TENURE RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY

Approved by the Regents
May 14, 2009

Morand R. Piert, M.D., associate professor of radiology, without tenure, Department of Radiology, Medical School, is recommended for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of radiology, Department of Radiology, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D. 1984 Medical School University of Cologne, Germany

Professional Record:

2004-present  Associate Professor of Radiology, without tenure, University of Michigan
2002-2004  Private Lecturer, Senior Research Scientist, and Attending Physician Nuclear Medicine, Technical University of Munich, Germany
1999-2002  Clinical Instructor in Nuclear Medicine and Senior Research Scientist, Technical University of Munich, Germany
1996-1999  Senior Clinical Instructor and Attending Physician, General Surgery, University of Tubingen, Germany

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Piert participates in all aspects of the Department of Radiology teaching program. He provides teaching to medical students, radiology residents and fellows in nuclear medicine through formal presentations at radiology research noon conferences, the introduction to nuclear medicine course and on-the-job-training on the clinical service. He is responsible for the organization and oversight of the main nuclear medicine clinical teaching conference on a weekly basis. Although formal evaluations by radiology residents place him in the third or fourth quartile of radiology faculty, comments by the residents are almost uniformly positive, including “Good teacher,” “dedicated to learn and teaching,” “thorough but down to earth. Very intelligent,” and “Dr. Piert is a very good teacher who uses every case to try and emphasize a new teaching point. He is also very good at educating at a level consistent with the resident’s experience.” The quality of Dr. Piert’s teaching as assessed by fellows in nuclear medicine is excellent. He has consistently scored above the mean of the nuclear medicine faculty for all categories in the teaching evaluation, including clinical teaching, medical knowledge, professionalism, interpersonal skills, and scholarly activities.

Dr. Piert’s teaching extends well beyond traditional involvement with medical students, radiology residents and nuclear medicine fellows. He is a regular participant in interdepartmental conferences. This is especially important in order to provide expertise in recently evolving imaging techniques such as PET/CT scanning. His expertise in PET and interest in oncology makes him an especially valuable participant in interdepartmental conferences. Dr.
Piert is a regular participant in the nuclear medicine journal club and regularly mentors trainees during research rotations in his laboratory. He co-founded and continues to organize the monthly radiology research seminar. This seminar is designed to provide a forum for radiology investigators to present their work, to foster collaboration among diverse disciplines within radiology and to stimulate interest among trainees.

Research: Dr. Piert's research focuses on the development and applications of novel molecular radiotracers in the diagnosis, staging and disease monitoring of oncology patients. He is investigating tumor metabolism and the tissue microenvironment as it affects tumor angiogenesis and hypoxia. He evaluated $[^1]C$ Choline for the staging of urothelial cancer, correlated pretreatment FDG-PET for biologic target volume and analyzed the anatomical location of failure after radiation therapy in head and neck cancer patients.

The quality of Dr. Piert's research is documented through his numerous peer-reviewed publications and his external grant support. He is the principal investigator on the sub-project “Multi-Modality Molecular Imaging of Prostate Cancer” for the Prostate Cancer SPORE grant (NCI P50). He also serves as the principal investigator of the sub-project “Treatment Monitoring of Hypoxia-Directed Radiochemotherapy in Squamous Cell Cancer Xenografts” of the P50 grant “The Molecular Basis of Head and Neck Cancer.” He has responsibility for the nuclear medicine aspects of the sub-project “Optimization of High Dose Conformal Therapy: Individualizing IMRT Treatment in Brain and Head/Neck Cancer” for the P01 grant on “Optimization of High Dose Conformal Therapy.” In addition to serving as a co-investigator on numerous grants, he is also the principal investigator on a Cancer Center research grant funded by the Barbara Padnos Breast Cancer Research Fund on the development of an intraoperative molecular imaging probe based on beta particle detection.

