

# How Elsevier helped COVID-19 researchers connect globally

## Research Expertise and Collaborations

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### COVID-19 Research Collaborations



Advanced search

“We have also explored similar research collaborations and have been able to short-list researchers conducting studies on COVID-19 immunotherapies globally, who we have now reached out to.”

—Dr. Vishal Rao

COVID-19 has brought much of the world to a standstill—but the research community has moved quickly to tackle the challenges the pandemic represents. [Dr. Vishal Rao](#), Associate Dean of the Centre of Academics & Research at the [HCG Hospital Network](#), of Bangalore, India is part of that community, and has been working on treatments that have recently entered into clinical trials.

In the midst of developing cancer therapies, Dr. Rao and his team realized that refocusing their immunology research could generate potential treatment strategies for COVID-19 patients. But how could Dr. Rao, and his team, advance their discovery outside their own expertise of cancer immunology? Where could they connect with the right research partners in virology to advance not one, but two clinical trials? And what tools could they use to bring awareness to their research and its implications for COVID-19 treatments?

Dr. Vishal Rao and his team quickly realized that reaching out to other experts around the world was vital for fast-tracking their clinical proposals. It would require a unique strategy; one that would allow Dr. Rao to short-list prominent researchers who are currently conducting studies on COVID-19 immunotherapies for collaboration and future partnerships.

### Elsevier's research collaborations portal gives COVID-19 research valuable insight

With time critical and the challenge immense, the team needed to quickly find other relevant experts. Dr. Vishal Rao found Dr. Rafi Ahmed, a distinguished virologist from Emory University in Atlanta, using [Elsevier's Research Expertise and Collaboration tool](#). Listed among thousands of researchers with research units working in COVID-19, it was Dr. Ahmed's study of CD8 T-cell memory differentiation during acute and chronic viral infections that received Dr. Rao's attention. Dr. Vishal Rao credits the Elsevier [Fingerprint Engine™ technology](#) in identifying timely and relevant research work through visual imaging.

The Fingerprint technology unveils invaluable insights by using data-mining technology to extract key, research-specific concepts from research data. It is able to aggregate this data at a researcher level, to identify experts in relevant fields and compare expertise between researchers. These search results allow organizations to pinpoint connections and new areas of collaborations around the globe and across disciplines in real-time.

Elsevier's COVID-19 [Research Expertise and Collaborations Portal](#) reveals experts with the necessary specializations to partner with, and who bring their own long-standing experience and discoveries to pertinent ongoing research.

Elsevier's COVID-19 Research Expertise and Collaborations Portal, i.e. [covid19.elsevierpure.com](https://covid19.elsevierpure.com), was launched in June 2020 and was retired as of September 2021.



# Elsevier makes research discoverable; connections possible

Elsevier’s research portals are populated with compliant and comprehensive resources using [Pure](#), a configurable software solution. Pure draws on the Fingerprint technology, which Dr. Rao and his team found useful in their search for relevant COVID-19 studies; it retrieves multidimensional data from research lifecycles and supports fact-driven conclusions alongside the exploration for leading experts. In Dr. Rao’s case, he was able to find an eminent virologist to strategize collaborative efforts in a matter of days, if not hours, reducing their time and effort towards inter-disciplinary research collaborations. Dr. Rao says *“having commenced our Phase I trials of the Convalescent Plasma and Cytokine-mediated Interferon therapy for COVID19, after receiving regulatory approvals, we are now planning to scale up our efforts to a global level”*

