

May 17, 2007

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
 UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL
 DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
 DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGY

Patricia L. Robertson, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, with tenure, Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, and Associate Professor of Neurology, without tenure, Department of Neurology, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, with tenure, Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, and Professor of Neurology, without tenure, Department of Neurology, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D.	1978	Wayne State University
M.S.	1971	Wayne State University
B.S.	1969	Michigan State University

Professional Record:

1997-Present	Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases and Associate Professor of Neurology, University of Michigan
1988-1997	Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases and Assistant Professor of Neurology, University of Michigan
1986-1988	Lecturer, Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Robertson's teaching (clinical/bedside and formal lectures) is directed to pediatric neurology, pediatric and neurology residents, pediatric hematology/oncology fellows, as well as radiation oncology and neurosurgery residents, and medical students. She consistently receives excellent to outstanding evaluations of her bedside/clinical teaching. She was an invited speaker at the American Academy of Neurology in 2005, and at the CRA Education Seminar at the Children's Oncology Group 2006 meeting, and received excellent evaluations. A noteworthy recent accomplishment is the establishment of a curriculum for pediatric neuro-oncology fellowship training. Dr. Melissa Mullins, a pediatric hematology fellow, requested the opportunity to devote a year of her fellowship training to pediatric neuro-oncology; Dr. Robertson devised a curriculum to provide her with a comprehensive training experience in clinical pediatric neuro-oncology, and mentored her research project to study quality of life in survivors of childhood brain tumors.

Research: Dr. Robertson's major research focus is on improving treatment of pediatric brain tumors. Her research has two major themes: devising more effective treatment for specific pediatric brain tumors, and understanding the impact of treatment on functional outcome. She initiated and served as the principal investigator of an industry-sponsored study of adjuvant

chemotherapy for treatment of brain-stem gliomas. She was a co-investigator on a Dana Foundation award, on a UM Clinical Research Partnership award, and a subsequent NIH-funded program project award to study quantitative MR imaging to guide brain tumor therapeutics. She has received salary support from the National Childhood Cancer Foundation for the past three years to serve as study chair for the development and implementation of a clinical trial to evaluate the safety and efficacy of Topotecan for the treatment of pontine/brainstem gliomas of childhood. She has contributed to multidisciplinary studies to evaluate the role of quantitative MR imaging to assess treatment response in pediatric brain tumors. She developed a treatment protocol which has been accepted by the Children's Oncology Group (National Cancer Institute) to assess the safety and efficacy of radiosensitizing chemotherapy for the treatment of pediatric malignant brainstem gliomas. She developed two protocols for the treatment of intracranial germ cell tumors which have been completed in a multi-center consortium, and which both resulted in improved outcomes (presented at International Symposium on CNS Germ Cell Tumors, November, 2005). She played an important role in the development of a recently completed study which assessed treatment of high risk PNET/medulloblastoma with chemotherapy and radiation, which demonstrated that radiation could not be safely deferred. Another important research focus has been on outcome studies. She, in collaboration with Dr. Jeffrey Allen (New York University), initiated a prospective study of surgical complications of medullo-blastoma in 1993; this work has come to fruition in the publication of the largest multi-center case series of the cerebellar mutism syndrome in children. Important results include greater recognition of the frequency, severity, and long-term impact of this neurological disorder, and identification of risk factors for this complication. She recently established a new collaboration (with Drs. James Gurney, Dept. of Pediatrics, UM and Rita Ayanggar, Dept. of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, UM) to study the influence of family adaptation on the quality of life in childhood survivors of brain tumors. Evidence of her national recognition as a leader in the field of Pediatric Neuro-oncology was provided by her recent election by her peers in the Children's Oncology Group to serve as National Chair of the Neurology Discipline Committee.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Robertson PL, Muraszko KM, Holmes J, Sposto R, Packer RJ, Gajjar A, Dias MS, Allen JC: Incidence and Severity of Postoperative Cerebellar Mutism Syndrome in Children with Medulloblastoma: A Prospective Study by the Children's Oncology Group. *J Neurosurg* (6 Suppl Pediatrics) 105:444-451, 2006.

Robertson PL: Advances in Treatment of Pediatric Brain Tumors. *NeuroRx* 3:276-291, 2006.

Kojic J, Robertson PL, Quint D, Martin D, Yuxi P, Sundgren P: High brain glutamine detected by magnetic resonance spectroscopy in a patient with carbamyl phosphate synthetase deficiency and encephalopathy. *Ped Neurol* 32:143-146, 2005. [Dr. Robertson served as the primary mentor for Dr. Kojic (a pediatric neurology resident) in preparing this manuscript.]

