

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Joseph R. Custer, M.D., professor of pediatrics and communicable diseases in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on July 31, 2017.

Dr. Custer received his B.A. (1968) and M.D. (1972) degrees from the University of Minnesota. He completed a pediatrics internship (1972-73), pediatrics residency (1973-75), neonatology fellowship (1976-77) and served as chief resident in pediatrics (1975-76) at the Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York. Dr. Custer was appointed as an instructor in pediatrics at the Harvard Medical School (1979-83) during which time he was associate director of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital (1979-83). He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1984, and was promoted to associate professor in 1990, and professor in 2006. Dr. Custer held a number of key positions, including director of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and Division of Pediatric Intensive Care (1984-96), director of the Stable Ventilator Unit (1990-91), and director of the Division of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine (1996-2004). He also served as the pediatric director of Arbor Hospice in Ann Arbor, Michigan (1999-2004).

Dr. Custer made valuable contributions as a clinician, researcher, teacher, and bioethicist during his long academic career and was well respected by his peers in the pediatric critical care community. His work combined his interests in pediatric critical care, bioethics, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, pulmonary medicine, and education. During his early career, Dr. Custer led an active and heavy clinical load in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, instructed attending staff, residents, medical students and allied health professionals in critical care medicine and bioethics while also maintaining a busy research program. His research examined acute respiratory failure in critically ill children and the use of pediatric extracorporeal membrane oxygenation. Dr. Custer has a notable record of successfully securing research funding and authored numerous peer-reviewed publications, scientific abstracts, and book chapters. He started the Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Fellowship Program, was actively involved in the clinical foundations of medicine course, and mentored a generation of undergraduate students, medical students, residents, and fellows.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Joseph R. Custer, professor emeritus of pediatrics and communicable diseases**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

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