

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Michael J. Imperiale, Ph.D.**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and professor of microbiology and immunology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2023.

Professor Imperiale received his B.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University in 1976 and 1981, respectively. Following postdoctoral training at Rockefeller University, he joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1984, and was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1990, and professor with tenure in 1996. He served as associate vice president for research – policy and compliance from 2017-2022.

Professor Imperiale's distinguished career involved research focused on the biology of two families of viruses, adenoviruses and polyomaviruses. His laboratory contributed to our understanding of how these viruses bind to and enter cells, how they assemble progeny viral particles, and how their replication is regulated. His laboratory is credited with pioneering work in which it developed and applied an authentic cell culture model for studying one of these viruses, BK polyomavirus, which is now the standard in the field. He co-authored over 150 scholarly publications and contributed to various books, including the chapter on polyomaviruses in *Fields Virology*, the pre-eminent virology textbook. He served as an editor of *Journal of Virology* and *PLoS Pathogens* and is the founding editor-in-chief of *mSphere*, a pan-microbiology journal published by the American Society for Microbiology. In addition to his scholarly research, Professor Imperiale has been an active contributor to science policy discussions related to biosecurity and biosafety at the national and international levels, serving on various government and non-governmental organization panels and advisory boards. He also participated in a number of studies under the auspices of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, including chairing a study entitled *Biodefense in the Age of Synthetic Biology* (2018). He presented the findings of this study to the Biological Weapons Convention at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Professor Imperiale is a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar and faculty member by naming **Michael J. Imperiale, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus and professor emeritus of microbiology and immunology**.

Requested by:



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

December 2023