THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
Regents Communication  

ACTION REQUEST  

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

John M. O’Brien, M.D., clinical associate professor of family medicine in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2019.  

Dr. O’Brien received his B.S. (1977) and M.D. (1979) degrees from the University of Michigan. He completed his family practice internship (1979-80) and family practice residency (1980-82) at the University of Michigan. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an instructor in 1982, and was promoted to clinical assistant professor in 1987, and clinical associate professor in 1994. He maintained an active family medicine practice, caring for entire families and patients of all ages—from conception, through pregnancy, through childhood, and all the way to end-of-life care. While in practice, he also served as the medical director of a community-based group home for adults with severe mental or physical disabilities for most of his career at the University of Michigan. In addition, Dr. O’Brien has a certificate of added qualification in adolescent medicine from the American Board of Family Medicine. This requires full completion of all requirements specified by the American Board of Family Medicine and is a reflection of his considerable expertise in the care of adolescent patients.  

Dr. O’Brien served with distinction as the department’s residency program director from 1986-2002. He was a valued colleague and model family medicine educator. He was awarded the Faculty Appreciation Award in 1984 and 2019, the Betty K. Mull Award in 1987, 1990, and 1998, and the Outstanding Teacher Award in 1989 and 2002. In addition, he was named the Family Medicine Educator of the Year by the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians in 2005 and received the Provost’s Innovative Teaching Award for the Family Centered Experience Program at the Medical School in 2009. At the professional level, Dr. O’Brien served on many committees at the local and institutional levels (both the University of Michigan and the Chelsea Community Hospital), as well as on several regional committees. He also served several terms on the Medical School’s Clinical Track Appointments and Promotions Committee, including as past chair of this committee.  

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming John M. O’Brien, clinical associate professor emeritus of family medicine.  

Requested by:  

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

July 2019