

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Death

Action Requested: Adoption of Memorial Statement

The Regents of the University of Michigan acknowledge with profound sadness the death of **John R. Omnaas**, assistant research scientist in the medicinal chemistry program in the College of Pharmacy. Dr. Omnaas died at the age of 59 on November 19, 2005.

Dr. Omnaas earned his B.S. degree in chemistry with distinction from the University of Minnesota in 1968 and his Ph.D. degree in biochemistry from The University of Texas at Austin in 1977. He was a research associate at the University of Miami School of Medicine until 1980, when he became a postdoctoral investigator at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He came to the University of Michigan School of Medicine in 1982 to continue his postdoctoral research and was appointed senior research fellow in the College of Pharmacy in 1984. He became a research investigator in the College of Pharmacy in 1991 and was promoted to assistant research scientist in 2002.

In addition to being an excellent scientist, Dr. Omnaas was an extraordinarily gifted and patient mentor to the numerous undergraduate and graduate students who trained in his lab. His passing leaves a deep void among his many friends and colleagues.

Among Dr. Omnaas's other interests was a passion for trains. He was a long-time volunteer of the Steam Railroading Institute of Owosso, Michigan, where he spent many happy hours maintaining and repairing the Pere Marquette Railway No. 1225 steam locomotive.

As we mourn the loss of our beloved colleague, we also extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Sheila; his sister, Gurine; and his stepmother, Iona.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

January 2006