

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

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

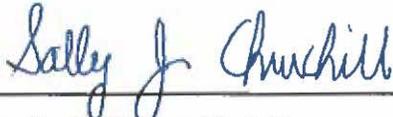
**Michael Sivak, Ph.D.**, Distinguished Research Scientist and research professor at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI), retired from active faculty status on April 5, 2018.

Professor Sivak received his B.A. (1972) degree from the City University of New York and his M.A. (1975) and Ph.D. (1976) degrees from the University of Michigan. He joined the University of Michigan as a senior research associate in 1977, and was promoted to assistant research scientist in 1978, associate research scientist in 1981, research scientist in 1984, and senior research scientist in 1997. In 2003, the title was changed to research professor. In 2001, Professor Sivak received the Distinguished Research Scientist Award and title from the University of Michigan Office of Research.

Professor Sivak, in the first phase of his research, focused on visibility and lighting in road transportation. His investigations in human visual capabilities and limitations contributed to a better understanding of how to improve vehicle headlamps, signals, and rearview mirrors. In the second phase of his research, he was concerned with the safety and sustainability of road transportation. This led him to examine the benefits and limitations of autonomous and electric vehicles relative to conventional vehicles, and to consider which types consumers prefer. In several studies, Professor Sivak examined road safety from a broader, public health point of view by comparing mortality from road crashes with mortality from other leading causes of death. Another area of inquiry was the decline in driver licensure for young persons in the United States and other countries. In a series of studies, he reported on energy use in transportation and the consequent emissions of greenhouse gases. For the past 10 years, Professor Sivak directed highly cited monthly monitoring of the fuel economy of vehicles sold in the United States. He was also the co-inventor on two patents. For his work, Professor Sivak was honored with the Leon Gaster Award from the Society of Light and Lighting (2002) and the A.R. Lauer Safety Award from the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (2006).

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Michael Sivak, Distinguished Research Scientist Emeritus and research professor emeritus**.

**Requested by:**



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

**May 2018**