

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Social Work

Larry M. Gant, associate professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work, is recommended for promotion to professor of social work, with tenure, in the School of Social Work.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1985	University of Michigan, Social Work & Psychology, Ann Arbor, MI.
M.A.	1985	University of Michigan, Psychology, Ann Arbor, MI.
M.S.W.	1981	University of Michigan, Social Work, Ann Arbor, MI.
A.B.	1979	University of Notre Dame, Psychology, South Bend, IN.

Professional Record:

1995 to present	Associate Professor, Social Work, University of Michigan
1987 to 1995	Assistant Professor, Social Work, University of Michigan
1982 to 1985	Research Associate, National Child Welfare Training Center, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Gant has taught ten different courses including foundation and required M.S.W. courses as well as specialized courses and doctoral dissertations. He has developed innovative materials and drawn upon his own research and practice to enrich the courses. He has been consistently rated as an “excellent teacher” by students with a score of 4.8 on a five-point scale. He has provided outstanding leadership in the School’s community-based learning activities where students take classes in Detroit and work with community agencies. Dr. Gant’s work in this area resulted in him receiving the Maynard/Karlstrom Award in 2006. He has been a critical player in the School’s curricular initiatives around diversity and social justice. Dr. Gant has been honored as a University of Michigan Laureate – Computerworld Honors Program for Contributions in Information Technology. Dr. Gant is a committed and dedicated “master teacher” who engages students in his research. He has developed a reputation as an exceptional role model particularly for students of color.

Research: Dr. Gant is one of the premier international and national scholars on HIV/AIDS focusing on communities of color. Working closely with Detroit-based agencies, he developed a risk-reduction program resulting in the receipt of a highly competitive NIH (RO-1) award and conducted randomized trials of interventions with hard-to-reach populations. One reviewer noted that “he has done virtually the unthinkable” by conducting randomized trials with exceptionally difficult populations. Equally impressive is his innovative work in community-based research. Here, he has literally taken the classroom in to the community creating a rich research-learning environment. A reviewer noted that “his commitment to the underserved populations that he works with is commendable as both a researcher and as a social work practitioner and scholar.” Dr. Gant is also recognized for his work utilizing mixed methods. A reviewer noted that “Dr. Gant’s use of grounded theory and qualitative methods to include participants’ voices is theoretically promising, conceptually sound and innovative.” In addition

to federal awards, he has successfully obtained funds from foundations such as Microsoft and Blue Cross Blue Shield. Dr. Gant publishes in some of the premier interdisciplinary and social work journals and is increasingly asked to write book chapters. He has over 30 articles or chapters in press or print since his promotion to associate professor.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Gant, L.M., Heath, K.M. and Gray, G.E. (in press). Early motherhood, high mortality and HIV/AIDS rates in Sub-Saharan Africa. Journal of Health and Social Policy.
- Fastenfest, D. and Gant, L.M. (in press). A model for pro-active and progressive university-community partnership. Professional Development.
- Gant, L.M. and Strom, D.P. (2004). HIV/AIDS and intravenous drug users: Issues and treatment implications. In S. Straussner (Ed.). Clinical work with Substance Abusing Clients, Second Edition. N.Y.: Guilford press.
- Gant, L.M. and Welch, L.A. (2004). Voices less heard: HIV-positive African American women, medication adherence, sexual abuse, and self-care. Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services, 3, 67-91.
- Gant, L.M. (2003). Evaluation of group work. In C. Garvin, M. Galinsky & L.Gutierrez (Eds.). Handbook of Social Work with Group. N.Y.: Guilford press.
- Salem, D.A., Gant, L.M. and Campbell, R. (1998). The initiation of mutual help groups within residential treatment settings. Community Mental Health Journal, 34, 419-429.
- Yeakley, A. and Gant, L.M. (1997). Cultural factors and policy implications: HIV/AIDS interventions and condom use among Latinos. Journal of Multicultural Social Work, 6, 47-71.

Service: Dr. Gant has an extraordinary service history. He serves on the School's Executive Committee and the Executive Committee of the UM Substance Abuse Research Center. His service on numerous University committees has been widely recognized as demonstrated by the receipt of the Harold R. Johnson Diversity Service Award (2006) and the Edward Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning Outstanding Faculty Member Award (2004). At the national and international level, Dr. Gant has served on the editorial boards of the major social work journals and on the advisory committee of the National Association of Social Workers HIV/AIDS Spectrum Project. Finally, he has integrated his research expertise with community well-being by working with numerous State of Michigan and Detroit programs on issues related to substance abuse and HIV/AIDS.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"He is a very rare scholar. Many scholars would be out of their element working in poor communities with minority populations as Dr. Gant has done...Clearly, Dr. Gant has been a pioneer in the area of community research on HIV/AIDS and African Americans. It would be very much my pleasure to offer Dr. Gant a position on our faculty as a full professor."

Reviewer (B)

"His sustained record of publications places him among leading scholars who are studying the implications of AIDS and African Americans. My overall evaluation is that Dr. Gant's work represents a consistent development of ideas, research interests and publications in areas of study

that bode well for his promotion to full professor. If he were at [my institution], he would be promoted to full professor.”

Reviewer (C)

“Clearly his NIDA funded intervention research on risk reduction programs for Black men could not be more important and vital. The focus on co-occurrence of substance abuse and HIV as a prevention effort is critically needed and novel. From the materials provided me he clearly has made a major impact on the local and regional levels and has established national prominence in accordance what is expected for the rank of Professor.”

Reviewer (D)

“Dr. Gant represents one of a small number of social work researchers in the country that has successfully obtained NIH funding to support his research and scholarship. I would judge Dr. Gant’s scholarly performance to be worthy of promotion to the rank of Professor...”

Reviewer (E)

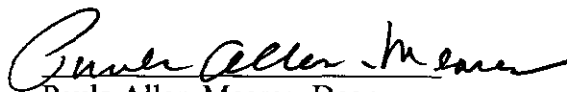
“Among those who have been working in the same specialty for a similar length of time, I consider Dr. Gant’s attainments and contributions to be among the most distinguished and recognized in our field.”

Reviewer (F)

“Compared to others, the candidate is conducting theoretically sound, innovative, cutting-edge research. His level of productivity is outstanding compared to that of colleagues of comparable rank and years in the field, particularly because he has clearly taken the lead in many of these publications.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Gant is an exceptional researcher and scholar in HIV/AIDS and community-based research. He has an established national and international reputation for his work and is expanding his work in West and Southern Africa. He is an exceptional teacher and a role model and mentor for doctoral and masters students. Finally, Dr. Gant’s service to the School, the University and the professional community is simply outstanding. All external reviewers strongly supported his promotion with no reservations. Accordingly, the Tenure and Promotion Committee of the School of Social Work and I recommend Larry M. Gant, associate professor of social work, with tenure, be promoted to professor of social work, with tenure, in the School of Social Work.



Paula Allen-Meares, Dean
Norma Radin Collegiate Professor of
Social Work and Professor of Education

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