

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

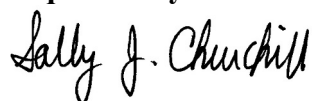
Priscilla K. Tucker, Ph.D., professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and curator, Museum of Zoology, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2021.

Priscilla Tucker received her B.A. degree from Colgate University in 1974 and her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Texas A&M University in 1980 and 1984, respectively. She was a postdoctoral trainee in the Jackson Laboratory from 1985-88, and a visiting instructor in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Science at Texas A&M University from 1984-85. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor and assistant curator of mammals in 1988, and was promoted to associate professor and associate curator in 1995, and professor and curator of mammals in 2005. She was a senior fellow for the Sweetland Writing Center from 2005-06 and a senior fellow for the Learning Analytics Workshop in 2013. In September 2020, she was appointed program director of the National Science Foundation's Division of Environmental Biology-Evolutionary Processes; she served in this role for one year.

As a faculty member and curator at the University of Michigan, Priscilla is known for her insightful and innovative research in evolutionary biology, focusing primarily on the genetics of hybrid zones and evolution of sex chromosomes. Her early work on the structure and evolution of the Y chromosome in the genus *Mus* was some of the first research to provide an evolutionary perspective to the study of the sex-determining locus *Sry*. Working with collaborators, she focused her attention on a hybrid zone in house mice across Europe, discovering unusual patterns of sex chromosome distribution and evolution. Her continuing research on this hybrid zone resulted in key contributions to the field of evolutionary biology including elucidating the importance of sex chromosomes in maintaining hybrid zones and the role and nature of critical prezygotic mechanisms limiting introgression across these zones, as well as exploring the use of hybrid zones in understanding the process of speciation itself. A consequence of her work on house mouse hybrid zones has been the exploration of the makeup of strains of laboratory mice used in biomedical research. Overall, this research helped build an impressive list of publications, and the *Mus* hybrid zone has become one of the best-studied naturally occurring mammalian systems.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Priscilla K. Tucker, professor emerita of ecology and evolutionary biology and curator emerita, Museum of Zoology.**

Requested by:



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

December 2021