THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

James A. Knol, M.D., Cyrenus G. Darling Sr., M.D. and Cyrenus G. Darling Jr., M.D.
Professor of Surgery and associate professor of surgery in the Medical School, retired from
active faculty status on August 31, 2016.

Dr. Knol received his A.B. degree from Calvin College in 1970 and his M.D. degree from
the University of Michigan in 1974. He was an intern in general surgery (1974-75), a resident in
general surgery (1975-78), a senior resident in general surgery (1978-79), and a chief resident in
general surgery (1979-80) at the University of Michigan Medical Center. Dr. Knol joined the
University of Michigan faculty as an instructor in 1980, and was promoted to assistant professor
in 1983, and associate professor in 1990. He was named the Cyrenus G. Darling Sr., M.D. and
Cyrenus G. Darling Jr., M.D. Professor of Surgery in 2010.

Dr. Knol’s early research focused on blood flow in acute pancreatitis and blood flow in
liver diseases with portal hypertension. He subsequently studied the pharmacodynamics of
certain chemotherapeutic agents used in the treatment of gastrointestinal cancers. The outcome
of this research led to more than 75 peer-reviewed publications, 40 book chapters, multiple
national and international presentations, and numerous U.S. and international patents. Dr. Knol
played an instrumental role in the development of liver resection techniques for liver tumors and
instructed a generation of general surgeons in these techniques. He is widely-recognized as a
superb clinical teacher, with special expertise in the instruction of operative techniques and
patient care in hepatobiliary and gastrointestinal surgery. Dr. Knol also served as the medical
director of the Taubman Surgery Ambulatory Care Unit since 2007. Dr. Knol received a number
of awards, including the W.W. Coon Award for Excellence in Teaching (1989 and 2002), the
Silver Scalpel Medical Student Teaching Award (2006), and the Arnold G. Coran General
Surgery Teaching Award (2015).

The Regents now salute this distinguished physician and medical educator for his dedicated
service by naming James A. Knol, associate professor emeritus of surgery.

Requested by:

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

September 2016