

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Juan F. López, M.D., associate professor of psychiatry and research associate professor, Michigan Neuroscience Institute in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on August 31, 2020.

Dr. López received his B.S. (1978) and M.D. (1982) degrees from the University of Puerto Rico. He completed his psychiatric residency at the University of Michigan (1982-84) and the University of Iowa (1984-86). He was a research fellow (1986-90) at the University of Michigan Mental Health Research Institute (MHRI). Dr. López joined the University of Michigan faculty as a lecturer in psychiatry and a research investigator in the MHRI in 1990. He was promoted to assistant professor in 1994 and research scientist in the Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience Institute in 1998. He was promoted to associate professor in 2001 and research associate professor in 2013. He served as the co-director of the Treatment Resistant Depression Consultation Clinic from 2004-06 and co-director of the Perinatal Psychiatry Clinic from 2018-20.

Dr. López's scholarly work centered on the neurobiology of stress and mood. His research investigations determined that stress hormones can modulate the gene expression of serotonin brain molecules thought to be involved in mood disorders. These findings pointed to a possible mechanism as to how stress can trigger, or worsen, depressive symptoms in vulnerable individuals. Dr. López's research also demonstrated that stress hormones can interfere with the biochemical effects of antidepressants in the brain. Dr. López received independent federal funding in the area of mood disorders. He was the recipient of several research awards, including the American Suicide Foundation's Psychiatric Research Development Award (1993), the NARSAD's Young Investigator Award (1994), and the Society of Biological Psychiatry's A.E. Bennet Award (1997). He also served in various national advisory committees, including the National Institute of Mental Health's Board of Scientific Counselors (2000-06) and the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance's National Scientific Advisory Board (2003-11). Dr. López was committed to teaching the next generation of clinicians and brain researchers. He mentored undergraduates, graduate students, medical students, psychiatric residents, and research fellows.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Juan F. López, associate professor emeritus of psychiatry and research associate professor emeritus, Michigan Neuroscience Institute.**

Requested by:



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

July 2020