

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

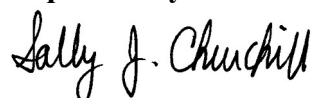
Arun Kumar Das, Ph.D., assistant research scientist, internal medicine and director of the Medical Scientist Training School in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on July 31, 2020.

Dr. Das received his B.Sc. (1973) and M.Sc. (1975) degrees from the University of Calcutta and his Ph.D. (1981) degree from the Bose Research Institute at the University of Calcutta. He served as a senior research associate (1984-85) at the Bose Research Institute and visiting research scientist (1985-86) in the Thyroid Research Laboratory and Endocrine Division of Mount Sinai Hospital at the University of Toronto. At the University of Michigan, he served as a senior research fellow (1986-90), research associate (1990-95), and senior research associate (1996-2006) in the Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience Institute. He joined the Division of Metabolism, Endocrinology and Diabetes as a research investigator in 2006, and was promoted to assistant research scientist in 2013.

Dr. Das' research interests included studying the role of membrane lipids in relation to obesity and diabetes and the analysis of possible lipid disorder (lipid metabolites). His work sought to better understand these diseases and elucidate the functional role of polyunsaturated fatty acids, trans fatty acids, and lipid biosynthetic enzymes at the molecular level. After joining the Michigan Metabolomic and Obesity Center, Dr. Das set up a platform for lipidomic research. He first focused on the studies of the chemistry, biochemistry, and structural aspects of membrane lipids from aquatic to land animal to human model. The studies primarily focused on the classification, characterization, and fatty acid profiling of membrane neutral and phospholipids in different tissues and organs of the body. Subsequently, his interest extended deeper into the understanding of the biological pathways, enzymology, and molecular biology of these biomolecules. His research helped the exploration of lipid characterization, enzyme kinetics, and method developments. He developed unique methods for enzymatic hydrolyses of lipids on thin layer chromatographic plates, including identification of the products and their separation all on a single and same plate. His research generated 39 peer-reviewed publications, four book chapters, eight abstracts, and several other acknowledgements. His training and mentorship provided numerous undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and clinicians with in-depth lipid research experience, a strong theoretical foundation, and superb guidance on their own research projects.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Arun Kumar Das, assistant research scientist emeritus, internal medicine.**

Requested by:



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

July 2020