

## JNMA Salutes African Americans in Endowed Chairs

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**J**NMA is featuring a series on African Americans holding endowed chairs in American medical schools in recognition of the outstanding accomplishments of these very special people. These chairs are usually funded from generous benefactors and may include grateful patients or parents of patients (children), executives from the business world and industry, founda-

tions, anonymous donors and even faculty members. The common denominator amongst these philanthropists is to recognize the institution for the opportunities afforded them in some way as a way of “giving back” to insure that the school can continue to recruit the most talented individuals to the institution. Some states also provide matching funds for successful endowment campaigns being sponsored by its universities and, under some circumstances, federal matching funds may be made available for this purpose. We have more than a dozen endowed chairs amongst our HBCU medical institutions, which will also be included in this series.

### E N D O W E D C H A I R S E R I E S

## Cato T. Laurencin, MD, PhD

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The Lillian T. Pratt Professorship in Orthopedic Surgery was established at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA through a bequest from Pratt in 1976 as a part of an even larger Lillian Pratt trust fund. This professorship was created as a part of a trust agreement established in 1943. Pratt was married to the late John Lee Pratt, a General Motors executive and one of the university's most generous benefactors.

On May 29, 2003, the board of trustees of the University of Virginia voted to award Cato Laurencin, MD, PhD this endowed chair. In awarding it, the board honored Laurencin by changing the name of the endowed chair from the Lillian T. Pratt Professorship to the Lillian T. Pratt Distinguished Professorship.

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**C**ato T. Laurencin, MD, PhD is the Lillian T. Pratt Distinguished Professor and chairman of the department of orthopedic surgery at the University of Virginia. He serves as orthopedic surgeon-in-chief of the University of Virginia Health System. Laurencin