

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Approved by the Regents

May 17, 2007

Kevin C. Chung, M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to Professor of Surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.S.	1997	University of Michigan
M.D.	1987	Emory University
B.S.	1983	Emory University

Professional Record:

2003-Present	Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan
1997-2003	Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan
1995-1997	Lecturer, Department of Surgery, University of Michigan
1995-1997	Lecturer, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Chung has established an outstanding educational program in the area of hand surgery for medical students and residents at Michigan. This program teaches a comprehensive curriculum in hand surgery and is administered by Dr. Chung during weekly hand and x-ray conferences and during laboratory exercises held several times per year. Additional education in this area is provided during teaching of hand surgical skills in the operating rooms and clinics. A recent medical student wrote: "Dr. Chung's dedication to his residents, medical students and to his teaching, research, and clinical duties is the standard to which I aspire as a plastic surgeon in training." Our plastic surgery residents now perform extremely well on the hand section of the PSEF (Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation) InService examination, administered yearly. His mentorship has resulted in six graduating residents choosing hand surgery as a career since Dr. Chung joined the faculty in 1995. Dr. Chung has assisted these residents in securing positions in the most prestigious hand fellowships in the United States. In short, Dr. Chung's impact on resident and medical student education at Michigan in the area of hand surgery has been enormous.

Extramurally, Dr. Chung has been in demand as a teacher on a national and international level including a recent distinguished lectureship at the Singapore Society for Hand Surgery. He has served as a visiting professor at #1 Children's Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam as well as in three other major Asian health care systems. He has mentored three visiting fellows: Dr. Kenji Kawamura, an orthopedic surgeon from Japan, Dr. Seong Eon Kim, Chief of Plastic Surgery from Pohang Christian Hospital in Korea, and Dr. Maria Skvortsova from Russian Medical Academy in Moscow. Clearly, Dr. Chung has a national and international reputation as an outstanding educator.

In addition to clinical teaching, Dr. Chung has maintained an active program of research training for medical students and residents. He regularly mentors medical students through the summer biomedical research program by planning a curriculum to expose them to research and surgical skills. His students have been productive academically, generating several peer-reviewed papers in the plastic surgery literature. Dr. Chung's influence has resulted in three plastic surgery residents being accepted to the Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Clinical Scholars Program. His recent mentorship of Dr. Catherine Curtin has been highly productive; she completed the RWJ program and published several important health policy papers in hand surgery. She will now be completing a hand fellowship at Stanford University. Most recently his mentorship of Dr. Christi Cavaliere resulted in her acceptance this year into the RWJ program. Clearly, he has impacted undergraduate and post-graduate research training in an effective and unique manner.

Research: Dr. Chung's research focus is in the area of health policy and outcomes, a vital area for both hand surgery and plastic surgery. He has been enormously productive, publishing 110 peer-reviewed publications with 15 additional articles in press and over 50 book chapters. More importantly, the quality and impact of his research have attracted national and international recognition. He developed the Michigan Hand Outcomes Questionnaire (MHQ), which has become a standard instrument for evaluating outcomes in hand surgery in the United States. The MHQ has been translated into several languages and is the outcome instrument used in the hand surgery audit for the National Health System of the United Kingdom. His international collaboration with Chang Gung Hospital in Taiwan used the MHQ to demonstrate the effectiveness of toe-to-thumb transfer. This study is widely quoted as the quality standard by which studies of the outcomes of Hand Surgery procedures should be evaluated. Dr. Chung's expertise in the rheumatoid hand has generated several important outcomes papers demonstrating the large variation in care of this disease and the markedly opposing views between rheumatologists and hand surgeons regarding the effectiveness of hand surgery. Dr. Chung has been selected to review Arthritis Center grants as a member of an NIH study section. He received an NIH RO1 grant to study outcomes of Rheumatoid Hand Arthroplasty. This multicenter study is the largest of its kind and will help define the future direction of rheumatoid hand surgery. He has a pending NIH K24 grant that received a priority score of 180. Dr. Chung has been an ad hoc reviewer for many journals. He is on the editorial board for both *Plastic Surgery and Reconstructive Surgery* and for *Hand*. Dr. Chung has recently won three very prestigious traveling fellowships: the Sterling Bunnell Traveling Fellow, the Australia/New Zealand Traveling Fellow, and the American College of Surgeons/American Society of Plastic Surgeons Health Policy Scholar.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Chung KC, Watt AJ, Kotsis SV, Margaliot Z, Haase SC, Kim HM: Treatment of unstable distal radius fractures with the volar locking plating system. *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery (A)* 88:2687-2694, 2006.

