

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

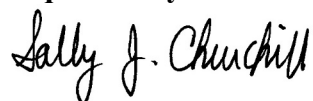
Lawrence F. Bielak, D.D.S., M.P.H., associate research scientist, epidemiology in the School of Public Health, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2020.

Dr. Bielak received his B.A. (1972) degree from Wayne State University and his D.D.S. (1976) and M.P.H. (1993) degrees from the University of Michigan. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a graduate student instructor and visiting research investigator in 1993, and was promoted to research investigator in 1994, assistant research scientist in 2003, and associate research scientist in 2013. He served as an adjunct lecturer in 1995.

Dr. Bielak's research explored the epidemiology and genetics of atherosclerosis, its risk factors, including blood pressure, obesity, and body fat distribution, hemostatic factors, lipid and glucose metabolism and their complications in diverse populations. He was extensively involved in international collaborations investigating genetic determinants of cardiometabolic risk factors and target organ damage to the heart and liver. These efforts included the Cohorts for Heart and Aging Research in Genomic Epidemiology (CHARGE) Consortium and the Trans-Omics for Precision Medicine (TOPMed) Program. Much of his research was designed to improve scientific understanding of coronary artery calcification, a noninvasive measure of the presence and quantity of subclinical atherosclerosis. Dr. Bielak was among the first researchers to investigate the epidemiology of coronary artery calcification. His work had important practical applications. He developed methods to establish guidelines for the interpretation of computed tomography scans of arterial calcification and demonstrated how computed tomography measures of coronary artery calcification could be used in clinical decision-making. Dr. Bielak was an affiliate of the Center for Midlife Science where he investigated the genetics underlying changes in hormonal factors across the menopause transition. Additionally, he investigated the association of prenatal exposures to toxic heavy metals with birth outcomes and the infant gut microbiota. During his career, he mentored multiple master's and doctoral students as well as post-doctoral researchers. Dr. Bielak's scholarly efforts resulted in more than 120 published articles.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scientist by naming **Lawrence F. Bielak, associate research scientist emeritus, epidemiology.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2020