Approved by the Regents
May 15, 2008

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

John P. Wolfe, assistant professor of chemistry, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of chemistry, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
B.A.	1994	University of Colorado, Boulder

Professional Record:

2006 – present	William R. Roush Assistant Professor of Chemistry, University of Michigan
2002 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Michigan
1999 - 2002	National Institutes of Health NRSA Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California, Irvine

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Wolfe is a dedicated teacher and research mentor. He excels at explaining key concepts using real-world examples. Students give him good to outstanding evaluations, and peer evaluations of his didactic teaching indicate that he is an engaging, dynamic, and creative instructor. Departmental faculty members are extremely enthusiastic about the expertise he brings to the undergraduate teaching program. He has also served on multiple graduate student thesis and preliminary committees, and as a dedicated research mentor to a large cohort of undergraduate and graduate students.

Research – Professor Wolfe has gained national and international recognition as an expert in the field of synthetic organic chemistry. His research effort focuses on the development of metal-ligand complexes that efficiently catalyze important reactions in the synthesis of key small molecules. This particular subdiscipline of chemistry is termed "organometallic chemistry" and is at the interface of organic and inorganic chemistry. He has published 29 research articles and reviews in high-quality/high impact journals, obtained competitive faculty awards and grant funding, and presented his work at conferences and university seminar series. He has garnered national respect and praise as one of the top synthetic chemists in his peer group.

Recent and Significant Publications:

"Synthesis and reactivity of azapalladacyclobutanes," with J. E. Ney, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, 128, 2006, pp. 15415-15422.

"Palladium-catalyzed synthesis of 2,1'-disubstituted tetrahydrofurans from γ-hydroxy internal alkenes. Evidence for alkene insertion into a Pd-O bond and stereochemical scrambling via β-hydride elimination," with M. B. Hay, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, 127, 2005, pp. 16468-16476.

"Palladium-catalyzed synthesis of N-aryl pyrrolidines from γ- (*N*-arylamino) alkenes: Evidence for chemoselective alkene insertion into Pd-N bonds," with J. E. Ney, *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*, 43, 2004, pp. 3605-3608.

"Stereoselective synthesis of tetrahydrofurans via the palladium-catalyzed reaction of aryl bromides with γ-hydroxy alkenes. Evidence for an unusual intramolecular olefin insertion into a Pd (Ar) (OR) intermediate," with M. A. Rossi, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, 126, 2004, pp. 1620-1621.

Service – Professor Wolfe served on the Graduate Recruiting and Admissions Committees, where he worked to increase the number and quality of organic chemistry graduate applications, and on the Faculty Search Committee where he was an important contributor to our recent success in recruiting outstanding faculty to the Department of Chemistry. He was instrumental in developing the curriculum of a new team-taught graduate course in organometallic chemistry and in organizing a monthly group meeting for researchers in this field. He has also been active as a reviewer of manuscripts and grant proposals.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"Wolfe is clearly one of the top individuals in his age group in the world in the area of synthetic organic chemistry with respect to accomplishment, talent and likelihood of continued future success. With Wolfe there is no hype, just results and important ones. … He is smart, creative, driven, a dedicated educator and one who is destined for continued success."

Reviewer (B)

"John Wolfe is best known for his superb work on the palladium catalyzed addition of carbon and nitrogen or oxygen across double bonds. … This result opens up new vistas in synthetic chemistry. …Michigan's Chemistry Department is blessed with some of the very brightest and most talented faculty [of their age group] in the country. I congratulate your department on recruiting and nurturing the careers of so many excellent chemists."

Reviewer (C)

"…Wolfe is an excellent scientist who will add strength to your department for a long time to come. …his productivity and depth speak volumes by themselves."

Reviewer (D)

"…Dr. Wolfe has demonstrated a track record for success in the development of new and useful synthetic methods… In particular, his palladium-catalyzed carboetherification and carboamination methods are very significant contributions to the synthesis of important classes of heterocycles and would certainly be listed among the most effective strategies for their synthesis. … Dr. Wolfe's prolific publication record and ability to obtain funding even in difficult times augur well for future success."

Reviewer (E)

"In his five years at Michigan, John has published nearly 20 research papers focused on the development of powerful new reactions of use to synthesis-oriented chemistry. They are high quality, thorough, and scholarly contributions."

Reviewer (F)
"To me, this is a slam dunk. Prof. Wolfe has conducted work that is conceptually novel. He is clearly productive, has ambition while being level-headed, has been able to raise sufficient funds to sustain a significant program at Michigan, and gives clear concise lectures and should be an outstanding classroom teacher."

Reviewer (G)
"John not only produces superior science, but he presents it in a very effective way. His papers are thoughtful and well crafted. ...his chemistry is currently branching out in new directions. ...all signs point toward a vigorous scientific future for him and his group."

Reviewer (H)
"...I think this is a highly deserved promotion. Professor Wolfe is an outstanding scholar, and his national and international reputation is firmly established. He is a deep thinker with highly notable contributions to fundamental reaction chemistry. ... Prof. Wolfe's standing in relation to his contemporaries in the same field is outstanding. He is at home among a cohort of high impact players developing new organometallic reaction chemistry."

Reviewer (I)
"John has been incredibly productive at Michigan, and his extensive published works are characterized by incredible attention to detail, sound mechanistic studies, and a scholarly exposition of the results. ... He has already established himself as a leading pioneer among a very talented peer group of synthetic organic chemists."

Summary of Recommendation:
Professor Wolfe has excelled in research, teaching, and service, gaining both national and international recognition in his field. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor John P. Wolfe be promoted to the rank of associate professor of chemistry, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History, and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2008