

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

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Item for Information

**Subject:** Henry Russel Lecturer for 2013

I am pleased to inform you that the Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Dean Janet A. Weiss, has selected James S. House, Angus Campbell Distinguished University Professor of Survey Research, Public Policy and Sociology, Professor of Sociology, College of Literature Science and the Arts, and Professor of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, as the Henry Russel Lecturer for 2013. The Russel Lecture will be delivered by Professor House on March 14, 2013.

The Henry Russel Lectureship is the highest honor that the University bestows upon a senior member of its faculty. A description of the contributions of this extraordinary faculty member is attached.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Mary Sue Coleman  
President

June 2012

Attachment

## James S. House

Professor House received his Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Michigan in 1972, after completing his B.A. at Haverford College in 1965. He first joined the faculty at Duke University in 1970 and was an associate professor in sociology when he left in 1978 to join the faculty at the University of Michigan as associate research scientist, Survey Research Center and Department of Epidemiology, and associate professor, Department of Sociology. Professor House has served as chair of the Department of Sociology and director of the Survey Research Center at the Institute for Social Research.

Professor House is a world-renown scholar who has been a leader in recognizing and empirically demonstrating that health and illness are influenced by psychosocial processes. His research has focused on the role of both social and psychological factors in the etiology and course of health and illness, including the role of these factors in understanding and alleviating social disparities in health and the way health changes with age. In addition, Professor House has clearly demonstrated that chronic health problems and mortality rates vary by education, income, and race. An important marker of the significance of his research is that both the National Institutes of Health and the Public Health Service have designated social and racial inequalities as high priority research areas.

Professor House had produced a series of influential studies spanning four decades. These include: "The Three Faces of Social Psychology," *Sociometry* 40 (1977); *Work Stress and Social Support* (1981); "Social relationships and health," *Science* 241 (1988); "Socioeconomic Factors, Health Behaviors, and Mortality," *Journal of the American Medical Association* 279 (1998); "Continuity and Change in the Social Stratification of Aging and Health Over the Life Course: Evidence from a Nationally Representative Longitudinal Study from 1986 to 2001/2 (The Americans' Changing Lives Study)," *Journals of Gerontology* 60B (2005). All of his work is characterized by a powerful combination of empirical richness, methodological rigor, theoretical originality, and primary data collection. One indicator of the quality and coherence of his research is the approximately \$25 million in funding as PI or Co-PI on fourteen major grants.

Professor House is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, the Society of Behavioral Medicine, the American Academy for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Institute of Medicine. Among his other national distinctions, he has received outstanding career awards from three separate sections of the American Sociological Association. The University of Michigan has also conferred its highest honors on Professor House: the Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award in 2003, a collegiate professorship in 2005, and a Distinguished University Professorship in 2008.