

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

### *Regents Communication*

#### ACTION REQUEST

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Retirement

**Action Requested:** Adoption of Retirement Memoir

**Melvin Hochster, Ph.D.**, Jack E. McLaughlin Distinguished University Professor of Mathematics and professor of mathematics in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2022.

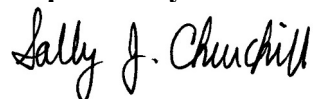
After attending Harvard University for his B.A. degree in mathematics, Professor Hochster received his Ph.D. degree from Princeton University in 1967. He held faculty positions at the University of Minnesota from 1967-1973, and at Purdue University from 1973-1977. Professor Hochster joined the University of Michigan Mathematics faculty in 1977 as a professor, was named the R.L. Wilder Professor in 1984, the Browne Professor in 1993, and received a Distinguished University Professorship in 2004. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1992. Professor Hochster received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1982, and the Sokol Faculty Award in 2001. From 2008-2017, Professor Hochster served as chair of the University of Michigan's Department of Mathematics.

Very few people revolutionize their fields; it is fair to say that Professor Hochster has done so twice. Early in his career, he was a research pioneer in the burgeoning field of commutative algebra, especially the study of modules over local rings. He established classic theorems concerning Cohen-Macaulay rings, invariant theory and homological algebra. Professor Hochster's best-known work is on the homological conjectures, many of which he established for local rings containing a field, thanks to his proof of the existence of big Cohen-Macaulay modules and his technique of reduction to prime characteristic. His later innovative work on tight closure (with Craig Huneke) has found unexpected applications throughout commutative algebra and algebraic geometry. Professor Hochster has more than 110 scholarly publications, with numerous collaborators.

Professor Hochster has been instrumental in attracting many top young scholars to faculty and postdoctoral positions, as well as a large number of graduate students. In his long and distinguished career, he mentored 48 doctoral students, many of whom have become leaders in the field themselves. Professor Hochster dedicated much time and effort to ensure inclusion of underrepresented scholars in mathematics, in particular advancement of women in the field. He was a founding member of the STRIDE Committee, and long served on the Advance Advisory Board. His service to the university and the mathematics community is extensive and wide-reaching.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Melvin Hochster, Jack E. McLaughlin Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and professor emeritus of mathematics**.

**Requested by:**



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

February 2023