



Inauguration of the

**Edward T. and Ellen K. Dryer
Early Career Professorship in Rheumatology**

in the University of Michigan Medical School

Monday, April 9, 2018

D. Dan and Betty Kahn Auditorium

A. Alfred Taubman Biomedical Science Research Building

Michigan Medicine, University of Michigan

Ann Arbor

PROGRAM

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Carol R. Bradford, M.D.

*Executive Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Medical School
Chief Academic Officer, Michigan Medicine
Charles J. Krause, M.D., Collegiate Professor of Otolaryngology*

REMARKS

John M. Carethers, M.D.

*John G. Searle Professor of Internal Medicine
Chair, Department of Internal Medicine*

David A. Fox, M.D.

*Frederick G. L. Huetwell and William D. Robinson, M.D., Professor of Rheumatology
Chief, Division of Rheumatology*

Jon Gandelot

Trustee, Edward T. and Ellen K. Dryer Charitable Foundation

Amr Hakam Sawalha, M.D.

*Professor of Internal Medicine
Marvin and Betty Danto Research Professor of Connective Tissue Research*

INAUGURATION

Eliza Pei-Suen Tsou, Ph.D.

Edward T. and Ellen K. Dryer Early Career Professor of Rheumatology

CLOSING REMARKS

Carol R. Bradford, M.D.

Edward T. and Ellen K. Dryer

Early Career Professorship in Rheumatology

Today, as we celebrate the establishment of the Edward T. and Ellen K. Dryer Early Career Professorship in Rheumatology, we take a moment to remember and honor the generous and forward-thinking couple that made it possible.

Edward T. Dryer was born in Detroit in 1919, the only child of an automobile factory worker and his wife. He attended Wayne State University and went on to become an international banking executive for a Detroit-area bank.

Ellen Huser Dryer was also a Detroit native. Born in 1916, she grew up to become an advertising pioneer who served as the first female media director at Doner Company, formerly W.B. Doner & Company, a legendary Detroit advertising company that endures today. The Dryers married in the 1950s. Frugal, enterprising, and extremely private, the couple made their home on the east side of Detroit, in a house that had once belonged to Ellen Dryer's mother.

Around 1970, while on a business trip, Edward Dryer was struck by an unexplained, permanent blindness. He sought medical care everywhere he could, but there was never a diagnosis — or any improvement. Though he was a valuable employee in the prime of his career, the Detroit bank he worked for gave him two weeks' severance, then let him go. Undaunted, he created his own opportunities for success. He kept in touch with colleagues and made his living by investing in the stock market.

When she came home from work in the evening, Ellen Dryer read aloud stock reports from the *Wall Street Journal*. Her husband urged large publicly traded companies to put their annual reports on audio tapes so that he and others could listen to them. He served for many years on the board of Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic. Despite his disability, he devoted much time to improving the lives of others. In her later years, Ellen Dryer suffered from arthritis but the couple met their challenges head on, and always together.

Neither of the Dryers attended the University of Michigan but they enjoyed traveling with friends to Ann Arbor for football games. Edward Dryer would bring along a transistor radio to follow the action.

The Dryers died within months of each other in 2001. Their estate plans directed the establishment of the Edward T. and Ellen K. Dryer Charitable Foundation, which continues to honor their values and impact the issues that touched their lives.

The foundation today is stewarded by trustees Lisa M. and Jon B. Gandelot and Judith L. and Joseph A. Drobot Jr.

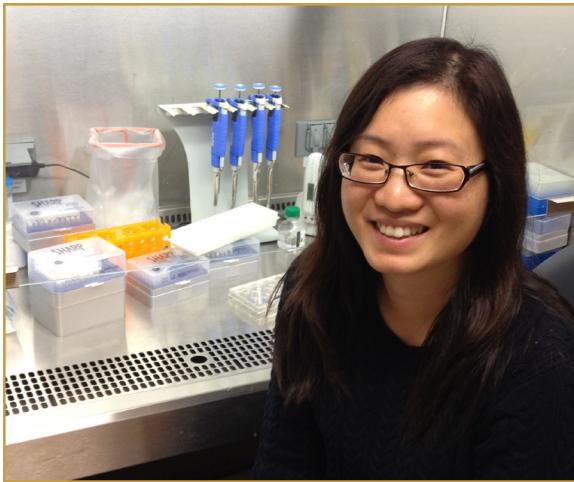
U-M has been a grateful recipient of the Dryer Foundation's generosity; a 2009 gift established the Edward T. and Ellen K. Dryer Inaugural Endowed Career Development Professorship in Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. And after years of stalwart support for arthritis research at the U-M, the trustees voted in 2016 to establish the Edward T. and Ellen K. Dryer Early Career Professorship in Rheumatology.

