

Approved by the Regents
May 14, 2009

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Arden M. Morris, M.D., assistant professor of surgery, Department of Surgery, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.P.H.	2002	University of Washington
M.D.	1993	Rush Medical College
B.A.	1986	University of Pennsylvania

Professional Record:

2003–present	Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan
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Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Teaching is a very important part of Dr. Morris' career. She is currently the Veteran's Administration Medical Center (VAMC) site coordinator and M3/M4 clerkship facilitator for VAMC General Surgery Residency. She has a long track record of teaching responsibilities, including serving as discussion leader for students at the University of Washington and voluntary teacher/mentor for students at the Puget Sound VAMC. She won a Resident Teaching Prize in Surgery at Oregon Health Sciences University. While at the University of Michigan, Dr. Morris has lectured to students during surgical clerkship rotations and at surgery resident conferences. She has hosted surgery residents "Select Reading Conference," served as the GI journal club monitor, and has been the M3 clerkship facilitator for general surgery and the endocrine service. She participated in the teaching of gastroenterology fellows by providing lectures and mentoring.

Research: In addition to her clinical responsibilities, Dr. Morris is extensively engaged in research, primarily centered on understanding and reducing racial and socioeconomic disparities in surgical care, where she has explored and developed new measures of quality in outcomes and processes of care. These new measures have been adopted by multiple other investigators at the University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin, and University of Washington, and will be refined for presentation as a quality measure to the National Quality Forum. She has 29 peer-reviewed publications and six book chapters. Dr. Morris is an active member of the Michigan Surgical Collaborative for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (M-SCORE) and a participating faculty member in the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program, where she has formed

many collaborative relationships. She secured a competitive \$722,000 five-year grant from the American Cancer Society to study processes and refined outcomes of surgical care in administrative and clinical databases. As part of her career development award, she helped to develop process measures for a new statewide clinical database, the Michigan Surgical Quality Collaborative, funded by Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Because of her reputation as a national leader in healthcare quality and disparities research, she was invited to serve as a technical advisor to the National Quality Forum and as a voting member of the NQF's Clinician Level Cancer Care steering committee. Dr. Morris has been invited to deliver grand rounds on this topic to the University of Washington's Department of Surgery and spoke at Harvard Medical School's annual conference on Disparities in Surgical Care in the Fall of 2008.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Morris AM, Billingsley KG, Hayanga AJ, Matthews B, Baldwin LM, Birkmeyer JD: Residual treatment disparities after oncology referral for rectal cancer. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 100(10):738-744, 2008.

Morris AM, Baldwin LM, Matthews B, Dominitz JA, Barlow WE, Dobie SA, Billingsley KG: Reoperation as a quality indicator in colorectal surgery: A population-based analysis. *Ann Surg* 245(1):73-79, 2007.

Morris AM: Patient centered outcomes after therapy for colorectal cancer. *Surg Oncol Clin N Am* 15(1):195-211, 2006.

Morris AM: Medicare policy and colorectal cancer screening: will changing access change outcomes? [Editorial] *JAMA* 296(23):2855-6, 2006.

Morris AM, Wei Y, Birkmeyer N, Birkmeyer J: Racial disparities in late survival after rectal cancer surgery. *J Am Coll Surg* 203(6):787-94, 2006.

Service: Dr. Morris has an extensive history of service from her residency through the present. She was named chair of the Resident Advisory Committee while at Oregon Health Sciences, where she also was a member of the Graduate Medical Education Committee, and she was appointed to the Washington State Department of Health Colorectal Cancer Screening Task Force. Dr. Morris has served on committees for many nationally recognized professional organizations such as the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, American College of Surgeons, American Cancer Society, National Quality Forum Technical Advisory Panel, American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery and the Society of University Surgeons. She has held senior positions on many of these committees. At the University of Michigan, Dr. Morris serves on the Clinical Quality Committee, Michigan Bowel Control Program, Michigan Surgical Collaborative for Outcomes Research and Evaluation, Cancer Center Protocol Review Committee, Comprehensive Cancer Center Health Disparities Working Group, and the GI Oncology Protocol Review Committee.

External Review:

Reviewer A: “Dr. Morris is becoming a leader in the growing field of surgical outcomes research. She is producing high-quality studies that place her in the top group of academic surgeons at her level nationally. She is a superb candidate for promotion to Associate Professor at the University of Michigan, and I am confident she would also be promoted to this rank [at my institution.]”

Reviewer B: “She is clearly one of the leading national figures in quality of care research as it applies to colorectal surgery, and I would be hard-pressed to think of another faculty member who has equaled her accomplishments.”

Reviewer C: “She has established a national reputation not only as an expert at gathering and analyzing data, but also in the use of the knowledge gained through research to address real-world problems.”

Reviewer D: “Dr. Arden Morris is an exemplary faculty member based on her track record of publishing important, novel and timely research studies, her successful procurement of extramural funds indicative of independent investigation and her multiple invitations to provide commentary both written and oral as an expert in her field on a national level.”

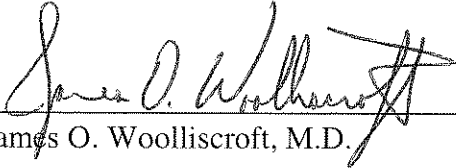
Reviewer E: “...I would place her in the top 5% amongst her peers....Dr. Morris is becoming a well-respected voice in her field....She exemplifies the ‘triple threat’ of clinician, teacher, and funded researcher.”

Reviewer F: “Her research contributions should be considered as major advances in her field of research....Her research focus is also particularly relevant to issues of diversity and equity in health care....She holds major peer reviewed research funding as principal investigator, and has an impressive publication record in high-impact journals.”

Reviewer G: “Notably, Dr. Morris is currently Principal Investigator for a large American Cancer Society-funded grant that aims to understand and reduce racial disparities in colorectal cancer surgery....She will undoubtedly continue to make significant contributions in the field of cancer disparities.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Arden Morris is an excellent clinician and teacher who is nationally recognized for her contributions in the area of healthcare quality and disparities research. I enthusiastically support her promotion to associate professor, with tenure, in the Department of Surgery.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James O. Woolliscroft". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

James O. Woolliscroft, M.D.
Dean
Lyle C. Roll Professor of Medicine

May 2009