

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGY

Approved by the Regents  
May 14, 2009

Devin L. Brown, M.D., assistant professor of neurology, Department of Neurology, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of neurology, with tenure, Department of Neurology, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.S.	2005	University of Michigan
M.D.	1997	University of Pittsburgh
Sc. B.	1992	Brown University

Professional Record:

2003-present	Assistant Professor of Neurology, University of Michigan
2001-2003	Clinical Instructor of Neurology, University of Virginia

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Brown teaches general neurology to medical students and Neurology residents, and vascular neurology to fellows. As part of Clinical Foundations in Medicine, she has also taught medical students about writing H&P's, performing the general medical examination, and neurological examination (50 hours total). Dr. Brown has consistently received very high scores from medical students and Neurology residents. She received the highest rating ("excellent") from 94% of the 54 resident evaluations characterizing her ability to "teach within own area of interest." Representative comments included "Absolutely outstanding on all counts. Strong resident advocate and educator," "Devin is one of the best attendings we have when it comes to teaching and applying evidence based decisions," and "One of the best, most knowledgeable, reasonable, and efficient attendings to work with on consults, inpatient, and in clinic." Similarly, her medical student evaluations have consistently been above the Department of Neurology mean, which itself is quite high. As an example, in her most recent evaluations (2007-2008 and 2008-2009 academic years), her students gave her a mean perfect score of 5 for overall quality of teaching and overall ability to serve as a role model (Neurology Department mean 4.4-4.5 for each of these categories).

Dr. Brown led the development of the curriculum for the new Vascular Neurology fellowship program. She also designed the assessment tools, policies, and a 23-page orientation manual used for the program. This resulted in achievement of ACGME approval for the program and subsequent favorable internal review by the Graduate Medical Education office.

Dr. Brown designed, and has serially updated, a stroke manual for use by Neurology residents and Vascular Neurology fellows. The residents and fellows carry this manual with them

as it contains relevant material for management of acute strokes as well as a review of evidence-based treatments for stroke prevention.

Research: Dr. Brown has produced high quality research that is innovative. She has developed her own areas of investigation and has been a key contributor to investigations involving team science. Her productivity is evidenced by her 48 peer-reviewed publications in high quality journals. She has developed four main areas of focus and expertise. (1) Sleep and stroke: Dr. Brown holds an NIH K23 award to conduct a pilot randomized, blinded, placebo-controlled trial of continuous positive airway pressure for stroke patients with sleep apnea. She is nationally recognized for her expertise in the area of sleep and stroke, as evidenced by several invited international and national talks, serving on national discussion panels, and moderating international sessions related to this topic. She has also reviewed international grants in this area. She received an OVPR grant to study the relationship between shift work and stroke within the Nurses' Health Study and is preparing this manuscript for peer review. She has several other manuscripts in preparation related to sleep and stroke. She received a CTSA (Clinical and Translational Science Awards) pilot grant to perform a trial of positional therapy for sleep apnea in stroke patients. She submitted a foundation grant in September 2008 to explore the relationship between hypoglossal nerve function and sleep apnea in stroke patients. (2) Stroke-related health services research: Dr. Brown is a key member of a group studying health services research in stroke. She has designed and performed several economic analyses, including an evaluation of the cost of stroke, a publication that is referenced frequently. She submitted a grant to a foundation in July 2008 to perform a health services trial to improve stroke prevention for patients with atrial fibrillation. (3) Stroke-related disparities research: Dr. Brown plays a vital role in a team of researchers exploring health disparities related to stroke. She has been prolific in this area and played key roles in these projects including design and analysis. The director of the research group, Dr. Morgenstern, has stated emphatically on many occasions that the work could not be so successful without Dr. Brown's many contributions. She submitted an NIH R01 application to perform a health disparities clinical trial that received a 22<sup>nd</sup> percentile score. She is currently revising this for resubmission. (4) Clinical stroke research: Dr. Brown has also explored other important areas in the realm of clinical research. She serves as the site PI for an NIH-funded thrombolytic trial for acute ischemic stroke. This trial (TNK S2B) only has six sites, and Dr. Brown has been involved in this study since its inception. Dr. Brown's clinical research on bone fractures after stroke was recognized by the 2008 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation McDevitt Excellence in Research Award.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

Lisabeth LD, Smith MA, Sánchez BN, Brown DL: Ethnic Disparities in stroke and hypertension among women: The BASIC Project. *Am J of Hypertens* 21:778-783, 2008.

