

Adopted by the Regents
June 17, 2010

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Robert A. Bender, Ph.D., professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2010.


Professor Bender received his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1968 and 1976, respectively, and his M.S. degree from the University of Maine in 1972. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1978, and was promoted to associate professor in 1984 and professor in 1991.

Professor Bender's research focused on the regulation of microbial nitrogen metabolism. He studied how bacteria can sense the presence of nitrogen-containing compounds and then choose the most effective among them for degradation and conversion into cellular material. His work on these central metabolic pathways received continuous extramural funding for over 30 years, yielded more than 60 research publications, and earned him fellowships from the American Cancer Society and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Professor Bender served as a full member of several NIH study sections between 1998 and 2008 and was editor of the journal *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* from 1987-96. He was elected to the American Academy of Microbiology in 1994.

An active and successful educator, Professor Bender taught a variety of courses in molecular biology and microbiology as well as a highly successful course for non-scientists, "AIDS and Other Health Crises." He mentored ten Ph.D. students and five postdoctoral fellows, and was director of the graduate program in cell and molecular biology from 1992-96. Professor Bender was a founding faculty member of the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology when it was established in 2001, and served the department as associate chair for undergraduate studies from 2005-08.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member for his dedicated service by naming **Robert A. Bender professor emeritus of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology**.

Requested by:



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

June 2010