

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the Regents

September 17, 2009

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

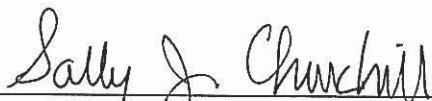
John G. Topliss, Ph.D., professor of medicinal chemistry in the College of Pharmacy, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2009.

Professor Topliss received his B.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from Nottingham University, United Kingdom, in 1951 and 1954, respectively. He was a research fellow at the Royal Technical College in Stockholm, Sweden, from 1954-56, and at Columbia University from 1956-57. He joined the Schering Corporation as a chemist in 1957 and became senior director of research in 1975. Professor Topliss came to Ann Arbor in 1979 as director of chemistry at Warner-Lambert/ Parke-Davis, and was promoted to vice president of chemistry in 1983. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1983 as an adjunct professor of medicinal chemistry, and was promoted to professor in 1992.

Professor Topliss is a distinguished and internationally renowned scientist in the field of medicinal chemistry. He is considered among the top scientists world-wide in the area of quantitative structure-activity relationships (QSAR) of medicinal agents. This theoretical field forms the basis of creating new organic compounds as potential therapeutic agents and provides for a rational approach to drug design. His book on this topic, originally co-authored with J.Y. Funkunaga in 1978, is considered to be a classic in the field. He has published numerous research papers and is an inventor on 33 patents. Within the College of Pharmacy, Professor Topliss has been actively involved in the medicinal chemistry program and served on numerous dissertation committees. He has mentored many students over the years and has provided invaluable insight into the pharmaceutical industry. Professor Topliss was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1986, received the American Chemical Society's Division of Medicinal Chemistry Award in 1998, and is a member of the American Chemical Society's Medicinal Chemistry Hall of Fame.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scientist and educator for his dedicated service by naming **John G. Topliss professor emeritus of medicinal chemistry**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

September 2009