

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Kevin B. Atkins, Ph.D., assistant research scientist in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Nephrology, Medical School, retired from active faculty status on May 2, 2022.

Dr. Atkins received his B.A. degree in 1981 from Western Maryland College and his M.S. degree in 1984 from the University of Maryland. Subsequently, he received his Ph.D. degree in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology from Iowa State University in 1991. Dr. Atkins was recruited by the University of Michigan in 1991 as a research associate II and was promoted to senior research associate in 1999. In 2006, he was promoted to research laboratory specialist senior and in 2010, he joined the faculty ranks as a research investigator. In 2014, he was promoted to assistant research scientist, the position from which he now retires.

Dr. Atkins's scholarly interests focus on vascular smooth muscle physiology, specifically to understand the relationship between diabetes, kidney disease, and hypertension and vascular dysfunction. His findings indicate altered expression of the glucose transporter GLUT4 in the vascular smooth muscle has profound effects on vascular function in diabetes and hypertension. His research also focuses on changes in vascular responsiveness in models of type 1 diabetes and atherogenic kidney disease. His findings suggest that an intersection of the influence of cyclooxygenase on vascular dysfunction across several models of vascular complication, as well as the interesting effect that smooth muscle specific expression of GLUT4 is apparently mediated through cyclooxygenase activation. Dr. Atkins has 25 peer-reviewed publications, including 14 as first author, in high-impact journals. His work has led to several Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health, and industry grants.

In addition to his scholarly achievements, Dr. Atkins is a committed educator who has provided outstanding training and mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the laboratory. Dr. Atkins is a member of the American Heart Association and a journal reviewer for the *American Journal of Physiology: Heart and Circulatory Physiology*.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Kevin B. Atkins, assistant research scientist emeritus, internal medicine**.

Requested by:



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

March 2022