The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

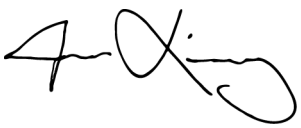
Marcus C. Ammerlaan, Ph.D., Hiroshi Ikuma Collegiate Lecturer, lecturer IV in molecular, cellular and developmental biology, and lecturer IV in ecology and evolutionary biology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty service on June 30, 2026.

Dr. Ammerlaan earned a B.A. in molecular biology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Texas-Austin. He joined the Department of Biology at the University of Michigan in 1995.

Dr. Ammerlaan primarily taught and coordinated large introductory lectures and labs for life science majors. More than 50,000 students matriculated through classes he had a hand in. Introductory Biology, Introductory Biology Lab, Microbiology, and Genetics were his staples. Additionally, he taught non-majors courses covering AIDS, Covid, and biotechnology. For many years, he directed the department's GSI training program. Dr. Ammerlaan served as interim director of the Science Learning Center for a year. An enduring interest was advising Michigan's Synthetic Biology Team and traveling with them to present their research as part of the International Genetically Engineered Machines competition. He was part of the inaugural cohort of Collegiate Lecturers in 2012. During his time at the University, the Department of Biology split into the Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology departments. He was active in both departments. He also helped to shape three iterations of the Introductory Biology sequence. During the Covid years, he kept labs going by a combination of recorded videos and online simulations. His legacy continues through the myriad students, instructors and laboratory preparation staff he helped train.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and administrator by naming **Marcus C. Ammerlaan, Hiroshi Ikuma Collegiate Lecturer Emeritus, lecturer IV emeritus in molecular, cellular and developmental biology, and lecturer IV emeritus in ecology and evolutionary biology.**

Respectfully submitted:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2026