The Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science Medical Sciences Institute is pleased to name Dr. Jaydutt V. Vadgama as the first recipient of the Endowed Professorship in Cancer Research.

Jay Vadgama, PhD, is a Professor of Medicine at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science and the Chief of the Division of Cancer Research and Training. Dr. Vadgama was born and raised in East Africa, Tanzania. He completed high school in England and obtained his undergraduate and graduate degrees at University of London, England. He completed postdoctoral training at the University of Michigan. He joined UCLA as an Assistant Professor in 1986; and was recruited to Drew in 1992 as the Director of Laboratory Research and Development.

Dr. Vadgama is also the Director of the Molecular Oncology Program at Drew and the Director of the Cancer Research Cluster. He is principal investigator of several center grants in Cancer at Drew including: a program funded to enhance cancer research both at the basic and clinical level; a program funded by the Department of Defense (DOD) to develop a center of excellence in breast cancer research, education, and treatment; and the NIH/NIDDK Short-term Education Program for Minority Students, which provides opportunity for undergraduate minority students to be trained in biomedical research. He has extensive experience in conducting oncology research that integrates clinical, basic and community-based research. The outcome of these efforts has resulted in the development of translational cancer research. Dr. Vadgama also holds wide-ranging collaborations with internationally renowned cancer investigators at UCLA, Cedars, Harbor-UCLA and some international groups. He serves on a DOD Study Section and has served on NIH Ad-Hoc Study Sections and is a reviewer for several peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Vadgama has also had the opportunity to train a significant number of minority postdoctoral students, medical students, undergraduate students, and high school students. He also serves as a mentor for several funded junior faculty at Charles Drew University and the UCLA School of Medicine.

Dr. Vadgama is honored to receive the Endowed Professorship in Cancer Research. With this honor, he will continue to serve the students, fellows, faculty and the community at Drew. He has a dream to make a significant scientific contribution in the detection, treatment and cure for Cancer. He hopes that he and his research team can help alleviate the “Unequal Burden of Cancer” in the underserved communities. Dr. Vadgama and his wife Frida and have three children: Yagnesh, Manisha, and Shakti.

The Medical Sciences Institute provides new pathways to research discoveries at The Charles Drew University through creating research teams of the future and re-engineering the clinical research enterprise in a highly structured system. The Institute’s overarching goal is to improve recruitment and retention of junior and senior researchers who pursue NIH funding for research that has the greatest potential for impacting care for at risk populations in underserved areas throughout the world. The Institute will serve as a starting point for the next phase in growth for the Drew Research Enterprise. By 2012, the resource development goal is to raise more than $100 million in endowed funds for long-term support of research that ultimately improves the health of all underserved and disadvantaged people facing devastating disease and illness.

Funds for the Endowed Professorship Awards are supported by a grant from the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, National Institutes of Health.