THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
Regents Communication  

ACTION REQUEST  

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

Kate F. Barald, Ph.D., professor of cell and developmental biology in the Medical School and professor of biomedical engineering in the Medical School and the College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on August 31, 2018.

Professor Barald received her A.B. degree from Bryn Mawr College in 1967 and her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin in 1969 and 1974, respectively. She completed an NIH National Cancer Institute postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Wisconsin (1974-75), a Muscular Dystrophy Association postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, San Diego (1975-78), and an NIH NRSA F32 postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University (1978-81). She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1981, and was promoted to associate professor in 1990, and professor in 2004. She was appointed professor of biomedical engineering in 2005.

Professor Barald and her research teams have conducted and published groundbreaking research in developmental neuroscience for over 40 years. She led, mentored, and collaborated with a generation of graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, visiting scholars, and international colleagues in her laboratory. Her research explored a wide range of topics, including stem cell biology; cancer biology, including the development of new cancer therapeutics; bioengineering; regenerative medicine aimed at the nervous system and inner ear; cardiac and skeletal muscle regeneration; and stem cell enhancements of cochlear implants. The National Science Foundation described her laboratory’s most recent avenues of research at the interface between the nervous and immune systems as “paradigm shifting and transformative.” She served as editor of a special edition of Experimental Neurology on this topic in 2018. An exceptional scholar, teacher, mentor, and leader, Professor Barald received a number of prestigious awards, including the Sarah Goddard Power Award (2006), the Lifetime Achievement Award in Medical Education (2017), and the Bicentennial Faculty Governance Lifetime Achievement Award (2017). Her service as director of the University of Michigan’s Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program in many ways reflected her enduring commitment to promoting diversity in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming Kate F. Barald, professor emerita of cell and developmental biology and professor emerita of biomedical engineering.

Requested by:  

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

Adopted by the Regents  
September 20, 2018