

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

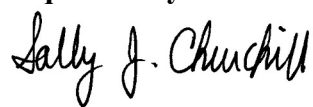
James A. Freer, M.D., clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2020.

Dr. Freer received his B.S. (1969) degree from Western Kentucky University and his M.D. (1973) degree from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, where he was a participant in the Rural Kentucky Medical Scholarship Loan Program. He was a postgraduate trainee in family medicine at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine from 1973-75. To fulfill his rural practice obligation, he practiced family medicine and emergency medicine in Elizabethtown, KY from 1975-79, which included onsite training for physician assistant students. Dr. Freer began full-time emergency medicine in Louisville, KY in 1980. He relocated to the William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, MI to focus on teaching students and residents emergency medicine in 1990. Dr. Freer joined the University of Michigan faculty as an adjunct clinical instructor in emergency medicine in 1991, and was promoted to clinical assistant professor in emergency medicine in 1995. He also served as the medical director for emergency medicine at W. A. Foote Memorial Hospital in Jackson, MI from 1995-1998.

Dr. Freer played an instrumental role in multiple efforts to improve the education of medical students and residents. He helped in efforts to bring medical simulation to the University of Michigan, and led efforts to test medical competency with standardized protocols with the human patient simulator. Significant collaborative efforts were applied to develop scenarios to be used in medical training. The medical simulator with augmented reality scenarios was first demonstrated in training exercises with control by a remote operator while at sea and at a military base. This concept was further demonstrated at the World Health Organization International Telemedicine/Telehealth Symposium in 2001. He instructed in and then subsequently directed the Emergency Medicine Advanced Airway Course, which incorporated medical simulation as a part of this competency training. Dr. Freer served on numerous hospital and community committees and national groups over the years, always with a goal to facilitate learning and thereby improve patient care and outcomes. As a strong advocate for the patient, he has based a lifetime of practice on a saying hanging on the wall in the work area of his first emergency room: "First, take care of the patient."

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **James Freer, clinical assistant professor emeritus of emergency medicine**.

Requested by:



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

September 2020