

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Approved by the Regents
May 14, 2009

Edwin G. Wilkins, M.D., associate professor of surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to professor of surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.S.	1999	Dartmouth College
M.D.	1981	Wake Forest University
B.S.	1977	Davidson College

Professional Record:

1995-present	Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan
1992-1995	Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: For the past 19 years, Dr. Wilkins has served as the student clerkship director for the Section of Plastic Surgery. In this capacity, he has developed and overseen the medical student teaching curriculum and devoted regular hours each week to teaching and mentoring students. He has also been the advisor for the University of Michigan Plastic Surgery Student Interest Group and has mentored students on careers in surgery. After a month on our service, one student wrote, "I was particularly impressed by Dr. Wilkins' generosity in inviting the medical students to his home to discuss the residency application process. I also appreciated the weekly breakfast meetings and discussions about plastic surgery. In my experience, it is rare to have such close interaction with attending physicians." Another student wrote, Dr. Wilkins' "dedication to medical students, and desire to share his passion for plastic surgery with medical students, are the reasons why seven people in my class want to be plastic surgeons." As a result of his encouragement and mentoring, a number of former Michigan students are now prominent academic and private practice plastic surgeons.

Dr. Wilkins has also been an instrumental part of the resident education program in plastic surgery. Because of his efforts, graduates from the University of Michigan residency program are now clinical and academic leaders in breast reconstruction across the U.S. In research, Dr. Wilkins has served as mentor for a steady stream of residents and fellows, three of whom are now his colleagues on the University of Michigan Plastic Surgery faculty. His research mentorship has enabled residents and fellows to publish a variety of manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals and to present papers at numerous national and international meetings. He has worked with international research fellows from Korea, Iraq, Iran, and the United Kingdom.

Research: Over the past decade, Dr. Wilkins has carried out ground-breaking outcomes research in plastic surgery and remains a national and international leader in this field. His work focuses on evaluating the results of care from the patient's point of view—i.e., measuring patient-centered outcomes. He has served as principal investigator on the Michigan Breast Reconstruction Outcome Study (MBROS), a Department of Defense-funded multi-center analysis of post-mastectomy reconstruction. To date, this project has produced 18 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Building on the success of MBROS, a more comprehensive, second generation project, the International Breast Reconstruction Outcome Consortium, is currently in its pilot phase, funded by the National Endowment for Plastic Surgery and the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Healthcare Research. This project will track outcomes in thousands of breast reconstruction patients in nine major centers in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. On the national level, Dr. Wilkins is acknowledged as the leader in conducting multi-center clinical trials. An indication of his strong national stature is his appointment to lead a major initiative by the Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation to establish a nation-wide clinical trials network. As a recognized expert in health services research in plastic surgery, Dr. Wilkins has served on the editorial board of *Annals of Plastic Surgery* and is a frequent invited speaker at national and international meetings.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Brockhurst AC, Alderman AK, Lowery JC, Davis JA, Wilkins, EG: Survey assessment of physical function following post-mastectomy breast reconstruction. *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* 121: 1108-1115, 2008.

Mullan MH, Wilkins EG, Goldfarb S, Lowery JC, Smith DM, Wickman M, Sandelin K: Prospective analysis of psychosocial outcomes after breast reconstruction: cross-cultural comparisons of 1-year postoperative results. *Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery* 60:503-508, 2007.

Wilkins EG, Lowery JC, Copeland LA, Goldfarb SL, Wren PA, Janz NK: Impact of an educational video on patient decision making in early breast cancer treatment. *Medical Decision Making* 26:589-598, 2006.

Alderman AK, Wilkins EG, Kim MK, and Lowery JC: Complications in post-mastectomy breast reconstruction: two-year results of the Michigan Breast Reconstruction Outcome Study. *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* 109(5):1556-66, 2002.

Wilkins EG, Cederna PS, Lowery JC, Davis JA, Kim HM, Roth RS, Goldfarb S, Izenberg PH, Houin HP, and Shaheen KW: Prospective analysis of psychosocial outcomes in postmastectomy breast reconstruction: one-year results of the Michigan Breast Reconstruction Outcome Study. *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* 106: 1014-1025, 2000.

