In honor of Dr. Toews’ innumerable contributions to pulmonary medicine at the University of Michigan and beyond, the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine is establishing the Galen B. Toews, M.D. Professorship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. This will be the first endowed professorship established within the division, and will be used to support an outstanding investigator who shares Galen’s passion for research, advocacy, and clinical care. There is much work to do to reach our goal, but we can think of no one more deserving of this honor than Galen Toews.

Please join us in honoring Dr. Toews through a gift to the Galen B. Toews, M.D. Professorship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine.
Some of Dr. Toews' greatest achievements came in his role as an educator and mentor. After arriving at U-M, he successfully acquired a T32 fellowship training grant, a program that has been continuously funded for almost 20 years and has supported the careers of nearly 100 scientists. Dr. Toews was instrumental in forging a path for basic science faculty within the clinical departments at the U-M Medical School. He also had the foresight to understand the need for appropriately trained clinical investigators in respiratory research. He developed a clinical research track that had at its foundation a Master’s Program in Clinical Research Design and Statistical Analysis through the School of Public Health. This program has been so successful that pulmonary divisions throughout the country have used it as a template for patient-oriented research training in their own divisions.

Dr. Toews served as a clinical mentor for numerous medical students, interns and fellows and trained an outstanding cadre of academic researchers. He mentored more than 30 post-doctoral fellows who remain in academic medicine.

Dr. Toews also made excellence in patient care a cornerstone of his own practice and built the division to be devoted to high quality clinical care. He oversaw many changes in the practice of medicine, including the composition of the clinical care teams, changes in duty hours for fellows and residents and the reorganization of clinical services. Throughout this, he was true to his overarching mandate that patient care comes first. His creation of multidisciplinary translational research programs facilitated the development of disease-specific clinical care programs in IPF, sarcoidosis, COPD, and lung transplantation.

In recognition of his contributions to the areas of research, education, clinical care, and service, Dr. Toews was awarded the Paul De Kruijff Lifetime Achievement Award from the U-M Department of Internal Medicine, the Michigan Thoracic Society’s Bruce H. Douglas Award for contributions to pulmonary medicine, and the Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Thoracic Society.