

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Valerie P. Opipari, M.D.**, professor of pediatrics in the Medical School, retired from active faculty on June 30, 2025.

Dr. Opipari received her bachelor's degree in 1979 from McGill University in Montreal and her medical degree from McMaster University in Ontario, in 1983. Dr. Opipari completed her pediatric residency in 1986 at McMaster University. In 1990, she completed a fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology at the University of Michigan and joined the faculty as assistant professor in pediatrics. In 1996, she was promoted to associate professor of pediatrics, with tenure. In 2001, Dr. Opipari was promoted to professor of pediatrics, with tenure; the position from which she now retires.

Throughout Dr. Opipari's 35-year career, she has held numerous administrative roles at the University of Michigan, including associate provost for academic and faculty affairs, associate chair for research in the Department of Pediatrics, and chair of the Biomedical Research Council at the University of Michigan. Dr. Opipari was named chair of the Department of Pediatrics in 2003, becoming the first woman appointed chair in the history of the University of Michigan Medical School. During her 15-year tenure as chair, she led a transformation in pediatric medicine at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, that has resulted in patients and their families cared for at Mott Hospital accessing the best treatments and medical technologies available anywhere in the world, and Mott Hospital being the provider of choice for pediatric care in the region. In 2018, the Valerie P. Opipari, M.D. Endowed Lectureship was established to honor her leadership and contributions to the Department of Pediatrics. In 2020, the Valerie Castle Opipari, M.D., Professorship in Pediatrics was established to recognize her impact as a physician-scientist, and academic leader. Dr. Opipari has published over 100 peer-reviewed publications, many focused-on understanding cancer biology and improving the effectiveness of treatments for the childhood cancer neuroblastoma. Dr. Opipari was elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and has held many national leadership positions including president of the Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs and council member for the American Pediatric Society. Dr. Opipari has been an instrumental member of the university community through her commitment to academic excellence, high-quality and compassionate patient care, research, service, and mentoring.

The regents now salute this distinguished clinician, scholar, leader, and teacher by naming **Valerie P. Opipari, professor emerita of pediatrics**.

**Requested by:**



**Jon Kinsey**  
**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**June 2025**