Service: Dr. Wilkins continues to run an extremely busy breast reconstruction service at the University of Michigan and is an active member of the Breast Care Taskforce in the Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Wilkins' busy clinical practice has been recognized for the

quality of his clinical care and for the cutting-edge surgical procedures he has brought to the University of Michigan, the DIEP perforator flap for breast reconstruction being the latest example. His focus on patient-centered care has resulted in consistently outstanding patient satisfaction scores among the people he serves. In addition to his dedicated clinical care, he has also worked to produce patient education and shared decision making programs for a variety of clinical scenarios, including breast reconstruction, reduction and augmentation. The goal of these programs is to empower patients with information and to encourage them to actively participate in treatment decision-making and implementation.

On a national level, Dr. Wilkins has been an active leader in plastic surgery professional societies, including both the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) and its sister organization, the Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation (PSEF). Most recently, he was a member of the PSEF Research Taskforce, responsible for the first major redesign of this venerable organization in its 50 year history. He currently serves on a variety of national committees and is chair of the PSEF Clinical Trials Network. In this capacity, he is leading the Foundation's efforts to promote high-level clinical research in plastic surgery and is responsible for fund-raising, design, implementation and oversight for new projects. In these capacities, Dr. Wilkins is and will continue to be a leader in plastic surgery research.

External Review:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Wilkins is a dedicated academic. He has the capacity to undertake and organize large studies at a national and international level, and for that reason will continue to be viewed as a leader in the field and as someone who is likely to have major impact. I have no doubt that Dr. Wilkins would qualify for promotion at this institution and I would consider myself very lucky to have such an individual on faculty."

Reviewer B: "Dr. Wilkins is held in the highest esteem by not only myself, but also his colleagues throughout this country and indeed throughout North America and the rest of the world. He has gained international acclaim through his most recent work in breast reconstruction and clinical research related to women afflicted with breast cancer. Dr. Wilkins has established himself as a clinician scientist and shares his experiences through his involvement in the Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation."

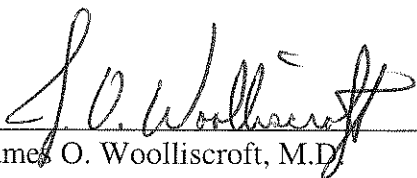
Reviewer C: "Dr. Wilkins is one of the foremost leaders in the area of outcomes research for breast reconstruction in American Plastic Surgery....His knowledge and experience in the field of clinical [trials] and clinical study design will allow plastic surgery to design cutting edge studies which impact the daily care of our patients."

Reviewer D: "Dr. Wilkins has dedicated his academic career in plastic surgery to the advancement in the treatment modalities for breast cancer reconstruction. He has clearly delineated and validated outcomes instruments which have become the standard for comparing treatment modalities in breast reconstruction. He is an international leader in this rapidly evolving field of outcome assessments in medicine. His sentinel work in this area is unparalleled in plastic surgery. Dr. Wilkins is a superb clinician and leader in the area of plastic surgery outcome and reconstructive breast surgery."

Reviewer E: “Dr. Wilkins and his associates at the University of Michigan have been leaders and pioneers in the field of evaluation of outcomes in breast reconstruction, both at the University of Michigan and further afield. His writings have really a very specific and valuable niche in assessing how these various methods of breast reconstruction compare one to the other and how they impact the lives of women who have been diagnosed and treated with breast cancer.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Edwin Wilkins is an outstanding member of the faculty in the Department of Surgery. He has been on the forefront of outcomes and health services research in surgery, and particularly in plastic surgery in the area of breast reconstruction. His consistent productivity and the quality of his work have deservedly earned him a national and international reputation as a researcher. He has also sustained a high level of commitment and efficacy as a teacher on multiple levels locally and nationally. His clinical practice is marked by compassionate care of a difficult patient population with outstanding outcomes. He has served the University of Michigan and multiple national organizations as a leader. It is with great pride that I recommend Dr. Edwin G. Wilkins as a candidate for promotion to professor of surgery.



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

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