THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement
Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Ralph Lydic, Ph.D., Bert N. La Du Professor of Anesthesiology Research, professor of anesthesiology, and professor of molecular and integrative physiology in the Medical School, will retire from active faculty status on April 30, 2014.

Professor Lydic received his B.A. degree from Lamar University in 1969, his M.A. degree from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1974, and Ph.D. degree from Texas Tech University in 1979. During his postdoctoral training and junior faculty years at Harvard Medical School, he received a National Research Award from the National Institutes of Health and scholarships to the neurobiology training programs of both the Cold Springs Harbor and Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratories. He served as an associate professor (1986-1991) and professor (1991-99) at The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. Professor Lydic joined the University of Michigan faculty as the Bert N. La Du Professor of Anesthesiology Research, professor of anesthesiology, professor of physiology (now molecular and integrative physiology), and associate chair for anesthesiology research in 1999.

Dr. Lydic is an internationally recognized leader in the field of sleep neurophysiology, with special expertise in arousal state-dependent respiratory depression, sleep and pain, and neurochemical control of sleep and anesthesia. His seminal shared circuits hypothesis postulated that the neural networks evolved to generate sleep comprise the brain substrates that are most likely to generate and maintain states of anesthesia. Dr. Lydic’s translational research endeavors have helped to promote a new dimension in patient care by bridging the gap between clinical anesthesiology and sleep disorders medicine. He has a notable history of successfully securing research grants, an outstanding record of scholarly publications, and was a frequent invited lecturer. An inspiring teacher and dedicated mentor, Dr. Lydic served on twenty-six dissertation committees and co-developed the innovative course entitled Sleep: Neurobiology, Medicine, and Society. Dr. Lydic oversaw the research training of countless undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty; many of whom have gone on to successful academic, research, and clinical careers. He received the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Excellence in Research Award in 2012.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming Ralph Lydic professor emeritus of anesthesiology and professor emeritus of molecular and integrative physiology.

Requested by:

Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

April 2014