

May 17, 2007

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

William L. Hasler, M.D., Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to Professor of Internal Medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D.	1983	University of Pennsylvania
B.S.	1979	Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Professional Record:

1998-Present	Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
1993-1998	Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
1990-1993	Instructor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
1989-1990	Lecturer, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Hasler has a long-standing commitment to education both within the University of Michigan Health System and as part of his devotion to continuing medical education activities. His teaching activities consist of classroom instruction, endoscopy instruction, preceptor in gastroenterology clinics, attending physician on gastroenterology consult and inpatient services, research mentorship, presentation at educational meetings and seminars, and preparation of written and audio educational materials. Dr. Hasler is a brilliant teacher who is able to rapidly grasp and assimilate ideas and present them with clarity and insight. He delivers yearly core lectures to the GI fellows on current concepts and practice related to diseases of gut motor activity and functional bowel disorders as well as instruction in the design of clinical studies and the preparation of documents for submission to IRBMED. Dr. Hasler also presents lectures related to the motility and functional disorders to the second-year medical students as part of their Gastroenterology Sequence lectures. He is extensively recruited to deliver lectures at several CME courses and to audiences at meetings of the major societies including the American Gastroenterological Association, the American Motility Society, and other international organizations. Dr. Hasler has served as the research mentor for six senior medical students, five senior medical residents, five GI fellows, and six visiting international fellows since joining the faculty of the University of Michigan. Dr. Hasler has provided the driving force for the publication of each of the two editions of the *Handbook of Gastroenterology*. This pocket-sized reference has become the most widely read portable text of its kind in gastroenterology used worldwide by senior medical students, internal medicine residents, and GI fellows. Most recently, Dr. Hasler has been proposed by the American Motility Society to serve as one of the organizers of a multi-center program designed to train visiting fellows in the

indications, performance, and interpretation of diagnostic methods of gastrointestinal motility. As recognition of his educational efforts, Dr. Hasler was recognized in *Who's Who in Medical Science Education* in 2005.

Research: Dr. Hasler's research focus is in the field of gut motility and visceral sensation and he has made seminal contributions in the understanding of diabetic gastroparesis and functional bowel disease. In the area of motility disorders associated with diabetes, Dr. Hasler made the important observation that abnormal gastric electrical rhythm evoked by hyperglycemia may significantly contribute to delayed gastric emptying in patients with diabetic gastroparesis. This appears to be mediated by a prostaglandin pathway. This and subsequent series of work explain for the first time the role of disordered gastric electrical rhythm in the delayed gastric emptying observed in diabetic patients with poorly controlled glycemic profile. It leads to novel therapeutic approaches to the management of this medically challenging condition. More recently, Dr. Hasler has been perfecting endoscopic techniques to measure regional variations in gastric pacemaker activity. These methods show promise in defining the role of myoelectric dysfunction in the production of symptoms in patients with gastroparesis and individuals with unexplained nausea and vomiting. As a reflection of the recognition he has gained, Dr. Hasler was recently invited to write the AGA technical review on the diagnosis and treatment of gastroparesis by our national organization. In the area of functional bowel disorders, Dr. Hasler makes equally important contributions in our understanding of the underlying mechanisms of this group of disorders. He utilizes a novel method to measure in vivo peristaltic reflex activity in humans and defines the actions mediated by 5HT₃ and 5HT₄ receptors at the level of extrinsic nerve fibers regulating motor activity in the colon. Dr. Hasler also published work to implicate 5HT pathways in the regulation of GI visceral function, providing the foundation for investigating afferent dysfunction in patients with dyspepsia. Dr. Hasler's most research efforts focused on studies of gas dynamic abnormalities in patients with unexplained gas and bloating. He made an important observation that a high fiber diet, frequently used in the treatment of irritable bowel syndromes, not only promotes excessive gas production but also significantly impairs gas transport that may further contribute to the symptoms in these individuals.

Dr. Hasler has demonstrated an outstanding record of obtaining independent external funding from the National Institutes of Health while on the faculty in the Division of Gastroenterology. Most recently, Dr. Hasler received funding from the National Institutes of Health to assemble one of five Clinical Centers nationally which comprise the Gastroparesis Clinical Research Consortium. This consortium under the direction of the Data Collecting Center at Johns Hopkins proposes to generate a large database of patients with gastroparesis over a five year period which will be used to characterize the demography and natural history of gastroparesis and will serve as the driving force to conduct multi-center clinical trials designed to delineate the pathogenesis of gastroparesis and responses of gastroparesis symptoms to novel therapies. In addition to these federal sources, Dr. Hasler also is principal investigator on a large Investigator-Initiated Research Project which is currently under evaluation by Novartis Pharmaceuticals to delineate the pathophysiologic abnormalities which underlie bloating in irritable bowel syndrome and to characterize the physiologic mechanisms of the prokinetic drug tegaserod to reduce gaseous symptoms in affected patients.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Coleski R, Gonlachanvit S, Owyang C, Hasler WL: Selective reversal of hyperglycemia-evoked gastric myoelectric dysrhythmias by nitrergic stimulation in healthy humans. *J Pharmacol Exp Ther* 312:103-111, 2005.

