

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

Adopted by the Regents
May 19, 2011

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Edwin Vedejs, Ph.D., Moses Gomberg Collegiate Professor of Chemistry and professor of chemistry in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2011.


Professor Vedejs received his B.S. degree from the University of Michigan in 1962, and his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1966. He served on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin from 1967-98, and joined the University of Michigan faculty as professor and Moses Gomberg Collegiate Professor of Chemistry in 1999.

Professor Vedejs is internationally known in the field of synthetic and mechanistic organic chemistry, widely recognized as a leader in the development of synthetic approaches to cytotoxic nitrogen-containing natural products. More recently, he has focused on the challenging frameworks of the aziridinomitosene and diazonamide families of heterocyclic compounds. Recognized as a pioneer in the mechanistic elucidation of the Wittig reaction, he has been an extremely creative and prolific scholar whose research was always highly innovative and interdisciplinary. At Michigan, he taught eight different courses including five in graduate organic chemistry. During his 45-year career, he supervised more than 80 Ph.D. theses and numerous undergraduate research projects.

Professor Vedejs' collaborations in Latvia were recognized with the Paul Walden Medal (1997), the Grand Medal of the Latvian Academy of Sciences (2005), the Order of the Three Stars (2006), and an honorary doctorate from Riga Technical University (2010). He was associate editor of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* from 1994-99, and served as chair of the Organic Division of the American Chemical Society (2003). In 2004, he received the H. C. Brown Award for Creative Research in Synthetic Methods from the American Chemical Society.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **Edwin Vedejs professor emeritus of chemistry**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2011