

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Bret A. Hughes, Ph.D.**, professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences and professor of molecular and integrative physiology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on July 1, 2022.

Professor Hughes received his B.A. (1978) and Ph.D. (1983) degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. He pursued postdoctoral training from 1983 to 1986 at the University of California, Berkeley, and from 1986 to 1989 at the University of California, San Francisco. In 1989, he joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor of ophthalmology and an assistant professor of physiology, and he was promoted to associate professor in 1997, and professor in 2004.

Professor Hughes is internationally recognized for his research on the physiology of the retinal pigment epithelium, which is essential to the health of the light-sensitive photoreceptors of the retina. His earliest work included the first detailed analysis of ionic currents in isolated amphibian retinal pigment epithelial cells. The main body of his work led to the functional characterization of ion channels in mammalian retinal pigment epithelial cells and the identification of the genes that encode them, including an ion channel that was later implicated in inherited retinal degeneration. Professor Hughes has published 46 research articles, four book chapters, and seventy meeting abstracts.

Professor Hughes received several honors for his work, including the Career Development Award (1989-1993) and the Lew R. Wasserman Merit Award (2003-2010) from Research to Prevent Blindness. As chair of a space committee in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, he was instrumental in producing a white paper that aided the Board of Regents in their decision to approve a major expansion of the Kellogg Eye Center in 2009. He served expertly as director of the NIH funded P30 Vision Research Core for 22 years, ensuring that members of the vision community at the university had access to scientific expertise and state-of-the-art instrumentation to advance their research.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Bret A. Hughes, professor emeritus of ophthalmology and visual sciences**.

**Requested by:**

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

September 2022