

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

Dee E. Fenner, M.D., Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, with tenure, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, with tenure, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D.	1985	University of Missouri-Columbia
A.B.	1980	University of Missouri-Columbia

Professional Record:

2001-Present	Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Michigan
1999-2001	Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Washington
1997-1999	Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Rush Medical College
1989-1997	Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Rush Medical College

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Fenner participates daily in the educational activities of our fellows, house officers and medical students in the operating room and outpatient clinics. In addition, she is involved in the house officer and medical student didactic sessions on a regular basis. She serves as a third-year medical student mentor during their Ob/Gyn clerkships. Dr. Fenner was instrumental in developing a suturing skills lab curriculum for third-year medical students which consistently is rated as one of the best experiences during their rotations. Her evaluations are consistently positive with specific comments regarding her enthusiasm for teaching and commitment to involving students in patient care, particularly in the operating room. She conducts a weekly pre-operative conference for medical students and residents, as well as a weekly urogynecology teaching conference for residents and fellows. Dr. Fenner also coordinates a monthly educational conference for radiology, colorectal surgery, GI medicine, and gynecology as part of the Michigan Bowel Control Program. Dr. Fenner is immediate past president of the Association of Professors in Obstetrics and Gynecology and has served as the head of the Education Committees for the American Urogynecology Society and the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons. She currently serves on the Council of Residency Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology (CREOG) Competency Task Force and on the University of Michigan Working Group for Competency Assessment. Dr. Fenner is recognized nationally as an expert in the teaching and evaluation of surgical skills. She was instrumental in the

development of the Clinical Simulation Center at the University of Michigan and serves on the Operations Committee. She has received both the APGO and CREOG Excellence in Teaching Awards. She has edited several books for education and developed an interactive educational CD for the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology entitled "A case-based review of Urogynecology." Dr. Fenner has been a mentor to many fellows and residents that are currently successful faculty members at leading medical schools throughout the nation. Currently three of her former mentees have K-23 awards. Dr. Fenner has given numerous named lectureships, most recently the Howard Kelly Lecture at Johns Hopkins University.

Research: In addition to the educational research described above, Dr. Fenner's contributions to pelvic floor research have been enormous. Dr. Fenner is nationally and internationally recognized for her research in the area of urinary and fecal incontinence. Her landmark work in this area has been published widely and she has been invited to present the results of her research at prestigious national and international meetings. She has been given the Prize Paper Award twice in the past three years by the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons. Dr. Fenner is the Co-PI on three NIH funded projects. She was recently awarded a Pepper Grant to evaluate anal sphincter structure-function relationships in aging and fecal incontinence. She has developed a strong reputation based on recent publications in the area of rectal incontinence, posterior vaginal prolapse, and the co-morbidity of pelvic floor disease and depression. The editors of *Obstetrics and Gynecology* noted that her article *Evaluation and treatment of women with rectocele: Focus on associated defecatory and sexual dysfunction* was ranked 8th among all electronic articles published in their journal since 1995. She is an active member of the Pelvic Floor Research Group. She has established further clinical research opportunities through the Michigan Bowel Program that she has developed, as well as the pelvic floor/depression program that she has created in conjunction with the University of Michigan Health System Mental Health specialists. It is clear in her role as consultant to the NIH, she is helping to set the national priorities for pelvic floor research. She will be able to follow up on these initiatives and priorities through her leadership and participation in research activities at the University of Michigan.

Recent and Significant Publications:

FitzGerald MP, Edwards SR, Fenner DE: Medium-term follow-up on use of freeze-dried, irradiated donor fascia for sacrocolpopexy and sling procedures. *International Urogynecology Journal* 15(4):238-242, 2004.

Fialkow MF, Melville JL, Lentz GM, Miller EA, Miller J, Fenner DE: The functional and psychosocial impact of fecal incontinence on women with and without urinary incontinence. *American J Obstet and Gynecol* 189(1):127-129, 2003.

Fenner DE, Genberg B, Brahma P, Marek L, DeLancey JOL: Fecal and urinary incontinence after vaginal delivery with anal sphincter disruption in an obstetrics unit in the United States. *American J Obstet and Gynecol* 189(6): 1543-1549, 2003.

Melville J, Walker E, Katon W, Lentz G, Miller J, Fenner D: Prevalence of comorbid psychiatric illness and its impact on symptom perception, quality of life, and functional status in women with urinary incontinence. *American J Obstet and Gynecol* 187(1):80-87, 2002.

