THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

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

John E. Billi, M.D., professor of internal medicine and professor of learning health sciences in the Medical School, professor of health management and policy in the School of Public Health, and professor of integrative systems and design in the College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2021.

Dr. Billi received his B.S. (1973) degree from Georgetown University and his M.D. (1977) degree from State University of New York, Buffalo. He completed his postgraduate training in internal medicine at the University of Michigan in 1980 where he was also a chief resident from 1980-1981. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an instructor in 1981, and was promoted to assistant professor in 1985, associate professor in 1994, and professor in 2003. He held a number of key leadership positions, including assistant dean for clinical affairs (1987-90), associate dean for clinical affairs (1990-2014), associate vice president for medical affairs (2000-18), and medical director of the Collaborative Quality Initiatives (2017-20).

At the University of Michigan, Dr. Billi has had a variety of duties and milestones, including practicing patient care in the outpatient setting as a primary care physician, serving on numerous committees, and helping to found and co-chair the board of the Center for Healthcare Research and Transformation, originally formed as a joint venture between UMHS and BCBSM. He led the Michigan Quality System, the University of Michigan Health System’s (UMHS) business strategy to help transform clinical operations through the deployment of scientific problem solving and coaching at all levels. Since 2018, Dr. Billi helped teams of faculty physicians, other clinicians, administrative leaders, and trainees learn practical problem solving through hands-on A3 workshops using their real work problems. Dr. Billi led workshops on lean thinking within and outside U-M, including a joint program with the U-M College of Engineering with a nationwide presence.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming John E. Billi, professor emeritus of internal medicine, professor emeritus of learning health sciences, professor emeritus of health management and policy, and professor emeritus of integrative systems and design.

Requested by:

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

June 2021

Adopted by the Regents
June 17, 2021