

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Richard I. Hume, Ph.D., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2025.

Professor Hume received his B.A. (1975) degree from Wesleyan University and Ph.D. (1980) from Stanford University. Dr. Hume started as an assistant professor of biology in 1983, rose to the rank of professor in 1995 and was appointed as an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in 2003. He received many awards including the Michigan Association of Governing Boards Distinguished Faculty Award in 1999 and the Sokol Award of Rackham School of Graduate Studies in 2003. Dr. Hume served the University of Michigan in many ways, including as director of the Interdepartmental Neuroscience Graduate Program (1999-2003), chair of the Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology (2003-2008), and director of the Undergraduate Program in Neuroscience (2013-2022).

Professor Hume studied the function of proteins that mediate the signaling properties of neurons and their development at the molecular level. His lab developed a widely used method for labeling both living and chemically fixed neurons. Importantly this technique allowed researchers to visualize and follow developing neurons in many living organisms. The paper describing this method has been cited over 1,000 times. Much of his research utilized molecular manipulations of neurotransmitter receptors to dissect how they work. The most significant of these papers identified a site in glutamate receptors that controls the ability of the brain to learn and forget. He also collaborated with colleagues to identify a key protein required for damaged neural axons to degenerate and the molecular and functional identification of a Parkinson's disease risk protein as an ion channel found in lysosomes, which are organelles found in cells required for normal cellular signaling and metabolic function. During Professor Hume's career he trained 11 postdoctoral fellows, 14 Ph.D. students and 17 undergraduate honors students and was a valued colleague for many other researchers both at the University of Michigan as well as elsewhere.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Richard I. Hume, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus and professor emeritus of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology.**

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2025