

Adopted by the Regents
July 15, 2010

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Gordon M. Crippen, Ph.D., professor of pharmaceutical chemistry in the College of Pharmacy, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2010.

Professor Crippen received his B.S. degree from the University of Washington in 1967 and his Ph.D. degree from Cornell University in 1971. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Cardiovascular Research Institute at the University of California, San Francisco in 1972-73 and was an instructor at the Gymnasium Klosterschule in Hamburg, Germany from 1973-75. From 1975-80 he was a faculty member at the University of California, San Francisco. In 1980 he joined the faculty at Texas A&M University as an assistant professor of chemistry and was promoted to associate professor in 1982. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor of pharmaceutical chemistry in 1986, and was promoted to professor in 1989.

An internationally renowned theoretical chemist, Professor Crippen pioneered the application of distance geometry to chemical systems. His work consists of devising new algorithms to solve problems associated with chemical structure and creating the computer programs that use these algorithms to analyze experimental results and make new predictions. His research focused on deducing a receptor site's structure and energetics of interaction with drug molecules given specific binding data for a series of compounds to aid in the discovery and development of new drugs. Another area of his work explored the prediction of protein conformation from the amino acid sequence by converting these sequences into three-dimensional structures in order to discover their biological function, thus leading to the construction of potential functions that globally favor the native conformations. Professor Crippen is known as an effective educator, especially at the graduate level, where his clarity of expression and insight are greatly appreciated.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scientist and educator for his dedicated service by naming **Gordon M. Crippen professor emeritus of pharmaceutical chemistry**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

July 2010