THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Robert N. Hensinger, M.D., William S. Smith Collegiate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and professor of orthopaedic surgery in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on August 31, 2010.

Dr. Hensinger received his A.B. (1960) and M.D. (1964) degrees, and completed his surgery internship, general surgery residency, and orthopaedic surgery residency (1964-71), all at the University of Michigan. From 1971-74 he was on the staff of the Alfred I. DuPont Institute and the Veterans Administration Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware, and was an instructor of orthopaedic surgery at the Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor of surgery in 1974, and was promoted to associate professor in 1977 and professor in 1981. He was appointed William S. Smith Collegiate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery in 2007.

As a specialist in pediatric cervical spine conditions and developmental dysplasia of the hip, Dr. Hensinger built a strong program in pediatric orthopaedics at Michigan. He has authored 142 publications and 12 books, and his expertise, along with his efforts to seek out complex surgical cases throughout the state, made him a widely-known and recognized figure. Within the Medical School, after having served as chief of pediatric orthopaedics for many years, he was named interim head (1995) and then head (1996) of the Section of Orthopaedic Surgery. Upon the establishment of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in 2001, he was appointed as the first chair, and as such, was instrumental in the expansion and development of the department. Nationally, he has been a recognized leader, having been elected secretary, then president of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (president, 1985-86), the Scoliosis Research Society (president, 1988-89), and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (president, 1992-93). All of his accomplishments have been achieved while working as a full-time clinician, caring for thousands of injured and special needs children at C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital.

The Regents now salute this distinguished leader, accomplished scholar, and tireless educator by naming Robert N. Hensinger professor emeritus of orthopaedic surgery.

Requested by:

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

September 2010