

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Vaman M. Naik, Ph.D., professor of physics in the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, University of Michigan-Dearborn, retired from active status on December 31, 2025.

Professor Naik earned his Bachelor of Science (1971) and Master of Science (1973) degrees in physics from Karnatak University, India, his post-master's diploma in biophysics from the Indian Institute of Science (1975), and his Ph.D. in biophysics from the University of Michigan (1984). He completed a one-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Argonne National Laboratory, then joined Northeastern University as a non-tenure-track assistant professor in 1985. He moved to University of Michigan-Dearborn in 1987 as an assistant professor of physics, and was promoted to associate professor in 1993, and professor in 1999.

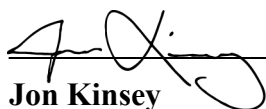
Professor Naik's research career is notable for its breadth and impact spanning several fields, applying Raman and infrared spectroscopy to elucidate protein and polypeptide structures and applying spectroscopic methods for detecting cancerous tissues. His work also extends into materials physics, where he has contributed to advances in electrode materials for lithium-ion batteries and explored magnetic oxide materials for applications in magnetic hyperthermia and investigated the optical properties of wide energy bandgap semiconductors. Across these varied areas, his work reflects both deep scientific curiosity and a consistent drive to translate fundamental insights into practical applications. Professor Naik has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles in top-tier journals such as *Physical Review B*, *Applied Physics Letters*, the *Journal of Applied Physics*, and the *Journal of Raman Spectroscopy*. He has delivered invited talks at major conferences, reviewed for numerous high-impact journals, and served on many Ph.D. committees, and his outstanding research earned him the campus Distinguished Research Award in 2001.

Professor Naik taught a wide range of physics courses—from introductory to advanced—covering most theoretical offerings and all laboratory-based classes, earning admiration for his deep knowledge, organized lectures, engaging style, and care for student success. He also enhanced the curriculum by developing numerous new laboratory experiments, and his excellence in teaching was recognized with the campus Distinguished Teaching Award in 2011.

Over his 37 years at UM-Dearborn, Professor Naik has served our students, the Department of Natural Sciences, the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, the campus, and the university at large, including roles as physics discipline chair (1999–2000), natural sciences department chair (2005–2011), and member of the college Executive Committee, faculty senate, and faculty senate council.

The Regents now salute this distinguished physicist for his service to the University of Michigan-Dearborn by naming **Vaman M. Naik, professor emeritus of physics**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

February 2026