

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

Rajiv Saran, M.D., Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.S.	2001	University of Michigan School of Public Health
M.D.	1987	Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India
M.B.B.S.	1984	Jawahar Lal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Madras University, Pondicherry, India

Professional Record:

1999-Present Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan

Summary or Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Saran is an active member of the University teaching community. He has demonstrated excellent teaching skills with fellows, residents and medical students alike. He lectures in the renal pathophysiology course given to the second-year medical students and in the course given to nephrology fellows. He also teaches fellows, residents, and students in outpatient clinics and on the various nephrology consult services. Dr. Saran has initiated a bimonthly Cardio-Renal Group conference held in the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine. This is a continuing medical education (CME) approved meeting designed to foster better understanding of the link between cardiovascular and renal disease, and to encourage collaborative research between cardiology and nephrology. Dr. Saran is the chief organizer for this educational meeting that is attended by trainees and faculty members in cardiology, nephrology, geriatrics, and pharmacology. He also organizes a bimonthly Renal Epidemiology Conference at KECC (Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center in Ann Arbor). This is a CME approved meeting for which Dr. Saran is the organizer. It is attended by nephrology faculty, nephrology fellows, biostatisticians, students, and faculty from the School of Public Health and staff of the University Renal Research and Education Association.

Research: Dr. Saran has established himself as a national and international expert in the cardiovascular outcomes in both dialysis and chronic kidney disease. He has published extensively in that area and has 26 peer-reviewed papers. He has recently published provocative findings on non-adherence in hemodialysis and outcomes analysis of vascular access in hemodialysis. He has engineered grants from multiple sources, including the Renal Research

Institute to support his work. His research accomplishments and success led to his appointment in 2003 as Co-Director, Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center (KECC), at the University of Michigan. This interdepartmental group has been critical in establishing the University of Michigan as one of the leaders in renal outcomes research and his leadership in that group is an important indicator of his research reputation and will provide an important base for his further success in this area. In addition, Dr. Saran is a co-investigator in the Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study (DOPPS) a worldwide (North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Australia) study of the correlation between practice patterns and outcomes in dialysis patients that has led to many critical new observations on which practices lead to the best outcomes. Finally, he has been selected as a co-investigator in the important NIH sponsored Frequent Dialysis Study, an important clinical trial to determine the effect of dialysis frequency on mortality and morbidity, again with emphasis on cardiovascular outcomes. His growing national and international stature has been reflected in the recent flurry of invitations to present his work at conferences and as an invited professor. He has participated in seven such events in 2005.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Perlman RL, Finkelstein FO, Liu L, Roys E, Kiser M, Eisele G, Burrows-Hudson S, Messana JM, Levin N, Rajagopalan SR, Port FK, Wolfe RA, Saran R: Quality of life in chronic kidney disease (CKD): A cross-sectional analysis in the Renal Research Institute-CKD Study. *Am J Kid Dis* 45(4):658-666, 2005.

Saran R, Dykstra DM, Pisoni RL, Akiba T, Akizawa T, Canaud B, Chen K, Piera L, Saito A, Young EW: Timing of first cannulation and vascular access failure in hemodialysis: An analysis of practice patterns at dialysis facilities in the DOPPS. *Nephrol Dial Transplant* 19(9):2334-2340, 2004.

Saran R, Bragg-Gresham JL, Rayner HC, Goodkin DA, Keen ML, van Dijk PC, Kurokawa K, Piera L, Saito A, Fukuhara S, Young EW, Held PJ, Port FK: Non-adherence in hemodialysis: Associations with mortality, hospitalization, and practice patterns in the DOPPS. *Kidney Int* 64(1):254-262, 2003.

Saran R, Dykstra D, Wolfe RA, Gillespie B, Held PJ, Young EW: Association between vascular access failure and the use of specific drugs: The Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study (DOPPS). *Am J Kid Dis* 40(6):1255-1263, 2002.

Stack A and Saran R: Clinical correlates and mortality impact of left ventricular hypertrophy among new ESRD patients in the United States: A population-based study. *Am J Kid Dis* 40(6):1202-1210, 2002.

Service: Dr. Saran has served on several committees for the major nephrology professional organizations including the Task Force on Diabetes and Transplantation of the National Kidney Foundation and on a national committee for uremic cardiovascular toxicity guidelines for the American Society of Nephrology. Dr. Saran has also played a very important role as a clinician and actively participates in both outpatient and inpatient arenas where he has many devoted patients. Given his burgeoning research role he had to resign from his position as Director, Ann Arbor Hemodialysis Unit, University of Michigan Medical Center in 2002, but still keeps an active peritoneal dialysis practice at the unit.

External Review:

Reviewer A: “Dr. Saran’s scholarship is definitely impacting the field of dialysis epidemiology particularly in regard to analysis of practice patterns in the US and internationally....Some of his work, particularly on left ventricular hypertrophy is of significant value to the understanding of the disturbingly high mortality in these patients. His niche is undoubtedly, as one of the few performing studies in this population, international studies on what actually determines morbidity and mortality. He is certainly one of the leaders in this field.”

Reviewer B: “Dr. Saran has achieved a national reputation in a short period of time and is undoubtedly a key member of the nephrology community.”

Reviewer C: “It is clear from the articles he has published in recent years that he has continued to perform high-quality research and is contributing new knowledge in the field. His findings are relevant to clinical practice and will influence the care of dialysis patients....He is one of the rising stars in nephrology who are superbly trained and utilize their training to advance knowledge in the field.”

Reviewer D: “Dr. Saran’s research work has of excellent quality resulting in scholarly publications in fine journals. It is important to note that the focus of his research and publications have dealt with issues that have critical impact on the morbidity and mortality of maintenance hemodialysis patients....He has demonstrated significant national and international recognition by his work that has resulted in additional funding of grant requests.”

Reviewer E: “He is without doubt considered one of the emerging leaders in the field of outcomes research in nephrology, and is also acquiring some measure of international recognition for his work.”

Reviewer F: “Of major importance is the contribution of Dr. Rajiv Saran in the field of clinical epidemiology and outcomes as well as optimal clinical practices in the field of renal replacement therapy, in particular hemodialysis.”

Summary of Recommendation:

In summary, Dr. Saran is a leader in clinical and outcomes research of patients with end-stage renal disease. He has pushed these fields forward in several important directions. He is well published and becoming widely recognized as an exciting new force in clinical research in nephrology. In addition, he continues to play critical roles in the educational and clinical programs of the Division of Nephrology. He has been especially forward thinking in developing interdisciplinary research conferences to help educate both faculty members and trainees. He is a bright and gifted researcher who will almost certainly make more important contributions to the fields of outcomes and clinical research in patients with end-stage kidney disease. I enthusiastically support his promotion to Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, with tenure.



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

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