

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Dentistry

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

Woosung Sohn, DDS, MS, PhD, DrPH, assistant professor of dentistry, School of Dentistry, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of dentistry, without tenure, School of Dentistry.

Academic Degrees:

DrPH	2000	University of Michigan School of Public Health, Ann Arbor, Michigan
PhD	1995	Yonsei University, Seoul Korea
MS	1992	Yonsei University, Seoul Korea
DDS	1987	Yonsei University, Seoul Korea

Professional Record:

2006 – Present	Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, University of Michigan School of Public Health
2005 – Present	Assistant Professor, Department of Cariology, Restorative Sciences and Endodontics, University of Michigan, School of Dentistry
2003 – 2005	Assistant Professor/Assistant Research Scientist, Department of Cariology, Restorative Sciences and Endodontics, University of Michigan School of Dentistry
2000 – 2003	Assistant Research Scientist, Department of Cariology, Restorative Sciences and Endodontics, University of Michigan School of Dentistry

Summary of Evaluation

Teaching: Professor Sohn teaches at the School of Dentistry and the School of Public Health. His initial teaching activities at the University of Michigan focused primarily on graduate level teaching in the School of Public Health. More recently his contributions have expanded to include lectures in the School of Dentistry for which, he has received very positive evaluations from the first year dental students. Professor Sohn mentors students of various academic levels including DDS, Dental Hygiene, Graduate and PhD. One student received the 2008 American Public Health Association (APHA) Oral Health Section's Student Research Award at the 136th APHA Annual Meeting in San Diego, California. Professor Sohn is a member of his department's curriculum team charged with innovating preclinical laboratory teaching. Through his participation on this committee, Professor Sohn has taken the lead in defining ways to incorporate dental public health (and cariology) content within the dental curriculum. Under Professor Sohn's leadership, the School is starting a Masters in Public Health Program. This program will provide a path in our program to obtaining a DDS/MPH degree. Recruitment of students to this new path should begin within the next year. In this new program, Professor Sohn will be serving as course director on two of these courses and co-director on three.

Research: Professor Sohn's work focuses on understanding the risk factors that contribute to dental disease in underserved populations. Professor Sohn has had a consistent publication record for more than 10 years. Many of his publications are in high impact dental journals. Selected publications, from the past three years, are listed below. Professor Sohn has published 50 peer-reviewed articles and one book chapter. He is first-author on 10 of these peer-reviewed articles and senior author on 12. Professor Sohn presents regularly at the International Association for Dental Research. His research success has translated into increasing numbers of invitations for national and international presentations. Professor Sohn has been a core member of the health disparities research team based at the Detroit Center for Research on Oral Health Disparities. As a member of that team, Professor Sohn was funded as a co-investigator on several successfully completed NIH grants, currently serves as co-principal investigator and/or co-investigator on three existing NIH grants, and has successfully acquired contractual funding as a principal investigator.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Ismail AI, Sohn W, Lim S, Willem J, Predictors of dental caries progression in primary teeth. *J Dent Res* 88:270-275, 2009.
- Noh HJ, Choi CH, Sohn W, Factors associated with access to dental care among Korean adults. *Korean J Public Health Policy* 18:170-184, 2009.
- Hall JF, Sohn W, McNamara JA, Why do dentists refer to specific orthodontists? Perspectives of the General Dentist. *Angle Orthod* 79:5-11, 2009.
- Ismail AI, Sohn W, Tellez M, Willem J, Betz J, Lepkowski JM Risk indicators for dental caries using the International Caries Detection and Assessment System (ICDAS). *Community Dent Oral Epidemiol* 36: 55-68, 2008.
- Reisine S, Tellez M, Willem J, Sohn W, Ismail AI, Relationship between caregiver's and child's caries: Prevalence among disadvantaged African Americans. *Community Dent Oral Epidemiol* 36:191-200, 2008.
- Sanders AE, Lim S, Sohn W, Resilience to urban poverty: theoretical and empirical considerations for population health. *Am J Public Health* 98:1101-1106, 2008.
- Chattopadhyay A, Arevalo O, Sohn W, Understanding measurement of dental diseases and research participation in practice set-up. *Dent Clin N Am* 52: 367-386, 2008.
- Lim S, Sohn W, Burt BA, Sandretto AM, Kolker JL, Marshall TA, Ismail AI, Cariogenicity of soft drinks, milk, and fruit juice in low-income African American children: A longitudinal study. *J Am Dent Assoc* 139:959-967, 2008.
- Ismail AI, Lim S, Sohn W, Willem J, Determinants of Early Childhood Caries in Low-Income African-American Young Children. *Ped Dent* 30:289-296, 2008.

