THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

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

Michael D. Morris, Ph.D., Richard D. Sacks 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, 2016.

Professor Morris received his B.A. degree from Reed College in 1960 and his Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1964. He served on the faculty of The Pennsylvania State University from 1964-69. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1969, and was promoted to professor in 1982. He was named the Richard D. Sacks Collegiate Professor of Chemistry in 2010.

An extraordinary scientist, exceptional teacher, and devoted mentor, Professor Morris is world renowned for his seminal research contributions in the field of analytical chemistry. Through a series of creative experiments, he demonstrated the utility of Raman spectroscopy in studying biologically important molecules, including using Raman imaging to study bone and cartilage structure and disease. Beyond Raman-based methods, Professor Morris has also made vast contributions in other areas of spectroscopy as well as in separation science. In all of his work, Professor Morris’ research has been characterized by a detailed fundamental understanding of processes that are central to the state-of-the-art analytical methods that he has devised. In the early 2000s he led a complete revision of the introductory analytical chemistry course, making it one of the top introductory classes in the nation. He trained a generation of undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows, many of whom have gone on to successful careers in academia, government, and industry. He received numerous awards, including the American Chemical Society’s Award in Spectrochemical Analysis (1995), the Federation of Analytical Chemistry and Spectroscopy Societies’ Charles Mann Award (2006), the Society for Applied Spectroscopy’s Applied Spectroscopy William F. Meggers Award (2006), and the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies’ Distinguished Graduate Mentoring Award (2008).

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming Michael D. Morris, Richard D. Sacks Collegiate Professor Emeritus of Chemistry and professor emeritus of chemistry.

Requested by:

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

May 2016