

The University of Michigan Regents Communication Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Cathy Larson, Ph.D., associate professor of physical therapy in the College of Health Sciences, University of Michigan-Flint, retired from active faculty status on August 31, 2026.

Professor Larson received her B.S. (1978) degree from Michigan State University, her M.S.P.T. (1980) degree from University of Alabama in Birmingham, and her Ph.D. (2002) degree from University of Michigan. She served as a professorial lecturer from 1986 to 1990 at Andrews University. In 2002, she joined the physical therapy faculty at Oakland University where she served as assistant professor and clinical assistant professor. In 2008, she joined the physical therapy faculty at Wayne State University as a clinical faculty member. In 2012, she joined the physical therapy faculty at University of Michigan-Flint as an associate professor with tenure and associate director of research for the Physical Therapy Department. In 2013, she became the associate director for the Ph.D. in physical therapy program. As the founding associate director for the Ph.D. in physical therapy program, she was instrumental in establishing the curriculum, exam structure, and culture of the program.

Professor Larson's research focused on mobility in persons with long-term disabilities, particularly those with spinal cord injuries. She published in journals such as *the Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine*, *the Journal of Neurologic Physical Therapy*, *Topics in Spinal Cord Injury and Rehabilitation*. She was a reviewer for multiple professional journals and served in multiple elected leadership roles for the Spinal Cord Injury Special Interest Group of the American Physical Therapy Association.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Cathy Larson, associate professor emerita of physical therapy**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey

Vice President and Secretary of the University

July 2026