

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

Approved by the Regents
May 14, 2009

Caroline S. Blaum, M.D., associate professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School [also being promoted to research professor, Institute of Gerontology, Medical School].

Academic Degrees:

M.S.	1988	University of Michigan
M.D.	1979	University of Michigan

Professional Record:

2004-present	Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
2004-present	Research Assistant Professor, Institute of Gerontology, University of Michigan
1994-2004	Assistant Research Scientist, Institute of Gerontology, University of Michigan
1994-2004	Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
1991-1994	Lecturer, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Blaum has limited teaching activities with some exposure to medical students, internal medicine residents, and fellows in geriatric medicine in the clinic and inpatient settings. Dr. Blaum provides critical education material for fellows in the areas of coordination of clinical care services, frailty and comorbidity. Fellows value her teaching activities highly, giving her scores of 4 to 4.3 on a 5 point scale where 5 is best. Dr. Blaum is particularly known for her mentorship activities. Medical students, students in public health, and especially fellows in geriatric medicine have benefited greatly from her research mentorship and career development activities. Dr. Blaum has contributed a number of chapters for textbooks and, in particular, for the Geriatrics Review Syllabus published by the American Geriatrics Society. She has also been actively involved in Continuing Medical Education, leading a course on Measuring Clinical Quality in Older Adult Care in 2007.

Research: Dr. Blaum has emerged as an international leader in the study of functional disability and comorbidity in older adults with a specific focus on diabetes in relation to disability. Her work involves extensive collaboration with faculty in other disciplines both at the University of Michigan and also at Johns Hopkins University. She is a leader in secondary data analysis of population based data. She has provided particular leadership in diabetes related research in the

Health and Retirement Study, working closely with colleagues at the Institute for Social Research. Dr. Blaum has established a very substantial track record of external research funding, initially for her career development with NIH and foundation support. In more recent years she has competed successfully for NIH R01 funding and VA merit funding as principal investigator, and most recently is a recipient of an R21 grant from the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality. In addition, she has served as a key collaborator on a number of grants such as the Health and Retirement Study and a new NIH funded training grant in the School of Public Health.

In addition to success in traditional academic measures, Dr. Blaum has been very actively involved in health policy research and clinical initiatives with both local and international impact. She leads an important Medicare Demonstration Project funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) involving UMHS and the Family Group Practice. The University of Michigan was one of only ten groups nationally selected to participate in this demonstration and one of only two academic health centers. During its first two years of operation this project has saved Medicare over \$14 million and as a result the UM Faculty Group Practice has received over \$4 million in payments for efficiency and quality.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Cigolle C, Langa K, Kabeto M, Blaum CS: Geriatric conditions and disability: the Health and Retirement Study. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 147(3):156-164, 2007.

Blaum CS, West N, Haan MN: Is the metabolic syndrome related to disability in older Mexican Americans? *Journal of Gerontology Series A, Biological and Medical Science* 62(7):766-773, 2007.

Cigolle C, Kabeto M, Langa K, Blaum CS: Setting eligibility criteria for a care coordination benefit. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* 53:2051-2059, 2005.

Blaum CS, Michelson E, Semba RD, Xue QL, Fried LP: The association of obesity and the frailty syndrome in older women: The Women's Health and Aging Study. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* 53:927-934, 2005.

Blaum CS, Volpato S, Xue QL, Cappola A, Chaves P, Guralnik JM, Fried LP: Diabetes, hyperglycemia, and mortality in disabled older women: The Women's Health and Aging Study I. *Diabetes Medicine* 22:543-550, 2005.

