

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Sanford C. Bledsoe, Jr., Ph.D., research associate professor in the Kresge Hearing Research Institute, Medical School, retired from active faculty status on July 31, 2006.

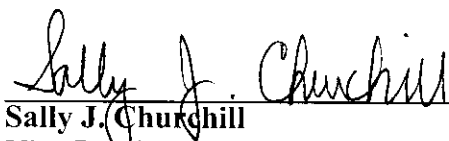
Professor Bledsoe received his B.S. degree from North Texas University in 1969 and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center in 1978(9?). Following completion of postdoctoral studies at Louisiana State University Medical Center, he joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1981 as an assistant research scientist. He was promoted to associate research scientist in 1990 and senior associate research scientist in 1997; his title was changed to research associate professor in 2003.

Throughout his career, Professor Bledsoe has pursued an interdisciplinary approach to research in the auditory system. He made important contributions in the study of the comparative actions of glutamate and related pharmacological substances on the *Xenopus laevis* lateral line and extended these findings in the rodent to generalize to the mammalian brain. During his career, he published seminal papers demonstrating deafness-induced plasticity in the mature auditory system.

Professor Bledsoe has been very involved in the development of multichannel stimulating and recording silicon neural probes, in collaboration with colleagues in the College of Engineering. His work has played a major role in the technology transfer and commercialization of these probes, which are now in use worldwide in the neurophysiology community. In collaboration with Professor Kensall D. Wise in the College of Engineering, he pioneered the development of drug-delivery probes that are capable of recording multichannel neural activity while simultaneously delivering pharmacological agents to adjacent regions. This work has the potential to lead to significant improvements in the lives of patients with intractable neurological diseases such as Parkinson's disease and tinnitus.

The Regents salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Sanford C. Bledsoe, Jr., research associate professor emeritus.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2006