

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

*Regents Communication*

Adopted by the Regents

December 13, 2007

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Rowena G. Matthews, Ph.D.**, G. Robert Greenberg Distinguished University Professor of Biological Chemistry and professor of biological chemistry in the Medical School; professor of chemistry and research professor, Program in Biophysics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; and research professor, Life Sciences Institute, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2007.

Professor Matthews received her B.A. degree from Radcliffe College in 1960 and her Ph.D. degree from the University of Michigan in 1969. She joined the Department of Biological Chemistry as a research investigator in 1974, and was promoted to assistant professor in 1975, associate professor in 1981, and professor in 1986. She was appointed assistant research biophysicist in the Biophysics Research Division in 1978, and was promoted to associate research biophysicist in 1981, research scientist in 1988 and research professor in 2001. She was appointed the G. Robert Greenberg Distinguished University Professor of Biological Chemistry in 1995, and in 2002 she was appointed professor of chemistry, Department of Chemistry, and research professor and one of six charter faculty in the Life Sciences Institute.

Professor Matthews is internationally recognized for her research on folate and vitamin B12 metabolism. She and her colleagues identified the gene that makes methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR), one of the enzymes involved in managing blood homocysteine levels that are of biomedical importance in cardiovascular disease, strokes, and birth defects. Professor Matthews received the University's Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award in 1996 and was the Henry Russel Lecturer in 2003. She has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences (2002), the Institute of Medicine (2004), and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2005).

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member for her dedicated service by naming **Rowena G. Matthews the G. Robert Greenberg Distinguished University Professor Emerita of Biological Chemistry, professor emerita of biological chemistry, professor emerita of chemistry, and research professor emerita.**

**Requested by:**



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**Sally J. Churchill**

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**December 2007**