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THE FOREST AT DUKE

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Durham resident has saved millions of lives; receives honorary doctorate for life's work

Durham, NC – The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) today announced that an honorary degree will be conferred to Mansukh C. Wani, Ph.D., Doctor of Science. A resident of Durham, NC, this award recognizes Dr. Wani as a pioneer in his field of study and the breakthroughs he made in scientific research.

Recognized internationally for his ground-breaking work in both synthetic and natural products chemistries, Dr. Wani is perhaps best known as a pioneer in the field of cancer research. Among his seminal contributions to the field, he is most recognized for the co-discovery of Taxol and Camptothecin, compounds that inhibit cancer cell growth via novel mechanisms of action. Prior to their discovery, neither were known to be effective ways to circumvent the uncontrolled growth of cancer cells. Today, at least one-third of the global market of anti-cancer agents could be ascribed to the discoveries of Taxol and Camptothecin. His work has saved millions of lives.

According to UNCG Chemistry Professor Nicholas H. Oberlies, Ph.D., who nominated Dr. Wani for the honorary degree, Dr. Wani “is nothing short of a hero.” Oberlies has worked with Dr. Wani since 1998, and describes him as a spectacular scientist and consummate gentleman. “He is a mentor to me and a role model for the next generation of scientists – discovering not one, but two, life-saving pharmaceuticals, a truly historic achievement. Perhaps just as important, he is a shining example of how hard work and passion always pay off.”

Dr. Wani came to Durham after he accepted a position at the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) in September of 1962. Now a resident of The Forest at Duke, Dr. Wani is still active at RTI in a supervisory role. Additionally, RTI recently announced the Monroe E. Wall and Mansukh C. Wani Fellowships to ensure that his kind of dedication and perseverance continues in the next generation of drug researchers.

About The Forest at Duke

Celebrating its 25th year, The Forest at Duke is a continuing care retirement community that redefines retirement, providing vibrant living in the heart of Durham.

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