

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Approved by the Regents

May 17, 2007

Michael S. Sabel, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, Department of Surgery, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to Associate Professor of Surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D.	1992	Temple University
B.S.	1988	Pennsylvania State University Eberly College of Science

Professional Record:

2001-Present	Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan
1999-2001	Instructor of Surgery, State University of New York at Buffalo

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Sabel teaches undergraduates, medical students, residents, post-doctoral and breast oncology fellows, practicing physicians, and patient groups. His teaching activities amount to more than 540 hours per year and approximately 470 students are the recipients of this talent and knowledge. In conjunction with the Health Sciences Scholars Program, he routinely allows undergraduate students with an interest in health sciences to shadow him during his surgical oncology clinics. As part of the anatomy curriculum, he coordinates a set of lectures for the first-year medical students once a year on the anatomy of the breast and axilla and the management of breast cancer. Once a year Dr. Sabel also lectures as part of the surgical anatomy course offered to the fourth-year students. Every two months he gives two lectures to all of the third-year medical students on the surgery rotation. In addition, he holds an evening elective review for the surgery oral examination which has become quite popular. Most significantly, he is the student facilitator for the surgical oncology rotation. In addition to coordinating the curriculum for their SON rotation, Dr. Sabel gives a weekly lecture on a variety of topics. In addition to having surgical residents in the operating room and the clinic, where the great majority of teaching takes place, he gives several lectures as part of their yearly curriculum. He has mentored both students and residents in his basic science laboratory. Dr. Sabel is also responsible for teaching breast oncology fellows on the management and treatment of both benign and malignant breast disease. Dr. Sabel routinely gives lectures to physicians on the management of melanoma as part of the Melanoma Awareness Program sponsored by Schering Oncology, and serves on their speaker's bureau. He is also on the Genomic Health speaker's bureau, lecturing on the use of Oncotype DX in breast cancer. He has also given multiple grand rounds at hospitals throughout Michigan, as well as nationally. Dr. Sabel is on the faculty of the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy course, which teaches general surgeons how to perform sentinel lymph node biopsy. He is also a member of the Education Committee for the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group. Finally, for

several years Dr. Sabel has been the course director for "Cancer Update 2006," a CME course meant to update practicing physicians on the management of cancer.

Dr. Sabel has developed several teaching materials at various levels. On the patient level, he wrote a handbook for the newly diagnosed breast cancer patients to help them understand their treatment. He also developed several teaching aides for both medical students and the surgical residents for use when they are on the surgical oncology rotation. Dr. Sabel coordinated the preoperative and postoperative care of surgical oncology patients among the various attending surgeons, and created manuals for the residents, nurses, and physician assistants. He is presently working with the Department of Surgery to make these web-based. Dr. Sabel is the author of two textbooks in the *Surgical Foundations* series, and the co-editor of *Surgical Foundations: Essentials of Surgical Oncology* and the sole author of *Surgical Foundations: Essentials of Breast Surgery*. As the student facilitator for the Surgical Oncology service, Dr. Sabel is responsible for the curriculum of the third- and fourth-year students while on this rotation, and serves on the committee which guides the overall curriculum for the third-year rotation.

Research: Dr. Sabel's basic science research focuses on immunotherapy, primarily the study of *in situ* vaccination as an alternative to post-operative vaccination in the creation of an anti-tumor immune response. His primary area of research centers on the use of intratumoral cytokines, delivered using poly lactic acid (PLA) microspheres, on the generation of a systemic response, and the mechanisms involved. He has a second area of interest in cryo-immunology, or the generation of a systemic immune response after freezing the primary tumor. Grant support is in the form of an NIH-KO8, and the Gillson-Longenbaugh Foundation Grant (private), of which Dr. Sabel is the principal investigator. Dr. Sabel has several additional research projects, both basic science and clinical. He is one of the lead investigators on a large multi-center trial through the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (protocol Z1052) that should be opening for accrual this fall. With regard to clinical research, Dr. Sabel serves as the director of the Breast Cancer Outcomes Research Project, where he has orchestrated the development of a breast cancer outcome database; in collaboration with Dr. Celina Kleer in the Department of Pathology, they have constructed a tissue microarray for the evaluation of new prognostic markers in breast cancer; and he maintains a database of melanoma patients for the purpose of outcomes research. Dr. Sabel is on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* (Breast Cancer section) and the *American Journal of Oncology Review*. He is also ad hoc reviewer for *Cancer*, *Annals of Surgical Oncology* and *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment*. He has worked as a consultant for Sanarus, a biotechnology company. Since joining the faculty in 2001, he has 51 peer reviewed publications (including manuscripts in press). Dr. Sabel has written 11 book chapters in other textbooks, three chapters for the on-line textbook *UpToDate*, and seven chapters in his own textbook; *Essentials of Surgery*.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

Sabel MS, Nehs MA, Su G, Lowler K, Ferrara J, Chang AE: Immunological response to cryoablation of breast cancer. *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment* 90:97-104, 2005.

