

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## *Regents Communication*

### **ACTION REQUEST**

Approved by the Regents

January 18, 2007

**Subject: Report of Faculty Death**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Memorial Statement**

The Regents of the University of Michigan acknowledge with profound sadness the death of **Martha L. Ludwig**, the J. Lawrence Oncley Distinguished University Professor of Biological Chemistry and professor of biological chemistry in the Medical School, and research biophysicist in the Biophysics Research Division. Professor Ludwig died on November 27, 2006, at age 75.

Professor Ludwig received her B.A. degree from Cornell University in 1952, her M.A. degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1955, and her Ph.D. degree from Cornell University Medical College in 1956. One of the most distinguished scientists on campus, Professor Ludwig joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1967 and maintained an active research program until her death.

Professor Ludwig was a stellar x-ray crystallographer, whose research program is nationally and internationally recognized for its contributions to our understanding of the B vitamins and their mode of action. She served as a mentor and teacher for many younger crystallographers and her teaching was known for its rigor and depth, as well as for its ability to challenge the student. Professor Ludwig was one of the most accomplished faculty members in the history of the Department of Biological Chemistry. She was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and had recently been elected to the Institute of Medicine. In 1986 she received the University's Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award. Professor Ludwig was a scientist's scientist: thoughtful, thorough, and innovative. Beyond that, she was a warm, caring, and selfless individual who did many things behind the scenes to help other faculty and students.

Professor Ludwig will be greatly missed by her colleagues and will be remembered as an inspiration and visionary by all those whose lives she touched. As we mourn the loss of our beloved colleague, we also extend our condolences to her husband of 45 years, professor emeritus Frederic Hoch.

**Requested by:**

  
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Sally J. Churchill

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**January 2007**