

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

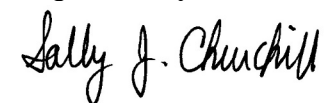
**Rajan P. Nair, Ph.D.**, associate research scientist, dermatology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on August 31, 2023.

Dr. Nair received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Kerala in 1976 and completed his post-doctoral fellowships at the Medical College of Georgia in 1983 and the University of Michigan Medical School in 1987. He was a researcher for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute from 1987-1991, then joined the University of Michigan's Department of Dermatology as a research investigator and lecturer in 1991. He was promoted to assistant research scientist in 1996, and became a research assistant professor in 2003, and an associate research scientist in 2011.

Dr. Nair is a foremost scientist in the field of psoriasis genetics, whose research has shaped our understanding of psoriasis as a heritable, immune-mediated disease with a multifactorial genetic basis. As co-director of the University of Michigan Psoriasis Genetics Laboratory, he established the largest single collection of well-phenotyped psoriasis DNA samples in the world and a high-efficiency relational database, which serve as powerful tools for psoriasis genetics research. He has co-authored more than 120 publications, including landmark papers reporting the first genetic evidence of linkage to the human leukocyte antigen (HLA) region; DNA sequencing and haplotype analysis that mapped the major psoriasis susceptibility gene (PSORS1) to near HLA-Cw6; and the first large-scale genome-wide association scan of psoriasis which revealed association of psoriasis with IL-23 and NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathways. In addition, he was centrally involved in several large-scale, multinational genetic and genomic analyses that have identified over 65 psoriasis-susceptibility loci to date. Throughout his career, Dr. Nair has mentored students, fellows, junior faculty, and others within the lab. In addition, he served on the Medical School IRBMED as a non-physician scientist member and minority advocate since 2004 providing review for countless human subject research protocols. He plans to continue this service after retirement. In recognition of his research achievements, Dr. Nair was recipient of the Society for Investigative Dermatology Eugene M. Farber Psoriasis Research Award in 2007.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Rajan P. Nair, associate research scientist emeritus, dermatology**.

**Requested by:**



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

**July 2023**