

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

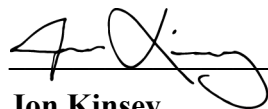
James P. Simmer, D.D.S., Ph.D., professor of dentistry in the School of Dentistry, retired from active faculty status on September 30, 2024.

Professor Simmer received his B.S. in zoology, University of Michigan, 1976; D.D.S. University of Michigan School of Dentistry, 1980; and Ph.D. in biochemistry, Wayne State University School of Medicine, 1990. His post-doctoral training was at the Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology, University of Southern California, 1991-1993. He was an assistant professor in pediatric dentistry, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio from 1993-1999 and was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1999. He joined the University of Michigan School of Dentistry as an associate professor with tenure in 2002, and was promoted to professor with tenure in 2006. His academic journey spans several decades, marked by his commitment to education, innovative research, and decades of continuous NIH funding pioneering the field of dental genetics.

Professor Simmer is internationally recognized for his research on genetic regulations of tooth development and biomineralization. His bibliography lists 251 publications, and 19,404 citations with h-index of 79 Google Scholar. A 2023 bibliometric analysis, described him as the most influential scholar in the field of tooth development. His strength as a scientist derived from a deep interest in the subject, extensive training, continuous efforts to learn, and by following a bottom-up approach of making observations and accumulating important information and then framing and testing hypotheses to explain how the process works. With the knowledge, expertise, and established record of accomplishment of conducting studies concentrated on tooth development and mineralization, he has advanced current understanding of genetic regulation of amelogenesis and contributed critical data to facilitate genetic testing of disorders involving tooth enamel. Professor Simmer received the Distinguished Service Award given by the Detroit American Indian Health Center in 1983. He received a Certificate of Honor, Westinghouse Science Scholarship in 1993. He was a three-time William J. Gies Awardee for best paper in *J. Dent. Res.* in the years 2001, 2005, and 2015. He received the Distinguished Service Award as a member of the editorial board of the *J. Dent. Res.* in 2001 and the Distinguished Scientist Award, Basic Research in Biological Mineralization, International Association for Dental Research and American Association for Dental Research in 2007.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **James P. Simmer, professor emeritus of dentistry**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

September 2024