

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

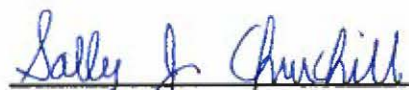
Rudy J. Richardson, Sc.D., Dow Professor of Toxicology and professor of environmental health sciences in the School of Public Health and associate professor of neurology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2019.

Professor Richardson received his B.S. (1967) degree from Wichita State University. After attaining Ph.D. candidacy in chemistry from Stony Brook University in 1970, he transferred to Harvard University, where he received his Sc.M. (1973) and Sc.D. (1974) degrees in physiology with a concentration in toxicology. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1975, and was promoted to associate professor in 1979, and professor in 1984. He was named the Dow Professor of Toxicology in 1998. Professor Richardson was board-certified in toxicology by the American Board of Toxicology in 1980.

Professor Richardson was an international authority in toxicology and mechanisms of neurodegenerative diseases. His early work established the role of glutathione in the active transport of mercury and other heavy metals in the body. In the 1990s, he carried out landmark epidemiology studies implicating occupational exposures to certain classes of pesticides and combinations of heavy metals in the etiology of Parkinson's disease. Throughout his career, he made major contributions to our understanding of the chemistry and toxicology of organophosphorus compounds and the role of neuropathy target esterase in chemically induced neurodegenerative disease. In recent years, he has become a leader in computational molecular modeling with important applications to medicinal chemistry and toxicology. During his tenure, Professor Richardson has served as director of the Toxicology Program, principal investigator of the Toxicology Training Grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and graduate chair of the Department of Environmental Health Sciences. During 1987-88, he served as president of the Neurotoxicology Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology, and in 2003, he received the Society of Toxicology Board of Publications Award for the best paper published in *Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology*. He has mentored numerous graduate students, many of whom have had distinguished careers in academe, industry, and government.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Rudy J. Richardson, Dow Professor Emeritus of Toxicology, professor emeritus of environmental health sciences, and associate professor emeritus of neurology.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2019