THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement
Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

David G. Beer, Ph.D., John A. and Carla S. Klein Family/Mark B. Orringer Research Professor of Thoracic Surgery, professor of surgery, and professor of radiation oncology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on April 30, 2019.

Professor Beer received his B.S. (1975) degree from Northeastern Illinois University and his Ph.D. (1984) degree from the University of Colorado Boulder. He served on the faculty of the University of Kansas from 1987-91. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1991, and was promoted to associate professor in 1994, and professor in 2001.

Professor Beer’s research focused on the molecular genetics of lung and esophageal cancer. In 2008, he cofounded, with Arul Chinnaiyan, the company Armune Biosciences which was subsequently sold to Exact Sciences in 2018. He received multiple patents related to his research findings, co-authored over 280 scholarly publications, and his work has been cited over 34,812 times as of 2019. Professor Beer performed some of the seminal research studies using gene expression analysis of human lung cancer and was a contributor to four of the Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network studies that were all published in the journal Nature. His research received continuous National Institutes of Health funding since 1991. Professor Beer was actively involved with the Rogel Cancer Center, including serving as a co-director of the Cancer Genetics Program and as a member of the Executive Committee. He also actively supported the PIBS Cancer Biology Ph.D. Graduate Program since its inception and was the director of the Cancer Biology Summer Research Program from 2012-18.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and scholar for his dedicated service by naming David G. Beer, professor emeritus of surgery.

Requested by:

Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

March 2019