

# MARIA F. LIMA, Ph.D.

Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Research  
Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation



**Maria F. Lima, Ph.D.** is the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research at Meharry Medical College. A graduate of the Microbiology Ph.D. program at Michigan State University, she joined the faculty of Meharry Medical College in 1990 and is currently a tenured Professor of Microbiology and Immunology. Her area of research is infectious diseases; more specifically, the molecular basis of microbial pathogenesis.

As the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research, she has obtained innovative and substantive funding from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation to enhance graduate training at Meharry Medical College. Under her leadership, the School of Graduate Studies at Meharry has consistently been the top or among the top five institutions that graduate the highest number of African-American Ph.D. students in Biomedical Sciences yearly in the US according to "Diverse Issues in Higher Education".

Dr. Lima is highly involved in outreach of diverse students who are interested in pursuing a career in science, especially at the high school and college levels. Her goal is to increase the number of underrepresented students that pursue a career in biomedical research.

She has served on numerous national

committees, review panels and study sections for the National Institutes of Health, American Society of Microbiology, the American Heart Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges. She has been the chair and reviewer on numerous grant study sections for the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Health, including the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities as well as the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences.

Dr. Lima is the recipient of the 2009 Distinguished Professional Mentor Award from the Society of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science and the 2014 Hinton award from the American Society for Microbiology for excellence in Research Training. At Meharry Medical College, she has received many teaching awards, including the Kaiser Permanente Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award.

Dr. Lima has touched many students' lives as they matriculated through Meharry and nationally. She is a student advocate and her interaction with students and fostering their career development are great sources of joy in her professional life.



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