

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Alexey S. Kondrashov, Ph.D.**, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2024.

Alexey Kondrashov studied at the Lomonosov Moscow State University where he received a Diploma of Higher Education (M.S.) in 1978 and a doctorate in 1984. He held positions of associate visiting scientist at the University of Wisconsin and research associate at the University of Chicago and University of Oregon from 1990-1992. In 1993, he joined the faculty at Cornell University and was promoted to associate professor in 1996. He moved to the National Center for Biotechnology Information of the National Institutes of Health in 1999 where he was a senior investigator. In 2006, he joined the faculty at the University of Michigan as a professor in ecology and evolutionary biology. He has held a courtesy appointment at Moscow State University since 2011.

Professor Kondrashov made significant contributions to evolutionary biology, particularly in theoretical population genetics, molecular evolution, and human genetics. His work is characterized by a blend of theoretical depth and empirical investigation and examines genetic variation in species including sea squirts, mushrooms, and rotifers, deriving theoretical predictions for how their genomes were shaped by adaptation. His research shaped modern evolutionary thought and deepened the understanding of how genetic variation is maintained and drives evolution. He published more than 120 peer-reviewed papers. Some of this work focused on the appearance and evolutionary consequences of new mutations, including measuring mutation rates empirically in fruit flies and yeasts, considering mutations as a force contributing to the evolution and maintenance of sexual reproduction, and examining the genetic load of mutations in humans. He also wrote the book *Crumbling Genome: The Impact of Deleterious Mutations on Humans*. Professor Kondrashov was also a dedicated educator known for his passionate, and at times unconventional, teaching style. He taught introductory evolution courses for both undergraduate and graduate students and created innovative courses at the intersection of evolution, medicine, and religion. He was dedicated to teaching the fundamentals of evolution and created a textbook for his course (*Evolution of Life*), radically defining the field in his terms.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Alexey S. Kondrashov, professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology**.

**Requested by:**



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**Jon Kinsey**  
**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**May 2024**