Service: Dr. Blaum is very active locally and nationally. In addition to leading the Medicare Demonstration Project, she has taken on the role as associate chief of the Division of Geriatric Medicine and is responsible for coordinating clinical services. She took the lead in expanding the transitional care clinic in the ambulatory setting and in creating a new Sub-acute Care Service which has been highly successful in its first two years of operation. With the support of the hospital, this program now includes three clinical faculty, four nurse practitioners and multiple new sites for sub-acute care in the community. Nationally, Dr. Blaum is very active in the American Geriatrics Society where she serves on the Nominations Committee and as chair of its Quality Performance Measurement Committee. She also serves as the AGS representative to

the AMA's Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement where she chairs a Geriatrics Quality Measures Development Group. She was recently elected to the 23-member Executive Committee of the AMA Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement which sets its priorities and direction. She currently also serves as co-director of the Pilot and Exploratory Studies Core for the NIA funded Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center at the University of Michigan. Finally, Dr. Blaum is also committed to community service and serves as a volunteer physician for homeless people as part of the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County.

Professional Work: Dr. Blaum has had limited clinical responsibilities as she has focused her effort on research career development, administration, and policy work. She participates actively as an attending physician at the Turner Geriatric Clinic where she has developed a new transition care clinic for patients recently discharged from University Hospitals. She also serves as an attending physician on inpatient services at the VA Ann Arbor Health Care System as part of her appointment in the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center. She carries out these clinical care responsibilities in a highly professional manner and brings her substantial knowledge and experience in the policy arena and in translational research to strengthen them.

External Review:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Blaum's most important academic contributions have been in a non-traditional venue. She has devoted substantial time and energy in the healthcare policy domain....I would rank her in the top 5% of her peer group as a driver of policy among geriatricians nationally."

Reviewer B: "Dr. Blaum is well recognized in the field of geriatric medicine for her epidemiologic studies of diabetes and nutrition in a variety of diverse elderly populations...it is important to note that she has devoted much of her research to understanding the mechanisms of disability in diverse and often disadvantaged populations, including disabled women, Mexican Americans, and other racial and ethnic minorities."

Reviewer C: "...she is one of the emerging leaders in geriatrics nationwide. She is a superb health services researcher, a clear thinking administrator, and an excellent mentor. I regard her as being one of the top three experts in the nation in the area of quality of care for older persons....The University of Michigan should feel exceptionally fortunate to have Dr. Blaum on its faculty. Many institutions would love to recruit her as a Division Chief."

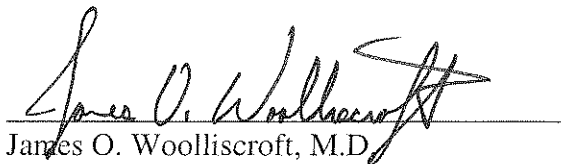
Reviewer D: "Dr. Blaum has established herself as a scholar in complex chronic illness and disability in the elderly....She is a careful scholar who has made important contributions in our understanding of chronic disease and disability....She is held in high regard by those in the field. Indeed, I have given her name to search committees for leadership roles in geriatrics."

Reviewer E: "Dr. Blaum is widely recognized as one of the major authorities in the nation on clinical aspects of aging healthy policy. Her scholarly contributions have led to a stronger understanding of the interactions between chronic disease, disability and geriatric conditions.

She is a credit to the University of Michigan and would be considered a highly attractive recruit at my institution.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Caroline Blaum has emerged as an outstanding international leader in geriatrics health care and policy research. She has been highly successful in traditional research activities of publications of original research and serving as a principal investigator for major grants from the NIH and the Department of Veterans Affairs. She is particularly known for her work advancing understanding of functional disability and comorbidity in older adults in relation to a diagnosis of diabetes. Dr. Blaum has served as a mentor for medical students, students in public health, fellows and junior faculty in geriatric medicine with a growing list of successful mentees. In addition, Dr. Blaum has been very active in translation of new knowledge to clinical services for elderly patients, leading a highly successful Medicare Demonstration Project, as well as developing a range of new clinical services in her role as associate chief of the Division of Geriatric Medicine. Dr. Blaum is also a gifted clinician and educator. She is very active nationally in professional organizations in the arena of health policy. She has actively been recruited for leadership positions at other institutions, and is among a very small group of highly attractive candidates for such positions. I strongly believe that she merits promotion to professor in the Department of Internal Medicine.



James O. Woolliscroft, M.D.

Dean

Lyle C. Roll Professor of Medicine

May 2009