

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Jeffrey M. Jentzen, M.D., Ph.D.**, clinical professor of pathology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on July 1, 2020.

Dr. Jentzen received his B.S. (1975) degree from Michigan Technological University, his M.D. (1980) degree from Wayne State University, and his M.S. (1997) and Ph.D. (2007) degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He completed his anatomic and clinical pathology residency at the Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis followed by his forensic pathology fellowship at the Hennepin County Medical Examiner Office. He is board-certified in anatomic, clinical, and forensic pathology. He served as medical examiner of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin from 1987-2008. Dr. Jentzen also served on the faculties of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Medical College of Wisconsin, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a clinical professor in 2008 and served as the medical examiner of Washtenaw County, Michigan since 2008.

Dr. Jentzen's contributions in the field of forensic pathology centered on education and the development of professional standards. He mentored twenty-five forensic fellows and taught numerous courses and lectures in medicolegal death investigation. In 1996, he authored *Medicolegal Death Investigator: A Systematic Training Program for the Professional Death Investigator*, which subsequently created the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. He was a key contributor to the standards of development in forensic autopsy, child, and death scene investigation. His extensive publications in the field of forensic pathology covered broad areas, including child abuse, postmortem toxicology, pharmacogenomics and the investigation of serial killers. He personally investigated the 1991 Jeffrey Dahmer case, the 1995 Midwest heat wave, the 2007 U-M transplant team airplane crash, and the 2012 multistate contaminated steroid epidemic, in addition to a number of other high-profile cases. His published thesis, *Death Investigation in America: Medical Examiners, Coroners and the Search for Medical Certainty* (2009) became a reference for the development and professionalization of death investigation practices in the United States. He published on numerous historical topics of death investigation, including his forthcoming book titled *Instruments of Empire: Death Investigation in the Colonial Perspective*. He was the 2018 recipient of the Milton Helpert Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Medical Examiners.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Jeffrey M. Jentzen, clinical professor emeritus of pathology**.

**Requested by:**



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

**June 2020**