The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Cheong-Hee Chang, Ph.D., professor of microbiology and immunology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on January 2, 2027.

Professor Chang received her B.S. and M.S. degrees from Seoul National University in 1977 and 1979, respectively. She received her Ph.D. degree in biology from the University of Virginia in 1989. She completed postdoctoral training at Yale University, where she later served as an associate research scientist in immunobiology. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1996, served as associate professor at the Indiana University School of Medicine from 2001-06, and returned to the University of Michigan in 2007 as professor of microbiology and immunology.

Professor Chang is an internationally recognized immunologist whose research has advanced understanding of antigen presentation, T cell development, immune regulation, and innate-like lymphocyte biology. Her early work helped establish the class II transactivator, CIITA, as a key regulator of MHC class II gene expression and antigen presentation. Her laboratory later made significant contributions to the study of CD4 T cells, thymocyte-selected T cells, invariant natural killer T cells, cytokine regulation, cellular metabolism, iron homeostasis, and immune quiescence. She authored more than 80 peer-reviewed publications in leading journals and sustained a highly productive research program supported by the National Institutes of Health and other major sponsors.

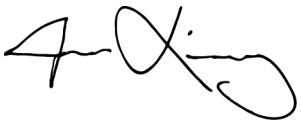
Professor Chang was a dedicated teacher and mentor to medical, graduate, and undergraduate students. At Michigan, she taught and directed courses in medical immunology, molecular and cellular immunology, advanced immunology, host defense, microbiology, and infectious diseases, and co-directed a global fieldwork course in Zambia. She trained numerous graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research investigators, rotation students, and undergraduates. Her teaching excellence was recognized by the University of Michigan Medical School Excellence in Teaching Award, Teacher of the Month recognition, the Elizabeth Crosby Faculty Grant, and the Trustee Teaching Award from the Indiana University School of Medicine.

Professor Chang also provided extensive service to the university and the profession through departmental, graduate program, university, national, and international committees; NIH and other grant review panels; and editorial service. Her honors include a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship, an American Heart Association’s Career Development Award,

election as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Association of Immunologists, and the Association of Korean Immunologists in America's Distinguished Service Award.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Cheong-Hee Chang, professor emerita of microbiology and immunology.**

Respectfully submitted:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2026