

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

Sean Joe, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of psychiatry, without tenure, Department of Psychiatry, Medical School [also associate professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work].

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
M.S.W.	1994	State University of New York, Stony Brook
B.A.	1991	State University of New York, Stony Brook

Professional Record:

2009-present	Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of Michigan
2004-present	Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of Michigan
2004-2009	Assistant Professor, School of Social Work
2001-2004	Research Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Joe's courses include adolescent development and behavior, as well as social work research, both of which are directly related to his own experience. Other teaching activities include his Research Lab on Race and Self-Destructive Behaviors, an opportunity for both MSW and PhD students at the School of Social Work to engage in research and collaborative writing for peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Joe is also the sponsor and director of the Emerging Scholars Interdisciplinary Network, a program that gathers doctoral students, post-docs, and assistant professors together to enhance their research education. Through opportunities such as lectures, coursework, and networking opportunities, these young scholars receive continuing education, as well as guidance and mentorship from nationally recognized research investigators. His work has been funded and supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to support this program. As a faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry, Dr. Joe has helped develop research scholars and practitioners benefiting from his cutting-edge research. He has contributed to programs in resident education, presenting sessions in the research track/clinical scholars track core seminars discussing his areas of research. He also contributed to the Postdoctoral Training Program in the Professional Psychology and Social Work Internship Program. Dr. Joe has also contributed in significant ways to the training of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the Youth Depression and Suicide Prevention Research Program and Postdoctoral Training Program in Professional Psychology. He has consulted with several research trainees (three graduate students, two postdoctoral fellows) on multiple occasions to assist them with

understanding culturally informed and sensitive approaches to the conceptualization and implementation of research studies. This has been extremely important to Dr. Cheryl King's research in the Emergency Department at Hurley Hospital, which serves a largely disadvantaged and diverse population of teens and families. In addition, Dr. Joe has participated in their focus groups and qualitative follow-up interviews with research participants, serving as a role model for conducting culturally informed research.

Research: In addition to several suicide and intervention research collaborations with Dr. Cheryl King, Dr. Joe's research on African-American suicide, especially among men, is leading the field. Unique among his fellow researchers for the depth and breadth of research on the topic, his work considers epidemiology, etiology, and encompasses both the treatment and prevention of mental health and social problems among the African-American population, especially youth. Consistently noted as a leading scholar in the area of suicidology, his relative experience is also often noted. His work has been cited as influential in his peers' own education of assessing and treating the African-American population, contributing to the cultural competence of the profession. Additionally, this highlights the true relevance of Dr. Joe's work, as it is able to be translated into direct practice, as in the case of the reviewer who utilizes Dr. Joe's work as the basis for "scientific reasoning rather than clinical intuition" when consulting with clients on the topic of suicidology.

Additionally, Dr. Joe's work is interdisciplinary, as evident in his publication record. He has published in journals associated with social work, suicidology, medicine, and psychology, including the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. His future plans include the study of biological and genetic markers as they relate to suicidology, aligning his work with the stated interest of many federal funding sources.

In summary, Dr. Joe is a leader in the field of suicidology research. His work is multidisciplinary and respected by a wide-range of scholars, from social work researchers to medical doctors. His future direction is not only ambitious, but given his record, highly attainable. He is sought out for scientific presentations at refereed conferences and invited presentations at national and local meetings.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Joe S, Baser R, Neighbors HW, Caldwell C, Jackson JS: 12-Month and lifetime prevalence of suicide attempts among black adolescents in the national survey of American life. *Journal of American Academy on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* 43:272-283, 2009.

Joe S, Stein D, Seedat S, Herman A, Williams DR: Prevalence of suicide ideation and behavior among South Africans: Findings from the South Africa stress and health study (SASH). *British Journal of Psychiatry* 192:310-311, 2008.

Joe S, Romer D, Jamieson P: Suicide acceptability is related to suicidal behavior among US adolescents. *Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior* 37:165-178, 2007.

Joe S, Marcus S, Kaplan MS: Racial differences in the characteristics of firearm suicide decedents in the United States. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* 77:124-130, 2007.