The fund's intent is to support a faculty member in the first decade of his or her career as an independent researcher in the U-M Division of Rheumatology.

Giving young faculty members a solid footing for success would have pleased the Dryers, says Dryer Foundation trustee Jon B. Gandelot, a Grosse Pointe attorney. "Ed was a great believer in giving people a chance. He and Ellen would have been thrilled to support up-and-coming researchers and physicians."

"The Dryers were wonderful people," recalls trustee Lisa Gandelot. "They would have been very happy to know that their legacy has the potential to impact the world."

The Division of Rheumatology is deeply grateful for the foundation's foresight and commitment to progress, says David Fox, M.D., division chief and professor of internal medicine. "This professorship will give faculty members a solid footing from which to push their discoveries forward and build their careers," he says. "It will ensure that promising work toward curing arthritis continues."



Eliza Pei-Suen Tsou, Ph.D.

Eliza Pei-Suen Tsou, Ph.D., grew up in Taiwan where her father, a biochemist, inspired her and her sisters to explore the sciences.

After undergraduate studies in Taiwan, she received her Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences at the State University of New York at Buffalo in 2008. She stayed on for a fellowship there, then came to the University of Michigan for a fellowship in rheumatology — focusing on rheumatic diseases. She has been here ever since. Dr. Tsou was named research investigator in internal medicine in 2014 and was promoted to assistant research professor in 2017.

Dr. Tsou's research focuses on examining the pathogenesis of systemic sclerosis. She has established and optimized a protocol to isolate the endothelial cells and fibroblasts from patient skin biopsies that are used in mechanistic studies. Only a few labs in the world have been successful in this procedure.

Most recently, she has focused on understanding the epigenetic influences in systemic sclerosis and systemic lupus erythematosus.

She has published 28 peer-reviewed articles and 50 abstracts and is a dedicated mentor to undergraduate and medical students. She currently serves on the editorial board of *Frontiers in Immunology* and is an ad hoc reviewer for many journals in her field. Her research is funded through the Arthritis National Research Foundation and the Scleroderma Foundation.

Dr. Tsou's cross-disciplinary education and research reflects her interests in integrating her skills in pharmaceutical sciences with disease mechanisms to aid a better design of novel therapeutics.

Of her career here, Dr. Tsou says, “Michigan offers tremendous resources for biomedical research and encourages collaboration among peers. The collaborative nature between clinicians and basic scientists like myself allows us to conduct translational research that focuses on understanding the underlying causes of diseases and developing better therapeutics for patients. Since joining the Division of Rheumatology as a postdoctoral fellow in 2009, I have been given full support from the department and the division to allow me to become the scientist I am today. I am grateful to have great mentors in the division who have guided me to opportunities I could not have found on my own, and provided encouragements when I needed them.”

Dr. Tsou is deeply admired by her colleagues for her creativity, tenacity, and compassion. Says Amr H. Sawalha, M.D., professor of internal medicine, “Of all the trainees and junior faculty I have encountered, Dr. Tsou is among the most promising and talented. She has most certainly demonstrated that she has the depth, motivation, and persistence to succeed and contribute significantly to advance our knowledge of a poorly understood disease like scleroderma. She possesses the skills, talent, and creativity to become an internationally recognized scholar in her field.”

Of her naming as the first Edward T. and Ellen K. Dryer Early Professor of Rheumatology, Dr. Tsou says, “This is a great honor; I am so grateful to have my work recognized by the department and the division. This generous gift from the Edward T. and Ellen K. Dryer Charitable Foundation will undoubtedly enhance my academic career here at the University of Michigan, allow me to continue my passion in biomedical research, and fulfill my long-term goal of advancing our knowledge in devastating autoimmune diseases such as systemic sclerosis.”

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