

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

John Michael Sullivan, Ph.D., associate research scientist, University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) in the College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on September 30, 2020.

Dr. Sullivan received his B.A. degree from City University of New York, Brooklyn College in 1977 and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Michigan in 1986. Dr. Sullivan began his career in private industry as a technical lead and project manager for Computer Methods Corporation (1988-97), and as a project manager at Advanced Diagnostic Solutions, GenRad Inc./Ford Motor Company (1997-98). Dr. Sullivan joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant research scientist in 1998, and was promoted to associate research scientist in 2013. He was appointed head of the UMTRI Human Factors Group in 2016.

Dr. Sullivan's work examined the influence of visibility, particularly at night, on driving performance and subjective experience. His research projects included studies on drivers' experience of glare, steering performance, headlamp beam use, and target detection under various lighting conditions. He examined the link between ambient light level and crash risk using techniques that exploit the changeover to and from daylight saving time to eliminate confounding factors. Most recently, Dr. Sullivan investigated the consequences of automation technologies on driver performance, in projects studying lane departure warning, adaptive cruise control, and lane keeping assist. He had special interest in learning how drivers come to understand the capabilities of new technologies. Dr. Sullivan led efforts on many projects sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation (NHTSA, FHWA, and FMCSA) and automotive manufacturers. He directed the experimental design of field tests of driver assistance technologies, conducted simulation studies of driving performance, analyzed the impact of safety technologies, and analyzed driver behavior under naturalistic driving conditions. Dr. Sullivan was a past recipient of the UMTRI Research Excellence Award in 2002 and 2016, and served on several UMTRI committees, including the Executive Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, and the Information Technology Committee. He was a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and the Human Factors and Ergonomic Society (HFES).

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **John Michael Sullivan, associate research scientist emeritus, University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute.**

Requested by:



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

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