PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

Kara Zivin, Ph.D., associate professor of psychiatry, with tenure, Department of Psychiatry, Medical School, and associate professor of health management and policy, without tenure, Department of Health Management and Policy, School of Public Health, is recommended for promotion to professor of psychiatry, with tenure, Department of Psychiatry, Medical School, and professor of health management and policy, without tenure, Department of Health Management and Policy, School of Public Health.

Academic Degrees:

- Ph.D. 2004 Harvard University
- M.S. 2002 Harvard University
- M.A. 1998 Johns Hopkins University
- B.A. 1997 Johns Hopkins University

Professional Record:

- 2014-present Associate Professor of Health Management and Policy, School of Public Health, University of Michigan
- 2013-present Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Michigan
- 2006-2013 Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Zivin is a research-educator who provides supervision to undergraduates, graduates and fellows, both within the Department of Psychiatry and School of Public Health. Her supervision is comprised of mentorship, career development guidance and advancing the students’ knowledge and research skills in the areas of mental health, public health, and public policy. Dr. Zivin spends a substantial amount of time helping trainees, at all levels, refine their ideas and apply appropriate research methods. This is evident by her work with mentees to publish over 30 peer-reviewed papers, and assist them with overall career development, including successful grant applications and job placements. In addition to her presence within the Department of Psychiatry, Dr. Zivin presents didactic presentations for trainees, outside of the department, which helps to identify measures, statistical methods, and outcomes in health services and policy research, and the implications of those findings for clinical practice and policy.

At a national level, Dr. Zivin is an active member of the Behavioral Health Services Research Interest Group (BHSR IG) Advisory Committee of Academy Health, the preeminent national organization for health services research and policy, to create opportunities for emerging behavioral health scholars to have their work nationally recognized, and to implement a
mentorship forum linking trainees and junior researchers with senior researchers from around the country. Dr. Zivin has served as a mentor for National Institute of Mental Health T32 Geriatric Mental Health Services Research fellows in the Department of Psychiatry, and for VA Advanced Research fellows, which is a competitive training grant program based at National Serious Mental Illness Treatment Resource and Evaluation Center at the Ann Arbor VA.

Research: Dr. Zivin’s research is focused on mental health services and policy, specifically by examining the detection, treatment, and outcomes for depressed patients, including both mortality and employment. This work aims to improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations by conducting clinically-relevant research using rigorous quantitative and qualitative methods to inform policy and treatment decisions. Dr. Zivin has published a total of 144 peer-reviewed papers, 41 as first author and 28 as senior author. Notably, while in rank as associate professor (since 2013), she has a total of 61 publications, of which 10 were first author and 15 were senior author. Many of these papers involved collaborations with junior faculty or post-doctoral mentees.

Dr. Zivin has received funding as the principal investigator on three multi-year VA grants (two are R01-equivalents) in addition to local and pilot grant funding. She is a co-investigator on multiple NIH and VA funded grants. She has provided testimony before the United States Congress regarding findings from suicide research among depressed veterans. She published one of the first assessments of the impact of depression on productivity among patients treated in the University of Michigan Department of Psychiatry as well as additional assessments documenting substantial unemployment among working-aged depressed Veterans in advance of new presidential initiatives to support employment needs of returning Veterans. Dr. Zivin’s collaborations provided evidence supporting the need for and limited use of psychotherapy for depressed Veterans. This contributed to the development of a major VA initiative designed to provide additional training and staff for these services. Dr. Zivin’s award-winning research has documented unmet needs for access to prescription medications even after the initiation of the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit among depressed disabled and older adults.

Recent and Significant Publications:


Service: Dr. Zivin’s responsibilities involve a combination of research, teaching, service, and policy-oriented activities. Over the course of her academic career, she has developed a unique area of expertise focused on some of the most challenging and clinically complicated patients that have high degrees of mental disorders. Her teaching and service goals involve using relevant data to educate clinicians and policy makers to address the needs of vulnerable mentally ill individuals, as well as support local and national agencies with similar objectives.

Dr. Zivin has made a name for herself both regionally and nationally, which is evident from receiving multiple awards and accolades within the research community. Some of which include invited Leadership Institute participant for the Society of Behavioral Medicine, the Barry Lebowitz Early Career Scientist Award from the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry, and the Center for Healthcare Research and Transformation Policy Fellowship through the University of Michigan and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Dr. Zivin has also established a national presence by serving as a senior advisor on behavioral health integration for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a large patient-centered medical home demonstration project (the Comprehensive Primary Care initiative). Since 2015, she has conducted policy research for Mathematica Policy Research as a senior health researcher, including large-scale federally funded evaluations designed to improve quality and access to behavioral health care. This work directly informs policy decisions within CMS, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Dr. Zivin is a current member of Academy Health; American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry; and the Society of Behavioral Medicine. She is also an active reviewer on over 50 journals.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Her publication record is simply outstanding, with 141 articles being published in major research and clinical journals….One of the things that clearly stands out about Dr. Zivin’s publications is the rigor of her analytical approaches. Her research methodologies and statistical tests are meticulously chosen and applied, and her results are unquestionable [sic] accurate….Dr. Zivin has made a substantial contribution to her field and has a strong national and international reputation….Nationally, there are relatively few Department of Psychiatry faculty members with formal training in health policy and her skillset should be considered a highly valuable resource.”

Reviewer B: “She is a skilled investigator, who is able to amass meaningful analyses on substantive data sets to answer many problems of high clinical relevance. She is [a] credit to your School and clearly has the continued professional productivity and worldwide reputation and respect consistent with a tenured Professor.”

Reviewer C: “Dr. Zivin has an outstanding publication record….The number and variety of her successful collaborations is a testament to the value and unique skills other scientists recognize that Dr. Zivin brings to their projects.”
Reviewer D: “Her studies have had an impact on the Veterans Healthcare System as well as healthcare in our nation as a whole. She has collaborated and published with many of the top mental health researchers across the country. This serves as evidence of her contributions and national reputation. She has also been asked to serve on a number of study sections....I have the utmost respect and admiration for Dr. Zivin, and I am impressed with her impact on health policy and healthcare, her success in obtaining funding, and especially, her amazing publication productivity. She has established herself as a mentor and independent investigator.”

Reviewer E: “Dr. Zivin’s funding record demonstrates sustained success in competing for grant funding as principal investigator (or the equivalent) as well as support for project[s] led by mentees and junior colleagues....Dr. Zivin has clearly established an outstanding national and international reputation in mental health services research, as evidenced by reviewing responsibilities, awards, and invited presentations....Dr. Zivin has an outstanding record of mentoring trainees and junior faculty across diverse career stages.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Zivin is an outstanding research-scholar and highly valued research collaborator. She has an impressive track record in obtaining funding and is making an impact in improving health policies and health system initiatives on diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes of mental disorders. We are pleased to recommend Kara Zivin, Ph.D. for promotion to professor of psychiatry, with tenure, Department of Psychiatry, Medical School, and professor of health management and policy, without tenure, Department of Health Management and Policy, School of Public Health.

Marschall S. Runge, M.D., Ph.D.
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs
Dean, Medical School

Cathleen M Connell, Ph.D.
Interim Dean
School of Public Health

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