

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Gilbert R. Upchurch, Jr., M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to Professor of Surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D.	1991	University of North Carolina
B.A.	1983	University of North Carolina

Professional Record:

2004-Present	Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan
1999-2004	Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Upchurch has major teaching responsibilities for medical students, residents in general surgery and vascular surgery, and fellows. He has been involved with formal classroom teaching in clinical graduate lectures for 30 hours a year and in graduate small group/case discussions 20 hours per year. This teaching is in addition to his educational activities at the bedside and in the operating room. Hospital rounds with the medical students and residents equals 120 hours per year. His medical student teaching covers all aspects of care from the social needs of patients to diagnostic and therapeutic interventions, as well as the molecular basis of many vascular diseases. He is an enthusiastic medical student teacher and was awarded the Kaiser-Permanente Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Clinical Sciences in 2005, and the William W. Coon Teaching Award given by the general surgery residents, also in 2005. Dr. Upchurch is also an Alpha Omega Alpha faculty advisor, reflecting his impact on student education.

Dr. Upchurch served as the Director of Medical Student Mentoring for the Department of Surgery from 2002 to 2007. This administrative position carries with it the responsibility for one-on-one discussions with all senior medical students applying for surgical house officer positions.

Dr. Upchurch has mentored many undergraduate and medical students, as well as residents who themselves have gone on to receive numerous awards and accolades for their achievements. He is a faculty mentor for UROP students where several of his students have been awarded best posters at national medical meetings. He has been mentor and preceptor to medical students and residents in both the clinical and research settings. These students have gone on to receive numerous research and clinical excellence awards under his tutelage. There is no question that Dr. Upchurch's influence has had a very positive impact on the development of their scholarly careers.

Research: Dr. Upchurch has had considerable success in his laboratory investigations on the mechanisms and gender differences in aneurysm formation. He is a nationally recognized expert in this field and has received several grants over the past four years to support his research efforts. He has received two Lifeline Foundation Student Research Fellowship grants to investigate the role of L-Selectin in neutrophil recruitment during experimental aortic aneurysm formation and to investigate the mechanisms of apoptosis in the pathogenesis of abdominal aortic aneurysms. Dr. Upchurch also received the Lifeline Foundation's von Liebig Award and a NIH KO8 grant to study whether MMP-dependent vessel wall remodeling is NO-dependent.

Most recently, Dr. Upchurch was awarded a 2.3 million dollar NIH RO1 grant to examine gender differences in experimental aortic aneurysms. He has also been investigator or co-investigator on eight other organizational, corporate, or nationally funded research grants. He is also on the Research Activities Committee for the American Vascular Association. Dr. Upchurch has authored or co-authored 71 journal publications since his last promotion and has contributed to 25 book chapters during that same time. He has been a reviewer for multiple scholarly publications and has presented his work at all the major academic clinical vascular surgery societies, where he is recognized as an authority on diseases of the aorta.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Sinha I, Bethi S, Cronin P, Williams DM, Roelofs K, Ailawadi G, Henke PK, Eagleton MJ, Deeb GM, Patel HJ, Berguer R, Stanley JC, Upchurch GR, Jr: A biologic basis for asymmetric growth in descending thoracic aortic aneurysms: A role for matrix metalloproteinase 9 and 12. *J Vasc Surg* 43:342-8, 2006.

Eliason JL, Hannawa KK, Ailawadi G, Sinha I, Ford JW, Deogracias MP, Roelofs KJ, Woodrum DT, Ennis TL, Henke PK, Stanley JC, Thompson RW, Upchurch GR Jr: Neutrophil depletion inhibits experimental abdominal aortic aneurysm formation. *Circulation* 112:232-40, 2005.

Hannawa KK, Eliason JL, Woodrum DT, Pearce CG, Roelofs KJ, Grigoryants V, Eagleton MJ, Henke PK, Wakefield TW, Myers DD, Stanley JC, Upchurch GR Jr: L-selectin-mediated neutrophil recruitment in experimental rodent aneurysm formation. *Circulation*. 112:241-7, 2005.

Rosenberg BL, Comstock MC, Butz DA, Taheri PA, Williams DM, Upchurch GR Jr: Endovascular AAA repair is more profitable than open AAA repair based on contribution margin. *Surgery* 137: 285-92, 2005.

