

Reflections

“As a research mentor he has an unparalleled ability to understand the level of knowledge and skills which an individual — be they a student or full professor — brings to a problem, to understand in depth the scientific basis and recent advances in their field, even if it is quite different from his own areas of research, and to think creatively about approaches that will both advance scientific knowledge and foster career development.”

W. Joseph McCune, M.D.
Michael H. and Marcia S. Klein Professor of Rheumatic Diseases

“I’m a fully informed partner with Dr. Fox in my care, and the commitment he demonstrates to his patients is extraordinary. He has never failed to personally respond when I have needed assistance. On each occasion that he has treated me, I’m confident I’ve received the best possible care. Dr. Fox inspires me with hope for my medical condition and truly is a positive presence in my life.”

Terrance Lynch
Patient, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI



If gifts and pledges to the David A. Fox, M.D., Professorship in Rheumatology Fund do not reach a total of \$2.5 million, the minimum amount needed to establish the professorship, by June 2021, the university may choose to repurpose the fund to advance the mission of the division, may hold and invest the amount received without making any additional distributions until the fund increases to \$2.5 million, or may continue to make distributions pursuant to its endowment distribution policy at the university’s discretion.

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David A. Fox, M.D., Professorship in Rheumatology



David Fox, M.D.

Transforming How Care for Rheumatic Diseases is Delivered and Taught

When David Fox, M.D., entered the field 40 years ago, immunology was new and rheumatology wasn't yet a modern branch of medicine. But he saw the potential — and he's been at the forefront of research and clinical progress that has benefited countless patients with musculoskeletal diseases and autoimmune conditions. Not only has Dr. Fox achieved remarkable accomplishments in the laboratory and as chief of the U-M Division of Rheumatology, he has also influenced how the care of patients with rheumatic diseases is delivered and taught locally, nationally, and beyond.

*To honor a contemporary leader and the great potential for future achievement in rheumatology at Michigan Medicine, we are pleased to establish the **David A. Fox, M.D., Professorship in Rheumatology**.*

Recognizing the Exceptional Achievements of Dr. Fox

A member of the U-M Medical School faculty since 1985, Dr. Fox is professor of internal medicine and, from 1990-2018, was chief of the Division of Rheumatology. Dr. Fox stands out among other leaders in rheumatology because of the breadth of his accomplishments in teaching, leadership, and research, as well as his superb clinical skills in rheumatology and internal medicine.

Dr. Fox received his undergraduate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1974, and his M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1978. Following training in internal medicine and rheumatology at the Brigham and Women's Hospital from 1978 to 1982, he pursued an immunology research fellowship with Drs. Stuart Schlossman and Ellis Reinherz at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute from 1982 to 1985 in the area of human T-cell activation. He directs the U-M Hybridoma Core and the U-M Clinical Autoimmunity Center of Excellence, funded by the NIH.

His major research interest has been the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis, including interactions between T lymphocytes and synovial

fibroblasts — the joint-lining cells. He has developed monoclonal antibodies to characterize several new structures on the surface of lymphocytes and on cells found in the inflamed joint. He has also been involved in multiple clinical trials of immunomodulatory and biologic agents for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus, and scleroderma. This work has led to more than 230 scientific papers and book chapters, which have been cited more than 9,700 times in scientific literature. Dr. Fox has served on the editorial board of *Arthritis & Rheumatology* and as an associate editor of the *Journal of Immunology* and the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*.

In recognition of his research accomplishments, Dr. Fox was elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. From 2007-08, he served as the 71st president of the American College of Rheumatology, becoming the sixth ACR president from the U-M.

Dr. Fox has fostered the career development of more than 100 students, clinical fellows, postdoctoral research trainees, and junior faculty colleagues in the training programs of the Division of Rheumatology, and has led substantial growth in rheumatology clinical care and research at Michigan Medicine, all while maintaining an environment of optimism, innovation, and collegiality.

Dr. Fox continues to attend on both the rheumatology and general internal medicine inpatient services as well as mentor fellows in clinic. His superb clinical skills and knowledge base, which are equal to the most accomplished physicians in the field, and his insightful, good humored approach, have made him a popular and effective teacher in the clinical setting. Remarkably, he has until recently personally triaged all of the referrals to the Rheumatology Clinic — as many as 50 per day. As a basic scientist who is often the first person to solve a challenging clinical case in teaching conferences, he has encouraged a culture in which both clinic- and laboratory-based faculty maintain an unwavering focus on improving the lives of our patients and are recognized for their contributions and accomplishments.

A Victor for Michigan, a Champion for All

Please join us in establishing the **David A. Fox, M.D., Professorship in Rheumatology**. It will ensure that his legacy of dedication and accomplishment lives on at the University of Michigan in perpetuity. The professorship will forever celebrate Dr. Fox's contributions, and will enable those who hold this endowed title to also make a profound impact in advancing knowledge, improving patient care, and training new generations of rheumatologists.

To make a gift or for additional information, please contact our development partner:

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Thank you for your support!

