

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

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

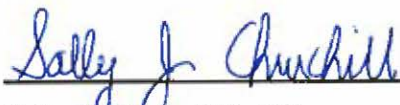
Donna S. Shewach Ph.D., professor of pharmacology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on August 1, 2018.

Professor Shewach received her B.G.S. degree from the University of Michigan in 1976 and her Ph.D. degree from the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in 1981. She was a postdoctoral scholar (1981-84), research fellow (1984-86), and assistant research scientist (1986-88) in the U-M Department of Internal Medicine. Professor Shewach served as an assistant research scientist (1988-93), lecturer (1991-95), associate research scientist (1993-95), associate professor (1995-2001), and professor (2001-2018) in the U-M Department of Pharmacology.

An outstanding scientist and teacher, Professor Shewach's research activities focused on elucidating the mechanisms by which cancer chemotherapeutics attack cancer cells, with the goal of capitalizing on these mechanisms to enhance cancer therapy. Her research led to novel combination therapies and improved sequencing of drugs for patients with solid tumors. The primary emphasis of her work was the evaluation of new and existing nucleoside analogs combined with radiation therapy or other chemotherapeutics to improve the outcome of cancer treatment. Professor Shewach demonstrated the efficacy of gemcitabine as an excellent radiation sensitizer. She participated in developing the first clinical trial of gemcitabine plus radiation in patients with head and neck cancer and exploring novel drug combinations and drug sequencing that improved the anticancer efficacy of ganciclovir *in vivo*. Professor Shewach was also an outstanding educator mentoring undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows and was a master teacher of the pharmacology of antimicrobial drugs, lecturing graduate, medical, nursing, and dental students. She served as the co-sequence director of infectious diseases for medical students for over 20 years, initiated and developed three translational courses for graduate students in pharmacology, and was an inaugural inductee into the Medical School's League of Educational Excellence.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Donna S. Shewach, professor emerita of pharmacology**.

Requested by:



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

March 2020