Gonlachanvit S, Coleski R, Owyang C, Hasler WL: Inhibitory actions of a high fiber diet on intestinal gas transit in healthy humans. *Gut* 53:1577-1582, 2004.

Parkman HP, Hasler WL, Fisher RS: AGA technical review on the diagnosis and treatment of gastroparesis. *Gastroenterology* 127:1592-1622, 2004.

Bjornsson E, Chey WD, Hooper F, Woods M, Owyang C, Hasler WL: Impaired gastrocolonic response and peristaltic reflex in idiopathic constipation: Role of 5-HT₃ pathways. *Am J Physiol* 283:G400-G407, 2002.

Ladabaum U, Brown MB, Pan W, Owyang C, Hasler WL: Effects of nutrients and serotonin 5-HT₃ antagonism on responses to distal gastric distension in humans. *Am J Physiol* 280:G201-G208, 2001.

Professional Work: Dr. Hasler's clinical expertise is in the field of gastrointestinal dysmotility syndromes and functional bowel disorders. He maintains an active clinical practice in which he sees patients referred for refractory nausea, vomiting, constipation, diarrhea, fecal incontinence, gas, and bloating. He is considered one of a handful of experts nationally in the care of gastroparesis, intestinal pseudoobstruction, irritable bowel syndrome, colonic inertia, outlet obstructive constipation, and functional bloating. Dr. Hasler devotes one half day of clinic per week to his cohort of patients with gastroparesis, data from whom are being incorporated into active databases. He also participates in the Functional Bowel Disorders clinic, which has been developed to provide specialized care and education to patients with irritable bowel syndrome and to serve as a recruitment vehicle for clinical trials. In addition to these activities which relate to his specific interests, Dr. Hasler also serves the Department of Internal Medicine as a clinician in the satellite clinic and endoscopy suite at the Livonia Center for Specialty Care one day each week and performs general endoscopy at the University of Michigan Hospital 2-3 full days each month. Finally, he serves as attending on the GI consult and inpatient services 6-8 weeks each year. In recognition of his clinical skills, Dr. Hasler has been named as one of America's Best Doctors and as one of the Best Doctors Internationally as well. As part of his commitment to clinical investigation, Dr. Hasler is currently in the second four year term as a voting member of the University of Michigan Institutional Review Board (IRBMED).

External Review:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Hasler has excelled at all aspects of the criteria by which one evaluates an academic physician. He has developed a strong research program, extending his research interests into the clinical arena, and served both basic science and clinical societies."

Reviewer B: "...Dr. William Hasler has demonstrated that he is an outstanding clinical investigator with seminal contributions to the science of neurogastroenterology and has ongoing federal support."

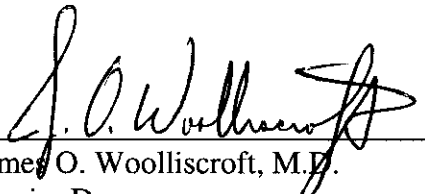
Reviewer C: "...I believe Dr. Hasler has an excellent record of scientific achievement in gastrointestinal and motility disorders that is recognized by national and international experts in this field. He has advanced our specialty in many arenas..."

Reviewer D: "Dr. Hasler is recognized nationally and internationally for his research in the field of gastric motility and functional bowel disorders, particularly for his human physiology studies."

Reviewer E: "...I believe that Dr. Hasler possesses the qualifications and achievements to rank with the very finest investigators and educators in gastroenterology in this country. He is probably on everybody's A-list of experts in upper gastrointestinal physiology and pathophysiology..."

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Hasler embodies the best of academic medicine. He is a highly talented and productive investigator who has achieved national and international recognition for his contributions to the field of gastrointestinal dysmotility syndromes and functional bowel disorders. He is an outstanding clinician with a national reputation and is a dedicated and gifted teacher. I am very pleased to recommend Dr. Hasler for promotion to the rank of Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine.


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

May 2007