PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Public Health
Department of Environmental Health Sciences

John D. Meeker, associate professor of environmental health sciences, with tenure, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health, is recommended for promotion to professor of environmental health sciences, with tenure, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health.

Academic Degrees:

Sc.D. 2004  Harvard University, Exposure, Epidemiology & Risk
M.S.  2001  Harvard University, Environmental Science and Engineering
B.S.  1999  Iowa State University, Industrial Technology

Professional Record:

2013-present  Associate Dean for Research, School of Public Health, University of Michigan
2011-2013   Associate Chair, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, University of Michigan
2011-present  Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, University of Michigan
2005-2011   Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, University of Michigan
2004-2005  Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Harvard University School of Public Health
2002-present  Environmental Science and Industrial Hygiene Consultant, Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR)

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Meeker has demonstrated a high level of ability in teaching since his appointment to associate professor. To a large measure, his teaching abilities were gained as a result of teaching efforts and experiences acquired as an assistant professor. He has demonstrated the capacity to incorporate core content and concepts and effectively engage students in the learning process. He has been able to conceptualize and create new courses and develop them into strong educational offerings that meet both departmental and student need. In the courses for which he has had significant responsibility, Professor Meeker has shown a high aptitude for effective teaching, and has consistently received high student evaluation scores for instructor excellence, most often in the 4.0+ range (Q2). In most of his courses, he has also received high ratings for overall course excellence (Q1), substantially so in his advanced exposure assessment course with ratings in the 4.5+ range.

Professor Meeker has supervised, and continues to supervise, the work of a number of graduate students. He has had four Ph.D. students graduate since 2011, and is currently the primary
advisor to five others. He also currently serves as a committee member for two other Ph.D. students.

Research: Since joining the Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Professor Meeker has developed an impressive research program in the areas of exposure science and environmental epidemiology. Since being promoted to associate professor in 2011, he has continued to grow a strong research portfolio, publish in the best journals in his field, and consolidate his position as a leading researcher in his discipline, both nationally and internationally.

Professor Meeker is currently the principal investigator on five NIH R01 grants (or R01 equivalents) worth approximately $2 million in annual funding. These span a range of research projects addressing exposure to chemical agents in the environment and their health impacts through various life stages. His work specifically addresses the potential health impacts of common but not currently well understood exposures to substances such as Bisphenol A, phthalates, and brominated flame retardants. What sets his work apart is his interdisciplinary integration of exposure science and health impacts research. This is leading to more comprehensive understanding of how multiple environmental stressors impact the health of individuals, and especially vulnerable individuals.

Professor Meeker has published over 100 peer review articles and book chapters, with over 50 publications since 2011. Between 2011 and the present, he has been first author on 10 peer review papers. He has collaborated widely within his fields of research, and has published in some of the field’s leading journals. According to the Scopus database, Professor Meeker has an H index of 30, indicating that 30 of his peer review papers have been cited at least 30 times. His publications have been cited over 1700 times according to Scopus, and over 3,000 times according to Google Scholar. In addition, he currently has 16 manuscripts in review.

Professor Meeker has been invited to speak about his research at 49 meetings and events, and has been an author on over 20 conference proceedings or abstracts.

Recent and Significant Publications:


Service: Professor Meeker has been an active member of the academic community within the department, school, and across the university. He has also made significant service contributions on a national and international level. Within the department, he has served on both the academic degree program committee and the admissions and recruitment committee. Between 2011–2013, he served as associate chair of the department. During this period, he led an initiative to develop a new vision for the department. Professor Meeker has also served on a number of research advisory and oversight groups within the University of Michigan, including acting as co-leader of the Exposure Assessment Core on the UM NIEHS P30 Core Center, and serving as associate director of the department’s Environmental Toxicology/Epidemiology Training Grant.

Since taking on the role of associate dean for research, Professor Meeker has been heavily involved in university-wide service. He serves on the UM President’s Advisory Committee on Labor Standards & Human Rights, is a member of the UM Business Engagement Center Advisory Council, and serves on the UM Office of Human Research Compliance Review Advisory Committee.

More broadly, Professor Meeker is an active member of his academic and professional communities both nationally and internationally. He is widely engaged in grant reviews, contributes peer reviews for a large number of scientific journals, and serves as an associate editor for Environmental Health Perspectives.

In addition, he is committed to advancing exposure science and environmental epidemiology within broader public communities, and considers the active translation of his research to practice as a key component of his academic responsibilities. He communicates his research with a broad range of audiences, and is frequently interviewed for popular articles on environmental exposures and health impacts.

External Reviewers:
Reviewer (A): “The quantity and quality of the publication record is above that of his peers and the impact of his research is far reaching.”

Reviewer (B): “These articles include many high impact publications....In terms of scholarly impact, I would judge him to be equal to or better than candidates for promotion at my institution.”

Reviewer (C): “The quality and influence of Dr. Meeker’s publications...is very impressive. In terms of productivity and funding, I believe John is in the upper echelon of his cohort of exposure and epidemiology researchers.”

Reviewer (D): “One of the strongest promotion cases I have reviewed in recent years. [His] scholarly output has been outstanding, with a large number of impactful papers dealing with exposures, biomarkers and/or health effects of environmental exposures.”
Reviewer (E): “These papers have been extensively cited by other researchers and have been influential with federal agencies in their review and standard setting documentation.”

Reviewer (F): “I am truly impressed with both the quality and quantity of Dr. Meeker’s work. Dr. Meeker is a national leader in research related to the evaluation of exposures to and developing tools for measuring contaminants in the workplace and the general environment.”

Reviewer (G): “Dr. Meeker has carved out a unique research niche by focusing on exposure measurement...He has become a highly productive and innovative investigator consistent with...the rank of Professor.”

Summary of Recommendation
Professor Meeker is an outstanding researcher and a dedicated teacher and mentor. His productivity and expertise have provided research and training opportunities to numerous students. It is with the support of the School of Public Health Executive Committee that I recommend John D. Meeker for promotion to professor of environmental health sciences, with tenure, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health.

Martin A. Philbert
Dean, School of Public Health

May 2015