

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

James D. Geiger, M.D., associate professor of surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to professor of surgery, with tenure, Department Surgery, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D.	1987	Case Western Reserve University
B.S.	1983	University of Michigan

Professional Record:

2003-present	Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan
1996-2003	Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan
1996-present	Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatric Surgery, University of Toledo
1995-1996	Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Geiger is recognized as an enthusiastic and effective teacher of medical students and surgical residents at the University of Michigan Medical Center as well as at the Section of Pediatric Surgery's network sites including St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, and St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center in Toledo. Dr. Geiger is well recognized for his technical surgical skills and ability to teach those technical skills to surgical residents. He is known for teaching advanced laparoscopic and robotic surgical techniques both to our residents and in national courses. In recent years, he has become active in teaching engineering and business students with his activity around medical innovation. He has mentored a number of graduate engineering students and post doctoral fellows and is currently on an engineering student's Ph.D. committee. He has initiated the medical innovation fellowship to train engineers, business and health professionals in medical innovation and entrepreneurialism.

Research: Dr. Geiger's major research interest has been focused on tumor immunology and the immunotherapy of cancer. He has mentored a number of research fellows and has completed the first dendredic cell based of vaccine therapy of pediatric solid tumors ever reported. He is currently completing an investigator initiated trial of dendredic cell vaccine post stem cell transplant to treat pediatric solid tumors. Parallel to this work he has been very active in the Children's Oncology Group and is currently on the neuroblastoma strategy committee. More recently he has begun to broaden his research activities into the area of medical device development in medical innovation. He has received a number of grants related to his medical device development and has a number of technologies moving towards commercialization. In addition, he has recently received highly fundable scores for a challenge grant (RC1) related to a

novel electrosurgical device and a multi-year grant from the FDA/NIH to create the University of Michigan, pediatric device consortium (P50 grant). He is recognized nationally in both of these areas.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Ludgate MW, Fullen DR, Lee J, Lowe L, Bradford C, Geiger JD, Johnson TM: Atypical spitz tumors of uncertain biologic potential. *Cancer* 115(3):631-641, 2009.

Dodde RE, Miller SF, Geiger JD, Shih AJ: Thermal-electric finite element analysis of electrosurgical cautery Process. *Journal of Manufacturing Science and Engineering* 130(2):130-138, 2008.

Kota S, Lu KJ, Kreiner K, Trease B, Arenas J, Geiger J: Design and application of compliant mechanisms for surgical tools. *Journal of Biomechanical Engineering* 127(6):981-989, 2005.

Geiger JD, Teitelbaum DH, Hirschl RB, Coran AG: A new operative technique for restorative proctocolectomy: The endorectal pull-through combined with a double-stapled ileo-anal anastomosis. *Surgery* 134(3): 492-495, 2003.

Graziano K, Teitelbaum DH, McLean K, Hirschl RB, Coran AG, Geiger JD: Recurrence after laparoscopic and open Nissen fundoplication: A comparison of the mechanisms of failure. *Surgical Endoscopy* 17(5):704-707, 2003.

Service: Dr. Geiger is a skilled surgeon with particular expertise in minimally invasive surgery and surgical oncology. He has spearheaded three important programs at the University of Michigan—the Minimally Invasive Surgery Program, the Michigan Pediatric Comprehensive Weight Management Center, and the University of Michigan Medical Innovation Center, which is a cross-disciplinary training program involving the medical, business, and engineering schools. The goal is to train five fellows annually in the engineering and business aspects of developing new devices. Nationally, Dr. Geiger serves on a number of surgical committees, including vice chairing the American Pediatric Surgical Association Informatics Telemedicine Committee since 2007.

External Review:

Reviewer A: “Throughout his academic career, he has been very busy clinically and is well known for his work on minimally invasive surgery in children as well as the care of children with malignancies. He has published or has in press over 60 articles, many of which are considered seminal works in their area...he is well respected in the pediatric surgical community as a leader in pediatric surgical oncology and neuroblastomas.”

Reviewer B: “I am extremely impressed at the quality and quantity of work produced by Dr. Geiger over the past 15 years. There is no doubt in my mind that he easily fulfills the requirements for promotion to Professor of Surgery with Tenure in the Instructional Track. Frankly, I am surprised that he has not been promoted prior to this time with his body of

productivity. Certainly, at our institution, he would have already been promoted to Professor of Surgery."

Reviewer C: "He is recognized nationally and internationally for the advances he has brought to children's care and his role as a leader in advanced laparoscopic and minimally invasive surgery...He has been a major contributor to our field, serving leadership positions throughout the American Pediatric Surgical Association and the Children's Oncology Group...he has mentored an impressive number of trainees and fellows who have made good contributions in their own right. Based on a professional lifetime of consistent achievement, I believe that James D. Geiger is richly deserving of promotion to the level of Professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of Michigan. There is no doubt he would qualify for that rank at [my institution] or at any other of the preeminent institutions around the country where he is a sought after commodity."

Reviewer D: "With regard to Dr. Geiger's scholarly and professional niche as a immunotherapist, he is one of a diminishing community of academic pediatric surgeons throughout the US who maintain a steady scientific program in addition to a full-fledged clinical program in pediatric surgery...Jim's work is highly regarded and he is seen as an essential collaborator in the broader clinical translational community. His clinical trials deliver state of the art immune based therapies, which are complex and are only undertaken by a very few centers in the US. Thus, I highly value his contributions and consider him a leader in this field."

Reviewer E: "Jim's work with immunotherapy has received support from several sources as he has been working on a vaccine model. He is the P.I. of a study looking at dendritic cell vaccine therapy of solid tumors after stem cell transplant. This has attracted the attention from the pediatric oncologists and we have had patients from our institution transferred to the University of Michigan to undergo this treatment. I think this is evidence of a very innovative model which is impacting the pediatric oncology field...In comparing Dr. Geiger to his peers in the field of pediatric surgery, I would rank him as a leader and as one who has developed a professional niche in pediatric oncology and surgical innovation."

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Geiger is an outstanding academic pediatric surgeon who is prominent in the field of tumor immunology, immunotherapy of cancer, and medical innovation. He is a superb teacher and mentor and has made substantial interdisciplinary contributions in both the clinical and research arenas. I am very pleased to recommend Dr. Geiger for promotion to professor of surgery, with tenure, in the Department of Surgery.



James O. Woolliscroft, M.D.

Dean

Lyle C. Roll Professor of Medicine

May 2010