

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Kathy Sue O’Shea, Ph.D.**, Crosby-Kahn Collegiate Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology, professor of cell and developmental biology, and professor of psychiatry in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on January 31, 2024.

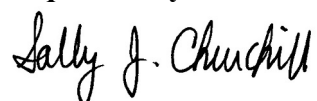
Professor O’Shea received her B.A. (1976) degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in psychology. She then obtained graduate research training from Dr. Matthew H. Kauffman and her Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge, England (1980). Professor O’Shea joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant research scientist (1982-1988), was made assistant professor (1988), promoted to associate professor (1995) followed by professor (2003). In 2014, she was made professor of psychiatry.

Research in the O’Shea laboratory has focused on the earliest development of the mammalian nervous system using whole embryo culture and recently mouse and human pluripotent stem cell models. The laboratory has derived stem cells from patients with bipolar disorder to identify molecular and developmental differences in neurons and glia from patients and un-affected control individuals. Professor O’Shea co-founded the Michigan Center for Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research and served as its director for over 20 years, training more than 100 students and faculty and making new lines of cells available for study. Dr. O’Shea was a regular member of several NSF and NIH study sections and *an hoc* reviewer for many stem cell research proposals. She served as associate chair for research in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology (2007-2017). In recognition of her contribution to using pluripotent stem cells to model neuropsychiatric disorders, in 2018, she shared the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Scientific Research Award.

Professor O’Shea is committed to teaching at all levels. She has served on more than 60 thesis committees and served as Michigan Medicine assistant director of component 1-2 (1994-1997), followed by director of component 1(1998-2004). She received teaching awards from the medical school class in 2011, as well as from the Endowment for the Basic Sciences (2015) for teaching medical embryology to M1 students for 20 years and stem cell biology to undergraduate and graduate students.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Kathy S. O’Shea, professor emerita of cell and developmental biology and professor emerita of psychiatry.**

**Requested by:**



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

**March 2024**