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## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

### **Roger J. Grekin, M.D.**

*Professor, Department of Internal Medicine*

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Roger J. Grekin, M.D., is a gifted teacher who has been intimately involved in medical student education since 1974. Dr. Grekin's contributions to medical education are numerous and enduring; his commitment to standards of excellence has been critical in producing professional and competent medical student graduates; and his effect on the pedagogic experience of U-M medical students during the past quarter century has been remarkable.

For the past two decades, Dr. Grekin has been essential in molding the M2 year. For much of the past quarter century, he coordinated the Endocrinology Sequence and scheduled all lectures, small groups and conferences, and provided 10 hours of lecture and eight hours of small group instruction. He was one of U-M's early visionary teachers who pioneered the use of small groups as an educational model for second-year students – a model much appreciated by students, because it allows them to interact more directly with individual faculty members.

He continues to encourage and gently push all of the sequence directors to further improve both the content and modes of delivery of material, and to improve testing procedures. He has experimented with short-answer and essay exam questions for the Endocrine Sequence and devoted an extraordinary amount of time to grading all 170 students. He also developed methods to include students in evaluating medical school courses – and in improving them. Methods such as periodic luncheons with students, evaluators and course directors help to bond students and faculty and provide excellent bidirectional feedback.

In addition to his pre-clinical teaching, Dr. Grekin is very active in clinical teaching and ranks consistently as one of the school's top instructors. Regarded as the ultimate bedside clinician, he has trained legions of medical students on the wards and in the Endocrinology and Metabolism clinics at both the U-M Hospitals & Health Centers and the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System. He is consistently gracious in allowing third-year students to join him in his very busy outpatient clinic. As one colleague says, "He is the 'go to' guy to think through challenging patient management problems – and he continues to mentor me in my own ongoing medical education."

Dr. Grekin is also a wonderful counselor whose wisdom is sought routinely by junior and senior students when making career decisions. His advice is well balanced, thoughtful and insightful.

He has been an active member of both the Basic Science Academic Review Board and the Clinical Academic Review Board, bringing wisdom and clarity to the issues at hand. Colleagues describe as "legendary" his ability to maintain exceptional standards while being fair to the students involved. One colleague says, "His contribution in this sphere is perhaps his most enduring legacy."

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The U-M Department of Internal Medicine recognized his contributions with an award for outstanding service to the department and a lifetime achievement award. In 1999, he received the Lee Weatherbee Memorial Award, the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System's highest individual honor.

Dr. Grekin received his medical degree from U-M in 1968. He completed his residency training in 1970 at Tufts-New England Medical Center, followed by a fellowship in endocrinology at Boston University School of Medicine.

Immediately after his fellowship, he joined the U-M Medical School faculty in 1974 as an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, rising to Associate Professor in 1981 and Professor in 1986. His service as a leader at both U-M and the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System has been extensive. At the VA, he has been associate chief of staff for Research and Development since 1989, and was chief of the Endocrinology section from 1974 until 2000.

At U-M, he served as Associate Chair for Faculty Affairs of the Department of Internal Medicine from 1996 until 2000. Within the Department, he served as interim chief of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism from 2000 to 2003. He served as assistant component director for the second-year curriculum from 1992 to 1998, and since 1998, served as component director of the second-year curriculum. From 1981 to 1992, he was associate director of the Introduction of Clinical Care course. He also took on directorship of the M1 year in 2007.

He is a fellow of the American Heart Association's Council of High Blood Pressure Research.

*Dr. Grekin says, "I enjoy family, walking, biking, theater, music and travel. If I'm not exhausted, I like to read nonfiction. I'm a crossword puzzle addict.*

*"I've been fortunate to work with remarkable colleagues. I've been able to learn about the education of medical students from Jim Cassidy, Jim Sisson, Jim Woolliscroft, Faith Fitzgerald, John Sheagren, Wayne Davis and Gerry Abrams. I'm eternally grateful to the M1 and M2 sequence coordinators, a group of underrecognized heroes who are the glue of the first two years of the curriculum. They are talented teachers, faculty leaders and astonishingly patient student advocates. I've had the extraordinary good luck of being able to work with Cyril Grum and Joe Fantone, two outstanding educators and wonderful, humane individuals.*

*"I'd like to thank my parents, Zivia and Jack Grekin, my mother-in-law, Ruth Zitomer, and my children, Joe, Josh and Emily, for their abiding love and support; they give meaning to my life. Linda, my wife of 43 wonderful years, has taught me more about education than anyone else. I count myself as incredibly lucky to be able to work as a physician, and doubly so for the opportunity to participate in the teaching of our extraordinary students."*

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