

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Michael G. Franz, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, Department of Surgery, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to Associate Professor of Surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

1989	M.D.	University of Florida
1985	B.S.	Cornell University

Professional Record:

2000-Present	Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan
1997-2000	Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of South Florida

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Franz has been actively involved with teaching his entire career. He has excellent interpersonal skills and has proven to be an effective teacher of residents, medical students, and undergraduate students. He has received the Outstanding Surgical Intern Award, Outstanding Surgical Resident Award, and the Attending of the Year Award for the Department of Surgery at the University of South Florida. Current participation in medical student clerkships includes conferences, reviews, and teaching an Honors Surgery Course on wound healing, the abdominal wall and hernias. Dr. Franz leads post-graduate training in the operating room, clinical rounds, and didactic sessions for general surgery, plastic surgery, and orthopedic surgery trainees. Dr. Franz has been a faculty mentor for numerous medical students, residents, and postdoctoral research fellows on wound health research. He has established and supervises a weekly wound research teaching conference for students, residents, and fellows working in the Tissue Repair and Regeneration laboratories. He provides instruction on laboratory fundamentals such as grant writing, manuscript preparation, experimental techniques, and encouragement to critically analyze the projects. This shows his devotion to increasing the knowledge and skills of the residents and medical students. Faculty are also drawn to this conference to enhance their knowledge about wound care and its translation to surgical practice. Dr. Franz was the co-director of the national CME course on "Basics of Wound Care." This well-received course has led to Dr. Franz developing a course primer for publication in collaboration with the Wound Healing Society. A major goal of this project will be to identify gaps in wound care principles in national medical school curricula.

Research: Dr. Franz has demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in basic and clinical research. His work has achieved national recognition and represents a significant contribution in the field of acute wound healing failure. Dr. Franz has designed an animal model of abdominal wall laparotomy wound failure that results in incisional hernias and recreates the clinical problem. Research results using this model have significantly advanced our understanding of the

complications associated with wound failure. Dr. Franz has become a national expert and leader for his knowledge of this translational research to clinical care applications. He has been successful with securing extramural funding for his research and is currently principal investigator or co-investigator on several grants. Dr. Franz's involvement in wound healing research has been very productive with 50 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals. Some journal examples are *Surgery*, *Annals of Surgery*, and *Journal of American College of Surgeons*. He has also written two chapters in textbooks. Dr. Franz's expertise, ideas, and energy convey to the audience and he is highly sought after to make presentations at national meetings.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Dubay DA, Wang X, Kuhn MA, Robson MC, Franz MG: The prevention of incisional hernia formation using a delayed-release polymer of basic fibroblast growth factor. *Annals of Surgery* 240(1):179-186, 2004.

Dubay DA, Franz MG: Acute wound healing: The biology of acute wound failure. *Surg Clin N Am* 83:463-481, 2003.

Robson MC, Steed DL, Franz MG: Wound healing: Biology and approaches to maximize healing trajectories. *Current Problems in Surgery* 38(2):61-140, 2001.

Franz MG, Smith PD, Wright TE, Ko F, Robson MC: Fascial incisions heal faster than skin: A new model for abdominal wall repair. *Surgery* 129(2):203-208, 2001.

Franz MG, Kuhn MA, Nguyen K, Wang X, Ko F, Wright TE, Robson MC: Transforming growth factor β_2 lowers the incidence of incisional hernias. *J Surg Res* 97:109-116, 2001.

Service: Dr. Franz serves as a consultant on the editorial review board of *Journal of Surgical Research*. He is a referee for the editorial review board for *Expert Opinion in Biological Therapy* and *Medical Science Monitor*. He serves as an ad hoc reviewer for *Surgery*. Dr. Franz has memberships in multiple professional societies and organizations at a national and university level. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He is a member of the Michigan Chapter American College of Surgeons, Central Surgical Association, Association of Academic Surgeons, Association of VA Surgeons, and Alpha Omega Alpha National Honor Medical Society. At a national level, he serves on the Board of Directors for the Wound Healing Society. He served on the Grant Review Committee, Surgery and Bio-Engineering Study Section, Merit Review Program, and Reviewer of the Research Enhancement Award Program for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Research Service. Dr. Franz is also on the Scientific Advisory Board of HealthPoint, LLC and Scientific Advisory Committee of LifeCell, Inc. At the university level, Dr. Franz is a member of the Hospital Integrated Wound Care Committee and the Resident Selection Committee for General Surgery Resident Training Program. He serves as an examiner for the Mock Oral Exams of general surgery residents from the University of Michigan and St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. He also serves as a surgical clerkship examiner for the third year medical students.

External Review:

Reviewer A: "He has achieved considerable national stature and is heavily in demand on the lecture circuit. Dr. Franz is that rare academic surgeon who is heavily committed to making scholarly contributions....I am of the opinion that his research record stands high among the best in the field..."

Reviewer B: "It is my impression that anyone wishing to investigate or contact an expert to investigate the physiology of fascial repair would consider Dr. Franz the pre-eminent expert in this field in 2005....I have discussed with the residents their training and who they believe to be helpful in their development as young physicians and surgeons. The almost universal response from these trainees is that Dr. Franz is the role model of a[n] academic surgeon [of his cohort]."

Reviewer C: "His wealth of teaching experience and dedication to surgical education is quite evident....As the number of surgeons choosing an academic career declines it is important to recognize the importance of mentors who successfully combine clinical work with research, particularly translational research such [as] the work of Dr. Franz."

Reviewer D: "Dr. Franz is nationally/internationally known for developing the concept of acute wound failure and incisional hernia. Over the last five years he has written the most widely cited peer-reviewed papers on the subject...His creative ability and scholarly activities have earned him national recognition and I expect that he will continue to be a leader in the field of wound healing both from the clinical and research standpoints."

Reviewer E: "To be elected to the Board of Directors [of the Wound Healing Society] you must earn the respect of both the clinical and basic science research communities. Dr. Franz has done this quite well."

Reviewer F: "Dr. Franz excels as a scientist, teacher, clinician, and in public service. He has made significant contributions to his field and is highly regarded by his colleagues."

Summary of Recommendation:

In summary, Dr. Michael G. Franz is highly recommended for promotion to Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery, with tenure. He is nationally recognized as an outstanding scientist in the field of acute wound healing failure. He is known to be a technically superb surgeon, an engaging teacher with excellent interpersonal skills, and is well respected by his colleagues.



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

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