

The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Chris M. Coombe, M.P.H., Ph.D., associate research scientist, health behavior and health equity in the School of Public Health, retired from active faculty status on October 31, 2026.

Dr. Coombe received her M.P.H from the University of California, Berkeley (1996) and her Ph.D. in public health (2007) from the University of Michigan. Following a postdoctoral fellowship in translational research from the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research (2008-2010), she joined SPH as an assistant research scientist in 2010 and was promoted to associate research scientist in 2021.

Dr. Coombe is a leading contributor to the scholarship and practice of community-based participatory research (CBPR), with a focus on development, measurement, and evaluation of equitable community-academic research partnerships. Affiliated with the Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center (Detroit URC), Dr. Coombe developed curricula and led national and local training programs to enhance capacity in CBPR. Her work has contributed to the development of scores of new CBPR partnerships and scholars across the country and engaged University of Michigan faculty, students, and community leaders throughout. Dr. Coombe developed a policy capacity training program for community-academic partnerships to engage in policy change that advanced a range of policies that address social and physical determinants of health in Michigan. Her research has applied a social and physical determinants framework to identify policy implications, and included a health impact assessment of infrastructure investment in Detroit. In addition to articles and book chapters, Dr. Coombe's scholarly and practice contributions to the field include widely used open access materials, including a validated partnership evaluation instrument, and training curricula in CBPR, policy change, and partnership evaluation.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Chris M. Coombe, associate research scientist emerita, health behavior and health equity**.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Kinsey', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jon Kinsey

Vice President and Secretary of the University

October 2026