

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Diane M. Robins, Ph.D., professor of human genetics in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2024.

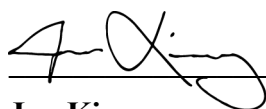
Professor Robins received her B.S. degree in biology from Yale University in 1973 and her Ph.D. degree in biological sciences from Stanford University in 1978. She joined Columbia University as a postdoctoral fellow and became an assistant professor in 1982, with promotion to associate professor in 1989. She joined the University of Michigan and the Department of Human Genetics in 1990 and was promoted to professor in 1999. She has been a member of the Cancer Center since 1994 and the Reproductive Sciences Program since 1996.

Professor Robins is recognized worldwide for her foundational insights into hormone-regulated gene action in steroid-dependent cancers and sex-biased biology. She developed cell and mouse systems to show that specific gene activation by the androgen receptor relies on both the sequence of the DNA binding site and receptor interaction with nonreceptor factors, leading to novel approaches to prostate cancer therapy. Other studies first identified a biological role for KRAB-ZFP repressors, epigenetic regulators that act in reproduction, immunity, and metabolism to influence species diversity. In 2013, Dr. Robins was elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for contributions to molecular endocrinology.

Dr. Robins has vigorously contributed to community service. She played critical roles in the University of Michigan's educational mission, including directing Ph.D. and M.S. graduate studies in human genetics for over 14 years and serving as departmental chair of postdoctoral training since 2018. For her remarkable effort in teaching and mentoring, Dr. Robins received the 2021 Endowment for Basic Sciences Teaching Award. She has served on and chaired review boards for the American Cancer Society, DoD Prostate and Breast Cancer Research, and the NIH, and has been on several editorial review boards. She held leadership roles in the Endocrine Society, receiving the Sydney Ingbar Award for Distinguished Service in 2015, and is on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of FASEB. She is on directing boards of NGOs focused on global education, namely STEP (Science Training Encouraging Peace, funding pairs of Israeli and Palestinian graduate students).

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Diane M. Robins, professor emerita of human genetics**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

June 2024