

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

James Douglas Engel, Ph.D., professor of cell and developmental biology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on April 30, 2024.

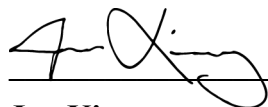
Dr. Engel earned his Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree in chemistry at the University of California at San Diego in 1970 and his Ph.D. degree from the Department of Chemistry at the University of Oregon in 1975. His postdoctoral studies were carried out at the California Institute of Technology, where genomic cloning was invented. Dr. Engel was appointed as the G. Carl Huber Professor of Developmental Biology, professor of cell and developmental biology, and chair of the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology (CDB) at the University of Michigan Medical School in 2002, after serving for 24 years on the faculty and as the Owen L. Coon Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Northwestern University.

During his tenure as chair (2002-2013), Dr. Engel: 1) hired 12 new faculty at all ranks, more than doubling the size of the faculty; 2) moved CDB to the new A. Alfred Taubman Biomedical Sciences Research Building (2007); 3) increased the department's portfolio in NIH research dollars from \$3M in 2002 to \$11M in 2013; 4) rebuilt the graduate recruiting and seminar programs; 5) established 8 new endowed professorships that proved critical for retention of some of CDB's most talented faculty. The latter was at times a close collaboration with the Life Sciences Institute Director, Alan Saltiel, through a shared vision for strategic growth.

Dr. Engel served as an editorial board member of professional journals, as a reviewer for NIH study sections or international agencies, as a consultant for pharmaceutical or law practices, on program review committees at peer academic institutions, and as an organizer of national or international meetings. Dr. Engel's research accomplishments include the discovery that chromatin is organized in the same basic structure in all eucaryotes (*Nature*, 1975), that enhancers act by looping through nucleoplasmic space to contact their target promoters (*Cell*, 1988), and that the GATA factors comprise a family of master transcription factors (*Genes and Development*, 1990). Dr. Engel has a strong track record of mentoring including research fellows, graduate students, and faculty across basic science and clinical departments.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **James Douglas Engel, professor emeritus of cell and developmental biology**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

July 2024