PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Samya Z. Nasr, M.B., B.Ch., Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, with tenure, Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, with tenure, Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.B., B.Ch. 1977  Ain Shams University School of Medicine, Cairo, Egypt

Professional Record:

2001-Present  Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, University of Michigan
1993-2001  Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, University of Michigan
1991-1993  Lecturer, Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Nasr has long been recognized as a teacher of residents-in-training, medical students, and physicians. She has been named a top faculty teacher in Pediatrics for three years running (2002-05). She has been a regular lecturer in the Medical School “Seminars in Medicine” series. Since 1991, she has served as advisor for numerous undergraduate and medical students. She has served as a mentor for residents since 2000. Dr. Nasr has served as the Division House Officer/Medical Student Educational Liaison since 1999. Finally, her invited talks at national and international meetings, as well as her numerous invitations to present Grand Rounds on Cystic Fibrosis (CF), are further evidence of Dr. Nasr’s contributions to physician education.

Research: Since promotion to Associate Professor in 2001, Dr. Nasr’s main research contribution has been the further development of high resolution CT scanning to quantify the severity of lung disease in younger patients with CF, i.e., those with mild lung disease. This problem is not only important for the management of individual patients with CF, but for the future assessment of new treatments addressing this devastating disease. Dr. Nasr has received national and international recognition for her work on high-resolution CT scanning in the detection and treatment of early CF lung disease. In addition to serving as an Invited Symposium Speaker at the 2004 meeting of the North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference, she presented her work at a special Cystic Fibrosis Foundation/FDA workshop in 2005. Later in 2005, Dr. Nasr was a Keynote Speaker at the 2nd Roche International Symposium on Cystic
Fibrosis, held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. This conference featured an international faculty from the U.S., Europe, and Latin America.

Dr. Nasr’s follow-up study on high-resolution CT scanning was published in 2006 in *Pediatric Pulmonology*. This study will show that, in older children with CF, high-resolution chest CT is more sensitive than lung function testing in detecting pulmonary abnormalities. This sensitivity translates to a smaller sample size to show treatment effect, a critical factor in future CF drug trials. This work could therefore have a major impact on the diagnosis and treatment of early CF lung disease.

Dr. Nasr continues to participate in a large number of clinical research projects related to CF and pediatric pulmonology. As evidence of this, Dr. Nasr has published 17 manuscripts since 2001, and over 50% of her salary comes from grants, not only from various pharmaceutical companies but from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

**Recent and Significant Publications:**


**Professional Work:** Dr. Nasr has played a key role in the development of the University of Michigan Cystic Fibrosis Center. Under her leadership, the Center has become the largest in Michigan, growing from 60 patients in 1993 to 175 in 2001, to 215 pediatric patients today. Last year, CF exacerbation was the most frequent admitting diagnosis for the pediatric pulmonary service (125 patients), even more than asthma. However, it should be noted that Dr. Nasr’s program has received recognition not only for the quantity of patients, but for the quality of care that her program provides. In 2003, Dr. Nasr was invited (with only nine other Centers) to join the CF Foundation Quality Improvement-Learning and Leadership Collaborative. This Collaborative sought to identify practices leading to improved outcomes in CF.

**Service:** Dr. Nasr has also made major contributions to the Department of Pediatrics and C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital. She served four years as Acting Director of the Division of
Pulmonary Medicine (1999 to 2002), eight years as Director of the Pediatric Pulmonology Fellowship Training Program (1994-2002), and two years as Clinical Director of Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine (2003-2005). She has served on numerous Departmental and Hospital committees, including the Clinical Affairs Committee, Cultural Diversity Committee, Tenure and Promotion Committee, and Stable Ventilator Unit Joint Practice Committee. Dr. Nasr’s expertise in clinical research was recognized by the University’s General Clinical Research Center in 2003, when she was named to the GCRC’s Pediatric Oversight Board for Safety and Data Monitoring. These appointments distinguish Dr. Nasr as a leader in the Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, and are evidence of the respect with which she is held within the Department and the institution.

Another area in which Dr. Nasr has made unique contributions to the CF field, as well as to the Medical School, has been the study of cultural, spiritual, and religious factors on medical practice. In her 2002 *Pediatrics* report, Dr. Nasr showed that children with CF adopt religious/spiritual coping strategies which are nearly always associated with positive health outcomes. Correspondingly, Dr. Nasr has played a lead role in the teaching of cultural competency, spirituality, and coping mechanisms to University of Michigan medical students, house staff and hospital staff, serving as a regular lecturer on these subjects since 1998. This interest has also led Dr. Nasr to establish a Visiting Scholar Program with the Chest Unit from Cairo University. Thus far, two physicians from Cairo have visited Ann Arbor. This is a serious collaboration which has thus far led to two publications, the last of which describes CFTR mutations in Egyptian children.

**External Review:**

**Reviewer A:** “I believe also that with the expansion of the clinical trial network in CF, that Dr. Nasr’s value to the CF community and the University of Michigan will only grow. She has led studies that have changed practice. She has been an energetic and thoughtful member of the CF community in getting new treatments to patients. I know also that her CF care center is very highly regarded nationally. She would easily be promoted at my own institution...”

**Reviewer B:** “Dr. Nasr is an internationally recognized investigator in pediatric pulmonology and particularly in cystic fibrosis. She was one of the first investigators to use advanced imaging techniques to address the need for new ways to evaluate therapeutic response in children with CF...Dr. Nasr is regarded as a skilled clinician, experienced clinical investigator and innovative researcher.”

**Reviewer C:** “Dr. Nasr is a valued clinician within the CF academic community...Dr. Nasr is an outstanding clinician educator and clinician scientist who has demonstrated unusual commitment to international scholarship in pediatric pulmonology. She contributes in many ways locally and nationally and has a strong record of publications.”

**Reviewer D:** “Dr. Nasr almost singlehandedly advanced the image of your Department in the area of interdisciplinary clinical studies involving patients with CF...Furthermore, Samya is one of the nation’s most respected CF Center Directors and clearly is one of few such leaders who show a consistent commitment to diversity.”
Reviewer E: "...Dr. Nasr has served as Director of Pulmonary Clinical Services, as well as Director of the Fellowship Training Program and Director of Resident Education for Pediatric Pulmonology. All of these activities take a great deal of time, and the importance of this should not be underestimated when considering a faculty member for promotion, as they are integral to the mission of a Pediatric Pulmonology Division....She is recognized nationally and internationally as an individual who has advanced care of patients with cystic fibrosis."

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Nasr has been recognized nationally for her work as an investigator, clinician, and teacher in the fields of CF and pediatric pulmonary disease. This recognition is demonstrated by numerous invited talks, a track record of publications and grant support, and successful Directorship of the University of Michigan Cystic Fibrosis Center. Most significantly, Dr. Nasr is now directing studies which could have a major impact on the diagnosis and treatment of early CF lung disease. These accomplishments should be recognized by promotion to Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases. I therefore recommend Dr. Nasr's promotion without reservation.

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

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