

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Approved by the Regents

April 19, 2007

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Stephen A. Ernst, Ph.D., professor of cell and developmental biology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on February 28, 2007, after a most productive career.

A native of New York, Professor Ernst received his A.B. degree from Brown University in 1962, his M.S. degree from Syracuse University in 1964, and his Ph.D. degree from Brown University in 1968. Following completion of postdoctoral studies at Rice University (1968-71), he was a faculty member at Temple University School of Medicine from 1971-78. Professor Ernst joined the faculty at the University of Michigan as associate professor in the Department of Anatomy in 1978, and was promoted to professor in 1981.

Professor Ernst taught medical histology and dental histology throughout his years at Michigan. He was the course director of the department's graduate level cell biology course from 1981-2003. During that time, the course grew in popularity from an enrollment of a few students in 1981 to 30-40 students throughout the mid-eighties to mid-nineties. After being chosen as one of three core courses for incoming graduate students in the Medical School's Program in Biomedical Science (PIBS), the enrollment grew to 80 students.

During much of his career, Professor Ernst's research focused on structural and functional aspects of electrolyte transport in renal epithelium and in osmoregulatory salt secretory tissues. He developed the first cytochemical method for the microscopic localization of the sodium pump at the light and electron microscopic levels. His laboratory carried out extensive physiological and morphological studies on salt secretion and its regulation, using the osmoregulatory avian salt gland as a model salt secretory tissue. In more recent years, his research has focused on localization of proteins involved in regulation of vesicular trafficking and targeting to the plasma membrane, and of digestive enzyme secretion in exocrine pancreas. Professor Ernst has served on the editorial boards of the *American Journal of Physiology: Cell Physiology* and the *Journal of Histochemistry and Cytochemistry*, and has published 95 papers and review articles in peer-reviewed journals.

The Regents now salute this distinguished health educator for his dedicated service by naming **Stephen A. Ernst professor emeritus of cell and developmental biology**.

Requested by:


Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

April 2007