

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

Frederic C. Blow, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychiatry, with tenure, Department of Psychiatry, is recommended for promotion to Professor of Psychiatry, with tenure, Department of Psychiatry, Medical School. [He also holds appointment as Research Associate Professor, University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute.]

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1983	Pennsylvania State University
M.A.	1979	University of Maine at Orono
B.A.	1977	University of Maine at Orono

Professional Record:

1999-Present	Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Michigan
1999-Present	Research Associate Professor at UMTRI
1999-2005	Research Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Michigan
1996-1999	Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of Michigan
1996-Present	Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Michigan
1992-1999	Assistant Research Scientist, University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute
1992-1999	Assistant Research Scientist, Department of Psychiatry, University of Michigan
1986-1992	Research Investigator, Department of Psychiatry, University of Michigan
1984-1986	Instructor, Department of Community Medicine, University of Tennessee

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Blow has developed and taught undergraduate courses in the Department of Psychology, LS&A and graduate courses in the School of Public Health, Department of Health Management and Policy. In addition to formal course work, Dr. Blow has consistently sought opportunities to promote students' interest in future research careers. The integration of students and junior faculty in his research and scholarship, both nationally and internationally, illustrates his commitment to extend learning beyond formal coursework and classroom settings. Dr. Blow excels in his abilities and willingness to work with junior faculty. He is one of the most successful mentors in the department. Clinical and research faculty regularly seek him out for consultation on their initial and ongoing research efforts. His mentoring has been instrumental in several faculty members' initial success in obtaining outside research funding. In addition to mentoring junior faculty, Dr. Blow has been extremely successful in mentoring pre- and post-

doctoral students. He places a high priority on ensuring that his doctoral students succeed in their research and move in a timely manner towards completing their PhDs.

Research: Dr. Blow's research has focused broadly on mental health services research, particularly related to the issues of access to care and treatment outcomes. His work targets mental health disorders, especially substance use disorders among older adults. Dr. Blow's recent work in this area has focused on the development and testing of novel interventions to address substance use and misuse among individuals in late life. In recognition of his research in this area, in 2001 he was named the first National Huss/Hazelden Chair on Substance Abuse in Older Adults, established through a permanent endowment from the Huss Family Foundation and matching funds from Hazelden Foundation. Hazelden Foundation, located in Center City, Minnesota, is the oldest treatment program for substance abuse in the country. His work with Hazelden has allowed him to conduct new research on substance abuse treatments for older adults. In further recognition of his expertise in this important area of mental health services research, in 2004 he was appointed Research Director for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Technical Assistance Center on Older Americans Substance Abuse and Mental Health. Dr. Blow is also Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, the nation's leading aging research organization.

In addition to the research conducted on substance abuse in late life, Dr. Blow continues to have a substantial portfolio of substance abuse research across the lifespan. His research interests have mainly focused on use of motivational brief interventions for alcohol misuse and abuse. He conducted one of the first brief intervention randomized targeting individuals age 55 and older in primary care. This led to a large motivational alcohol brief intervention randomized controlled study that recruited and randomized injured patients being treated in the Emergency Department. Other related studies in the Emergency Department targeted adolescents and young adults who were at-risk drinkers. The combined expertise derived from these studies has led to the successful funding of four current NIH RO1 funded grants, for which he is the principal investigator. Dr. Blow is also involved as a co-investigator or consultant on several other mental health services research projects.

Dr. Blow's mental health services research portfolio also includes the treatment of serious mental disorders, particularly among aging people with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, which grew out of his role as Director of the VA's National Serious Mental Illness Treatment Research and Evaluation Center (SMITREC). Dr. Blow is the author of 135 peer-reviewed published manuscripts; 16 book chapters; two books; several hundred national and international peer-reviewed and invited presentations; and hundreds of scientific citations.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

Maio RF, Shope JT, Blow FC, Gregor MA, Zakrajsek JS, Weber JE, Nypaver MM: A randomized controlled trial of an emergency department-based interactive computer program to prevent alcohol misuse among injured adolescents. *Ann Emerg Med* 45(4):420-429, 2005.

Blow FC, Brockmann LM, Barry KL: Role of alcohol in late-life suicide. *Alcohol Clin Exp Res* 28(5 S):48S-56S, 2004.

Waller PF, Hill EM, Maio RF, Blow FC: Alcohol effects on motor vehicle crash injury. Alcohol Clin Exp Res 27(4):695-703, 2003.

Blow FC, Walton MA, Chermack ST, Mudd SA, Brower KJ, Comstock MA: Older adult treatment outcome following elder-specific inpatient alcoholism treatment. J Sub Abuse Treat 19(1):67-75, 2000.

Blow FC, Walton MA, Chermack ST, Barry KL, Coyne JC, Gomberg ESL, Mudd SA: The relationship between alcohol problems and health functioning of older adults in primary care settings. J Am Geriatric Soc 48:769-774, 2000.

Service: Dr. Blow serves as Director of the Mental Health Services Outcomes and Translation Section. He is also Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs Serious Mental Illness Treatment Research and Evaluation Center (SMITREC), Health Services Research and Development. Dr. Blow's commitment to improving mental health services for individuals with substance abuse and mental disorders has led to the development of a program of research targeting the development and testing of interventions to reduce the burden of these disorders among some of our most vulnerable citizens. The success of this program of research is measured in part by funding from the National Institutes of Health: Over \$12.5 million in current direct funding as a principal investigator and over \$10 million currently as a co-investigator.

External Review:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Blow has been extraordinarily successful in recent years at obtaining competitive grants with \$14 million in current PI grants from NIDA and NIAAA, alone, a truly extraordinary accomplishment, which bodes well for his continued productivity in the coming years....Dr. Blow has received several national honors for his research including a Research Chair from the Hazeldon [sic] Foundation, participation as an Invited Panelist on the VA Blue Ribbon Panel on Quality of Health Care, and appointment as a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America."

Reviewer B: "The most important research area for Dr. Blow has been the influences of substance abuse in elderly populations, particularly the impact of alcoholism. I believe that he has emerged as among the most important authorities on the service needs of this particular population....Based on his importance as an authority on clinical services within the VA, his research contributions in the area of substance abuse in the elderly and his contributions to the careers of a number of important young investigators he is likely to continue to be a valuable contributor to our understanding of mental illness."

Reviewer C: "I have consistently found Dr. Blow to be an outstanding scientist and a generous contributor [to] the larger research community. He is easily among the top investigators internationally in the field of mental health services research, one of the handful of world renowned services experts in geriatric psychiatry, and arguably the #1 services researcher in alcohol and substance use disorders....His seminal studies on service utilization and treatment of

seriously mentally ill veterans with alcohol and substance use disorders are highly cited even in other fields.”

Reviewer D: “In my opinion he can be ranked as one of the best researchers on alcohol related problems, especially on aging and alcohol abuse, depression and alcohol among the seriously mentally ill.”

Reviewer E: “...his clear legacy is an extraordinary level of accomplishment in scholarship, active research, teaching, mentoring, and contributions to policy reforms in the area of geriatric substance use disorders....I have no doubt that he would be qualified as a full professor in any and all of the most prestigious universities and medical schools in the country.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Blow’s funding record, administrative leadership, and superb networking skills have contributed significantly to the achievement of the department’s objectives and to the University of Michigan Health System’s mission in geriatrics, substance abuse, and health services research. I am pleased, therefore, to recommend him for promotion to Professor of Psychiatry.



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Allen S. Lichter, M.D., Dean  
*Newman Family Professor  
of Radiation Oncology*

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