

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Sergey M. Chernyak, Ph.D., associate research scientist, environment health sciences in the School of Public Health, retired from active faculty status on April 20, 2020.

Dr. Chernyak received his M.S. (1971) degree from Moscow State University and his Ph.D. (1979) degree from the State Oceanographic Institute, Moscow - Hydrochemical Institution. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate research scientist in 2003.

Dr. Chernyak was an international authority in environmental chemistry with 50 years of research experience in laboratory methods for the analysis of several thousand organic compounds in both biological and non-biological samples that bridge environmental, environmental health, and occupational health areas. He served as analytical chemist and scientist for the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Geology and Environment Protection of the U.S.S.R. and Russian Federation. He was a member of several editorial boards, including the U.S. Department of Interior, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Russian Meteorological Committee. At U-M his work addressed a wide number of analytes and matrices, but much of his work focused on persistent compounds, including chlorinated pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls and other halogenated (i.e. brominated) hydrocarbons, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, dioxins, furanes and other compounds in matrices include blood, urine, as well as air, soil, biota, and food. He completed some of the first measurements of nitro-PAH (1-nitropyrene and 6-nitrocrysene) in sediments and biota in the Great Lakes and developed a new method for dialkyl phosphate metabolites of organophosphate pesticides in human urine. He led analytical efforts to develop and validate biomarkers using dried blood spots, including studies examining storage stability, matrix contamination, sensitivity and precision, and overall applicability. Dr. Chernyak investigated the fate of organic contaminants in 28 seas and lakes with an emphasis on arctic and polar ecosystems, as well as in high agricultural areas in the U.S.A., Russia, Kazakhstan, and Middle Asia. He was one of the first investigators to test a large group of organic contaminants in the remote coral ecosystems of the South Pacific and first to conduct a large-scale survey of these pollutants in plankton and bottom-dwelling organisms from the Arctic and Antarctic Seas. Dr. Chernyak tested his methods at international workshops for Black Sea area scientists (Varna, Bulgaria), Baltic and North Seas scientists (Kiel, Germany).

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Sergey M. Chernyak, associate research scientist emeritus, environmental health sciences.**

Requested by:



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

May 2020