

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

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

**James Varani, Ph.D.**, professor of pathology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on March 1, 2020.

Professor Varani received his B.S. (1970) degree from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota and his M.S. (1972) and Ph.D. (1974) degrees from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He completed postdoctoral fellowships in microbiology at the University of North Dakota (1975-76) and the University of Connecticut (1976-78). He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1980, and was promoted to associate professor in 1984, and professor in 1991.

Dr. Varani's career at the University of Michigan was devoted to the conduct of basic science and translational research. His primary area of interest has been the regulation of growth and differentiation in the epithelium. Dr. Varani's work was characterized by two guiding principles: the requirement for relevant, preclinical tissue models to study human tissue physiology and pathophysiology and the need to follow through with studies from early-stage research to the conduct of clinical, interventional trials where warranted. His research was supported by the National Institutes of Health as well as by several private foundations and commercial firms. Dr. Varani served multiple terms on the Institutional Review Board (IRB), which oversees research involving human subjects, and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), which oversees animal research. His extensive commitment to both regulatory bodies reflected a unwavering belief that ethical conduct must be a cornerstone of all research endeavors. Dr. Varani was also a member of the Office of Research Compliance and Review (ORCR) Oversight Committee. He mentored six junior faculty members, trained more than 20 post-doctoral fellows and numerous undergraduate students as well as graduate and medical students of the University of Michigan and other national and international institutions.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **James Varani, professor emeritus of pathology**.

**Requested by:**

  
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**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**February 2020**