

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

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

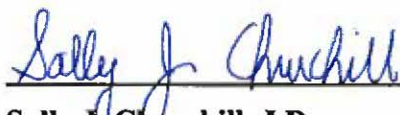
Marina Mata, M.D., professor of neurology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2019.

Dr. Mata received her B.S. degree from the Institute Maragall in 1964 and her M.D. degree from the University of Barcelona in 1971. She completed her neurology clinical training (1971) at the Hospital de San Pablo, and her internal medicine internship (1972) and her internal medicine residency (1973-74) at the Ciudad Sanitaria Valle d'Hebron in Barcelona before coming to the United States for fellowships in the Laboratory of Pharmacology (1974-75) and the Laboratory of Developmental Neurobiology (1975-78), both at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. She completed her neurology residency (1978-81) at the University of Michigan and her neuroscience post-doctoral research fellowship (1981-1982) at the VA Medical Center in San Francisco. She was a member of the University of Michigan faculty, rising from assistant to full professor (1982-1995) before moving to the University of Pittsburgh (1995-2004), and returning to Michigan as a professor in 2004.

Dr. Mata's principal contributions in research have been in elucidating cellular processes involved in neural injury and regeneration. Using X-ray microanalysis combined with electron microscopy, she described the ultrastructural distribution of calcium ions in normal neurons and how this distribution changes following axonal injury. She made seminal observations regarding how synaptic activity, through the energy demands of the sodium pump, determines brain deoxy-glucose consumption—work that contributed to understanding PET imaging—and used immuno-electron microscopy to define the ultrastructural localization of that pump. Dr. Mata was the first to describe the dynamics of the dual leucine zipper-bearing kinase in neurons, followed by key studies on the regulation of protein phosphorylation in neurons. She went on to use recombinant herpes simplex virus-based vectors to study targeted interventions designed to improve recovery from spinal cord and nerve root injuries. In addition to her scientific work, Dr. Mata was an outstanding clinician who provided compassionate care for veteran patients at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System and a superb teacher who mentored more than 40 undergraduate students and post-baccalaureate trainees.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Marina Mata, professor emerita of neurology**.

Requested by:



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

June 2019