Ailawadi G, Eliason JL, Roelofs KJ, Sinha I, Hannawa KK, Kaldjian EP, Lu G, Henke PK, Stanley JC, Weiss SJ, Thompson RW, Upchurch GR Jr: Gender differences in experimental aortic aneurysm formation. *Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol*. 24:2216-22, 2004.

Service: Dr. Upchurch's administrative responsibilities at the University of Michigan include Associate Chair of Clinical Affairs for the Department of Surgery, McKay Grant Review Committee, Surgery Advisory Committee, and the Hospital's Credentials Committee. Nationally, Dr. Upchurch was on the American Vascular Association Board of Directors from

2004-2007, and the membership committees for both the Association for Academic Surgery and the Society for Vascular Surgery.

Professional Work: Dr. Upchurch provides care to patients at the University of Michigan Hospital and, up until July of 2007, at the Ann Arbor Veterans Administration Medical Center. He performs on average 250 operations per year and sees on average 1300 outpatients per year. His unique clinical experience is in aneurysmal disease of the aorta. Dr. Upchurch recently submitted a multi-million dollar proposal for the development of an aortic program at the Cardiovascular Center. This unique program would foster collaboration between Vascular Surgery, Cardiac Surgery, Interventional Radiology and Cardiovascular Medicine. This unique program idea is an example of the innovative thinking that makes Dr. Upchurch a valuable asset to the University of Michigan.

External Review:

Reviewer A: “Gib is truly a triple threat....Gib is recognized nationally and internationally, both for his research as well as his leadership. He has become and will continue to be a leader in American Vascular Surgery.”

Reviewer B: “...Dr. Upchurch has received an unusually large number of teaching awards, and I know from discussions with others that he has established a very active clinical practice, for which he is highly regarded. It is distinctly unusual at this point in time to find an outstanding investigator, teacher and clinician, especially in the field of surgery, which is so clinically demanding....I believe that Dr. Upchurch is in the top 5% of his peers in academic vascular surgery...”

Reviewer C: “His contributions in the clinical and basic research field of abdominal aortic aneurysm pathobiology are nationally and internationally recognized. Dr. Upchurch’s publications are frequently quoted as seminal contributions.”

Reviewer D: “Dr. Upchurch is a true superstar in American vascular surgery....I cannot name another mid-career academic vascular surgeon in the United States whose accomplishments come close to Dr. Upchurch’s.”

Reviewer E: “Dr. Upchurch’s clinical research is particularly relevant as it bridges the gap between the bench and the bedside. His high quality work invariably culminates in an important publication in one of the topmost scientific journals. His work is of the highest quality and represents a very significant contribution in the field of Vascular Surgery. His impact on others practicing Vascular Surgery has been wide, deep, important and sustained....Any institution that comes to mind, including our own, would be most willing and highly honored to number Dr. Gilbert Upchurch among its professional or Professorial faculty.”

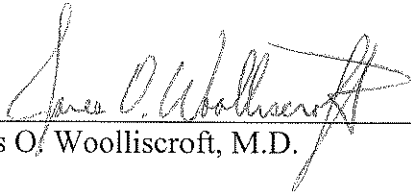
Reviewer F: “I consider him to clearly be the most prominent vascular surgeon of his age group...”

Reviewer G: “There is little doubt that Dr. Upchurch is highly regarded by his peers, and I would easily rank him in the top five percent in the field of Vascular Surgery.”

Reviewer H: “Our regard for his academic performance is reflected in the fact that we recruited him highly and, in fact, he was the first person we interviewed when the position of Section Head of Vascular Surgery became available at our institution.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Upchurch has exhibited outstanding academic and clinical productivity. He has published extensively and has been able to attract extramural funding for research. He has given numerous presentations in regional and national forums. He has an international reputation as an investigator, being an expert in aortic aneurysm formation and gender differences in aortic aneurysms. He is viewed as one of the University of Michigan Medical School’s outstanding teachers of both students and residents. His potential for continued excellence in academic medicine is clear and he will no doubt provide a leading role in advancing the Medical School and the Health System in years to come. I am pleased, therefore, to recommend Dr. Upchurch for promotion to Professor of Surgery.



James O. Woolliscroft, M.D.

Dean

Lyle C. Roll Professor of Medicine

May 2008