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Biosketch

Dr. Gama was born in Bogotá, Colombia where she did her undergraduate work at the Universidad de Los Andes. Vivian received her Ph.D. in Pharmacology from Case Western Reserve University. She did her postdoctoral training with Dr. Mohanish Deshmukh at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She joined the faculty at Vanderbilt University in 2015. Her laboratory has received funding from NCI/NIH, NIGMS/NIH, ABTA and the AHA.

Key Publications

"A non-apoptotic function of MCL-1 in promoting pluripotency and modulating mitochondrial dynamics in stem cells," *Stem Cell Reports*, 10, Issue 3, p684–692, 2018

"PARC/Cul9 Mediates the Degradation of Mitochondrial-released Cytochrome c," *Science Signaling*, 7, ra67, 2014

"Human Embryonic Stem Cells have Constitutively Active Bax at the Golgi and are Primed to Undergo Rapid Apoptosis," *Mol. Cell.*, 46: 573-583, 2012

"Tipping the balance in the powerhouse of the cell to kill brain tumors "

We conduct our research using an **innovative interdisciplinary approach** that combines cellular, biological, and biochemical assays with state-of-the-art imaging, single cell analysis and quantitative data analysis. Our **specific lines of research** are aimed to reveal:

- **Novel modulators of stem cell self-renewal and pluripotency**
- **Mechanisms** by which mitochondrial network dynamics and function regulate early differentiation (i.e. neuronal, cardiac) and human brain development
- **Ubiquitin-mediated regulation of early differentiation and human brain development**

Model systems

