

Approved by the Regents
May 14, 2009

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AND VISUAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Christine C. Nelson, M.D., associate professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, with tenure, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, and associate professor of surgery, without tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, with tenure, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, and professor of surgery, without tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D.	1979	University of Cincinnati
B.A.	1975	Wellesley College

Professional Record:

1992-present	Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Michigan
2006-present	Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan
1985-1992	Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Michigan
1984-1985	Clinical Instructor of Ophthalmology, University of California, San Francisco
1983-1984	Clinical Instructor, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Nelson teaches medical students, residents, fellows, and practicing ophthalmologists. She has been a member of the Department's Education Committee since 1989 and serves as the director of the Eye Plastic and Orbital Surgery Fellowship Training Program. Dr. Nelson gives didactic lectures to medical students, residents, and fellows throughout the year, trains residents and fellows continuously in the clinic and in the operating room and participates in Grand Rounds and Journal Club on the topic of eye plastics. In 1990, 1998, and again in 2003, she was director of the Department's annual spring conference, which has a national guest faculty and draws physicians from around the country. She will direct it again in 2009. For the past 20 years, Dr. Nelson has averaged five hours each week at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center teaching medical students both in the operating room and the clinic, as well as a fellow and four residents at all levels in their training. She is the program director for the oculoplastics training of the senior residents in the Department of Integrated Plastic Surgery.

Ten residents have gone through this one-month rotation. Nationally, Dr. Nelson is a sought-after speaker on management of lid melanomas and other suspicious ocular lesions, ptosis, blepharospasm, Graves Disease, and ocular reconstruction. She speaks regularly at the annual meetings of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, on whose executive committee she serves. Dr. Nelson presents lectures to allied health personnel and gives presentations to community audiences. She is frequently invited to be a visiting professor at other institutions in the U.S. and around the world.

Research: Dr. Nelson is an expert on the histology of the muscles of the eyelids and has written many papers on this subject that are of immediate use to physicians who perform reconstructive surgery after trauma to the lid or for lid disorders that compromise vision. She has notable expertise in the area of oncology of the lid and orbit and has both published and presented extensively in this area, as well. She is well known for her research on the management and proper diagnosis of blepharospasm and has participated in clinical trials designed to treat this vexing and incapacitating problem. Lastly, as a national leader in orbital reconstruction after trauma, or after enucleation for malignancy or for congenital malformations such as anophthalmos, she has published a number of articles on the materials, instruments, and implants used in re-forming the facial structures. These papers have been invaluable to physicians whose patients must deal with disease and deformity and helps them to preserve or prepare a functional and cosmetically acceptable result.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Demirci H, Johnson T, Frueh BR, Musch DC, Fullen D, Nelson CC: Management of periocular cutaneous melanoma with a staged excision technique and permanent sections: the “square” procedure. *Ophthalmology* 2008 [in press].

Demirci H, Marentette LJ, Nelson CC: The transglabellar, subcranial approach for surgical excision of periocular second tumors in retinoblastoma. *Orbit* 2008 [in press].

Yen K, Elnor V, Musch DC, Nelson CC: Periocular versus general anesthesia for ocular enucleation. *Ophthal Plast Reconstr Surg* 24:24-8, 2008.

Fahim D, Frueh BR, Musch DC, Nelson CC: Complications of pegged and non-pegged hydroxyapatite orbital implants. *Ophthal Plast Reconstr Surg* 23:206-10, 2007.

Demirci H, Nelson CC: Ultrasound biomicroscopy of the upper eyelid structures in normal eyelids. *Ophthal Plast Reconstr Surg* 23:122-5, 2007.

