

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY

Approved by the Regents
May 15, 2008

Susan Urba, M.D., Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, and Associate Professor of Otorhinolaryngology, without tenure, Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to Professor of Internal Medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, and Professor of Otorhinolaryngology, without tenure, Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D.	1983	University of Michigan
B.S.	1978	Mercy College of Detroit

Professional Record:

1996-Present	Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
1996-Present	Associate Professor of Otorhinolaryngology, University of Michigan
1992-1996	Assistant Professor of Otorhinolaryngology, University of Michigan
1990-1996	Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
1988-1991	Lecturer, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Since her promotion to Associate Professor (with tenure) in 1996, Dr. Urba has been extensively involved in both didactic and clinical teaching and supervision of medical students, Internal Medicine residents, and subspecialty trainees. Dr. Urba has developed a full Palliative Care curriculum for the medical students that spans all four years of training. This year, she has collaborated with faculty from other disciplines to create a new interdisciplinary course on end of life care that will be offered to medical students, nursing students, and social work students. Additionally, Dr. Urba is in charge of the fellows' education program in palliative care, including didactic lectures and their clinical experiences in hospice and palliative care issues. She has also established a Pain Journal Club and a Palliative Care Journal Club, and has brought the Schwartz Rounds to the University of Michigan as a forum for health care workers to discuss their experiences with challenging aspects of patient care.

Research: Dr. Urba is recognized as a national and international leader in the area of clinical research in both esophageal cancer and in head and neck cancer. Her study comparing pre-operative chemoradiation versus surgery alone in patients with locoregionally advanced esophageal cancer is considered a landmark investigation, and the publication describing the

results of the trial was included as a “classic paper” in a special edition of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. Dr. Urba’s work in organ preservation in head and neck cancer has contributed to the University of Michigan’s reputation as a leader in this area. Her national stature also led to her being asked to serve as the Chair of the Southwest Oncology Head and Neck Cancer Committee for four years. Recently, Dr. Urba reported on a trial demonstrating that a single cycle of induction chemotherapy can quickly select patients with advanced laryngeal cancer for definitive therapy, leading to excellent organ preservation rates and excellent survival. Over the past several years, Dr. Urba has developed an additional focus in the area of palliative care. While much of her effort in this area have been devoted to developing a strong educational program at the University of Michigan, she has recently designed a clinical trial aimed at controlling persistent nausea at end of life. This work is supported by MGI Pharma and will include patients from both the University of Michigan and Arbor Hospice. Her growing national reputation in this area is reflected in her membership on three National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines Panels: Supportive Care, Pain Managements, and Anti-emetics.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Urba SG, Wolf GT, Bradford CR, Thornton AF, Eisbruch A, Terrell JE, Carpenter V, Miller T, Tang G, Strawderman M: Neoadjuvant therapy for organ preservation in head and neck cancer. *Laryngoscope* 110:2074-2080, 2000.

Urba SG, Orringer MB, Turrisi A, Iannettoni M, Forastiere A, Strawderman M: Randomized trial of preoperative chemoradiation versus surgery alone in patients with locoregional esophageal carcinoma. *J Clin Oncol* 19:305-313, 2001.

Urba SG, Orringer MB, Iannettoni M, Hayman JA, Satoru H: Concurrent cisplatin, paclitaxel and radiotherapy as preoperative treatment for patients with locoregional esophageal carcinoma. *Cancer* 98:2177-2183, 2003.

Urba SG, Moon J, Giri PGS, Adelstein D, Hanna E, Yoo GH, LeBlanc M, Ensley J, Schuller D. Organ preservation for advanced resectable cancer of the base of tongue and hypopharynx: A Southwest Oncology Group Trial. *J Clin Oncol* 23:88-95, 2005.

Urba S, Wolf G, Eisbruch A, Worden F, Lee J, Bradford C, Teknos T, Chepeha D, Prince M, Hogikyan N, Taylor J: Single-Cycle induction chemotherapy selects patients with advanced laryngeal cancer for combined chemoradiation: A new treatment paradigm. *J Clin Oncol* 24: 593-598, 2006.

Service: In addition to her activities as a clinical investigator and educator, Dr. Urba is a highly respected physician who devotes considerable effort to the leadership of the Adult Palliative Care Consult Service. Dr. Urba’s national stature as a clinician is reflected by her repeated citation as one of “America’s Top Doctors.” In addition to her clinical activities as an attending physician

on the Adult Palliative Care Consult Service, she serves on the Medical School Institutional Review Board and the Pain Steering Committee, and is a Medical Director for Arbor Hospice. At the national level, Dr. Urba provided leadership as a trustee of the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine in its early years, and currently serves on three National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines Panels.

External Review:

Reviewer A: “Dr. Urba is one of a small handful of elite medical oncologists with both interest and expertise in the management of head and neck cancer. She is considered a national and international expert in this field....It should be pointed out that most medical oncologist develop proficiency and excellence in one sub-specialty area of the field. I find it most unusual that Dr. Urba has managed to develop expertise and national prominence in three separate sub-specialty niches within medical oncology.”

Reviewer B: “[As Chair of the Head & Neck Committee at SWOG] she was instrumental in revitalizing the committee membership, making tremendous strides in establishing priorities, opening new trials and increasing accrual.”

Reviewer C: “Dr. Urba is in the top tier of experts in both head/neck cancer and esophageal cancer. She is highly esteemed by her peers, as evidenced by invitations to give lectures in international meetings, and to write chapters in her area of expertise.”

Reviewer D: “Susan is one of our national leaders in the field of esophageal cancer. Her seminal work in conjunction with Dr. Mark Orringer established the foundation for the use of neoadjuvant therapy for esophageal cancer in the United States. She is a well respected clinician, investigator, and speaker.”

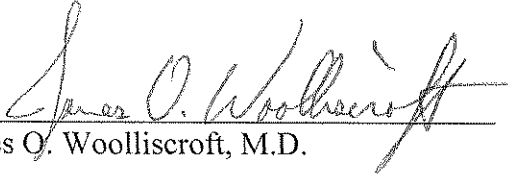
Reviewer E: “Dr. Urba is a world class physician who is well grounded in research, clinical care and education.”

Reviewer F: “Dr. Urba is a clinical researcher of considerable renown both nationally and internationally in the field of head and neck and esophageal cancer. She is well respected for her individual efforts as well as for her development and leadership of multi-disciplinary research teams...”

Reviewer G: “She is well respected about the country. She is an excellent and quite visible ambassador for the University of Michigan....She has an important voice in national peer organizational activities...In our institution, she would be promoted to Professor of Medicine. She also would be among an elite group of physicians who would be asked to see family members of staff and faculty.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Urba has demonstrated exceptional leadership in the areas of esophageal cancer, head and neck cancer, and palliative care. She has continued to make substantive contributions to improved patient care through her clinical research trials, and this work has garnered her national and international recognition. She is a highly respected clinician and educator who has been instrumental in the development of a strong palliative care program at the University of Michigan. Dr. Urba is certainly a most worthy candidate for promotion to Professor of Internal Medicine, with tenure, and Professor of Otorhinolaryngology, without tenure.



James O. Woolliscroft, M.D.

Dean

Lyle C. Roll Professor of Medicine

May 2008