

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Ronald W. Holz, M.D., Ph.D., professor of pharmacology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2021.

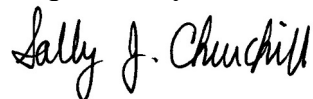
Professor Holz received his B.A. (1966) degree from Swarthmore College (chemistry with High Honors), and his Ph.D. (1970), and M.D. (1972) degrees from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1977, was promoted to associate professor in 1980, and professor in 1985.

Professor Holz began his research career by exploring the possibility of manipulating different aspects of the sympathetic nerve terminal via pharmacology, and the role of endocrine secretion in autonomic function. Over the intervening 4 decades, his research group has made a number of truly important insights into the biochemistry and biophysics of the secretory process concerned with the mechanisms underlying catecholamine release using the adrenomedullary chromaffin cell as the model system. One of the most important outcomes was the finding that ATP acted a step before the calcium trigger to “prime” the exocytotic event going on to show that the biochemical basis for the ATP dependency of exocytosis was tied to the maintenance of Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate on the plasma membrane – now recognized as a fundamental and common event for exocytosis in the body. More recently, his research became increasingly active in optical studies of exocytosis and endocytosis utilizing Total Internal Reflection Fluorescence (TIRF) microscopy. This work has provided a number of unique and highly influential insights into both the phenomenology of secretory granule trafficking and the mechanisms controlling membrane fusion and fission.

In all, Professor Holz has published over 134 articles, reviews, and book chapters. He has mentored 9 Ph.D. students, 2 M.S. students, and 12 postdoctoral fellows. He maintained an NIH-funded research program at the University of Michigan for over 40 years. Along the way, he won numerous accolades for his contributions to science, including the Sloan Foundation Fellowship (1974), an Established Investigatorship Award from the American Heart Association (1984), and the Sir Bernard Katz Award for Excellence in Research on Exocytosis and Endocytosis (2015).

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Ronald W. Holz, professor emeritus of pharmacology**.

Requested by:



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

October 2021