Service: Dr. Nelson reviews for the major ophthalmologic journals, is a member of the editorial board of *EyeNet*, and was a member of the editorial board of *Ophthalmologica Croatica* during its inaugural year. She was both a contributing editor and a section editor for her subspecialty peer-reviewed journal *Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*. She has been an associate examiner for the American Board of Ophthalmology since 1992 as well as an examination writer for their Periodic Ophthalmic Review Test in two subject areas. Dr. Nelson was on the ACGME’s Residency Review Committee from 1996 to 2002, has been on the National Advisory Committee of Women in Ophthalmology for ten years, and is currently chair

of the Preceptor Committee of the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS). From 1995 to 1996, she chaired the ASOPRS thesis committee, after having served on the committee for four years. She serves or has served on a number of committees within the Department, as well as committees within the Health System and University, including the Internal Review Committee of the Department of Surgery's Division of Plastic Surgery. She serves on the Melanoma Tumor Board, has attended the multidisciplinary melanoma clinics for 20 years, and has developed strong relationships with the Head and Neck Cancer Service, the Skull Base program, and the Facial Plastic Surgery Department.

External Review:

Reviewer A: "Chris is well known within the Ophthalmic and Optometric arena, and has become a significant force in the oculoplastics community, both nationally and internationally....Her influence will be felt for many years to come as these individuals continue to progress in their professional careers....Her tireless efforts on behalf of several national peer organizations serves as a model for others to emulate, and benefits those in training as well as those of us who rely on those resources."

Reviewer B: "She is both nationally and internationally established as a master clinician and surgeon in the fields of oculoplastic and orbital surgery....I rank Dr. Nelson in the top ten percent of all experts in oculoplastic surgery....Dr. Nelson has played a major role in building cooperative teams and collaborating with craniofacial surgeons, otolaryngologists, and neurosurgeons."

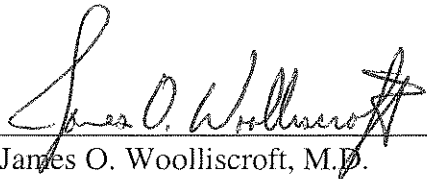
Reviewer C: "Dr. Nelson has demonstrated significant continued and sustained accomplishment as a teacher within the medical school and her department as evidenced by her involvement with the ASOPRS credentialed fellowship program of which she has been [sic] the Director for the last 6 years, and her active role in teaching both the ophthalmology residents and the medical students during their clinical rotations."

Reviewer D: "Dr. Nelson has had a distinguished scholarly impact on our field of oculoplastic and facial surgery....She has demonstrated real creativity in developing new concepts as well as summarizing outcomes and the validity of various oculoplastic surgical techniques. Of particular note has been demonstrating the value of ultrasound biomicroscopy in studying periocular and orbital anatomic structures. This has a real potential for providing a readily accessible and cost saving method of analysis for the evaluation of these disorders."

Reviewer E: "She serves as an excellent source, not only for theoretical and informational data, but also in the applicability of these concepts in a clinical setting....I believe Dr. Nelson has an uncanny ability to relate to her colleagues, a quality that is so essential for a teacher to possess....I believe there are no more than a handful of ophthalmic plastic surgeons in the country to which Dr. Nelson can be reasonably compared – and she is certainly superior to many of her contemporaries."

Summary of Recommendation:

Training the next generation of physicians is arguably the most important activity of an academic medical center. In her commitment, enthusiasm, intelligence, and skill, Dr. Christine Nelson imbues our medical students, residents, and fellows with the traits that the University of Michigan Health System holds in highest regard: careful clinical judgment, outstanding surgical skill, integrity. Her publications display a wide range of expertise on all aspects of orbital reconstruction and ocular tissue repair. She is currently involved in a collaboration with faculty in Human Genetics on the genetic basis for anophthalmia. Dr. Nelson has an exceptional record of service to the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and provides exemplary medical care to our patients while advancing our knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the most technically advanced materials utilized in reconstructive facial surgery. She is a fine representative of this institution and I support her promotion without hesitation.



James O. Woolliscroft, M.D.

Dean

Lyle C. Roll Professor of Medicine

May 2009