

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS' COMMUNICATION
ACTION REQUEST

EXH	MOTION <i>Taylor</i>
	SECURITY <i>Approved</i>
	ACTION APPROVED BY THE REGENTS
NOTE:	APR 21 2005

SUBJECT: Mental Health Research Institute

ACTION REQUEST: Change in Name to The Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience Institute

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 21, 2005

With the concurrence of the Executive Committee, I am pleased to recommend a change in the name of the Mental Health Research Institute to The Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience Institute, effective April 21, 2005.

The Mental Health Research Institute (MHRI) at the University of Michigan received State appropriation in 1955 and was approved by Regents By-Laws in 1957. The first director was James Miller, M.D. who came with a group of scientists from the University of Chicago in 1955 to found a new interdisciplinary institute. Ralph Waldo Gerard, a preeminent neurophysiologist came as the director of laboratories. At the MHRI, he continued his pioneering work on the brain, particularly the biology of memory formation. He is often referred to as the "Father of Neuroscience", and is credited with originating the term "neuroscience" which is now widely used. Yet, the term "Neuroscience" is not used in any of the academic departments or Institutes at the University of Michigan.

Over the last 50 years of its existence, the MHRI has evolved its mission of understanding the neuroscience of behavior using state of the art scientific tools--molecular, cellular, anatomical, genetic, behavioral and clinical. The Institute is nationally and internationally recognized for its research focusing on how the brain develops, how brain cells communicate, and how functions such as emotions and cognition are organized in the brain. The Institute has a special and collaborative relationship with the Department of Psychiatry, and an important emphasis of its research has been on translating neuroscience discoveries to biological psychiatry, and applying it to uncovering the causes and developing new treatments for psychiatric and neurological disorders.

The proposed name change, by including the term neuroscience, and by specifying both the molecular and behavioral aspects of the research, would better reflect the history, the mission, the breadth and fundamental nature of the scientific research programs of the Institute.

For the reasons stated above, we recommend changing the name of the Mental Health Research Institute to the Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience Institute and commensurate revision of Regents' Bylaw 11.40, effective April 21, 2005.

Recommended by



Allen S. Lichter, M.D.
Dean, Medical School

Recommendation endorsed by



Robert P. Kelch, M.D.
Executive Vice President
for Medical Affairs



Paul N. Courant, Ph.D., Provost
and Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs

April 2005