Approved by the Regents
May 16, 2024

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: **Report of Faculty Retirement**

Action Requested: **Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

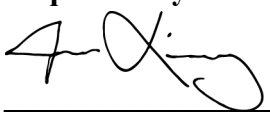
Johannes W. Schwank, Ph.D., James and Judith Street Professor of Chemical Engineering and professor of chemical engineering in the College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2024.

Professor Schwank received his chemistry diploma (1975) and Ph.D. degree in physical chemistry (1978) from the University Innsbruck, Austria. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1980, and was promoted to associate professor in 1984, and professor in 1990. Professor Schwank served as chair of the Chemical Engineering department (1990-1995), interim director of the Energy Institute (2011-2012), and director of the Electron Microbeam Analysis Laboratory (EMAL) (2013-2015). He also served as director of the Multidisciplinary Design Program (2021-2023).

Renowned for his pioneering studies, Professor Schwank's research covered an extensive range of subjects, including heterogeneous catalysis, sensor development, and the invention of new energy storage materials, particularly focusing on how materials' surface structures influence their catalytic and functional properties. His innovative work in energy technology and his directorship at REFRESCH exemplify his commitment to addressing global issues in food, energy, and water security in resource-scarce settings, uniting students and faculty in solving real-world challenges. Professor Schwank's career is marked by distinguished accomplishments: election as an AIChE fellow, recipient of the Giuseppe Parravano Award, the UM Chemical Engineering Excellence Award, and the College of Engineering's Class of 1938E Distinguished Service Award. Professor Schwank has made a remarkable impact in academia and innovation, authoring 236 refereed publications, and securing 25 patents. A dedicated mentor, he has nurtured the careers of numerous students, including 39 Ph.D. candidates, 35 master's degree students, and 31 visiting graduate scholars, in addition to 35 undergraduate students, and teaching ten courses. His extensive contributions and guidance have profoundly influenced the domains of catalysis and materials science, leaving a legacy of excellence in research and teaching.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Johannes W. Schwank, James and Judith Street Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering and professor emeritus of chemical engineering**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University **May 2024**