

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

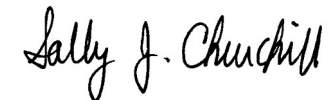
**William Michael King, Ph.D.**, professor of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on March 31, 2024.

Professor King received an A.B. degree (1966) in physics from Harvard University, an M.S. degree (1970) in electrical engineering from Northeastern University, and his Ph.D. degree in physiology and biophysics (1976) from the University of Washington. He joined The Johns Hopkins University as an assistant professor in the Wilmer Eye Institute (1978). In 1981, he moved to the University of Rochester as assistant professor of physiology where he was appointed associate professor in 1987. In 1993, Dr. King joined the University of Mississippi Medical School faculty as professor of neurology and founding director of their clinical balance laboratory. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 2002 as a professor in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, where he has been a researcher in the Kresge Hearing Research Institute and was also director of the Vestibular Testing Center from 2002 until 2018.

Professor King is an eminent scholar in the field of neuroscience. His early career focused on the neural control of eye movements where his research revealed neural mechanisms for premotor control of vertical eye movements. In subsequent studies, Dr. King investigated the neurophysiological mechanisms that underlay binocular eye movements; this research helped resolve an historical 19<sup>th</sup> century controversy between Hermann Helmholtz and Ewald Hering. At the University of Michigan, Dr. King's research focused on clinical and basic issues related to vestibular control of balance. His research has provided direct evidence that intense or repeated noise exposure (as may occur at a rock concert, in the military, or in a noisy factory) can cause vestibular dysfunction not unlike noise-induced hearing loss. Dr. King was honored by his colleagues at an international symposium sponsored by the Society for the Neural Control of Movement in Dublin (2022) where he presented the keynote address. Dr. King has taught classes in neuroscience to graduate students and medical students and has mentored multiple pre- and post-doctoral students and undergraduate students in his laboratory.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **William Michael King, professor emeritus of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery**.

**Requested by:**



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

**March 2024**