Subject: Report of Faculty Death

Action Requested: Adoption of Memorial Statement

The Regents of the University of Michigan acknowledge with profound sadness the death of Charles A. Cain, Ph.D., founding chair of biomedical engineering, Richard A. Auhll Professor of Engineering, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, and Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in the College of Engineering and Medical School. Professor Cain died on March 27, 2020.

Professor Cain received his B.S. degree from the University of Florida in 1965, his M.S. degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1967, and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Michigan in 1972. He served on the faculty of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (1972-89) and as the chair of the bioengineering faculty of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (1983-89). Professor Cain joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor of electrical engineering and computer science in 1989, received an additional appointment as professor of biomedical engineering in 1996, and was named the Richard A. Auhll Professor of Engineering in 2001.

A visionary scholar, fearless leader, and caring mentor, Professor Cain was born to be a scientist and educator. In his distinguished career at the University of Michigan, he served as the chair of the bioengineering program in electrical engineering and computer science (1989-96) and founded and served as chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering (1996-99), bridging the gap between engineering and medicine. Professor Cain pioneered phased array ultrasound research in the 1990’s and created the histotripsy research field in 2003 that continues to play an important role in advances in non-invasive ultrasound therapy. He was widely published and a decorated scholar who served on numerous editorial boards, held over 15 patents, and co-founded a successful start-up company that commercialized his technology. Professor Cain was an excellent and caring mentor to his students and junior faculty, many of whom have become leaders in their fields.

As we mourn the loss of our beloved colleague, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Li, his three sons, Kent, James, and Robert, his grandchildren, Travis and Jenna, and his many loving relatives and friends.

Requested by:

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

September 2020