The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Janet L. Larson, Ph.D., Shaké Ketefian Collegiate Professor of Nursing and professor of nursing in the School of Nursing, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2026.

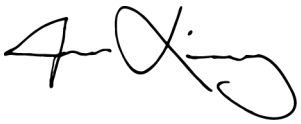
Janet Larson earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Wayne State University in 1975 and her master's degree in nursing from the University of Washington in 1978. She completed her Ph.D. in nursing sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1985. Professor Larson was appointed as professor and chair of the Department of Health Behavior and Biological Sciences in 2007, ending her administrative role in 2022. She was appointed as the Shaké Ketefian Collegiate Professor of Nursing in 2015.

Professor Larson has built a distinguished academic career grounded in rigorous teaching and sustained mentorship. She educated generations of nurses and scientists in clinically focused research to improve the health and functioning of older adults with chronic disease, and mentored extensively at the doctoral and postdoctoral levels, chairing dissertations focused on respiratory muscle function, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) symptom science, frailty, stigma, and physical activity/sedentary behavior.

Her research has significantly advanced understanding of functional outcomes in chronic respiratory disease, especially COPD, supported by major external funding (including NIH/NINR R01 and T32 mechanisms) and disseminated through a strong record of publications and invited presentations. Her professional service includes leadership within the American Thoracic Society, co-founding and serving as the first president of the Respiratory Nursing Society and leading the Midwest Nursing Research Society and its foundation, expanding research support and scholarly engagement; she also contributed through editorial boards, NIH peer review, and institutional governance. Professor Larson has exemplified sustained stewardship of nursing science and academic governance, leaving a legacy defined by scholarship, mentorship, and principled service.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Janet L. Larson, Shaké Ketefian Collegiate Professor Emerita of Nursing and professor emerita of nursing.**

Respectfully submitted:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2026