Brown DL, Lisabeth LD, Zupancic MJ, Concannon M, Martin C, Chervin RD: High prevalence of supine sleep in ischemic stroke patients. *Stroke* 39:2511-2514, 2008.

Zahuranec DB, Morgenstern LB, Garcia NM, Conley KM, Lisabeth LD, Rank GS, Smith MA, Meurer WJ, Resnicow R, Brown DL: Stroke health and risk education (SHARE) pilot project:

Feasibility and need for church-based stroke health promotion in a bi-ethnic community. *Stroke* 39:1583-1585, 2008.

Brown DL, Al-Senani F, Lisabeth LD, Farnie MA, Colletti LA, Langa KM, Fendrick AM, Garcia NM, Smith MA, Morgenstern LB: Defining cause of death in stroke patients: The brain attack surveillance in Corpus Christi project. *Am J Epidemiol* 165: 591-596, 2007.

Brown DL, Boden-Albala B, Langa KM, Lisabeth LD, Fair M, Smith MA, Sacco RL, Morgenstern LB: Projected costs of ischemic stroke in the United States. *Neurology* 67:1390-1395, 2006.

Service: Dr. Brown has committed countless hours to service both internally and externally. She is the associate director of the Stroke Program and the director of the Vascular Neurology fellowship program and performs time consuming administrative tasks related to these roles. She will have served four years on IRBMED, as of October 2008. She is also a member of the NICU Quality Assurance Committee and the Neurology Department's Education Committee. She scheduled lecturers for weekly Neurology resident clinical conferences for a few years, designing the structure of this curriculum. Externally, she serves on the editorial board of the prestigious journal *Neurology*. She reviews approximately 50 manuscripts per year as part of this duty. She performs peer review services for several other highly ranked journals, such as the *Annals of Neurology* and *Archives of Internal Medicine*. Dr. Brown has also served on the International Stroke Conference's Abstract Grading Subcommittee for the last two years.

Professional Work: Dr. Brown has served as the attending on the Neurology Inpatient or Consultation Service (UMHS) for 1-2 months per year. She also operated a private Cerebrovascular Disorders clinic one half-day per week, and a Same Day Service clinic two half-days per month (Taubman 2003-2006; Cardiovascular Center 2007-present). She staffed a resident Cerebrovascular Disorders clinic one half-day per month. She has been an active member of the Brain Injury Group, taking call, including overnight and weekends, to care for emergent stroke cases (ED, UMHS). She, along with the other members of the Brain Injury Group, donates her time and effort for this crucial clinical activity. She also rotated on a call schedule for several years, again including overnight and weekends, to answer questions about stroke care from the Neurology residents.

External Review:

Reviewer A: "Devin has distinguished herself as a rising star in stroke epidemiology, as evidenced by the quality and the quantity of her publications at this stage in her career."

Reviewer B: "Dr. Brown is an established and independent researcher and will continue to make an impact improving the lives of patients with stroke....She will remain a great representative for the University of Michigan in the years to come."

Reviewer C: "The study of sleep disorders is a branch of medicine that is in its relative infancy. As such, I would have to say that Dr. Brown's scholarship has impacted the field and

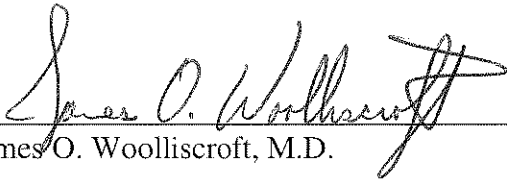
that it has resulted in seminal advance....She has contributed significantly on an international level as an educator and researcher.”

Reviewer D: “She clearly has made a name for herself and is being recognized for her efforts. She has emerged as a thoughtful and productive clinical researcher who applies novel methods and ideas to the field of Stroke Epidemiology and Health Services Research. She clearly is one of the leading figures among her peer group. Her national stature is also being recognized by her invited presentations to national meetings.”

Reviewer E: “...she has made significant contributions to our understanding of cerebrovascular diseases. She has risen to the level of a national expert in this area.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Brown is an outstanding neurologist and physician-scientist with an excellent record of research, teaching, and important clinical service to the Department of Neurology. She amply deserves promotion, and it is with great pleasure that I recommend her for promotion to associate professor of neurology, with tenure.



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James O. Woolliscroft, M.D.

Dean

*Lyle C. Roll Professor of Medicine*

May 2009