The F. Robert Fekety, Jr., Collegiate Professorship is part of a vision to foster the expansion of the clinical, educational, and research programs in infectious disease.

The Division of Infectious Disease would like to recognize the importance of Dr. Fekety’s contributions to the University of Michigan and the leadership he provided in the field through a named professorship, the highest honor the University bestows upon a faculty member. In addition to honoring the career of Dr. Fekety and creating a lasting legacy, the professorship will provide ongoing financial support which will allow faculty members to focus on the development and expansion of the Infectious Disease Division.

Please join us in honoring Dr. Fekety through a gift to the F. Robert Fekety, Jr., Collegiate Professorship in Infectious Disease.

**F. ROBERT FEKETY, JR., MD**

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE PIONEER**

1951-1955 MD, Yale Medical School, New Haven, CT
1955-1956 Internship, Yale Medical School
1958-1960 Residency, Medicine, Yale Medical School
1960-1962 Instructor, Johns Hopkins Medical School
1962-1967 Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins Medical School
1967-1971 Associate Professor, U-M Internal Medicine
1967-1994 Chief, Division of Infectious Disease, U-M Internal Medicine
1971-1995 Professor, U-M Internal Medicine
1985-1995 Professor, Epidemiology, U-M School of Public Health
1995-2009 Professor Emeritus, U-M Internal Medicine

**Photo credit:** Jens Zorn

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866.860.0026 (toll free)
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Pioneer of the Field

F. Robert Fekety, Jr., was recruited to Michigan from Johns Hopkins Medical School in 1967. He promptly founded the Infectious Disease Division at Michigan and acted as its Chief until his retirement in 1994. Under his leadership, the division became renowned in clinical care, research, and teaching. His own career embodied each of these values, and the Fekety Lectureship was established in 1992 to honor his 25 years at U-M and his continued commitment to excellence in infectious disease education, research, and patient care.

Dr. Fekety was a superb clinician whose expertise was widely sought. He was well regarded as a teacher and a colleague because of his clarity of thought, ability to separate complex concepts and present them in a clear, concise manner, and his wonderful sense of humor.

“Dr. Fekety had a passion for all of it, research, caring for patients, and education.”
— Former Fellow David Katz, MD

Innovative Researcher

Dr. Fekety is best known for his pioneering work in the identification and treatment of antibiotic-associated colitis caused by Clostridium difficile, as well as the epidemiology of staphylococcus. He published extensively in scientific journals and was particularly well known throughout the country for his original work in the 1970s that identified Clostridium difficile as the cause of antibiotic-associated colitis. Dr. Fekety’s studies in this area have withstood the test of time and continue to be widely referenced today.

Dr. Fekety is noted as being one of the most outstanding teachers at the University of Michigan Medical School. He established the Infectious Disease training program where he went on to train more than 50 fellows who have gone on to positions of prominence throughout the United States. In addition to his 28 years of teaching in the medical school, he also served as a Professor of Epidemiology for the U-M School of Public Health from 1985-95.

“My favorite ‘Chiefism,’ that I keep at my desk at all times, offers some insight into the greatness of our master mentor Dr. Fekety: ‘Infectious diseases can be taught in 6 months. Acquiring the judgment, wisdom, and skills needed to treat an infected patient takes a lifetime.’ I can only add there are exceptions to every truism as it didn’t take him a lifetime.”
— Former Fellow H. Gunner Deery II, MD

Dedicated Teacher

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