

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

Approved by the Regents

May 17, 2007

Hari S. Conjeevaram, 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.	2003	University of Michigan School of Public Health
M.D.	1984	Madras Medical College, University of Madras, Tamilnadu, India

Professional Record:

2001-Present	Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
1995-2000	Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Chicago

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Conjeevaram's teaching activities consist of classroom instruction (1% effort), faculty small group leader (10% effort), preceptor in gastroenterology clinics (5% effort), internal medicine resident teaching (2%), and attending physician on the inpatient liver service and liver consult services (20% effort). Dr. Conjeevaram is a dedicated and enthusiastic educator. He is skilled at taking complicated material and making it easy to understand. He is a friendly and approachable faculty who encourages students to actively learn. At the University of Michigan, Dr. Conjeevaram's excellence in teaching has been acknowledged by numerous awards including "Best Teaching Attending" by Gastroenterology fellows, and the "H. Marvin Pollard Award" for outstanding teaching of residents. He was twice the recipient of the "Lotus Award," an award given to honor the one faculty who has shown outstanding support, mentorship, and friendship to the Asian American Medical Student Community of the University of Michigan. He is also the only faculty member to have received this award more than once.

Dr. Conjeevaram's educational skills are highly regarded within and outside the University of Michigan. He has been invited as a visiting professor or visiting lecturer over 50 times during the last several years. He serves as the Medical Director in the Michigan Chapter of the American Liver Foundation and the CEU Credited Clinical Course Lecture Series in Liver Diseases in the Liver Transplantation. Dr. Conjeevaram is also a member in the Clinical Practice Section of the American Gastroenterological Association.

Research: Dr. Conjeevaram is well known for his contribution to clinical research in the field of chronic viral hepatitis and more recently in the field of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). He is the lead author of the largest study comparing the effects of antiviral

therapy among African Americans and Caucasian Americans with chronic hepatitis C. His study clearly shows that African Americans with hepatitis C have a lower response rate to peginterferon and ribavirin compared to their Caucasian counterpart. This is likely to be due to a higher insulin resistance among the AA. Dr. Conjeevaram also has a serious research interest in the role of metabolic syndrome in patients with NAFLD. His study demonstrates that a low carbohydrate diet may reduce insulin resistance and decrease the risk of metabolic syndrome in patients with NAFLD. Furthermore, a carbohydrate restricted diet also improves hepatic histology in these patients. Dr. Conjeevaram is funded by several NIH awards including an UO1 award to study racial differences in response among African Americans and Caucasian Americans with chronic hepatitis C (principal investigator), a RO1 award to study insulin resistance and hepatic steatosis in chronic hepatitis C (co-investigator), a RO3 award to investigate the effect of PPAR alfa agonist fenofibrate in non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (principal investigator), and a R-21 award to study the effect of leptin in patients with non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (co-investigator). Overall, Dr. Conjeevaram's studies will lead to the better understanding of predictors of viral response in patients with chronic hepatitis C and the understanding of insulin resistance and management of hepatic steatosis in patients with both chronic hepatitis C and NAFLD. A restricted carbohydrate diet may prevent or delay disease progression in chronic hepatitis C and NAFLD. Because of his important contributions in the field of hepatitis C and NAFLD, Dr. Conjeevaram is called on to serve on the advisory committees of the FDA and NIH, an unusual honor for a faculty member at his rank.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

Conjeevaram HS, Kleiner DE, Everhart JE, Hoofnagle JH, Zacks S, Afdhal NH, Wahed AS for the Virahep-C Study Group: Race, Insulin Resistance and Hepatic Steatosis in Chronic Hepatitis C. *Hepatology* [Accepted July 2006].

Conjeevaram HS, Fried MW, Jeffers LJ, Terrault NA, Wiley-Lucas TE, Afdhal N, Brown RS, Belle SH, Hoofnagle JH, Kleiner DE, Howell CD for the Virahep-C Study Group: Peginterferon and Ribavirin Treatment in African American and Caucasian American Patients with Hepatitis C Genotype 1. *Gastroenterology* 131:470-477, 2006.

