

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

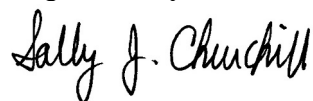
**Alexander Ninfa, Ph.D.**, professor of biological chemistry in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2021.

Professor Ninfa received his B.S. degree from Villanova University in 1977 and his Ph.D. degree from Rutgers University in 1983. Professor Ninfa was an assistant professor at Wayne State University from 1989-93. Professor Ninfa joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1993, and was promoted to professor in 1999.

Professor Ninfa's research focused on bacterial nitrogen regulation, and on elucidating the design principles of natural and synthetic signal transduction systems. This research resulted in numerous multi-year NIH- and NSF- funded grants, over 80 peer-reviewed publications, chapters in books, and presentations at international meetings. A gifted teacher, Professor Ninfa served as course director for Biochem 415/515 (Introduction to Biochemistry) and Biochem 452 (Biochemistry II), and with Professor Emeritus David P. Ballou, developed an undergraduate course in biotechnology and published a widely used textbook. He was both director and co-director of the biological chemistry master's program since its inception in 2016. An exceptional mentor, he served on numerous thesis committees and mentored many undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students. Administratively, he participated in multiple departmental committees in biological chemistry, as well as in the Medical School's Advisory Committee on Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure (ACAPT) and the Biomedical Research Council. He received the University of Michigan's Henry Russel Award in 1999, was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology in 2011, and was awarded the Endowment in Basic Sciences Teaching Award in 2015.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Alexander Ninfa, professor emeritus of biological chemistry**.

**Requested by:**



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

**May 2021**