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LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

**Mary Ellen A. Hernandez, M.D.**

*Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases &  
Department of Medical Education*

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Long recognized as a gifted teacher in neonatology and as an expert in the developmental aspects of prematurity, during the past 17 years Dr. Mary Ellen Hernandez increasingly focused her energy on medical education. She was appointed director of Pediatric Education and associate chair for Pediatrics in 1993 – positions she held until June of this year. Today, Dr. Hernandez is a national and international leader in medical education.

In addition to significant and ongoing teaching at all levels, Dr. Hernandez has been a tireless advocate and mentor for medical students, house officers, fellows and faculty throughout her long and successful career at the University of Michigan. As one colleague says, "Faculty often seek out Dr. Hernandez for her

expertise, her perspective and her good common sense on a wide range of educational issues."

In the realm of student education, Dr. Hernandez served on the Admission's Committee for 11 years, taught and mentored numerous M1 and M2 students and directed the required student clerkship in Pediatrics for seven years. She has been an assistant component director for Component III/IV for 11 years and has been the director of the M4 Comprehensive Clinical Assessment examination since 2000. She has made significant improvements and enhancements to the University of Michigan Comprehensive Clinical Assessment Program, placing our program far ahead of peer institutions.

In postgraduate education, Dr. Hernandez was co-director of the Medicine Pediatrics program for several years and served as the Pediatrics Program director for 14 years, presiding with grace, humanity and a strong commitment to the house officers, the department and the institution. For nearly a decade, she served as a member of the U-M Medical School Graduate Medical Education Review Board, participating in nearly every significant institutional activity related to graduate medical education at the University.

In addition to service on innumerable committees for the department, the Medical School and the Hospital, she is also a core faculty member of U-M's Medical Education Scholars Program.

Dr. Hernandez is a prominent national leader in medical education. She has been tapped to serve on a wide range of high-profile national committees and task forces, including the American Board of Pediatrics Planning Committee to Redesign Pediatrics Residency Training for the 21st Century. She has held a variety of leadership positions within the Association of Pediatric Program Directors and the Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics, including a term on COMSEP's executive board.

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She is a reviewer for many outstanding professional journals, including *RIME (Research in Medical Education)*, *Pediatrics*, *Infants and Young Children*, *Pediatric Pulmonary*, *Ophthalmology*, *Journal of Pediatrics* and *Journal of Perinatology*. She has presented numerous papers and workshops on educational topics and has developed curricula in socio-cultural medicine, leadership and simulation.

Harvard Macy Institute, a community of scholars who promote innovative change in medical education, selected Dr. Hernandez as a Scholar for Physician Educators and a Scholar for Physician Leaders. In recognition of her leadership and expertise, every year the Institute invites Dr. Hernandez to participate as a member of the course faculty for medical education.

In 2001, Dr. Hernandez's medical students recognized her with induction into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society, which fosters the scientific and philosophical aspects of the medical profession.

Dr. Hernandez completed her M.D. degree, pediatrics residency, and neonatology fellowship at Wayne State University in Detroit. In 1988, she earned an M.S. in clinical research design and statistical analysis from the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

Apart from several years as assistant professor of pediatrics at Rush Medical College in Chicago, Dr. Hernandez has spent most of her career at the University of Michigan.

*In her free time, Dr. Hernandez enjoys reading, visiting her sons in Chicago, and spending time in Spain – traveling and learning Spanish. She is a hockey fan and member of the U-M Dekers Blue Line Club.*

*Dr. Hernandez is grateful to Dr. Robert Kelch and Dr. Donita Sullivan for the opportunity to develop a career in medical education. She also thanks Dr. Valerie Castle for her support, and members of the education division for their dedication. She gives thanks to the many colleagues, residents and students who provided the inspiration to pursue excellence in education. Finally, she thanks her husband, Dr. Ramiro Hernandez, children and family for their unending love and support.*