

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

Adopted by the Regents
November 19, 2009

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

James W. Albers, M.D., professor of neurology, professor of neurology in physical medicine and rehabilitation, professor of neurology in psychiatry in the Medical School, and professor of environmental health sciences in the School of Public Health, retired from active faculty status on August 31, 2009.

Dr. Albers received five degrees from the University of Michigan: B.S.E. (1965), M.S. in bioengineering (1966), M.S. in psychology (1968), Ph.D. (1970), and M.D. (1972). Following an internship and residency at the Mayo Clinic from 1972-76, he served 3 years as a faculty member at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor of neurology in the Department of Neurology and the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in 1979, and was promoted to professor in both departments in 1983. He received additional appointments in the School of Public Health in 1991 and the Department of Psychiatry in 1997, and was assistant dean for instructional faculty in the Medical School from 2004-07.

A specialist in neuromuscular disease, Dr. Albers established the Neuromuscular Program and directed the Electromyography Laboratory. Through his research, he made seminal contributions to our understanding of the natural history of diabetic neuropathy and the toxic effects of chemicals on the peripheral nervous system. He published more than 140 peer-reviewed articles and 39 book chapters, and co-authored the definitive two-volume text, *Neurobehavioral Toxicology*. Dr. Albers is also a superb clinician with a sophisticated understanding of complex neuromuscular disease and a mastery of electrodiagnostic techniques. The coupling of this clinical acumen with a gentle bedside manner has made him *the* person to go to in this field. He trained more than 50 neuromuscular fellows, many of whom have gone on to serve as academic leaders in the field. In 2000, Dr. Albers received the Adolph G. Kammer Merit in Authorship Award from the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine for his exemplary service and outstanding contributions to the field of occupational medicine, and in 2002, he received the Distinguished Physician Award from the American Association of Electrodiagnostic Medicine.

The Regents now salute this distinguished educator, clinician, and investigator for his dedicated service by naming **James W. Albers professor emeritus of neurology, professor emeritus of neurology in physical medicine and rehabilitation, professor emeritus of neurology in psychiatry, and professor emeritus of environmental health sciences.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2009