

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Item for Information

Subject: Henry Russel Lecturer for 2018

I am pleased to inform you that the Henry Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Dean Carol A. Fierke, met recently and selected Terry E. Robinson, Elliot S. Valenstein Distinguished University Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, and professor of psychology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, as the Henry Russel Lecturer for 2018. The Russel Lecture will be delivered by Professor Robinson in the Winter Term of 2018.

The Henry Russel Lectureship is the highest honor that the University bestows upon a senior member of its faculty. A description of the contributions of this extraordinary faculty member is attached.

Respectfully submitted:



Mark S. Schlissel
President

June 2017

Attachment

Terry E. Robinson

Terry E. Robinson is among the most productive and influential biopsychologists and behavioral neuroscientists active anywhere in the world today. His landmark research has provided fundamental insights into the neurological processes related to addiction, and has opened a wholly new understanding of the brain mechanisms through which normal reward-related processes go awry and create dependence on psychostimulants. His more than 200 journal articles and book chapters include classic papers that were the first to describe changes in the brain and behavior produced by drugs such as cocaine and amphetamines. He developed an understanding of the neural mechanisms of drug craving and identified the psychological role of dopamine, a neurotransmitter, in addiction. He has discovered that long-term neuroadaptations produced by psychostimulants lead to anatomical changes in the structure of brain neurons. This finding has had a tremendous impact on the field of addiction neuroscience. In his recent research, he is exploring how some individuals respond to triggers that make them prone to addictive behaviors and to relapse. His research has been supported continuously by grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. The superior quality of his scientific research has earned Professor Robinson worldwide recognition. In addition to being a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Association for Psychological Sciences, which also named him a William James Fellow for Lifetime Achievement, he has won the Distinguished Scientist Award from the European Behavioral Pharmacology Society, and has been invited to give distinguished lectures by leading scientific and professional organizations and universities around the world. In 2014 he was a visiting professor in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology in the medical school of the Sapienza University of Rome.

Professor Robinson earned his B.A. (1972) in psychology from the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada, followed by an M.A. (1974) in physiological psychology. He earned his Ph.D. (1978) in physiological psychology from the University of Western Ontario. Before joining the University of Michigan in 1978 as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, he was a postdoctoral research fellow in psychobiology at the University of California, Irvine. He was promoted to associate professor in 1984 and to professor in 1989. In 2001 he was appointed as the Elliot S. Valenstein Collegiate Professor of Behavioral Neuroscience, and in 2011 Professor Robinson was appointed as the Elliot S. Valenstein Distinguished University Professor.

Professor Robinson is an innovative teacher and an extraordinary mentor. He spearheaded the development of an undergraduate major in brain, behavior and cognitive science that today represents about forty percent of all psychology concentrators. His advanced course in psychopharmacology is one of the most popular, and demanding, classes in the Department of Psychology. As a mentor of graduate students, his impact has been profound. He has chaired and served on many doctoral dissertation committees, and his former students hold faculty positions at top research institutions.

As a leading scientist whose path-breaking discoveries have brought distinction to the University of Michigan and the Department of Psychology, and whose students are continuing to deepen fundamental understandings of biopsychology and neuroscience, Professor Robinson is an exceptionally worthy selection as the 2018 Henry Russel Lecturer.