

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Xia Shao, Ph.D., research scientist, radiology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2025.

Dr. Xia “Shannon” Shao obtained her Ph.D. degree in 2000 from the Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI, under Dr. Dallas Bates. She then joined the University of Michigan as a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Michael Kilbourn and Dr. Scott Snyder, studying radiochemistry and applications of PET imaging.

Dr. Shao joined faculty as a research investigator in 2003, and was appointed as assistant research scientist in 2011. She was promoted to associate research scientist in 2017, and research scientist in 2022. Dr. Shao worked in radiology’s Cyclotron and Radiochemistry Facility, serving as lab manager for clinical operations, and conducting research.

Her research has focused on PET radiochemistry, where she is widely regarded as a leading authority in the field of carbon-11 radiochemistry. She was an early innovator of automated radiopharmaceutical synthesis, and the first to establish they can be conducted in water, pioneering the field of green radiochemistry. Recently, she has worked with gas phase synthons (e.g. [¹¹C]CO) and labeling nanoparticles, in collaboration with biotech and pharma.

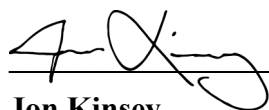
Dr. Shao is the author of over 65 scholarly peer-reviewed publications, cited almost 2000 times, 11 books chapters and >100 abstracts. Her paper on opioid imaging was recognized as one of the top 20 most read papers in the *Journal of Labelled Compounds and Radiopharmaceuticals* and she has received numerous grants supporting her research activities over the years (>\$4m as Co-PI or Co-I).

In the role of lab manager, her herculean efforts between 2005-2009 to migrate radiopharmaceutical production from the legacy facility in the Kresge Research Buildings to the newly constructed facility in Medical Science I helped put UM Radiology at the forefront of modern PET imaging research. Thanks to Dr. Shao’s efforts, thousands of research PET scans have been performed at UM in recent years in support of two dozen researchers across campus.

Lastly, as a dedicated teacher and mentor she has supervised dozens of postdocs, students and visiting scholars, and delivered noon conferences to nuclear medicine fellows and radiology residents. Dr. Shao will continue as emeritus faculty in the Department of Radiology, with focus on her pioneering research radiolabeling bioactive molecules for biomedical imaging.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar and educator by naming **Xia Shao, research scientist emerita, radiology**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2025