

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Benedict R. Lucchesi, M.D., Ph.D., professor of pharmacology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on February 29, 2016.

Dr. Lucchesi received his B.S. (1955) and M.S. (1957) degrees from St. John's University. He received his Ph.D. (1961) and M.D. (1964) degrees from the University of Michigan. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a full-time instructor in 1964, and was promoted to assistant professor in 1965, associate professor in 1968, and professor in 1973. Dr. Lucchesi also served as director of the Upjohn Center for Clinical Pharmacology (1978-81) and director of research of the Michigan Diabetes Research and Training Center (1981-86).

A leader in the field of cardiovascular pharmacology, Dr. Lucchesi studied cardiac arrhythmia, coronary thrombosis, and myocardial reperfusion injury. In the 1960's he was one of the first scientists to determine propranolol, a newly discovered beta blocker drug used to fight hypertension, could be used to treat heart arrhythmias. Even today this class of drugs continues to substantially reduce mortality from heart attacks, heart rhythm disturbances, and heart failure. In the 1970's cardiologist Bertram Pitt, one of the best-known designers of large-scale clinical trials in cardiovascular medicine, and Dr. Lucchesi jointly developed the first nitroglycerin patch to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration. He has a notable history of successfully securing research funding from the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association. Dr. Lucchesi published over 400 peer-reviewed journal articles, 46 book chapters, and four textbooks. An outstanding teacher in both the classroom and laboratory, he mentored a generation of undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows, many of whom have gone on to successful careers in academia and industry. Dr. Lucchesi has received numerous awards, including the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics' Torald Sollmann Award (2001), the Medical School's Lifetime Achievement Award in Medical Education (2004), and the American Heart Association's Esprit de Coeur Award for Distinguished Achievement (2006). He was inducted into the Medical School's League of Research Excellence in 2014.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scientist for his dedicated service by naming **Benedict R. Lucchesi, professor emeritus of pharmacology**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

April 2016