PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Nursing

Sonia A. Duffy, associate professor of nursing, without tenure, School of Nursing, is recommended for the granting of tenure to be held with her title of associate professor of nursing, School of Nursing [also being promoted to research associate professor, Department of Psychiatry, Medical School and research associate professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Medical School].

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 1999 University of Illinois, Public Health, Chicago, IL
M.S. 1985 University of Michigan, Community Health Nursing, Ann Arbor, MI
B.S.N 1978 Wayne State University, Psychiatric Nursing, Detroit, MI

Professional Record:

2006 – present Associate Professor, School of Nursing, University of Michigan
2006 – present Research Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Michigan
2006 – present Research Assistant Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology, University of Michigan
2002 – 2006 Research Investigator, Department of Psychiatry, University of Michigan
2001 – 2006 Research Investigator, Department of Otorhinolaryngology, University of Michigan
1998 – present Research Investigator, Health Services Research and Development, Veterans Affairs Medical Center
1991 – 1993 Instructor, School of Nursing, Oakland University
1985 – 1991 Instructor, School of Nursing, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Duffy is a master teacher. Since joining the faculty in 2006, she has served as the faculty of record for four well established graduate courses in the School of Nursing, and she has also been invited on a regular basis to present guest lectures in undergraduate courses in the School of Nursing, as well as in graduate courses in other units such as Social Work and Public Health. Student evaluations reflect highly positive ratings of her lectures and teaching strategies and range from 4.0 – 4.8 on a 5.0 (high) scale. Student comments mention the positive guidance and inspiration she has given them as well as her effectiveness in teaching graduate courses using a variety of strategies. Professor Duffy’s teaching strategies include challenging students in their thinking and clarity about course requirements, presenting examples from her research and linking them to the practice setting, and using a variety of teaching methods in order to engage students with differing learning styles.

Professor Duffy has supervised numerous graduate students, including five dissertations and six master’s theses. She also sponsored a physician postdoctoral fellow funded by the American Foundation for Urologic Disease. She has served as the advisor for five masters projects (two are completed). She has mentored one doctoral student in public health who has completed the PhD, and she currently serves on three dissertation committees, two in nursing and one in public health. Further, she has mentored two medical students who have assisted with research projects of which she has been a participating faculty and has mentored a total of eight undergraduate students in the University Research Opportunity Program (UROP).

It is clear that Professor Duffy is able to bring her research experience in smoking cessation and head and neck cancer into her teaching and that she is committed to helping students have positive learning
experiences. She has been highly effective as a research mentor. It is noteworthy that her role in mentoring and advising graduate students in their research projects has resulted in four published papers and six additional papers that are in process or in review.

**Research:** Upon joining the faculty in 2006, Professor Duffy had completed 13 funded studies as principle or co-principle investigator. Her major focus was on the population of head and neck cancer patients and smoking cessation, with a lesser focus on hospice and end-of-life issues. Three projects were funded internally and ten externally, from a range of funding sources (state and federal government, foundations, and corporations); two of these were large awards ($0.3M – $0.7M). Professor Duffy also had four funded projects in progress at the time of her appointment to the School of Nursing faculty in fall 2006. Her total funding was $6.7M. Her publication record at that time included 18 articles in scientific peer-reviewed journals, spanning a wide array of nursing and interdisciplinary venues, a number of which are highly ranked. She had made numerous presentations to local and national audiences and at two European Conferences.

Since joining the faculty in the School of Nursing, Professor Duffy’s research productivity has remained high. In addition to continuing and/or completing projects in progress at the time of her appointment, she has garnered new funding. She continues to focus on head and neck cancer and smoking cessation, now extending her work to encompass biomarkers as indicators of recurrence of head and neck cancers and to the population of construction workers who constitute a high risk for such cancers. She continues to disseminate her research in a variety of well-respected, high impact journals. In 2007 and 2008, she published seven papers and three more are in press; among these she has been the first author on five, senior author on two, and a co-author on others, three of which were written by students Professor Duffy’s data. She has also made 11 research presentations, including three at international conferences.

**Recent and Significant Publications:**


** Duffy as last author denotes senior authorship

**Service:** Professor Duffy’s record demonstrates her commitment to professional service. She served as member of the School of Nursing Search Committee during two years of particular heavy activity. She is also currently an active member of the University of Michigan Substance Abuse Center Executive
Committee. At the regional and national levels, Professor Duffy’s expertise has been sought as a grant reviewer by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Cancer Institute of Canada. She is generous with her time and expertise as a manuscript reviewer, reviewing for such respected high impact journals as Medical Care and Journal of Applied Social Psychology.

**External Reviewers:**

Reviewer A: “I would evaluate Dr. Sonia Duffy in the top 10% in relation to others in her peer group of nurse researchers in cancer prevention and control and tobacco cessation at the associate professor level.”

Reviewer B: “Dr. Duffy has a national reputation for her work with head and neck cancer patients...and has published some of the most careful documentation on these topics to date. Based on Dr. Duffy’s publications, I believe she has the most advanced research program in the country dealing with the biobehavioral and psychological aspects of head and neck cancer.”

Reviewer C: “I believe that her work is widely recognized in the clinical application of psychological assessments and behavior change. I am particularly impressed in her use of easily captured variables (e.g. oral health, lifestyle behavior) to predict future outcomes and this is original and potentially important work for clinicians in the field.”

Reviewer D: “I have long found Dr. Duffy’s work to be of generally very good to excellent quality since her publication in General Hospital Psychiatry in 2002. Since that time, she has been author on 22 papers of which she is first or senior author on nine. This is evidence of very strong productivity that is quite exceptional for the field of head and neck cancer and for the time period itself.”

Reviewer E: “Her efforts are highly important, highly visible, and have shaped the direction of the management of head and neck cancer patients nationally. Her reputation as a collaborator is terrific...and there are very few scientists who make such a mark in clinical surgical departments nationally.”

**Summary of Recommendation:**

Professor Duffy is a prominent and productive nurse researcher who has made significant contributions to the field of head and neck cancer research. She is an excellent teacher and mentor; and she has made important contributions in both internal and external service opportunities. It is with the support of the School of Nursing Executive Committee that I recommend Sonia A. Duffy for promotion to associate professor, with tenure, School of Nursing.

Kathleen Potempa
Dean and Professor
School of Nursing

May 2009