

The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Zhenhua Yang, Ph.D., associate professor of epidemiology in the School of Public Health, retired from active faculty status on May 24, 2026.

Professor Yang received her M.D. (1981) from Northern Sichuan Medical College, China, and her Ph.D. (1995) degree from Copenhagen University, Denmark. She completed a fellowship in vaccinology (1984) at the Staten Serum Institut, Denmark, and a fellowship in molecular biology and genetics of microorganisms (1992) at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. Professor Yang joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 2000 and was promoted to associate professor in 2006.

Professor Yang studied tuberculosis (TB) at both the molecular and population levels from the perspectives of epidemiology, pathogenesis, and the development of new vaccines, diagnostics, and public health policies, using an integrated approach combining comparative genomics, epidemiological data analysis, and bioinformatics. Her studies led to the identification of factors influencing the epidemiology and clinical presentations of TB and TB-HIV coinfections in the U.S. and several other TB and TB-HIV high burden countries. Her studies also provided new insight into the genetic diversity of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Professor Yang was also a passionate and dedicated teacher and mentor. Yang served on the Health Sciences and Behavioral Sciences Institutional Review Board (IRB-HSBS), University of Michigan for 15 years (2009-2024), besides serving on various committees of the Department of Epidemiology over more than two decades.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Zhenhua Yang, associate professor emerita of epidemiology**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2026