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	JUL 21 2005

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
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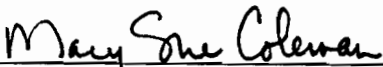
Item for Information

Subject: Henry Russel Lecturer for 2006

I am pleased to inform you that the Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Vice President Fawwaz Ulaby, met recently and selected **Huda Akil**, Gardner C. Quarton Distinguished University Professor of Neuroscience in Psychiatry in the Medical School, as the Henry Russel Lecturer for 2006. The lecture will be delivered by Professor Akil on March 14, 2006.

The Henry Russel Lectureship is the highest honor that the University bestows upon a senior member of its faculty. A description of the contributions of this extraordinary faculty member is attached.

Respectfully submitted:



Mary Sue Coleman
President

July 2005

Attachment

Huda Akil

Huda Akil has earned a national and international reputation in neuroscience for her outstanding research in behavioral and molecular neuroscience. Her career began with important work that confirmed for the first time the existence of endogenous substances in the body that mimic the effects of opiate drugs such as morphine and heroin, now known fairly widely as "endorphins" and "enkephalins." She branched out from her roots in psychology to biochemistry and molecular biology in order to develop the scientific tools needed to better understand her initial work. Together with her collaborator, Stanley Watson, she helped characterize these endogenous substances as proteins that specifically interact with the nervous system. Professor Akil's groundbreaking work has helped us understand mind-body interactions, with implications for understanding mental illness, addiction and stress. Her publications are among the most highly cited in the field of neuroscience.

Professor Akil received her B.A. degree from the American University of Beirut (Lebanon) in 1966. A year later, she earned an M.A. degree from AUB, majoring in psycholinguistics. She then attended the University of Iowa to do graduate work in Learning and Physiological Psychology. Professor Akil then attended the University of California at Los Angeles, where she earned her Ph.D. in psychobiology in 1972. She conducted post-doctoral studies under Dr. Jack D. Barchas in the Department of Psychiatry, Stanford University, from 1974-1977. She joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1978 as an assistant professor of psychiatry and assistant research scientist in the Mental Health Research Institute. Professor Akil was promoted through the ranks and became a full professor in 1987. She was named the Gardner C. Quarton Professor Neurosciences in 1993, and in 1995, she became co-director of the Mental Health Research Institute (with her long-time research collaborator and husband Stanley Watson).

Professor Akil has educated a generation of neuroscientists in her laboratory, with over 40 graduate and post-doctoral students having studied with her. She has received many honors for her work, including election to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. She is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and served as President of the Society for neuroscience and of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology.

Her influence as a neuroscientist, as a teacher and mentor, and as a University citizen make Professor Akil an exceptionally worthy selection as the 2006 Russel Lecturer.