PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

May 17, 2007

Suzanne F. Bradley, M.D., Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to Professor of Internal Medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D. 1981 State University of New York at Buffalo
M.A.; A.B. 1977 Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA

Professional Record:

1995-Present Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
1990-1995 Assistant Research Scientist, Institute of Gerontology, University of Michigan
1989-1995 Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
1987-1989 Lecturer, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Bradley’s teaching skills have been valuable in teaching physicians about the importance of aging and its impact on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of infectious diseases. She has focused her efforts on the education of current and future geriatricians and infectious diseases physicians. In addition, she provides important contributions focused on the development of the Infectious Disease/Microbiology Sequence for first- and second-year medical students and serving as a Small Group Leader for that sequence.

She is also a teacher of Clinical Medicine for fellows, residents, and medical students on inpatient services and in outpatient clinics. In an average year, she is an attending physician for inpatient Internal Medicine (1 month per year), Geriatric Medicine (2-3 months per year), and Infectious Diseases (2-3 months per year), and for outpatient clinics (1-2 half-days per week).

Research: The primary goal of Dr. Bradley’s research is to assess how infections, particularly due to antibiotic-resistant bacteria, are spread in nursing homes so that methods of prevention can be designed. In numerous studies, she has shown that antibiotic-resistance bacteria may not pose the same hazard to nursing home residents as to hospital patients. She has also explored what patient and organism factors might predispose to the emergence of resistance in this setting. It may be possible to use different infection control procedures than those in a hospital which favor the rehabilitative and residential goals of long-term care facilities. She has also explored different modalities of infection prevention (vaccines, topical antibiotics, oral agents) and their safety and efficacy in older populations. She continues to develop collaborations with colleagues with similar interests in Canada and across the United States.
Dr. Bradley is one of a very few Internal Medicine physicians in this country who are formally trained in Infectious Diseases and Geriatric Medicine. She has maintained credibility in the Infectious Diseases and Geriatric Medicine research communities. Thus, it has been possible for her to have a voice for change in how these disciplines view prevention and containment of infection in older adults and in nursing homes. She has had an education role by presenting at national meetings for both groups. She has been active in the Society of Healthcare Epidemiology of America as a member of the board and chair and member of the Long-Term Care Committee in development of guidelines to improve the diagnosis and control of various infections. She has also served as an expert consultant for infections in nursing homes for the Centers for Disease Control and Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services in the hope of influencing national public policy in this area. Through her research and educational efforts, she strives to find the most efficacious and cost effective means to diagnose, prevent and control infection in older adults, especially in the long-term care setting.

Recent and Significant Publications:


Service: Dr. Bradley serves as an Infectious Diseases and Geriatric consultant in the Department of Internal Medicine for a total of approximately 4-5 months per year. In addition, she serves as an attending physician on the VA General Medicine Inpatient Service at least one time per year. She is a regular contributor to clinical conferences and to the Infectious Diseases fellowship training program.

External Review:

Reviewer A: “Based on Dr. Bradley’s sustained productivity over the past 16 years at the University of Michigan Medical School; her ability to obtain grant funding from multiple sources including federal, industry, foundations, and societies; her accomplishments as a clinical investigator and contributions to both geriatrics and infectious diseases; her effectiveness as a
teacher and mentor; and her appealing personal qualities including creativity, commitment, high level of energy, and integrity, I can enthusiastically endorse her promotion to the level of Professor.”

Reviewer B: “She is clearly well known as an international expert in the field of Geriatric Infectious Diseases….Clearly she is not one who is resting on her already considerable laurels, but continues to contribute in a major way to academic discourse in Geriatric Infectious Diseases.”

Reviewer C: “Without a doubt she has made significant contributions to the understanding of the issues among long-term care patients of antibiotic resistance and serious infections caused by Staphylococcus aureus….I view Dr. Bradley’s record of sustained research awards as exemplary.”

Reviewer D: “…I judge that Dr. Bradley’s numerous accomplishments and her international reputation more than justify her promotion to the rank of Professor of Medicine….She is most certainly the kind of person that we want as permanent members of our department.”

Reviewer E: “Dr. Bradley has certainly documented her commitment at the national and international level by her willingness to serve on advisory boards and at the executive level of relevant professional organizations….She is an exceptional individual who has been a leader in her area, and has also facilitated training and development of practice guidelines for clinicians in her field of expertise.”

Reviewer F: “…Dr. Bradley is a highly successful faculty member who has made and continues to make important contributions to the field of geriatric infectious diseases on a national and international level.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Suzanne Bradley is a rare physician-scientist in that she has expertise in both geriatric medicine and infectious diseases. In addition to her research, clinical, and teaching roles at the University of Michigan, she has played a prominent role in establishing national guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of infections in older adults in long-term care. I enthusiastically recommend Dr. Bradley for promotion to Professor of Internal Medicine.

James O. Woolliscroft, M.D.
Interim Dean
Lyle C. Roll Professor of Medicine

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