

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

Vibha N. Lama, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.S.	2003	University of Michigan
M.D.	1991	Dayanand Medical College, Punjab, India

Professional Record:

2005-present	Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
2002-2005	Lecturer, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Lama is actively involved in the teaching and mentoring of students, residents and fellows, both through didactic lectures and also in the clinic and laboratory settings. Through the Training Programs in Clinical Research and the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research (MICHHR), she has participated in several courses and given a number of lectures. Dr. Lama also presents in the pulmonary research conference and the pulmonary clinical conference, and mentors medical students, residents and fellows in her outpatient clinic and as an attending on the pulmonary inpatient service, consult service, and critical care service. She also teaches procedural skills to fellows during her service in the medical procedures service. In the laboratory, Dr. Lama mentors undergraduate students, pulmonary fellows and postdoctoral fellows in basic and translational research. She has also served as a mentor in the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program and participates in the selection committee for the MICHHR Post-Doctoral Translational Scholars Program.

Research: Dr. Lama's area of scholarly focus is translational research in the field of lung transplantation. Her work combines both clinical investigations into the onset and progression of bronchiolitis obliterans syndrome (BOS) in transplant recipients, and laboratory studies using animal models to investigate the pathobiology of this fibrotic disorder. She has 25 peer-reviewed publications with nine as first or senior author, including first and senior author publications in high impact journals such as *American Journal of Pathology*, *Journal of Immunology* and *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. While Dr. Lama's research is highly collaborative in nature, recognition of her unique contributions to the field are evident in her current NIH R01 funding, her invited national and international presentations, and her peer review service. She is also currently a co-investigator on three NIH grants and principal investigator on an American Society of Transplant award, and has an excellent history of prior

funding including an NIH K23 award, an American Thoracic Society award, and an American Lung Association award. Additionally, the American Thoracic Society gave her the honor of writing "Update in Lung Transplantation-2009."

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

L Badri, S Murray, LX Liu, NM Walker, A Flint, A Wadhwa, K Chan, GB Toews, DJ Pinsky, FJ Martinez, and VN Lama: Mesenchymal stromal cells in bronchoalveolar lavage as predictors of bronchiolitis obliterans syndrome. *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Med*, in press.

Jarvinen L, Badri L, Wettlaufer S, Ohtsuka T, Standiford TJ, GB Toews GB, Pinsky DJ, Peters-Golden M, Lama VN: Lung Resident mesenchymal stem cells isolated from human lung allografts inhibit T cell proliferation via a soluble mediator. *J Immunol* 181:4389-4396, 2008.

VN Lama, L Smith, L Badri, AJ Flint, A Andrei, S Murray, Z Wang, H Liao, GB Toews, PH Krebsbach, M Peters-Golden, DJ Pinsky, FJ Martinez, VJ Thannickal: Evidence For tissue-resident mesenchymal stem cells in human adult lung from studies of transplanted allografts. *Journal of Clinical Investigation* 117:989-996, 2007.

VN Lama, S Murray, RA Lonigro, GBToews, A Chang, C Lau, A Flint, KM Chan, FJ Martinez: Course of FEV1 after onset of bronchiolitis obliterans syndrome in lung transplant recipients. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 175:1192-1198, 2007.

VH Lama, H Harada, LN Badri, A Flint, CM Hogaboam, A McKenzie, FJ Martinez, GB Toews, BB Moore, DJ Pinsky: Obligatory role for interleukin-13 in obstructive lesion development in airway allografts. *Am J Pathol* 169:47-60, 2006.

Service: In addition to her scholarly work, Dr. Lama remains active in her role as a physician in the pulmonary and critical care medicine clinics and inpatient and consult services. She is also involved in service, participating in the selection committee for the MICHR Post-Doctoral Translational Scholars Program, and having served on the advisory committee for the UM General Clinical Research Center. At the national level, she is a member of the American Thoracic Society Lung Transplant Clinical Guidelines Committee, and has served on NIH study sections.

#### External Review:

Reviewer A: "Vibha's research focuses on lung stem cells as relevant to transplant medicine. This is a truly novel research direction that could lead to new understanding of pathogenic mechanisms underlying issues...that cause failure of lung transplantation....The fact that she is engaged in an interesting and novel translational investigation of lung stem cells is a major credit, since much of the available literature is in animals or cell culture models. Evidently, Vibha's findings have also excited NIH study sections as indicated by her recent award of an RO1."

Reviewer B: "...Dr. Lama has made important scientific contributions to the fields of pulmonary biology and lung transplantation and especially the role of MSC in BOS. Her record of productivity and scholarly activity would place her at or above her peers at a comparable level. While her productivity in the last two years has been moderate, this is more than balanced by the overall prominence and importance of her publications. Based on the quality of her publications, success in obtaining external funding and national stature, Dr. Lama would undoubtedly be eligible for appointment as Associate Professor of Medicine at [my institution]."

Reviewer C: "Since her fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Dr. Lama has identified herself as one of the up and coming leaders in the field of lung transplantation medicine....As a result of her research and other scholarly activities Dr. Lama has clearly developed a national and growing international presence....Dr. Lama meets and exceeds all the stated scholarly and research activity criteria for promotion to Associate Professor."

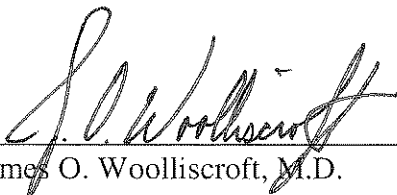
Reviewer D: "...in the past five years, Dr. Lama has published several major manuscripts in a variety of excellent peer-reviewed journals....As further evidence of her accomplishments, she has received a NHLBI R01 grant to study the role of resonant mesenchymal stem cells in lung allograft rejection...Further, she is co-investigator on several other NIH-funded projects."

Reviewer E: "She would certainly merit a promotion to associate professor at my institution....Dr. Lama has established herself as a nationally and internationally recognized researcher and expert in lung transplantation, and it is my impression that she has a bright future in pulmonary and transplant medicine."

Reviewer F: "...Dr. Lama has obtained a national reputation as an excellent scientist interested in stem cells, fibrosis and the clinical relationship to BOS/lung transplant. She has been successful in obtaining NIH funding and has established her own professional niche in translational research....she is one of the most passionate and committed researchers I know for improving the lives of patients with lung disease."

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Lama is a productive investigator who has established a scholarly niche and national reputation based on her novel translational research in the area of lung transplantation. Additionally, she makes significant contributions to the clinical, teaching, and service missions of the institution. Therefore, Dr. Lama is an excellent candidate for promotion to associate professor of internal medicine, with tenure, in the Department of Internal Medicine.



James O. Woolliscroft, M.D.  
Dean

*Lyle C. Roll Professor of Medicine*

May 2011