

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

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

Hollis D. Showalter, Ph.D., research professor of medicinal chemistry in the College of Pharmacy, retired from active faculty status on January 31, 2020.

Professor Showalter received his B.A. degree from the University of Virginia in 1970 and his Ph.D. degree from The Ohio State University in 1974. He completed a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellowship at Rice University from 1974-76. He joined Pfizer Global R&D Ann Arbor Laboratories (formerly Parke-Davis) as a scientist in 1976 and rose through the ranks during a 29-year career to become director of chemotherapeutics chemistry and director of antibacterials chemistry. He held adjunct faculty positions at Wayne State University and the University of Michigan. Following his retirement from Pfizer in 2005, Professor Showalter was appointed a research professor in the U-M College of Pharmacy in 2006. He served as director (2007-12) and co-director (2012-16) of the U-M Valtheich Medicinal Chemistry Core (VMCC)

Professor Showalter has had an illustrious career in drug discovery and development. During his exceptionally productive time at Pfizer, he was instrumental in the development of Pentostatin (**Nipent™**) that was NDA approved in 1991 for the treatment of hairy cell leukemia, and progressed seven other compounds through preclinical and clinical studies. Professor Showalter was highly influential in the successful creation of the VMCC, a critical component of Michigan Drug Discovery. Under his leadership, the VMCC quickly established itself as an invaluable resource, providing expert medicinal chemistry services to other scientists, such as lead compound selection after screening, lead optimization, custom compound synthesis, pharmacokinetic properties improvement, and structure-based design. The VMCC's numerous collaborations with scientists on and off campus have resulted in several research grants, patents, publications, and progress toward the treatment of many different diseases. Professor Showalter contributed over 30 invited lectures, 136 papers, 32 reviews/book chapters, and was issued 41 U.S. patents during his distinguished career. Not only was he an outstanding scientist and leader, but he was also a dedicated educator. He mentored or co-mentored nine Ph.D. students and postdoctoral research fellows as well as served on the dissertation committees of 12 others.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Hollis D. Showalter**, research professor emeritus of medicinal chemistry.

Requested by:



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

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