Service: Within the School of Dentistry, Professor Sohn currently serves on the Research Committee and the Nominations and Elections Committee. At the University level, he is a member of the Faculty Advisory Board and a member for Social Learning and Trans-disciplinary Education (SLATE).

Nationally, he is the School of Dentistry's faculty representative to the Council of Faculties for the American Dental Education Association (ADEA). He has served as a session chair at the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) meetings. Professor Sohn served as the chair of the Program Planning Committee for the American Public Health Association (APHA)

meetings and is now the Oral Health Councilor to APHA. He has been a long-term member of the International Caries Detection and Assessment System (ICDAS) coordinating committee. The latter is particularly noteworthy because of the tremendous impact that group has had in the last few years in changing attitudes toward detection of dental caries and influencing future treatment plans.

Professor Sohn is enrolled in the ADEA Leadership Institute (2009-2010) and involved in a series of leadership training exercises. This is notable because of the strong introduction that this group receives in university relations and administrative management as well as national orientation in dental public policy development.

Professor Sohn is an active reviewer for 13 journals in dentistry and public health. He is on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*. He is on the Advisory Board of *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology*. He is involved in NIH grant reviews and has served on three Special Emphasis Review Panels. In addition, he has reviewed grants for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Ireland Health Research Board.

Finally, because of his strong national reputation he has become an annual consultant or fellow as part of several national health or science groups. Last year he became a consultant to the Center Diseases Center in Atlanta. He is a research fellow at the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education,

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

"I find his goal, to offer the Dental Public Health courses to a wider audience of dental graduate students while maintaining the current MPH degree at the School of Public Health to include all dental students and dental residents will enhance the field of Dental Public Health at Michigan. I conclude that Dr. Woosung Sohn has vision and is clearly capable of extending this specialty program to greater heights."

Reviewer (B)

"As a department chair and as a research center director, I am well aware that oral epidemiologists and dental public health specialists with superb teaching and research credentials, such as Dr. Sohn has are exceptionally rare commodities. I am certain that he would be a highly valued faculty member at any leading research university."

Reviewer (C)

"The packet of five articles by Dr. Sohn which were sent to me as an evaluator clearly reflects the scientific work of a very highly competent investigator, one who works on high quality 'funded' research projects, one who writes clearly and precisely, one who has a sophisticated understanding of epidemiologic research techniques, and one who has advanced statistical analysis skills."

Reviewer (D)

"Dr. Sohn's scholarly contributions are substantial and I believe he is in the top 10% of all dental faculty in our discipline concerning productivity and quality. Clearly, he has been extremely productive and would appear to be more than qualified for promotion to Associate Professor at

the [my institution] and all other (~8) schools of dentistry for which I've previously reviewed faculty members credentials for promotion."

Reviewer (E)

"What is readily observable is the increasing rate of publication. While at the start of this decade one or two papers were published each year, by 2007 and 2008 this had reached 8 and 7 publications respectively. Dr. Sohn has a rising trajectory of publications, a phenomenon which is an important marker of those researchers who will go on to be leaders in their field."

Reviewer (F)

"I have read five significant journal articles selected by Dr. Sohn (including one on which he was second author). They are uniformly excellent, showing sophisticated methodology and very good writing. The number of national and international invited presentations (12 total, 10 since 2005) is also a testament to Dr. Sohn's excellent scientific reputation."

Reviewer (G)

"He is particularly noted for his work related to environmental and behavioral factors associated with dental caries and fluorosis, especially aspects of beverage consumption. Dr. Sohn's statistical analytical ability, particularly with large datasets, is one of his major strengths. He is currently analyzing dental data from large government and private dental insurance databases. There are only a handful of oral epidemiologists nationally who have this capability."

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Sohn has developed into a strong scientist as part of the School of Dentistry's health services research team. He has also grown as an excellent teacher by taking on greater responsibility as a course director, and instructor in the DDS program, mentor in both the School of Dentistry and School of Public Health graduate programs, and leader of the educational program's efforts to integrate the study of Dental Public Health into the School of Dentistry's educational curriculum. Therefore I support the recommendation to promote Woosung Sohn, DDS, MS, PhD, DrPH to associate professor of dentistry, without tenure, School of Dentistry.



Peter J. Polverini, DDS, DMSc
Dean, School of Dentistry

May 2010