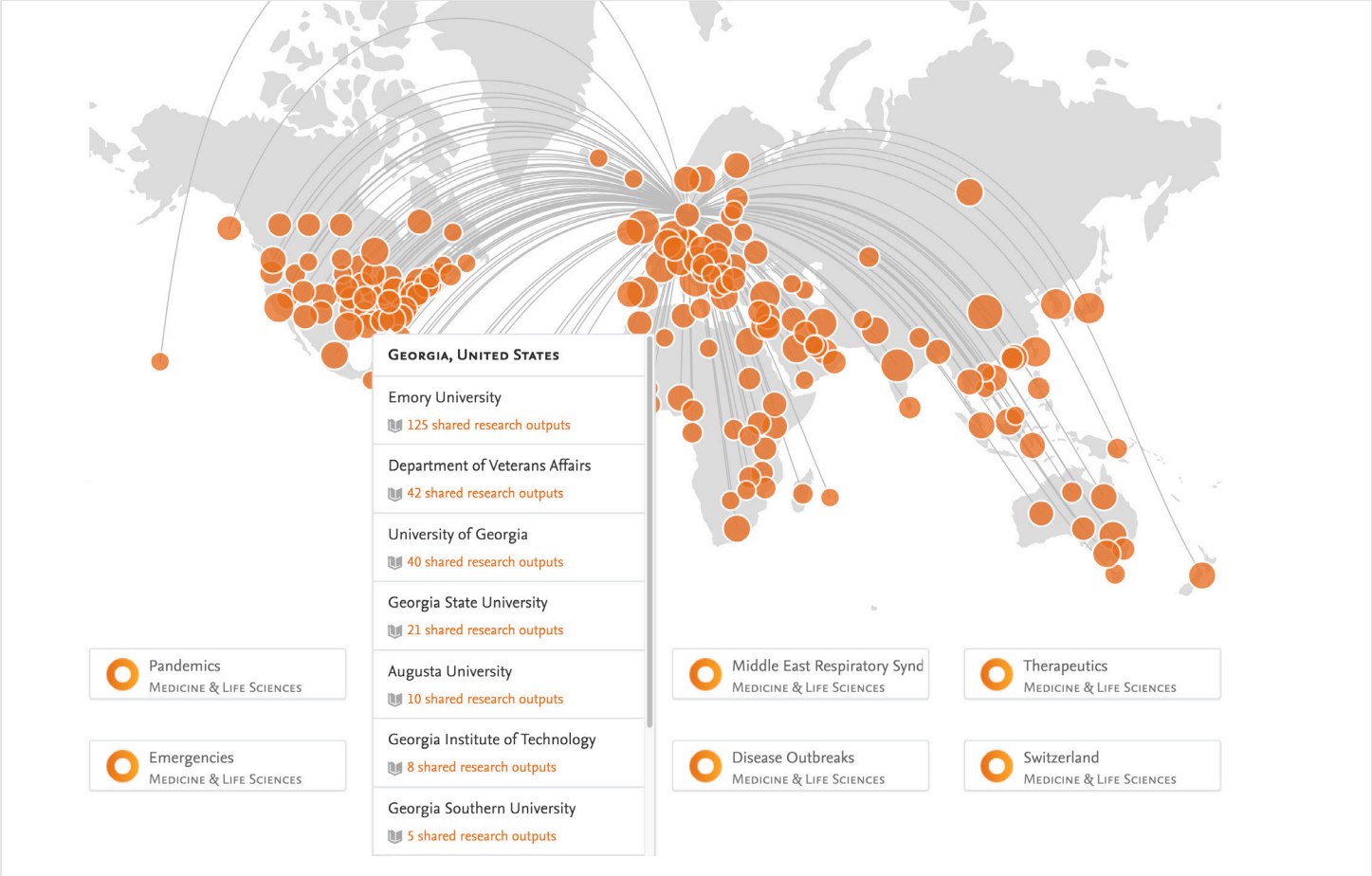
The source of Elsevier’s Research and Collaboration Portal is Scopus®, a database of multidisciplinary, peer-reviewed literature, with access to 78 million records of research output, including articles-in-press. Scopus is updated on daily basis, providing timely access to curated scientific works and by Dr. Rao’s own admission was instrumental in finding articles from *“high impact journals and similar clinical trials conducted globally, which we cited in our extensive submissions.”* Elsevier’s Scopus database provides researchers with tools to track citations and analyze journal articles. It helps them to quickly identify highly cited articles, allowing research teams to align their concerted efforts for improved submissions.

# Creating a new future with connections that matter

Academic research and its scholarly literature were never meant to exist in a vacuum. Universities and institutions now realize traditional communications limit their access to new areas of research, opportunities and ideas. When university research performance and output across departments declines, it can delay critical partnerships, resulting in missed research opportunities and derailed funding strategies. Elsevier’s Research Expertise and Collaborations Portal unburdens scientists from the challenge of wading through endless data and reveals new research and the connections that matter most. It also has the added advantage of exposing researchers to new trends in their discipline and opens doors to potential consultancy.

For instance, Dr. Vishal Rao is a part of a consultative group and member of several committees of the Ministry of Health, Government of India, and State Governments, and mentions *“I am frequently consulted for policy-level decisions to combat COVID-19. From isolation-quarantine protocols and off-label treatment options, I found Elsevier resources that I’ve personally used to advise policy makers.”*

Elsevier’s Pure, Scopus and Fingerprint Engine provide open access to scholarly pursuits, improve collaborative efforts and deliver timely and reliable research data along with in-depth researcher profiles. In seconds it reveals interconnections to increase and fast-track clinical submissions and short-list potential researchers with current studies. In the words of Dr, Vishal Rao; *“Our challenge in India is to ensure that no-one who tests positive for COVID-19 dies of the disease.”*



## Pure

Pure is a versatile centralized system that facilitates evidence-based approaches to your institution's research and collaboration strategies, assessment exercises and business decisions. It enables building reports, performance assessments, managing researcher profiles, networking, expertise discovery and more — with less administrative burden.

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