

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Joel D. Howell, M.D., Ph.D., MACP, FRCP, Elizabeth Farrand Collegiate Professor of Medical History, professor of internal medicine, Medical School, professor of history, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of health management and policy, School of Public Health, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2024.

Professor Howell earned his B.S. degree from Michigan State University (1975) and his M.D. degree from the University of Chicago (1979). He completed his residency in internal medicine at the University of Chicago. He then was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar (1984) and received his Ph.D. in the history and sociology of science, both at the University of Pennsylvania (1987). He joined the internal medicine faculty at the University of Michigan as an instructor (1984), was promoted to assistant professor (1986), associate professor (1990), and professor (1997). He was jointly appointed in the Department of Health Management and Policy (1988) and the Department of History (1988). In 2001, he was named the Victor Vaughan Collegiate Professor of the History of Medicine; that chair's name was changed to the Elizabeth Farrand Collegiate Professor of Medical History in 2019.

Professor Howell practiced as a general internist. His research on medical technology history, particularly its clinical adoption beyond literature descriptions, is best showcased in *Technology in the Hospital: Transforming Patient Care in the Early Twentieth Century* (1995). Professor Howell wrote about the history of the University of Michigan in his edited volume, *Medical Lives and Scientific Medicine at Michigan: 1891-1969* (1993), and his co-authored monograph, *Medicine at Michigan: A History of the University of Michigan Medical School at the Bicentennial* (2017). He taught throughout the university, including a class that brought together law students and medical students. He also taught medical history to various students and mentored those integrating clinical medicine with social sciences and humanities. Professor Howell served as associate chair of the Department of History as well as serving a variety of administrative positions in the university community. He was the founding director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program, in that role mentored a generation of clinician/scholars who studied health care in new and innovative ways. He was the founding director of the Medical Arts Program, a program dedicated to the belief that the arts can teach clinicians how to be better at taking care of patients. Professor Howell is a master of the American College of Physicians, a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (London) and an elected member of the American Clinical and Climatological Association.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Joel D. Howell, Elizabeth Farrand Collegiate Professor Emeritus of Medical History, professor emeritus of internal medicine, and professor emeritus of history.**

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2024