

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Adam J. Matzger, assistant professor of chemistry, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of chemistry, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. (Also assistant professor of macromolecular science and engineering, College of Engineering.)

Academic Degrees:

1997 Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley
1992 B.A. Oberlin College

Professional Record:

2000 – present Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry and Macromolecular
Science and Engineering Center, University of Michigan
1997 – 2000 Postdoctoral Fellow, California Institute of Technology

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Matzger is an excellent instructor and research mentor serving a large cohort of undergraduate and graduate students. Students have given him excellent teaching evaluations. He is also an enthusiastic and caring mentor with nearly 20 undergraduate students in his research program to date – these have come from the Department of Chemistry as well as the College of Engineering. He has listed undergraduate students on nine publications from his laboratory. His research group currently includes one postdoctoral fellow, eleven graduate students, and three undergraduate students.

Research – Professor Matzger's research interests lie in organic materials chemistry, especially solid-state materials. This area is at the interface of organic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, materials science, and macromolecular science and engineering. The goal of this field of specialization is to understand and control the structures and properties of organic solids and polymers. Evidence of his progress toward achieving prominence can be found in his 26 publications and two patents since joining the faculty at Michigan. A number of these papers have received favorable publicity, including being featured on the cover of the journal and/or highlighted in *Nature*, *Chemistry and Engineering News*, *Materials Today*, and the popular press, indicating that this work has made significant impact on the scientific community.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- “Conformational Pseudopolymorphism and Orientational Disorder in Two-Dimensional Alkyl Carbamate Crystals,” with K. Kim and K. E. Plass, *Langmuir*, 21, 2005, pp. 647-655.
- “Crystalline Polymorph Selection and Discovery with Polymer Heteronuclei,” with C. P. Price and A. L. Grzesiak, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, 127, 2005, pp. 5512-5517 (featured in *Chemical and Engineering News* and *Science News*).
- “A Route to High Surface Area, Porosity and Inclusion of Large Molecules in Crystals,” with H. K. Chae, et al., *Nature*, 427, 2004, pp. 523-527 (featured in *Chemical and Engineering News*, the *New York Times*, *Materials Today*, *Science Now*, *New Scientist Magazine*, and BBC News).
- “Effect of Ring Fusion on the Electronic Absorption and Emission Properties of Oligothiophenes,” with X. Zhang, *Journal of Organic Chemistry*, 68, 2003, pp. 9813-9815.

Service – Professor Matzger has served or is serving on a number of important departmental and University committees. His contribution has been particularly noteworthy in the area of recruiting and mentoring graduate students. He served on the Department’s graduate recruiting committee for four years where he significantly enhanced our visits and web-based recruiting. He has also served as coordinator for a Sloan grant aimed at improving minority recruiting and mentoring, and the IMPACT Recruitment Program. He has been an active member of the Macromolecular Science and Engineering Program, serving on its Executive Committee and organizing the annual symposium.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“It is clear that Dr. Matzger has established a highly visible and very active research group, primarily in the area of solid-state structure... His program was awarded a number of the national awards...with the Beckman Foundation Young Investigator award being one of the most prestigious in our nation.”

Reviewer (B)

“...I am highly impressed with the contributions of Professor Adam Matzger in the field of organic materials chemistry. He has established a well funded, collaborative research group at Michigan, he has published a number of important papers in the fields of two dimensional organic structures, and electronic materials chemistry, and his work is clearly making and will continue to make an impact in these crucial areas of modern chemistry.”

Reviewer (C)

“...I believe, based on Professor Matzger’s intellectual productivity and creativity as well as the depth of his contributions to interface science, that he is likely to be a leader of his scientific generation. The case for promotion to Associate Professor with tenure in an overwhelmingly strong one...”

Reviewer (D)

“He has what it takes to be one of the really good ones. He has a very broad background and has an excellent track record. He has the style and approach to science that will allow him to continue to improve and develop. His multidisciplinary approach to problems, a personality that makes him a very effective collaborator, and his ability to make things work are the style traits that when combined with his creativity will insure success in materials science.”

Reviewer (E)

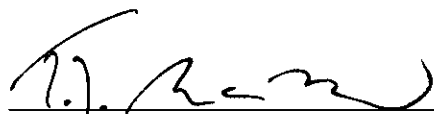
“There is no doubt in my mind that Adam is a star and that you should promote him, with tenure, without delay. ... Adam has accomplished significantly more than I would expect of any Assistant Professor at any top-tier Chemistry department. I think he is a tremendously gifted scientist.”

Reviewer (F)

"I am confident that Professor Matzger will continue to thrive at the University of Michigan, assuming positions of leadership in the department of the future. He has all the necessary intellectual and communication skills as well as the capacity to bring his work to fruition. ... I strongly recommend his promotion."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Matzger is truly interdisciplinary and important to the future of the Department of Chemistry. He is an excellent teacher and mentor, and an actively-involved citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Adam J. Matzger be promoted to the rank of associate professor of chemistry, with tenure.



Terrence J. McDonald, Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2006