

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

Anuj Kumar, assistant professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1997	Wright State University
B.S.	1991	Wright State University

Professional Record:

2008 – present	Research Assistant Professor, Life Sciences Institute;
2003 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, University of Michigan
1998 – 2003	Postdoctoral Fellow, Yale University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Kumar is an excellent instructor. Student ratings for his specialty course are the highest in the Department. He has published two papers on pedagogy and mentored a large number of undergraduate and graduate students. His graduate students hold first authorship on seven research papers and two scientific reviews.

Research – Professor Kumar is working in the broad area of yeast functional genomics. His work encompasses the development of reagents and tools for large-scale studies and dissemination of data. He has been very successful at producing a genomic database tool and has begun to use this data to produce novel insights about the mechanisms underlying filamentous growth. He has a solid publication record and his citation record reflects the importance of his work.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- “A small molecule-directed approach to control protein localization and function in yeast,” with P. Geda, et al., *Yeast*, 25, 2008, pp. 577-594.
- “Overexpression of autophagy-related genes inhibits filamentous growth,” with J. Ma, et al., *Autophagy*, 3, 2007, pp. 604-609.
- “Genomic analysis of insertion behavior and target specificity of mini-Tn7 and Tn3 transposons in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*,” with M. Seringhaus, et al., *Nucleic Acids Research*, 34(8), 2006, p. e57.
- “An integrated approach for finding overlooked genes in yeast,” with P. M. Harrison, et al., *Nature Biotech*, 20, 2002, pp. 58-63.

Service – Professor Kumar is serving on the departmental Executive Committee and has served as chair of the Bioinformatics Program Seminar Committee and the Admission Committee. He was also a member of the Chemical Genomics Initiative Steering Committee. On a national

level, he has helped organize computational biology and genomic biology meetings at Michigan and elsewhere. He is a member of the editorial board two journals, and served on study panels for the National Science Foundation.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...Dr. Kumar has launched an innovative research and training program in an important area of eukaryotic cell biology... The Kumar lab is producing a steady output of high quality science in respected peer reviewed journals. Given his recent progress and funded research programs, I expect that much exciting research will emerge from the Kumar lab in the next few years.”

Reviewer (B)

“...Anuj is working at the cutting edge of functional genomics and is on a strong upward trajectory. ...This field is a leading source of new information and insights into biological phenomena. ...he has 11 publications since beginning his independent career. His grant record is also very strong, especially for this period of tight funding, with grants from both the NSA and ACS.”

Reviewer (C)

“His work on filamentous growth is advancing this competitive field and his localization database is an important and unique resource. Additional projects point to promising new directions that will be developed more fully in the next few years. In my opinion, this is an absolutely outstanding record of scientific achievement... I am sure there are many more exciting discoveries to come.”

Reviewer (D)

“His three major papers on...[the study of yeast cell differentiation] are a significant body of work, and represent a significant contribution to the field. All three of them are very well done. ... I know that promotions and search committees are often enamored of journals that are thought to be high profile, but Anuj’s papers were accepted for publication in journals with high standards by editors that are our peers. I believe that is a better indicator of quality and significance than the circulation of the journal or its impact factor.”

Reviewer (E)

“Dr. Kumar is developing into a leading expert in the fields of functional genomics and fungal development. His work and his publications are well known in the field and are comparable in quantity and quality to other researchers in similar positions. This appraisal is further supported by the fact that Dr. Kumar has recently succeeded in acquiring grants from the National Science Foundation and the American Cancer Society exceeding the sum of \$1,000,000.”

Reviewer (F)

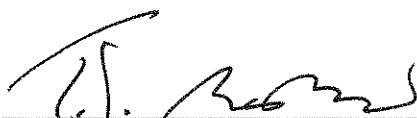
“...Anuj is a terrific and creative scientist of significant accomplishment. He goes into areas where few others have ventured and made significant impact in his field. Consequently, Anuj is easily among the top scientists in his field and certainly among the very top scientists [of his generation] that I know in all fields.”

Reviewer (G)

“Dr. Kumar’s first-rate research program is complemented by the other important contributions he makes to the University of Michigan. It is clear from the materials provided that he is a valuable instructor. He also mentors several graduate students and has had numerous undergraduates in his laboratory. Dr. Kumar makes appropriate contributions in service to his Department and institution. ... Without a doubt, Dr. Kumar would be awarded tenure at [my university].”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Kumar has an innovative research program, is an exceptionally good and popular teacher, and has provided strong service. The Executive Committee and I recommend that Assistant Professor Anuj Kumar be promoted to the rank of associate professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

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