

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

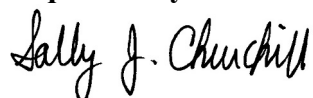
Richard L. Prager, M.D., Richard and Norma Sarns Research Professor of Cardiac Surgery and clinical professor of cardiac surgery, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2021.

Professor Prager received his A.B. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1967 and his M.D. degree from State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in 1971. He completed his general and thoracic surgery residencies at the University of Michigan in 1976 and 1978, respectively. He began his career as an assistant professor at Vanderbilt University as a clinical cardiothoracic surgeon, where he initiated the School of Perfusion Technology in Vanderbilt's School of Allied Health Professions and was the Vanderbilt's surgeon lead for the NCI's Lung Cancer Study Group. He was recruited to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor five years later as an active cardiac and thoracic surgeon. He was the SJMH medical director of the HCFA Demonstration Project for "packaged pricing" for coronary bypass procedures, which was the national forerunner to current bundled care CMS projects. He was recruited to the University of Michigan as a clinical professor and to lead the new Division of Adult Cardiac Surgery in 1999.

Professor Prager's interests focused on superior efficient clinical care and teaching the next generations of cardiac surgeons. His mastery of the role of data and quality improvement led to the formation of the Michigan Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons Quality Collaborative, a statewide quality improvement professional group which Professor Prager has led for 15 years. He ultimately served as the president of the prestigious Southern Thoracic Surgical Association (2014) and as the president of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (2017-18), the largest and most recognized cardiothoracic surgical organization in the world. He is recognized as a worldwide leader in using data for quality improvement efforts and his approaches are emulated throughout the country. Professor Prager is one of the founding directors of the Frankel Cardiovascular Center. He led the cardiac surgery transition from a section into a department and served as the interim chair from 2018-20. He received the Mark B. Orringer University of Michigan Thoracic Surgery Residency Teaching Award in 2012 and served as the director of the Thoracic Surgery Residency Program. Thanks to Professor Prager's commitment and service to the university, the department is well positioned clinically and academically to meet the challenges of the future.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Richard L. Prager, Richard and Norma Sarns Research Professor Emeritus of Cardiac Surgery and clinical professor emeritus of cardiac surgery.**

Requested by:



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

December 2021