Moffat BA, Chenevert TL, Lawrence TS, Meyer TL, Johnson TD, Dong Q, Tsien C, Mukherjee S, Quint DJ, Gebarski SS, Robertson PL, Junck LR, Rehemtulla A, Ross BD: Functional diffusion map: A noninvasive MRI biomarker for early stratification of clinical brain tumor response. *PNAS* 102:5524-5529, 2005. [This collaborative University of Michigan study reports

a new quantitative magnetic resonance imaging measure that can serve as a powerful biomarker for assessment of treatment response in brain tumor patients. This work will significantly improve assessment of brain tumor response to treatment and guide treatment decisions.]

Jain R, Robertson PL, Gandhi S, Gujar SK, Muraszko KM, Gebarski S: Radiation-induced Cavernous Malformations of the Brain. AJNR 26:1158-1162, 2005.

Service: Dr. Robertson is strongly committed to clinical service. She provides pediatric neuro-oncology inpatient and outpatient consultations throughout the year. She also serves as the attending physician on the Pediatric Neurology Inpatient and Consultation Services for 10-11 weeks/year. She serves as the Director of the University of Michigan Pediatric Neuro-oncology program, and co-directs the Multi-disciplinary Pediatric Brain Tumor clinic with Dr. Karin Muraszko. She has active out-patient clinics in general pediatric neurology (2/week) and in pediatric neuro-oncology (3/week). In 2001, she was the recipient of the Department of Pediatrics Dickinson Collegiate Professorship, which was awarded in recognition of contributions to the care of children with special needs. Additional evidence of her clinical accomplishments and reputation includes her listing in "Best Doctors in America" (from 1995-2006). In the Division of Pediatric Neurology, she has been the Quality Assurance representative since 1992; she has developed important quality assurance programs that enhance clinical care, with a focus both on enhancing patient education, and rigorous systematic follow-up of test results. She was elected to serve as a faculty representative on the University of Michigan Senate Assembly from 2003-06 and has served as a member of the University of Michigan Medical School Institutional Review Board (IRB) since 2004. In the coming academic year, she will accept a significant new administrative responsibility, as Interim Director of the Division of Pediatric Neurology during Dr. Silverstein's six month sabbatical leave.

External Review:

Reviewer A: "I would consider her a leader in the field of pediatric neuro-oncology....She has a national reputation and has also demonstrated ongoing activity in that many of her chapters and publications occurred within the last two years, demonstrating continued commitment to academic excellence. She also has a clear heavy commitment to clinical care and teaching with excellence in those fields."

Reviewer B: "In sum, Dr. Robertson is a highly skilled physician. She has received multiple awards and honors in her career...Her recent appointment to Chair the Neurology Discipline Committee of the Children's Oncology group suggests that she will continue to have a long and productive career in neuro-oncology."

Reviewer C: "...Dr. Robertson is a well respected pediatric neuro-oncologist who is known both nationally and internationally....Her recent appointment as the Chair of the Neuroscience Committee is a major testament to her present and continued influence in the field."

Reviewer D: "Dr. Robertson's scholarship as a national senior leader in the comprehensive understanding of pediatric CNS tumors is at the highest level with seminal publications..."

Reviewer E: “Pat...has all of the attributes of a physician/scholar of the highest order...I recommend with highest enthusiasm the promotion of Dr. Robertson to the level of Professor...There is no doubt in my mind that Dr. Robertson would have achieved this academic milestone in our institution.”

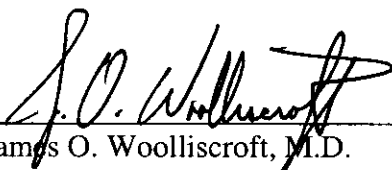
Reviewer F: “...she is nationally recognized as a leader in pediatric neuro-oncology and has carved out a specific niche as an expert in the unique but devastating complication of posterior fossa surgery known as akinetic mutism...I believe that Dr. Robertson would easily win promotion the level of Professor at [my institution].”

Reviewer G: “Dr. Robertson is one of the few pediatric neurologists who are focusing their research interests in neuro-oncology. For a pediatric neurologist to succeed in this field is very difficult and Dr. Robertson is doing an excellent job...I believe that Dr. Robertson has developed a well-earned reputation as a leader in the field of pediatric neuro-oncology.”

Reviewer H: “Her national recognition is highlighted by the fact that she has been named to ‘Best Doctors in America’ for the last seven years...”

Summary and Recommendation:

Dr. Robertson is a highly valued member of the Division of Pediatric Neurology. She is recognized in the Departments of Pediatrics and Neurology as an outstanding clinician and teacher. She is a leader of an important multidisciplinary program to treat pediatric brain tumors at the University of Michigan. Her appointment to serve as National Chair of the Neurology Discipline Committee in the Children’s Oncology Group provides strong recognition of her accomplishments as a clinical investigator in pediatric neuro-oncology. Dr. Robertson plays a unique and invaluable role in the Departments of Pediatrics and Neurology and I wholeheartedly support her promotion to professor.


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

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