Chung KC, Kotsis SV, Kim HM, Burke FD, Wilgis EFS: Reasons why rheumatoid arthritis patients seek surgical treatment for hand deformities. *The Journal of Hand Surgery* 31A:289-294, 2006.

Davis EN, Chung KC, Kotsis SV, Lau FH, Vijan S: A cost/utility analysis of open reduction and internal fixation versus cast immobilization for acute nondisplaced mid-waist scaphoid fractures. *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* 117:1223-1235, 2006.

Curtin CM, Hayward RA, Kim HM, Gater DR, Chung KC: Physician perceptions of upper extremity reconstruction for the person with tetraplegia. *The Journal of Hand Surgery* 30A:87-93, 2005.

Alderman AK, Ubel PA, Kim HM, Fox DA, Chung KC: Surgical management of the rheumatoid hand: Consensus and controversy among rheumatologists and hand surgeons. *The Journal of Rheumatology* 30:1464-1472, 2003.

Service: Dr. Chung has developed an active hand surgery service in the Section of Plastic Surgery. His clinical practice is extremely busy and his referral base is extensive both within the University and from elsewhere. He performed over 350 surgical procedures last year and his productivity in terms of RVU and clinical billing is outstanding. He is recognized for his skill in managing complex hand trauma; over the past five years this has resulted in the University of Michigan becoming a major referral center for severe hand injuries from a wide geographic area. His case mix includes the most challenging problems in hand surgery; he is a "surgeon's surgeon." He has recently been working with Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation to develop a coordinated program for upper extremity reconstruction for patients with tetraplegia. He has also initiated a major venture with Neurosurgery to develop a comprehensive multidisciplinary Birth Brachial Plexus Palsy program, one of few such programs in the world. His impact on the care of patients at the University of Michigan cannot be overstated; his clinical expertise is vital to the University of Michigan Medical Center.

Administratively, Dr. Chung has been involved in structuring the rheumatology and spinal cord programs at the University of Michigan. Dr. Chung is also active in many national organizations, including the premiere organization for hand surgeons in the United States, the American Society for Surgery of the Hand where he serves on several important committees. He has served the specialty of Plastic Surgery by participating on committees for the American Society of Plastic Surgeons as well as many other plastic surgery organizations. He is currently on the Board of Directors for both the Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation and the American Association of Hand Surgery. He has become an examiner for the American Board of Plastic Surgery, once again evidence of his recognized prominence in his specialty.

External Review:

Reviewer A: "...Dr. Chung is nationally and internationally respected as a leader in the field of Plastic Surgery, Hand Surgery, and especially in the important area of meaningful outcomes research....He is very highly regarded and plays important roles within all of the national and international plastic surgery and hand surgery organizations."

Reviewer B: "The cadre of people committed to academic plastic surgery that are superb clinicians, consummate educators, and dedicated and productive researchers are few and far between. It is an exclusive club but one that Kevin Chung belongs and lives in day to day."

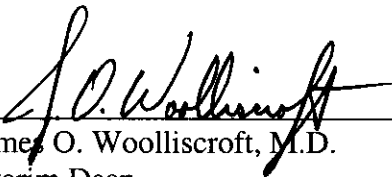
Reviewer C: “It is no exaggeration to state that he is one of the leading plastic hand surgeons in our country and I have no doubt that he will be a future president of the American Society of Surgery of the Hand.”

Reviewer D: “Dr. Chung has been a leader in educating hand surgeons on the value of thoughtfully constructed outcomes studies including research design and cost analysis in the discipline of hand surgery.”

Reviewer E: “He has mentored many aspiring academic surgeons, many of whom I believe are destined to be stars in their chosen subspecialties. He is particularly popular among the hand therapists because of his dedication to patient care and professional education.”

Summary of Recommendation:

In summary, Dr. Chung is a bright, accomplished, and respected plastic surgeon who has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to an academic career. He has distinguished himself as an outstanding clinician, teacher, and scientist. He has already gained wide recognition nationally and internationally as a star in the field of hand surgery. He brings prominence to our institution now and will continue to do so in the future. On the basis of these accomplishments and of his future potential, Dr. Chung is more than deserving of promotion to Professor of Surgery.



James O. Woolliscroft, M.D.
Interim Dean
Lyle C. Roll Professor of Medicine

May 2007