

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL OVERVIEW OF THE FACULTY TRACKS

The *Instructional Track* was the original fulltime faculty track in the Medical School with ranks of assistant professor through professor (the instructor title is no longer utilized in this track). This track is governed by Regents' Bylaw 5.09 that mandates a tenure clock of eight years. This is the only faculty track for which tenure applies. The Instructional Track duties encompass; instruction of medical students, graduate students, residents, and other trainees; scholarly activity that is typically manifested by medical research; organizational contribution to the mission of the Medical School; and in many instances professional work that usually relates to health care.

A. Definition of the Instructional Track

The Instructional Track was the original fulltime faculty track in the Medical School. Members of this track are expected to make contributions to the Medical School in the areas of scholarly research, teaching, organizational service, and health care if it pertains to their professional field. Instructional Track faculty have no significant employment outside of the University of Michigan. Tenure may be granted by the Board of Regents to Instructional Track faculty at the ranks of associate professor or professor. Medical School faculty members assigned to the Ann Arbor Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, or to the Life Sciences Institute may be included in the Instructional Track.

Faculty in the Instructional Track are voting members of the Executive Faculty (governing faculty) and University Senate, have representation on the Executive Committee of the Medical School and University Senate Assembly, and are candidates for tenure, sabbatical, and emeritus status.

B. Ranks in the Instructional Track

Associate Professor

Appointment to associate professor is given only to persons of well-established professional position and demonstrated scholarly or creative ability that positively impacts their field. Those promoted or appointed to this rank must have achieved national recognition for scholarly accomplishment of significance as evidenced by: evaluations from independent national leaders in their field, national lectureships, memberships on editorial boards and peer review committees, significant involvement in peer organizations beyond membership, and scholarship. Scholarly independence or a strong collaborative contribution to a scientific team effort is typical for associate professors. Usually this is evidenced by peer-reviewed publications published over the previous five years. For those with a predominate expectation of clinical or laboratory research a sustained level of external research funding is the norm. An associate professor must have demonstrated a significant contribution to the educational missions of this school or another medical school. If it pertains to their professional field, high quality clinical care or clinical service is expected. Persons with clinical responsibilities are board certified before they become associate professors, recognizing that exceptions may be granted by

the Medical School Executive Committee for some internationally-trained physicians who do not fulfill American Board requirements but bring critical expertise to the medical school. The associate professor signals the passage into medical academia's senior rank. Unless otherwise specified, appointments and promotions to associate professor are with tenure although persons may be appointed as associate professors without tenure.

Appointments and promotions to associate professor require review by ACAPT; approval of the Medical School Executive Committee; endorsement by the Dean, the Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the President; and approval by the Board of Regents.

C. Criteria for Appointment and Promotion in the Instructional Track

Teaching, scholarship/research, and service are three areas examined in all appointment and promotion considerations. As we are a Medical School, contributions to health care and human welfare are also a substantial area of consideration for many of the faculty. Interdisciplinary work is a core value of a Medical School and needs to be accounted for in the evaluative process. Some individuals of great value to our institution have truly outstanding performance and contributions in one area when compared with the norm of faculty performance in that area, yet the performance in other areas may be satisfactory only. A recommendation for appointment, promotion, or the award of tenure to a nominee with such an asymmetrical mix of qualifications must be justified by the department chair. In all cases, the minimum requirements must be met. Longevity in a rank or position is not sufficient evidence of accomplishment or merit for promotion.

1. Teaching

Essential qualifications for appointment or promotion are personal integrity and the ability to teach one's professional area of knowledge to relevant learning groups. Critical elements to be evaluated include experience, knowledge of subject matter, skill in presentation, interest in students, ability to stimulate youthful minds, capacity for cooperation, mentorship, and enthusiastic devotion to teaching. A teaching portfolio helps convey the scope of instructional accomplishment. The full responsibility of the teacher as a guide and friend extends beyond the walls of the classroom, laboratory, or clinical arena into other phases of the life of the student as a member of the University and world community. It also involves the duty of initiating and improving educational methods both within and outside the faculty member's department. Outcomes of instruction in the form of teaching evaluations can be described. Pedagogical research and funding are strong evidence of teaching expertise. The spectrum of instruction spans the gamut from premedical students and graduate students to established practitioners.

2. Scholarship and Research

All Instructional Track faculty must be individuals of scholarly ability and achievement. Scholarship may be categorized in terms of the scholarship of discovery (basic research), scholarship of integration, scholarship of application, and scholarship of education. The University of Michigan is a research university committed to extending

and understanding the knowledge base of humanity. Accomplishment in scholarship is typically demonstrated by the quality and quantity of published and other creative work. Interdisciplinary work, success in training graduate and professional students (as attested to by academic/research positions obtained), participation and leadership in professional associations, and editing of professional journals are measures of success and stature in scholarship. Peer reviewed papers and grant funding are strong evidence of scholarship with high impact. Independent and peer-reviewed funding is the norm in research-based careers. There should be a strong prediction of continued excellence throughout the faculty member's professional career.

3. Service

Service may consist of organizational service in the Medical School and University, in the public sector, or in the national organizations of a faculty member's peer group. Service may include participation in committee work and other administrative tasks, counseling, internal review boards, and special training programs within the Medical School and University. The University also anticipates that many of its instructional faculty will render extramural services to other schools, industry, relevant professional organizations, governmental agencies, and the public at large. These services may be paid (within University guidelines), advisory, or volunteered. Organizational and volunteer services are of importance, although given less weight in promotion and appointment decisions than are teaching, scholarship, and clinical activities, when relevant to career.

4. Health Care/Clinical

Many faculty have a professional role related to health care, generally in terms of clinical responsibility, teaching or research. Competence is expected at entry levels in the faculty ladder and excellence is expected at the higher levels. Excellence is evidenced by documentation from independent authorities in the relevant field, regional reputation, and published work of clinical successes, innovations, or insights.