

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

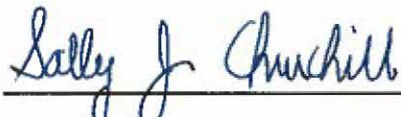
John R. Heckenlively, M.D., Paul R. Lichter Professor of Ophthalmic Genetics and professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on January 31, 2018.

Dr. Heckenlively received his B.A. degree from Oberlin College in 1968 and his M.D. degree from the University of Colorado in 1972. He completed a pediatrics/medicine internship (1972-73) at the Utah Medical Center, an ophthalmology residency (1973-76) at the University of Kentucky, a vitreoretinal diseases fellowship (1976-77) at the University of California, Los Angeles, and an ophthalmic genetics fellowship (1978) at The Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Heckenlively served as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Kentucky and acting chief of the Division of Ophthalmology at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky in 1977. He joined the University of California, Los Angeles faculty as an assistant professor in 1978, and was promoted to associate professor in 1983, and professor in 1988. He was named the Vernon O. Underwood Family Chair of Ophthalmology in 1998. Dr. Heckenlively joined the University of Michigan faculty as the Paul R. Lichter Professor of Ophthalmic Genetics and professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences in 2004.

Dr. Heckenlively was internationally recognized for his research and clinical care for retinal degenerations as well as a pioneer in autoimmune retinal diseases. His early work, supported by several foundation grants and the National Institutes of Health R01 funding, studied human hereditary eye diseases. He has also played key roles in multiple clinical trials, including gene therapy trials focused on vision restoration. Dr. Heckenlively's extensive record of publications included more than 268 peer-reviewed articles, 44 book chapters, and five books. He received the Clinician-Scientist Award and the Distinguished Senior Scientist Award from the nonprofit organization Research to Prevent Blindness. He was elected a member of the American Ophthalmological Society in 1987 and a fellow of the Royal College of Ophthalmology in 1988.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **John R. Heckenlively, professor emeritus of ophthalmology and visual sciences.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

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