

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Eran Pichersky, Ph.D., Michael M. Martin Collegiate Professor of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology 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, 2021.

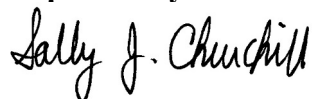
Professor Pichersky received his B.Sc. degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 1980 and his Ph.D. degree from the University of California, Davis in 1984. He conducted post-doctoral research at Rockefeller University. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1986, and was promoted to associate professor in 1992, and professor in 1998. He was named the Michael M. Martin Collegiate Professor of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology in 2005.

Professor Pichersky's research programs have focused on the characterization of genes and proteins that catalyze reactions that are unique to plants. A project devoted to investigations of enzymes that are involved in carbon dioxide fixation, or that absorb light and transfer energy in photosynthesis, included a study of the evolution of these proteins. Biochemical and molecular biological characterization was next used to investigate the enzymes that produce floral scents. Here, Professor Pichersky's research identified a number of enzymes responsible for synthesis of the volatile chemicals that produce floral scents, showed how their activities are regulated, and defined interrelationships among these proteins with respect to their evolution. His research has resulted in about 250 publications, 4 patents, 2 co-edited collections of research papers, and a book, *Plants and Human Conflict* (2018), which details the role plant chemicals have played in the history of warfare. His former students and post-doctoral fellows who worked with him on these research projects now occupy positions in universities and research institutes in North America, Europe, Israel and Asia.

Professor Pichersky's achievements have been recognized by a number of fellowships (The Guggenheim, von Humboldt and Fulbright Foundations), and election as a fellow of AAAS and of the American Society of Plant Biologists. He has been active in undergraduate teaching (genetics, molecular biology, plant biochemistry). In addition to his service on numerous university and national committees, he served for two years as chair, leading the new Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology when it formed during the reorganization of the former Department of Biology.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Eran Pichersky, Michael M. Martin Collegiate Professor Emeritus of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology and professor emeritus of molecular, cellular and developmental biology.**

Requested by:



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

December 2021