Fialkow MF, Gardella C, Melville JL, Lentz GM, Fenner DE: Posterior vaginal wall defect and their relationship to measures of pelvic floor neuromuscular function and posterior compartment defects. *American J Obstet and Gynecol* 187(6):1143-1149, 2002.

Service: Dr. Fenner is a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the American College of Surgeons. Departmentally, she serves as the Director of the Division of Gynecology and Associate Chair for Surgical Services. Dr. Fenner serves as the Series Editor "Science and Technology" for the *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics* and on the editorial board for the *Journal of Pelvic Surgery*. She is an ad hoc reviewer for numerous peer review journal including the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, the *International Urogynecology Journal* and *Pelvic Floor Dysfunction*, *JAMA* and *Obstetrics and Gynecology*. In addition, she has served on a number of NIH study sections and advisory committees. Dr. Fenner has been a board examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology since 1997. Dr. Fenner has been an active member of the ACOG, the American Urogynecologic Society, Society of Gynecologic Surgeons and, particularly, the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics and currently is secretary-treasure of their Board. Dr. Fenner has served as the course director for the Advanced Surgery for Pelvic Floor Dysfunction postgraduate course for the ACOG's annual clinical meeting for past several years as well as numerous free-standing courses. Institutionally, she serves as a member of the Livonia Surgery Center Steering Committee, Operating Room Management Committee, and the New Medical/Surgical Products Committee. Dr. Fenner plays an important role in organizing the complex activities of the Division of Gynecology, a large group of gynecologic specialists whom she has coalesced into an outstanding clinical group. In addition, as Associate Chair for Surgical Services, she has spearheaded departmental activities at the Livonia Surgery Center and recent departmental involvement in the East Ann Arbor Surgery Center.

Professional Work: Dr. Fenner has a large clinical practice focusing on urinary incontinence, pelvic floor disorders, and especially fecal incontinence. Serving as Director of the Division of Gynecology and Associate Chair for Surgical Services, her own clinical practice remains substantial and she serves as a much sought after consultant nationally. Dr. Fenner founded the Michigan Bowel Control Program along with Drs. Huang, Morris and Chey of the Departments of Surgery and GI Medicine to develop a coordinated clinical, research, and educational program to care for patients with bowel control problems. This University of Michigan multidisciplinary program has rapidly grown and is now recognized as a national referral center. She is a busy clinician with an average of four ½ days of clinic in which she sees an average of approximately 50 patients each week. In addition, she has a high surgical practice performing an average of four major procedures per week.

External Review:

Reviewer A: "She has distinguished herself in combining excellent clinical care with discovery of improved surgical techniques, superb teaching with educational scholarship, and admirable citizenship with influential mentoring. Michigan is fortunate to be the beneficiary of her contributions."

Reviewer B: “There is no doubt that Dr. Fenner has had and continues to have a major impact on the research and development of pelvic floor function nationally and internationally. Her leadership in education is equally as remarkable....Dr. Fenner would easily meet our requirements as a leader and innovator both in her research and her educational scholarship. Her service to the University is clearly exemplary as well.”


Reviewer C: “In scholarship and research she has national recognition for very high quality work in urogynecology....Her scholarship has significantly impacted her field. She wrote a landmark article establishing the relationship between urinary incontinence and depression.”

Reviewer D: “She is the quintessential triple threat: scholar, educator, clinician/ surgeon....Dr. Fenner excels in the arena of clinical service. She is recognized nationally to be a superior surgeon, a reputation derived from both the quality of the residents and fellows she has trained, as well as the regard with which she is held by the colleagues she has worked with. De is without a doubt the ‘go-to’ surgeon in the field of urogynecology and pelvic surgery....She is recognized as *the* premier scholar and clinician in this important subspecialty...”

Reviewer E: “She is also the epitome of the triple threat, an academic who is an excellent researcher, an excellent educator, as well as an excellent clinician....Dr. Fenner has established an enviable professional niche, including clinical and research endeavors in pelvic floor disorders as well as striving for excellence in the training of our obstetrics and gynecology residents.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Fenner is a nationally and internationally recognized leader par excellence in pelvic floor research and obstetrics and gynecology education. She has exceeded every expectation since her recruitment as Division Chief to the University of Michigan and will only continue to advance her reputation and that of the Department and University of Michigan Health System in the years to come. I am therefore pleased to recommend Dr. Fenner for promotion to professor.


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

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