

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Renny T. Franceschi, Ph.D., Marcus L. Ward Collegiate Professor of Dentistry, professor of dentistry, School of Dentistry, and professor of biological chemistry, Medical School, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2025.

Professor Franceschi received his B.A. from the University of Vermont in 1971, his Ph.D. from Purdue University in 1978 and conducted postdoctoral studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1978-1980. He served on the faculty of Harvard University from 1980-1989, and on the faculty of the University of Texas Medical Center from 1989-1992. Professor Franceschi joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1993 and was promoted to professor in 2000. He served as research director at the School of Dentistry from 1998-2000 and associate dean for research from 2002-2005 as well as associate director of the Michigan Integrative Musculoskeletal Health Center from 2016-2025.

Professor Franceschi's research focused on skeletal development and regeneration with particular emphasis on gene regulatory mechanisms and the influence of extracellular matrix signaling on bone formation. Dr. Franceschi and his colleagues also successfully applied basic discoveries toward the development of tissue engineering and gene therapy approaches for bone regeneration. He coauthored over 170 scholarly publications and was continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health for over 40 years. In 2008, he received the Distinguished Scientist Award for Basic Research in Biological Mineralization from the International Association for Dental Research. Professor Franceschi taught biochemistry, molecular biology and skeletal biology to generations of dental and graduate students and was primary mentor to nine Ph.D. students and over 25 postdoctoral fellows. Professor Franceschi is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2020), The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (2019), and the American Association for Dental and Craniofacial Research (2019).

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Renny T. Franceschi, Marcus L. Ward Professor Emeritus of Dentistry, professor emeritus of dentistry, and professor emeritus of biological chemistry.**

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2025