

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

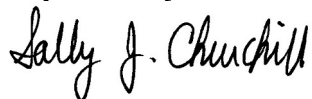
Jianming Li, Ph.D., professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2023.

Professor Li received his B.S. degree from Nanjing University, China in 1984 and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Virginia in 1995. Professor Li joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1998, and was promoted to associate professor in 2004, and professor in 2011.

Professor Li studied how plants detect and respond to brassinosteroid hormones known to be important for normal plant growth and development. He was credited for discovering several key components of the brassinosteroid signaling pathway, including the brassinosteroid receptor and its coreceptor, and proteins that transmit the extracellular steroid signals into the nucleus to alter gene expression. Professor Li's work on the brassinosteroid receptor and its coreceptor has become a paradigm for studying cell surface-localized receptors involved in a wide range of plant developmental and physiological processes. His seminal contributions to the plant steroid research was recognized by his election to be a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2012. Professor Li also used *Arabidopsis thaliana*, a small flowering weed, to investigate how eukaryotic cells recognize, retain, repair, and/or remove misfolded proteins. His laboratory discovered not only the evolutionarily conserved factors but also green life-specific components of a highly stringent protein quality control system that is relevant to many human diseases and plant tolerance to environmental stress. Professor Li was a dedicated teacher in classrooms and his laboratory, and taught undergraduate and graduate courses in molecular biology, and plant physiology. Professor Li served as the academic program director of the University of Michigan-Peking University Joint Institute in the College of Literature, Sciences, and the Arts from 2011-2017.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Jianming Li, professor emeritus of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology**.

Requested by:



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

May 2023