

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the Regents

May 15, 2008

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Robert R. Sharp, Ph.D. professor of chemistry in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2008.

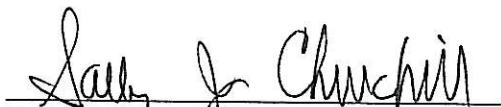
Professor Sharp attended Case Western Reserve University, where he received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in 1964 and his Ph.D. degree in 1967. From 1967-69, he was a postdoctoral fellow at Oxford University. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1969, and was promoted to associate professor in 1974 and professor in 1987.

Professor Sharp's principal area of research has been in chemical applications of nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR). His early work involved studies of relaxation mechanisms of heavy nuclei, principally tin and lead, and led to his establishing the first absolute nuclear shielding constant scales for these heavy nuclei. He then applied flash-induced NMR relaxation changes to the study of manganese oxidation states in the oxygen evolving photosynthetic complex, enhancing the understanding of manganese oxidation-reduction cycles in photosynthesis. Since 1990, Professor Sharp's research has evolved into a series of detailed studies of NMR relaxation in molecular systems containing paramagnetic transition metal ions. Of particular significance has been his development of a refined theoretical framework in which experimental data can be analyzed. Much of this work has been shown to be applicable to the development of contrast agents for clinical use in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) radiological applications.

Throughout his career, Professor Sharp has been an inspiring and enthusiastic teacher of both undergraduate and graduate students. He particularly excelled in the teaching of the very large general chemistry lecture courses. In the mid-1990s, he played a large role in the development of a new junior-senior level course in computational chemistry which is now required of all chemistry concentration students.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Robert R. Sharp professor emeritus of chemistry.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2008