THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Sridhar Kota, Ph.D., Herrick Professor of Engineering, professor of mechanical engineering in the College of Engineering, and executive director of MForesight, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2021.

Professor Kota received his B.S.M.E. (1980) degree from Osmania University, India, and his M.S. (1982) degree from the University of Mississippi, and his M.S.M.E. (1986) and Ph.D. (1988) degrees from the University of Minnesota. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1987, and was promoted to associate professor in 1993, and professor in 2000.

Professor Kota’s expertise lies in bio-inspired engineering design – soft robots, compliant and shape-adaptive systems; the topology, size, and shape optimization of compliant mechanisms – product design for no-assembly; and the design for manufacturability, and technology policy and advanced manufacturing. He is a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and the recipient of numerous awards, including the Society of Automotive Engineers’ (SAE) Ralph E. Teetor Educational Award in 1993, the National Applied Mechanisms and Robotics Conference’s George Wood Award for “Contributions to the Growth of the Science of Applied Mechanisms and Robotics” in 1993, the ASME’s Leonardo Da Vinci Award for “Significant Original Contributions to the Field of Mechanical Design Through Invention of a Device with Practical Applications” in 1997, and the ASME Swanson Foundation’s White House Fellowship 2009-12. Professor Kota co-authored an undergraduate textbook titled Mechanisms Design (2002), published over 200 technical papers on mechanical design, bio-inspired compliant design – theory, synthesis methods, and applications to automotive, aerospace, and medical fields, and is the sole inventor and co-inventor of over 35 U.S. and international patents.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming Sridhar Kota, Herrick Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering and professor emeritus of mechanical engineering.

Requested by:

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

Adopted by the Regents
June 17, 2021