PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

FRANCIS D. PAGANI, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to Professor of Surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

- M.D. 1986 Georgetown University
- Ph.D. 1986 Georgetown University
- B.S. 1980 Rutgers University

Professional Record:

- 2001-Present: Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan
- 1995-2001: Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Pagani’s teaching efforts have been outstanding. In addition to teaching in the operating room and on patient rounds with residents and fellows, Dr. Pagani delivers a series of lectures to medical students, residents, and fellows on cardiac surgery each year. His evaluations from attendees have been outstanding, reflecting the dedication and expertise put into these talks. As an indication of the international stature he has achieved, Dr. Pagani has been an invited lecturer at major scientific meetings and symposia around the world. His expertise in heart failure, cardiac transplantation, and the use of circulatory assist devices is exceptional. Under Dr. Pagani’s leadership, the University of Michigan has been selected as a national training site for the Syncardia Total Artificial Heart.

Research: Dr. Pagani’s academic productivity since his last promotion has resulted in 34 additional articles either published or in press as well as eight book chapters. Although they cover a variety of fields, they focus on the areas of mechanical assist devices, cardiac transplantation, cardiac valves, and myoblast transplantation. Dr. Pagani has presented his work at national and international meetings. Dr. Pagani is well funded, with research efforts supported by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), the Department of Health and Human Services, and corporate sponsors.

Recent and Significant Publications:


Service: Since his appointment to the faculty, Dr. Pagani has been Director of the Heart Transplant Program. More recently, he was named head of the Center for Circulatory Support. This Center has received significant external support, reflecting the national reputation it has achieved under his leadership. His clinical productivity has been excellent, with about 200 operations per year. Dr. Pagani’s administrative and committee service includes activity on the University, State, and national levels, ranging from the Heart Transplant Committee for the UMMC, to the Transplantation Society of Michigan Board of Directors, to committees of the NHLBI, to mention but a few.

External Review:

Reviewer A: “With respect to Frank’s national and international contributions to the scientific literature, his impact has been remarkable in the field of mechanical circulatory support....It is my feeling that collectively Frank’s expertise places him among the top 5-7 individuals in the country who have profoundly changed how we manage patients on left ventricular assist devices.”

Reviewer B: “...Dr. Pagani has made a number of seminal advances in our field....He has continuously contributed to the literature since his appointment in 1995....His publications reflect this unique combination of understanding basic science principles and their application to patient care...Dr. Pagani has been recognized by his residents at the University of Michigan as an outstanding mentor and teacher.”

Reviewer C: “As the principal investigator of the HeartMate II ventricular assist device pivotal trial, Dr. Pagani has positioned himself as the national expert with this device which
likely will be the first axial flow pump to be approved for clinical use in the United States....At essentially every national meeting related to mechanical circulatory support, Dr. Pagani is one of the invited speakers because of his large personal experience, his leadership role as a principle [sic] investigator, his erudite presentations, and his thoughtful analyses....Frank Pagani is a national leader in the field of mechanical circulatory support and his expertise is recognized internationally.”

Reviewer D: “Over the past several years, Dr. Pagani has truly become one of the leaders in circulatory support. He has written multiple papers and book chapters in this area and is nationally respected....I anticipate he will be offered numerous positions as head of thoracic surgery or department chair within the next few years.”

Reviewer E: “He had an excellent scholastic record primarily focused on the use of mechanical circulatory support for the treatment of heart failure and cellular therapy for the treatment of heart failure. He is clearly a national and internationally recognized expert in these two areas of scholarship as well as enjoying a strong reputation as an excellent technical surgeon.”

Reviewer F: “The lectures and presentations that he gives to our national societies are exemplary and he has become a much sought after partner in these national and international programs....Importantly, Dr. Pagani’s scholarly activities place him on a par with the most well known heart transplant and mechanical circulatory support device individuals.”

Reviewer G: “I would consider Dr. Pagani one of the leaders in his surgical arena in the country. He has made a meaningful scholarly impression and is one of the few surgeons who, at his age and rank, have demonstrated continued serious and meaningful interest in such a complex clinical arena.”

Reviewer H: “He is extremely bright, highly motivated and his dedication to medical education is truly remarkable....His impressive qualifications of clinical excellence, teaching skills, and productive academic publications merit his appointment as Professor in the Section of Cardiac Surgery at your institution.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Pagani is clearly an academic surgeon with an international reputation. He plays a key role in the field of transplantation and circulatory support well beyond the University. His role as an educator, researcher, surgeon and administrator are highly-regarded. It is my pleasure to recommend him as an outstanding candidate for promotion to Professor of Surgery.

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

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