

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Margaret E. Gnegy, Ph.D.**, professor of pharmacology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2021.

Professor Gnegy received her B.S. (1971, chemistry) and her Ph.D. (1975, biochemistry) degrees from West Virginia University. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1977, was promoted to associate professor in 1984, and professor in 1990.

Professor Gnegy's impressive research career focused on the regulation of the dopamine system in the dorsal and ventral striatum. In addition, her studies demonstrated that the interaction of hormones and calmodulin in the activation of adenylyl cyclase could temporally result in coincidence detection of signals that contribute to synaptic plasticity, even learning and memory. Professor Gnegy interrogated aspects of dopamine regulation using amphetamine. She demonstrated that amphetamine causes homologous desensitization of dopamine receptors. Her work greatly increased the scope of known intracellular actions of amphetamine and provided a mechanism for the effects of amphetamine. Professor Gnegy hypothesized that inhibition of protein kinase C (PKC) is a potential therapeutic modality to help addicts remain abstinent from stimulants. Professor Gnegy's proof-of-principle therapeutic studies showed that tamoxifen inhibits amphetamine-stimulated dopamine efflux and locomotor activity.

In addition to her research career, Professor Gnegy's record of service to the university and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) was extraordinary. She served as director of the UM Substance Abuse Research Center, as PI of the NIDA-funded UM Substance Abuse Interdisciplinary Training Program, and as chair of the Graduate Program Committee and associate chair for education in the UM Department of Pharmacology. She served as chair of the ASPET Neuropharmacology Division from 2009-11, member of the Julius Axelrod Award Committee from 2011-15, councilor from 2014-17, member of the General Awards Committee from 2015-18, member of the ASPET Surf Award Task Force from 2015-16, member of the ASPET Travel Award Task Force in 2016, and chair of the Awards Committee from 2016-17. She served on the ASPET Mentoring and Career Development Committee (2018-present), the ASPET Global Task Force (2019-20), and as the ASPET president (2021-22). In recognition of her outstanding service in graduate training and mentorship, the UM Center for the Education of Women endowed a scholarship in honor of Professor Gnegy.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Margaret E. Gnegy, professor emerita of pharmacology**.

**Requested by:**



---

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

**December 2021**