THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
Regents Communication  

ACTION REQUEST  

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

Dorene S. Markel, M.S., M.H.S.A., assistant research scientist, learning health sciences in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2022.  

Ms. Markel received her B.S. (1981) degree from Michigan Technological University, her M.S. (1983) degree from the University of Michigan Medical School and her M.H.S.A (1991) degree from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Ms. Markel joined the University of Michigan Medical School June 1982, initially as a research assistant in the laboratory of Dr. James V. Neel. In 1984, she joined the University of Michigan’s Department of Neurology, becoming the first genetic counselor to be employed by the University of Michigan. She then worked with Dr. Francis Collins to create the University of Michigan Human Genome Center in 1990 and became the director of the Center’s Human Studies Core. In 1995, she became the administrative director of the General Clinical Research Center, and in 2001 she was the founding administrative director of the Center for the Advancement of Clinical Research. In 2006, she was appointed the first director for clinical and translational research for the Medical School, and she also became the founding administrative director of the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research. Ms. Markel was one of very few staff members to also receive a faculty appointment, becoming a research investigator in the Department of Medical Education in 2007 (now the Department of Learning Health Sciences) and a promotion to assistant research scientist in 2012. In 2008, she became the first director of the Brehm Center and in 2019, the founding managing director of M-Diabetes. In 2020, she became the founding managing director of the Elizabeth Weiser Caswell Diabetes Institute.  

Ms. Markel’s educational, research, and service activities have primarily focused on the ethical and social issues in genetic and clinical research and the community’s view and knowledge of research and the impact of that knowledge on clinical and health research participation. She has played key roles in the development of many significant programs, centers, and institutes at the University of Michigan. Her legacy can be seen in the impact she had in creating professional roles for research staff in the fields of genetic counseling and clinical research.  

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming Dorene S. Markel, assistant research scientist emerita, learning health sciences.  

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

Adopted by the Regents  
June 16, 2022