

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

George A. Garcia, Ph.D., professor of medicinal chemistry, College of Pharmacy, will retire from active faculty status on April 3, 2025.

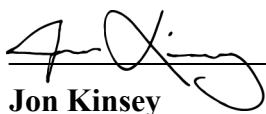
Professor Garcia received his B.S. in chemistry in 1982 at California State University, Sacramento and his Ph.D. in pharmaceutical chemistry in 1988 at the University of California, San Francisco. After a two-year postdoctoral fellowship (1988-89) at Cambridge University, England, he joined the University of Michigan as an assistant professor in 1990, was promoted to associate professor, with tenure, in 1996, and to professor in 2012. Professor Garcia served as the chair of the Department of Medicinal Chemistry from 2012 to 2020 and was appointed as the interim chair from 2022-2024.

Professor Garcia made a significant impact through his research, mentorship, and leadership during his 35 year tenure at the University. A distinguished biochemist and enzymologist, his work on RNA synthesis and processing resulted in over 80 publications and four patent applications. For more than two decades, he investigated post-transcriptional RNA modification before pioneering collaborative antibiotic discovery efforts targeting *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Shigella flexneri*, and SARS-CoV-2. His team used structure-based and high-throughput screening to develop novel inhibitors for key bacterial and viral targets. In addition to his research, Professor Garcia was a dedicated mentor, guiding 21 Ph.D. students, serving on 69 dissertation committees, and advising approximately 40 Pharm.D. and undergraduate research projects. His commitment to mentorship was recognized with the 2020 Rackham Graduate School Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award.

Professor Garcia served as department chair for 11 years, during which time he played a key role in faculty recruitment, hiring approximately 80% of the current department faculty, and contributed to institutional growth, academic development, and student success. His leadership fostered meaningful collaborations, strengthening the College of Pharmacy's reputation in higher education. Professor Garcia's legacy of innovation, mentorship, and advocacy will continue to shape the university for years to come.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **George A. Garcia, professor emeritus of medicinal chemistry**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

March 2025