THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

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

Linda S. Polley, M.D., clinical professor of anesthesiology in the Medical School, will retire from active faculty status on June 30, 2017.

Dr. Polley received her B.S.N. (1974) and M.D. (1991) degrees from the University of Michigan. She was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society in 1990. She completed her transitional internship (1991-92) at Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan; her anesthesiology residency (1992-95) and obstetric anesthesiology fellowship (1995-96) at the University of Michigan Health System; and her obstetric anesthesiology fellowship (1995) at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as a lecturer in 1995, and was promoted to clinical assistant professor in 1996, clinical associate professor in 2002, and clinical professor in 2009.

Dr. Polley is recognized world-wide for developing a new model to determine the relative potencies of local anesthetics used for labor analgesia: the Minimum Local Analgesic Concentration (MLAC). This model was the first systematic application of dose-response pharmacodynamics to neuraxial anesthesia, revolutionized obstetric anesthesia research, and became recognized internationally as the new standard. Dr. Polley achieved paramount recognition in her field when she was elected president of the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology. She served as the director of Obstetric Anesthesiology from 2004-15. In addition to her extensive record of scholarly publications, Dr. Polley provided peer review service for a number of journals and was the associate editor for a leading textbook on obstetric anesthesiology. She brought national and international recognition to the University of Michigan’s Department of Anesthesiology and Obstetric Anesthesiology. Dr. Polley was highly regarded by colleagues, former trainees, and students. Her commitment to academic medicine was evidenced by the instrumental role she played in establishing and implementing an obstetric anesthesiology fellowship at Michigan Medicine that was approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

The Regents now salute this distinguished medical educator for her dedicated service by naming Linda S. Polley, clinical professor emerita of anesthesiology.

Requested by:

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