Kang H, Greenson JK, Omo JT, Chao C, Peterman D, Anderson L, Foess-Wood L, Sherbondy MA, Conjeevaram HS: Metabolic Syndrome is Associated with Greater Histologic Severity, Higher Carbohydrate, and Lower Fat Diet in Patients with NAFLD. *Am J Gastroenterol* 101:1-7, 2006.

Hussain HK, Chenevert TL, Londy FJ, Gulani V, Swanson SD, McKenna BJ, Appelman HD, Adusumilli S, Greenson JK, Conjeevaram HS: Hepatic fat fraction: MR imaging for quantitative measurement and display-early experience. *Radiology* 237:1048-1055, 2005.

Huang MA, Greenson JK, Chao C, Anderson L, Peterman D, Jacobson J, Emick D, Lok AS, Conjeevaram HS: One-year intense nutritional counseling results in histological improvement in patients with non-alcoholic steatohepatitis: a pilot study. *Am J Gastroenterol* 100:1072-1081, 2005.

Service: As evidence of his strong dedication to community service, Dr. Conjeevaram has volunteered on the local, national, and international levels. Dr. Conjeevaram serves as a faculty physician at the Ashley Clinic a couple of times a month. In addition to treating patients, he also teaches the medical students who volunteer at the clinic. Dr. Conjeevaram has also organized multiple health fairs to educate citizens about health screening and education. In June 2006, Dr. Conjeevaram's services were recognized by the University of Michigan Medical School and he was awarded the "Dean's Award for Community Service." Nationally and internationally, Dr. Conjeevaram has provided medical relief to those affected by Hurricane Katrina and the tsunami in Sri Lanka. Yearly, he also travels to India to see patients at a local hospital and teach families about health screening and education.

Professional Work: Dr. Conjeevaram is an outstanding clinician with great compassion for his patients. He has a large referral base. Dr. Conjeevaram has also made important contributions to the academic communities. He has served on important committees in our national societies including the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD). He has been recognized as a top 10-30% of reviewers for the *Annals of Internal Medicine* between 2000 and 2004. Recently, Dr. Conjeevaram was unanimously voted by faculty to be the first Program Director for the Hepatology Fellowship Program in the Division of Gastroenterology. Dr. Conjeevaram's patient care responsibilities include 2 half-days of hepatology clinic per week, 2 half-days of liver transplant clinic per month, 1 half-day of fellows clinic every 3 weeks, and 2 half-days of endoscopy per month at the Medical Procedures Unit in the University Hospital.

External Review:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Conjeevaram would clearly rank in the top 10% of academic, university-based hepatologists in his peer group."

Reviewer B: "His educator's portfolio is most impressive....There is little doubt that this aspect of his academic activity reflects exceptional talent."

Reviewer C: "Hari is well regarded among his peers and has achieved national recognition."

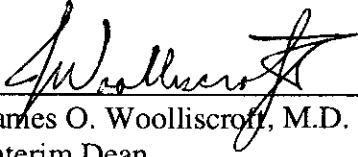
Reviewer D: "The fact that he has been invited to speak on viral hepatitis in 7 international venues is a testimony to his international recognition as a leader in this field."

Reviewer E: "Hari's work is well recognized in the field and he is considered in the top 10-15th percentile of clinical investigators in viral hepatitis and fatty liver disease."

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Conjeevaram is an excellent clinician and productive investigator who has gained international recognition for his contributions to the field of viral hepatitis and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. He is a dedicated and outstanding teacher who has won many teaching

awards. Dr. Conjeevaram is an exceptional humanitarian physician who has a long established record of providing community service to the less fortunate in the US and overseas. I am very pleased to recommend Dr. Conjeevaram for promotion to Associate Professor, with tenure, in the Department of Internal Medicine.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Woolliscroft', written over a horizontal line.

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

May 2007