Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Robert M. Bradley, Ph.D., professor of dentistry in the School of Dentistry and professor of molecular and integrative physiology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2019.

Professor Bradley received his B.D.S., L.D.S. (1963) degree from the Royal Dental Hospital, University of London, his M.S.D. (1966) degree from the University of Washington, and his Ph.D. (1970) degree from Florida State University. He completed his post-doctoral training at the Nuffield Institute for Medical Research in Oxford, England in 1972. He became a dental house surgeon at the Royal Dental Hospital in 1963 and a dental house officer at St. Mary’s Hospital in 1964, both located in London, England. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1972, and was promoted to associate professor in 1975, and professor in 1979. He has held an additional appointment in the Medical School since 1980. He served as the acting chair (1994-95), chair (2003-05), acting chair (2012-13), and interim chair (2016-17) in the School of Dentistry’s Department of Biologic and Materials Sciences.

A sensory physiologist, Professor Bradley was widely recognized for his contributions to understanding the sense of taste. An important theme of his work was the investigation of the development and maturation of taste receptor cells as well as the processing of taste information by the brainstem. He pioneered the use of new methods to gain knowledge of the complex circuits underlying taste salivary reflexes. Professor Bradley was an eminent educator having developed new dental school courses focused on the oral facial function. He co-authored over 90 peer-reviewed publications as well as published three books and 25 book chapters. He has received continuous grant support since 1973, served on numerous study sections, and refereed multiple high-impact journals. His abundant service to the university and nationally was commendable. He was a Fulbright Travel Scholar from 1964-70 and a member of the Michigan Society of Senior Fellows from 2013-16. He received the NIH National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders’ Claud Pepper Award (1990) and the Association for Chemoreception Sciences’ Max Mozell Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Chemical Senses (2003).

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and scholar for his dedicated service by naming Robert M. Bradley, professor emeritus of dentistry and professor emeritus of molecular and integrative physiology.

Requested by:

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

December 2019