

The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Max S. Wicha, M.D., Madeline and Sidney Forbes Professor of Oncology and professor of internal medicine in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on October 31, 2026.

Dr. Wicha received a B.S. in biology from State University of NY at Stony Brook in 1970 and an M.D. from Stanford University School of Medicine in 1974. He then completed training in internal medicine at the University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics and in oncology at the National Cancer Institute. He joined the faculty of the University of Michigan in 1980 where he spent his entire career as an assistant professor of internal medicine (1980-1983); associate professor of internal medicine (1983-1988) and as professor of internal medicine (1988-2026). He also served as the Distinguished Professor of Oncology (1988-2015) and Madeline and Sidney Forbes Professor of Oncology (2015-present).

Dr. Wicha has held several leadership positions at UM. He served as chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology in the Department of Internal Medicine (1983-1991). He also is the Founding Director of the Rogel Cancer Center, a position he held for 29 years (1986-2015). Under his direction, the Rogel Cancer Center established itself as one of the nation's premier cancer centers. After stepping down as director of the Rogel Cancer Center, he helped establish the Rogel Cancer Center's Forbes Institute for Cancer Discovery, focused on translational research. As a physician scientist, Dr. Wicha's research has focused on elucidating mechanisms regulating breast cancer development and designing therapeutic strategies for this disease. He was among the first to identify breast cancer stem cells, an area which has opened new areas of inquiry, and he is among the most highly cited scientists in that field. His laboratory has been continually funded by the NCI for over 40 years which includes an R35 Outstanding Investigator Award. He has received several awards, including the AACR Distinguished Lectureship in Breast Cancer Research, the J.E. Wallace Sterling Lifetime Achievement Award in Medicine from Stanford University School of Medicine and the Henry Russel Lecturer from UM. He is a member of ASCI, AAP and an AAAS fellow and has served on NIH study sections and the National Cancer Advisory Board.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Max S. Wicha, Madeline and Sidney Forbes Professor Emeritus of Oncology and professor emeritus of internal.**

Respectfully submitted:

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

Jon Kinsey

Vice President and Secretary of the University

October 2026