

TENURE RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Yi Sun, M.D., Ph.D., is being recommended for the granting of tenure to be held with the title of Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology, Department of Radiation Oncology, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1989	University of Iowa
M.S.	1986	Zhejiang Medical University, Hangzhou, P.R. China
M.D.	1982	Jiangxi Medical College, Nanchang, P.R. China

Professional Record:

2003-Present	Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology, University of Michigan
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Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Sun has participated in four courses, presenting lectures in radiation and cancer biology regarding apoptosis and cellular response to radiation. He has been a guest lecturer at numerous universities as well as scientific meetings. While at Pfizer he mentored a Ph.D. student as well as visiting scientists from Japan, India, and China. He also trains undergraduate students and research associates in his laboratory and was part of the dissertation committee of two Ph.D. students.

Research: Since joining the faculty of the University of Michigan, Dr. Sun has been very successful in obtaining both extramural and internal funding. He was awarded an RO1 and an R21 (to be awarded: percentile of 10.3%) from the National Cancer Institute and a Concept Award from the Department of Defense. He has received three MUNN Research Awards from the Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center and one NIH Prostate Spore Pilot Project award. The research projects of his laboratory are to characterize the mechanism of SAG apoptosis inhibition using both *in vitro* and *in vivo* models, to validate p53-apoptosis targets and to identify small molecules as well as siRNA that are synthetic lethal to p53 mutation. He has published 99 peer-reviewed articles and five book chapters. He has been invited to present at national and international meetings and at several universities across the country.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Li J, Tan M, Li L, Pamarthy D, Lawrence T, and Sun Y: SAK, a new polo-like kinase, is transcriptionally repressed by p53 and induces apoptosis upon RNAi silencing. *Neoplasia* 7:312-323, 2005.

Bockbrader K, Tan M, Sun Y: A small molecule Smac-mimic compound induces apoptosis and sensitizes TRAIL- and etoposide-induced apoptosis in breast cancer cells. *Oncogene*. Online publication on July 25, 2005, doi: 10.1038/sj.onc.1208888.

Robinson M, Jiang P, Cui J, Li J, Wang Y, Swaroop M, Madore S, Lawrence TS, and Sun Y: Global Genechip profiling to identify genes responsive to p53-induced growth arrest and apoptosis in human lung carcinomas. *Cancer Biol Therapy* 2:406-415, 2003.

Tan M, Wang Y, Guan KL, and Sun Y: PTGF- β , a type β transforming growth factor (TGF- β) superfamily member, is a p53 target gene that inhibits tumor cell growth via TGF- β signaling pathway. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 97:109-114, 2000.

Duan H, Wang Y, Aviram M, Swaroop M, Loo JA, Bian J, Tian Y, Mueller T, Bisgaier CL and Sun Y: SAG, a novel zinc RING finger protein that protects cell from apoptosis induced by redox agents. *Mol Cell Biol* 19:3145-3155, 1999.

Service: Dr. Sun has served on two NCI Study Sections (Cancer Etiology and Molecular Oncogenesis). He is an integral member of the Construction Committee designing the renovation of a departmental laboratory to be located in the Medical Science I Building. He is the only Cancer Center member to be involved in this process.

External Review:

Reviewer A: "...Dr. Sun is an outstanding scientist, teacher, and mentor. He has carried important responsibilities for research, supervision, attracting outside funding, and organizing collaborative initiatives."

Reviewer B: "...Dr. Sun generated several of the publications related to studies of apoptosis, and I believe that interest culminated in the discovery of SAG by him. This discovery has made a major impact on the field as it opened a new area of investigation relating to suppression of apoptosis, a problem of critical importance in cancer biology. Dr. Sun has continued to remain a prolific worker, and there is no doubt whatsoever that his work has remained at the forefront of an important area of cancer biology....I can assure you that by our criteria for promotion to the rank of Professor (which are similar to those of University of Michigan) Dr. Yi Sun would have no difficulty in getting a promotion to the rank of full Professor at this stage of his career."

Reviewer C: "...Dr. Sun has produced an impressive body of work and has successfully obtained significant funding for his work....At National and International levels Dr. Sun has been very active in presenting his research, which has significantly contributed to his reputation as a top scientist."

Reviewer D: "Dr. Sun has also been actively engaged in reviews of papers for an impressive list of journals. An additional area in which Dr. Sun is productive is work leading to patent applications. That he has submitted five such applications is impressive. Importantly, Dr. Sun has been engaged in the tutoring of a long list of students over the past 13 years, and has

been teaching as well, testifying to his commitment to training and education. Dr. Sun has International exposure, as revealed by his presentations in China, Hong Kong, Canada, Greece and France.”

Reviewer E: “...I strongly recommend that Dr. Sun be promoted to Professor of Radiation Oncology based on his outstanding scientific contributions to our understanding of DNA damage responses that are mediated through the p53 tumor suppressor gene and his participation in mentoring and scientific review.”

Reviewer F: “Dr. Sun has been a highly productive scientist with numerous publications in excellent journals despite the fact that he spent a number of years in industry.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Sun is recognized as a national leader in the cancer molecular biology field of p53-apoptosis and E3 ubiquitin ligase. His expertise is well recognized and has been quoted in major news features speaking on apoptosis and drug discovery. He is an accomplished, well funded scientist who makes valuable contributions to the education, particularly, to fellows, senior trainees and residents in the Department of Radiation Oncology. I am pleased to recommend the granting of tenure for Dr. Yi Sun to be held with his current title of Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology.



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

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