Joe S, Baser R, Breeden G, Neighbors H, Jackson J: Prevalence of and risk factors for lifetime suicide attempts among blacks in the United States. *Journal of the American Medical Association* 296:2112-2123, 2006.

Service: Dr. Joe's service activities range from School of Social work based service to students and peers, to serving on nationally relevant boards and committees. Within the School of Social Work, Dr. Joe was elected to serve on the School's Executive Committee as a representative of the junior faculty. He is currently serving on the Tenure and Promotion Committee in the School of Social Work and served as a reviewer for Partners for Healthy Communities Symposium, Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research and on the Faculty Advisory Committee, CIC Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) Conference, Rackham Graduate School. His university-level activities include reviewing grant proposals for the National Center for Institutional Diversity, participating in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration as a speaker, and serving as a panelist and presenter at events throughout the University. Dr. Joe's service also extends to the larger community and the nation. He has served as a reviewer for both the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute for Mental Health, and has been elected as board member to the Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN USA), the largest suicide prevention and advocacy organization in the country. He also holds membership on the Scientific Advisory Board of the National Organization of People of Color Against Suicide. He was selected as the 2009 program chair for the 42nd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Suicidology, a conference at which he was awarded the Edwin S. Schneidman Award for early contributions to suicide research. Dr. Joe has served as an editorial reviewer for professional publications such as the *Journal of Clinical and Consulting Psychiatry*, *Social Science and Medicine*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the *American Journal of Public Health*, and the *American Journal of Community Psychology*.

External Review:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Joe has ventured past the safety of established theories and methodologies to develop new ones that compel mental health professionals to set higher, more rigorous standards for their work. I know that he encountered many obstacles in conducting such work; he met those obstacles and critics directly and is now considered the premier researcher on the development and treatment of suicidal behavior among Black Americans."

Reviewer B: "Dr. Joe is, I believe, what scholars in social work education have been working to produce for some time. He is a social work professor who is committed to high quality scholarship which is absolutely first rate and sustains funding. It is also true that the topics that he has selected for study are of major importance to our society. That is, they are not only important to social workers but scholars in other related disciplines, as well as mental health practitioners."

Reviewer C: "Throughout his career Sean has been about creating a more exacting and meaningful presentation of the cultural nuances of African American health and mental health risk factors, including protective factors and their inclusion in interventions. His writings have influenced the U.S. Surgeon General's report on suicide prevention, the National Academies of Science's report on preventing suicide, and policy positions espoused by the National Institute of Mental Health."

Reviewer D: "Professor Joe's grant record is also excellent, with his NIMH R01 grant standing out. In a challenging funding climate, he not only has succeeded (to wit the R01; he also had and impressive K award), he also has plans for the future...He clearly understands the importance of extramural funding, and has been successful in obtaining it."


Reviewer E: "He has been very productive with numerous articles in good to excellent journals. His first authored publication in JAMA, the British Journal of Psychiatry and Psychiatric Services stand out. His record of grant support is also impressive."

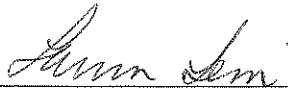
Reviewer F: "I have no doubt that Sean Joe will continue to be a productive investigator and contributor to the understanding and prevention of suicide and suicidal behaviors...Of particular importance is that, to my knowledge, no one else is doing the type of research that Sean has undertaken, and his findings are critical to the advancement of the field because he studies underrepresented and underserved populations."

Reviewer G: "I have reviewed many candidates for promotion and tenure during my 34 year academic career. Few exhibited the scholarly maturity that marks Professor Joe's work. He is on a trajectory likely to carry him to the very highest ranks of scholarly achievement."

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Joe is a leader in all aspects of his academic career. His scholarship is changing the very concepts of causation and prevention of suicide and self-violence among African Americans, and subsequently, informing social work and other fields of practice. His scholarship is translated into his teaching activities, as he educates and mentors the next generation of social workers and investigators. In addition to his national activities and recognition, Dr. Joe has a leadership role in the Emerging Scholars' Interdisciplinary Network's Research Study Group on African-American Suicide. I am pleased to recommend him for promotion to associate professor, without tenure, in the Department of Psychiatry.


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


Laura Lein, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Social Work

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