

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Bryan E. Pfingst, Ph.D.**, professor of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on January 2, 2023.

Professor Pfingst received his Ph.D. degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1971. He completed postdoctoral training in neurophysiology and biophysics at the University of Washington in Seattle and then served as a research associate, research assistant professor and then research associate professor until 1984. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery in 1984, and was promoted to professor in 1996.

Dr. Pfingst has been an internationally preeminent researcher in the field of cochlear implant auditory prostheses since the late 1970s. He has done groundbreaking work on cochlear implants in animals using psychophysics, electrophysiology, histology, and gene therapy. His work with human subjects contributed to the improved effectiveness of cochlear implants. Today, the cochlear implant is widely regarded as the world's most successful neural prosthesis and is the standard of practice for restoring hearing and auditory communication to over a million people with severe to profound hearing loss worldwide.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Bryan E. Pfingst, professor emeritus of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery**.

**Requested by:**



---

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

**December 2022**