

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan-Dearborn  
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters  
Department of Behavioral Sciences

Approved by the Regents  
May 14, 2009

Nancy H. Wrobel, associate professor of psychology, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to professor of psychology, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Sciences, Colleges of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 1988	Wayne State University
M.A. 1983	University of Dayton
B.A. 1978	Hiram College

Professional Record

2007 - present	Chair, Department of Behavioral Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1996 - present	Associate Professor, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1990 - 1996	Assistant Professor, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1989- 1990	Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1988 - 1989	Staff Psychologist, Kingwood Hospital

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching. Professor Wrobel's teaching and pedagogical contributions are rated excellent. The committee evaluated her contributions through student evaluations, undergraduate and graduate teaching and course development, and student mentoring. In a department with a number of outstanding teachers – including eight recipients of the campus Teaching Excellence Award – she ranks as one of the best. Over the last decade she has averaged 4.50 on the instructor rating item (How would you rank this instructor?) where 5 designates excellent, and 4.35 on the course rating question on the Behavioral Sciences Department student evaluation form. These averages demonstrate excellence across a variety of topics, pedagogical approaches, and course levels: from introductory courses to upper-level specialty and on-line courses and clinical courses to graduate courses. Though distance learning does not tabulate statistical averages, a review of the compiled student evaluations for each course reveals a pattern of responses similar to those of her regular classroom courses. Over 90% of her students give her an "A" on enthusiasm, preparation and organization, and willingness to help. Professor Wrobel has played an important role in the development of courses that are essential aspects of the undergraduate and graduate degree programs. She developed Clinical Neuropsychology and has team-taught it with two of her colleagues. She also developed an online version of a course she teaches on a regular basis (Abnormal Psychology). Recently, she has added a second on-line offering, Child Psychopathology. Psychology offers a graduate program with specialization in clinical health psychology. Professor Wrobel developed three core courses for this track. Additionally, she has supervised a number of undergraduate research papers and graduate theses. As a result of her endeavors, her students graduate from our campus with the skills necessary to directly enter the job market or continue their education in graduate or professional school.

Research: Professor Wrobel's research is rated significantly capable. Since her last promotion in 1996, Professor Wrobel has published five articles in peer-reviewed journals with a sixth manuscript under review following a revision request. She has had two conference proceedings published and has made thirteen peer-reviewed presentations at conventions of the American Psychological Association. Professor Wrobel is the principal investigator of a \$150,000 grant awarded by the Federal Administration on Aging. She has an extensive history of successful research on validating psychological assessment tools for children and adolescents. In nearly all of her work, she is first author. Reviewers have particularly noted the soundness of her psychometric approach and the scholarly quality of her work. Such clinical work is extremely demanding in terms of selecting and gathering participants and the rigorous methodology required. Through contacts with the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS), Professor Wrobel made a substantial shift in her research focus. She has established a growing body of scholarly works on mental health issues among older Arab Americans. She has immersed herself in area conferences and has become one of the few scientists to apply psychological tools to this population. Her ongoing collaboration with ACCESS is leading to additional important publications and an expansion of this critical research area.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Wrobel, N.H. and Farrag, M. (2008). Preliminary validation of Arabic version of the MMSE in the elderly. *Clinical Gerontologist*, 31, 75-93.
- Wrobel, N.H. and Farrag, M. (2006). A preliminary report on the validation of the Geriatric Depression Scale Self-Report and collateral versions in Arabic. *Clinical Gerontologist*, 29, 33-46.
- Wrobel, N.H., Lachar, D., and Wrobel, T.A. (2005). Self-report problem scales and subscales as predictors of behavioral ratings provided by peers. *Assessment*, 12, 255-269.
- Wrobel, T.A., Lachar, D., Wrobel, N.H., Morgan, S.T., Gruber, C.P., and Nehev, J.A. (1999). Performance of the Personality Inventory for Youth validity scales. *Assessment*, 6, 367-376.
- Wrobel, N.H. and Lachar, D. (1998). Validity of self- and parent report in screening students in elementary school. *Psychology in the Schools*, 35, 17-27.

Service: Professor Wrobel's service is rated excellent. She has served on a wide variety of campus-wide, college, and departmental committees. The esteem in which she is held across campus is reflected in her selection for Search Committees for the vice chancellor for Enrollment Management, the director of Admission, the director of Human Resources, and the Women's Center director. Professor Wrobel has also been an active member of the Agenda for Women. For the college, she served as CASL Ombuds, as well as on the search committee for Arab American Studies faculty members, and the Arab American Studies Advisory Committee. Within the Behavioral Sciences Department, she is the current department chair. Professor Wrobel has been Psychology Discipline Coordinator, and has served on the Department Executive Committee. In the community, she has filled a number of committee roles for the ACCESS Annual Symposium on Refugees and Victims of Torture and the National Conference on Health Issues in the Arab American Community. Professor Wrobel is also the co-director of Pre-Marriage Preparation volunteers.

## External Reviewers

Reviewer A: "A review of Professor Wrobel's publications reflects the scholarly quality of her work, including a high level of conceptualization in content and the use of complex analyses and methodology... Professor Wrobel stands out as a 'teacher-scholar' consistent with the model espoused by your department."

Reviewer B: "The articles looking at acculturation stress and depression and assessment of mental status and depression in an elderly Arabic population are interesting and important... The review of instruments and as academic approach to systematically translating them was done well."

Reviewer C: "The quality of the work ranges from excellent ... to outstanding. I am most impressed with her outstanding work involving the assessment of mental health in older adult Arab Americans.... I know of no other scholarly work on mental health issues in aging Arab Americans that matches the quality and high professional standards exemplified in Dr. Wrobel's studies.... I see her work as clearly having the potential for international significance."

Reviewer D: "She is a top-notch scholar who plays an important role in the field of clinical assessment.... Concerning the quality of her science, her work manifests understandings of the crucial concepts of validity, predictive success, and measurement soundness that are far superior to those of the average scientist... She has applied such sound scientific methods to extraordinarily difficult assessment problems, and she has done so with success."

Reviewer E: "Dr. Wrobel has established a successful and expanding program of research on psychometric properties of measures and more recently cross cultural measures. Her work on ... geriatric instruments ... is an excellent accomplishment... In sum, Dr. Wrobel is an established scholar, with important research initiatives."

Reviewer F: "The articles produced provide a good overview of some therapy issues related to cognitive assessment and acculturation. The articles are well written with good discussions. ... Dr. Wrobel's work ... provides a good summary of content, and is very useful in that respect."

## Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Wrobel is an exemplary member of the University community providing an excellent teacher-scholar model and serving the campus in innumerable ways. We are very pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Nancy H. Wrobel for promotion to professor of psychology, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Sciences, Colleges of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.



Kathryn Anderson-Levitt  
Dean  
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters



Daniel Little  
Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Dearborn

May 2009