

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

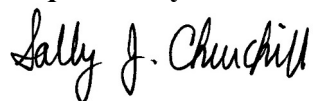
**Sridhar Kota, Ph.D.**, Herrick Professor of Engineering, Professor of Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering, and founding Executive Director of MForesight, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2021.

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 mechanical systems design and bio-inspired engineering design - synthesis and optimization of compliant mechanisms, shape adaptive structures and soft robots; design for manufacturability; technology and manufacturing policy. He is a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and received numerous awards, including the ASME's Leonardo Da Vinci Award in 1997, Machine Design Award in 2004, and the Outstanding Educator Award in 2010. Professor Kota is the recipient of the University of Michigan Regents' Award for Distinguished Public Service in 2014 and the Distinguished University Innovator Award in 2017. During 2009-12, Professor Kota served as the Assistant Director for Advanced Manufacturing at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. He authored over 250 technical papers on engineering design and several national manufacturing policy related articles. Professor Kota co-authored an undergraduate textbook titled *Mechanisms Design* (2002), and is the inventor of over 40 U.S. patents. He is the founder and CEO of [FlexSys Inc.](#); invented, developed and flight-tested the world's first modern aircraft with shape-changing wings to improve fuel efficiency.

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

**Requested by:**



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

**June 2021**