Sabel MS, Griffith K, Sondak VK, Lowe L, Schwartz J, Cimmino VM, Chang AE, Rees RS, Bradford CR, Johnson TM: Predictors of non-sentinel lymph node positivity in patients with a

positive sentinel node for melanoma. *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* 201:37-47, 2005.

Arora A, Lowe L, Su L, Rees R, Bradford C, Cimmino VC, Chang AE, Johnson TM, Sabel MS: Wide local excision alone for desmoplastic melanoma. *Cancer* 104:1462-1467, 2005.

Sabel MS, Skitzki J, Stoolman L, Egilmez NK, Mathiowitz E, Bailey N, Chang W-J, Chang AE: Intratumoral IL-12 and TNF-alpha loaded microspheres leads to regression of breast cancer and systemic anti-tumor immunity. *Annals of Surgical Oncology* 11:147-156, 2004.

Sabel MS, Kaufman CS, Whitworth P, Chang H, Stocks LH, Simmons R, Schultz M: Cryoablation of early-stage breast cancer: Work-in-progress report of a multi-institutional trial. *Annals of Surgical Oncology* 11(5):542-549, 2004.

Service: Dr. Sabel was recently elected to serve as a representative of the Medical School on the University of Michigan State Assembly. He currently serves on the Medical Affairs Advisory Committee of the University of Michigan Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs. Recently he completed a term on the Protocol Review Committee and presently serves on the University of Michigan Breast Cancer Task Force. As the student facilitator for the surgical oncology rotation, Dr. Sabel works with Drs. Cimmino and Minter to help guide the student rotation on surgery. For the American Society of Breast Disease, he serves on the Diagnostic Committee and the Program Committee for the 2006 Annual Meeting. He was the Chair of the Poster Committee for the 2005 Annual Meeting and for the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group; he serves on the Melanoma Working Group Committee and the Education Committee. He is Chair of the Abstract Review Committee, 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium of the American Society of Breast Disease. Dr. Sabel's contribution to the University of Michigan is noteworthy and evidenced by his numerous clinical publications, presentations, and memberships in national and professional organizations.

External Review:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Sabel is well-known in the world of surgical oncology, nationally and internationally, and has developed a national reputation for his work in melanoma and breast cancer."

Reviewer B: "...he has become established as an independent thinker with regard to the clinical management of melanoma and breast cancer and an active participant in national trials."

Reviewer C: "Dr. Sabel is certainly very productive and should be ranked high with his peers...His primary interest is in tumor immunology and immunotherapy, and his clinical focus is breast cancer and melanoma and he has made significant contributions in these areas especially in the immunology of breast cancer."

Reviewer D: "Dr. Sabel has made many seminal contributions in several different areas of surgical oncology, cancer biology, and immunology...Dr. Sabel's publication record is certainly outstanding, and in the past few years he has begun to attract significant extramural funding..."

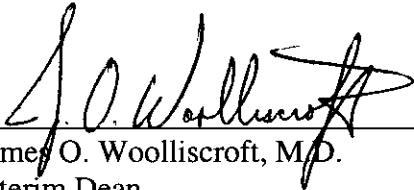
Reviewer E: “His publications are quite thorough and honest in their presentation...he is clearly a very productive individual who is on a fast track and I believe your department of surgery and institution is fortunate to have him on your faculty.”

Reviewer F: “...Dr. Sabel has successfully established himself as a surgeon who is nationally recognized for his translational research interests in breast carcinoma as well as his ability to address complex clinical issues.”

Reviewer G: “Dr. Sabel has done seminal work in defining immunologic effects of regional therapy for breast cancer, using cryotherapy, and has pursued these studies further by initiation of a national clinical trial of cryotherapy for early breast cancer.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Michael S. Sabel is well respected by his colleagues and is known to be an outstanding clinician and scientist. He is an excellent role model and teacher who is dedicated to medical education, national service, research, and academic clinical care. I am pleased to recommend him for promotion to Associate Professor of Surgery with tenure.



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James O. Woolliscroft, M.D.  
Interim Dean

*Lyle C. Roll Professor of Medicine*

May 2007