PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY
COLLEGE OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

David A. Williams, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, without tenure, Department of Psychiatry, Medical School, and Associate Professor of Psychology, without tenure, Department of Psychology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to Professor of Internal Medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Professor of Psychiatry, without tenure, Department of Psychiatry, Medical School, and Professor of Psychology, without tenure, Department of Psychology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

1988 Ph.D. The Ohio State University
1984 M.A. The Ohio State University
1981 B.S. The Ohio State University

Professional Record:

2002-Present Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, and Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Michigan
1998-2002 Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Associate Professor of Medicine, Georgetown University
1991-1998 Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Georgetown University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Williams has a record of intensive and effective involvement in teaching and mentoring over a wide range of trainee categories, ranging from medical students and psychology graduate students to junior faculty in several University of Michigan units. His trainees have gone on to distinguished and productive research careers. Through the Center for the Advancement of Clinical Research (CACR), now the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research (MICHR), Dr. Williams has assisted junior and senior faculty from almost every clinical department in the University of Michigan Medical School in the development of research proposals and, in this context, has been a mentor for the education of his peers in clinical research methodology. He is also in demand nationally and internationally for highly acclaimed lectures relevant to his research interests and field of expertise.
Research: Dr. Williams’ research focus is the pathophysiology and treatment of chronic pain disorders. He has developed new measurement scales for chronic pain and has performed highly innovative work that links behavioral, structural, and biochemical aspects of pain physiology. His work is revolutionizing our understanding of the pathogenesis of fibromyalgia and related disorders, which are important syndromes not only in rheumatology but in many other fields of clinical medicine. Dr. Williams’ work is supported by substantial NIH funding, much of which he leads as principal investigator. He has had a broad impact on clinical research at the University of Michigan through his leadership roles within the CACR and MICH, catalyzing the successful development of many clinical research proposals. This is reflected in his key role in the recently funded Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) and his role as director of the Methodology Core in a pending center grant under review at the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS).

Recent and Significant Publications:


Service: Dr. Williams’ service roles in the institution are unique and substantial. As a cognitive behavioral psychologist, he participates in the clinical management of patients with fibromyalgia and related chronic pain conditions, using innovative strategies to foster coping and self-management skills in this very difficult group of patients. Dr. Williams’ work has the potential to revolutionize the clinical care of these patients throughout the United States. He has a key institutional service role as Director of Research Development for MICH. In this capacity, he helps faculty across the University plan and submit competitive grant applications. He has participated in the preparation of successful grant applications that have brought over $50-million of funding to the University of Michigan. Externally, he has held editorship or editorial board membership on virtually all of the major journals in the fields of pain research and
rheumatology, has participated in and chaired NIH study sections, plays a key role in an international consortium that develops outcome measures for rheumatic diseases, and is an officer of the Board of Directors of the Health Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association. He is widely recognized not only as one of the authorities in his field, but as a colleague and collaborator of exceptional generosity, collegiality and value.

External Review:

Reviewer A: “David is a fellow in the Society of Behavioral Medicine, the premier organization in his field of interest, and he serves on multiple editorial boards, again speaking to his high national visibility and excellent record in the area of behavioral medicine.”

Reviewer B: “I have grown to respect Dr. Williams as a distinguished scholar and scientist, and as a man of high personal integrity and professional stature. I rank him among the most accomplished clinical investigators on the psychological aspects of pain and pain management, and I believe his impact on the field to be quite substantial and continuing.”

Reviewer C: “Dr. Williams’ work has been and continues to be world-class...He has demonstrated a very strong publication record in reputable journals that demonstrates his impact on the field. He has been highly successful in bringing in outside funding. And he has demonstrated leadership abilities and service at both the national and international levels.”

Reviewer D: “Dr. Williams is one of the top academic behavioral scientists conducting clinical pain research and performing clinical trials of psychological treatments for individuals suffering chronic pain...In addition to his national and international prominence as a clinical pain researcher, Dr. Williams shows an exemplary history of education and training. His mentoring activities span the full range of professional development, including junior faculty to undergraduate students...Dr. Williams is a creative, innovative clinical pain researcher who is contributing some of the most important work to this field.”

Reviewer E: “Dr. Williams has consistently made important contributions to the literature on the assessment and treatment of persistent pain since the mid-1980’s...Dr. Williams is a very successful and highly respected senior clinical investigator with a well-established and successful NIH-supported research program. He has produced a programatic series of investigations that has generated important findings concerning the assessment and management of persistent pain with a particular emphasis on rheumatologic diseases and disorders.”
Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. David Williams is an outstanding investigator in the broad field of pain research and is a leader at the University of Michigan in clinical research methodology and clinical research development. In addition, he is a gifted and dedicated educator and mentor. We are indeed proud to propose this outstanding member of our faculty for promotion to the rank of Professor.

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

Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History, and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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