Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement
Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Paul E. McKeever, M.D., Ph.D., professor of pathology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on September 25, 2020.

Dr. McKeever received his B.S. (1968) degree from Brown University, his M.D. (1972) degree from the University of California, Davis, and his Ph.D. (1976) degree from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). He was an intern in anatomic pathology (AP) at the University of California, San Diego from 1972-73 and a resident in AP and neuropathologist (NP) fellow at MUSC from 1973-76. He was a research fellow at the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases from 1976-79. He was a NP at the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke from 1979-83 and a clinical associate professor at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences from 1978-83. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as chief of the Neuropathology Section in Pathology and associate professor in 1983. He was promoted to professor in 1999.

Dr. McKeever was thrilled to use his abilities to solve problems, especially when a solution benefited patients. He was grateful to the university for providing many opportunities to work on significant problems at the microscope, in the laboratory, and with students and colleagues. The satisfaction stands alone, and is its own reward. But corollaries include his efforts on 22 funded grants, 20 contributions to books, over 140 publications, including large cell lymphomas clinically like CNS vasculitis, extracranial meningiomas, and parasagittal ependymomas resembling falcine meningiomas. Dr. McKeever distinguished the pathologic features of pituitary ACTH hyperplasia from ACTH adenoma, and worked with clinical colleagues to translate these into a test for ACTH hyperplasia versus adenoma. Dr. McKeever studied individual brain tumors in vitro; and in fresh, frozen, and formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tumor tissue. He found major changes compared with cells in the original tumors. From glioblastomas (GbMs), cells grow in vitro that lack the glial phenotype seen in tissue samples. He documented his observations for the scientific community with a caveat: In vitro models of cells cultured from gliomas must be monitored for cell type. This encouraged better methods to culture glioma cells. Dr. McKeever’s studies of GbM tissues revealed that nuclear proliferation was increased in GbMs of older patients. This new observation contributed a foundation for additional studies that distinguish highly proliferating GbMs in older patients from other GbMs with better patient outcomes.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming Paul E. McKeever, professor emeritus of pathology.

Requested by:

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