center.



**Charlice Byrd**  
Georgia House of Representatives  
District 20

Charlice Byrd is serving in her sixth year for District 20 in the Georgia House of Representatives. She is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana with a B.A. degree in Elementary Education from Southeastern Louisiana University where she spent the late 1970's as an educator.

She serves on five committees: Vice Chair of Children and Youth, Economic Development and Tourism, Health and Human Services, Judiciary Non-Civil and Secretary of Science and Technology.



**Tina Dang**  
Principal  
NDI Management & Development

Tina Dang has been involved in real estate since 1985, and has acquired over 40 shopping centers totaling over 5 million of retail square feet and developed acres of commercial and industrial land. She is responsible for acquisition, disposition, financing and property management. Dang is amongst the largest commercial property owner in the Gwinnett corridor.

Dang currently serves as member of Board of Directors for Gwinnett Village Community Improvement District (CID).