



THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA  
**GREENSBORO**

*Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry*

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April 25, 2017

Dear Friends of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry,

As the past, present, and future Department Heads, we are excited to announce that Dr. Mansukh C. Wani will be receiving an honorary doctorate from UNCG during the University's commencement ceremony at the Greensboro Coliseum on May 12<sup>th</sup> which begins at 10 am. Although Dr. Wani might be unable to attend our Departmental ceremony at 1:30 pm in room 101 of the Patricia A. Sullivan Science Building, he will be joining us for the reception afterwards. This honorary doctorate is highly significant, and the exceptional accomplishments of Dr. Wani, briefly highlighted below, validate this accolade.

Dr. Wani joined Dr. Monroe Wall at Research Triangle Institute in 1962, where he worked in the area of isolation, characterization, and analysis of natural products with the hopes of identifying compounds for the treatment of cancer. While this has been the goal of countless natural products chemists and medicinal chemists, Drs. Wani and Wall were able to identify and move forward two of the most important cancer chemotherapeutics, taxol and camptothecin. These compounds have helped to save the lives of millions of people. In 2002, the American Chemical Society honored the Natural Products Laboratory at Research Triangle Institute with a National Historic Chemical Landmark for the discoveries of these taxol and camptothecin. For a more detailed summary of those discoveries, please visit: [www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/whatischemistry/landmarks/camptothecintaxol.html](http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/whatischemistry/landmarks/camptothecintaxol.html).

In addition to being a great scientist, Dr. Wani has been a long-time friend of our Department. He visited UNCG in 1971 to give a scientific seminar, has been an adjunct faculty member for many years, and visits frequently. He is a consummate gentleman and a kind soul, which often results in him being surrounded by students as he tells stories about taxol.

We hope that you are able to join us at either the University or Departmental Ceremonies to celebrate this momentous event. It will be a great day for our Department!

Sincerely,

Patricia H. Reggio, Ph.D.  
Prior Department Head

Jerry L. Walsh, Ph.D.  
Current Department Head

Mitchell P. Croatt, Ph.D.  
Future Department Head