Recent and Significant Publications:


**Service:** Dr. Piert provides excellent service to the Department of Radiology. He serves as a member of the PET Operations Committee which has oversight of PET research projects. Since short half lived novel radiotracers require an on site cyclotron, projects utilizing this facility must be well conceived and the studies must be efficiently performed.

The department is in the process of replacing its outdated picture archive and communication system (PACS). This three-year project required needs assessment, a request for proposals, analysis of the responses and assessment of vendor presentations. Dr. Piert served as a member of this committee which consumed significant time over the past three years.

Dr. Piert is also a member of the Service Excellence Committee which includes faculty from all divisions of the Department of Radiology in an effort to improve not only the quality of service provided but also the timeliness. This committee is assessing the results of the satisfaction survey from referring physicians and patients as they wrestle with issues of access, timeliness and patient safety.

**Professional Work:** Approximately 30% of Dr. Piert’s time is assigned to clinical service, leaving approximately 70% available for teaching and research. Approximately 40% of his time is externally funded for specific research projects. All of his clinical assignments are within the Division of Nuclear Medicine.

**External Review:**

**Reviewer A:** “His research has resulted in publications that have made significant contributions to the literature....Dr. Piert has been an invited speaker to many national and international meetings. These presentations reflect his recognition in the molecular imaging community.”

**Reviewer B:** “...he has authored numerous studies published in the peer-reviewed literature in the field of molecular imaging of cancer, many as first and senior author. His research experience and teaching skills has [sic] been well recognized resulting in numerous scientific presentations and invited lectures. He is the principle [sic] or co-investigator on multiple studies sponsored by NIH/NCI, many currently funded, supporting his appointment with tenure. Dr. Piert is also peer-reviewer for national and international journals in the field of his expertise.”

**Reviewer C:** “In his research and publication record, Dr. Piert has earned a well-deserved reputation as a leading investigator in molecular cancer imaging, and stands in the top few percent of investigators internationally in the areas of interest of hypoxia and angiogenesis imaging....His clinical and research work is clearly multi-disciplinary, and the diversity of collaborators noted in his funded work and publications speaks to his skills as a multi-disciplinary collaborator. He appears equally comfortable in the clinical and scientific aspects of cancer imaging and cancer research.”

**Reviewer D:** “These manuscripts reflect a thoughtful approach to the role of molecular imaging in the management of patients with cancer, and identify his understanding and contribution to the development of the concept of imaging biomarkers as probes for treatment selection and
stratification, prognostic outcomes, correlation with standard biomarkers and improving surgical approaches to cancer management. In particular, his manuscript on pretreatment FAZA imaging predicting outcome in patients receiving Tirapazamine is one of a very small group of key papers in this field which identify how novel radiotracers can be used to specifically direct patient care. …Dr. Piert has become a leader in these areas, and is a sought-after contributor to symposia and workshops where these issues are being discussed.”

Reviewer E: “He has been involved in studies with international collaboration. This international experience and his publication in top nuclear medicine journals provide an international reputation, and position him to be an international leader. He has been recognized by considerable success in obtaining peer reviewed funding.”

Reviewer F: “Dr. Piert has a solid record of publication and he is working on important areas of tumor imaging. He has received substantial grant support as a co-investigator and project leader….there is presently a crying need for more academic radiologists with strong backgrounds in research. I know that there are a large number of open positions nationwide for researchers experienced in PET….Dr. Piert is a fine faculty member with sound academic accomplishments in the field of imaging.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Morand Piert, M.D. is a well trained nuclear medicine physician. His research involves the development and application of novel radiotracers to selected problems in oncologic imaging. He is a major contributor to several center grants. The quality of his research is amply demonstrated through his numerous peer-reviewed publications and external funding. He has also made significant contributions to the clinical service and teaching aspects of the Department of Radiology. Not only does he participate in the education of referring physicians on the evolving techniques using PET imaging for oncologic patients, but he is a co-founder of the research seminar series. I am pleased to recommend Dr. Piert for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of radiology.

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

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