

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSURGERY

Cormac Maher, M.D., assistant professor of neurosurgery, Department of Neurosurgery, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of neurosurgery, with tenure, Department of Neurosurgery, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D.	1998	Georgetown University
B.S.	1994	University of Georgia

Professional Record:

2006–present	Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Michigan
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Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Maher teaches residents within the Department of Neurosurgery on a daily basis and also regularly gives lectures to third-year medical students on stroke and intracranial pressure. He has also been the course director for fourth-year students during their neurosurgery research electives. He has performed outstandingly in that all of his students have accomplished multiple publications during their time with Dr. Maher. He also regularly mentors and teaches residents within the Department of Neurosurgery, both by daily interaction, at clinical conferences, and by mentoring their research projects. He receives outstanding evaluations for this. He is an excellent technical neurosurgeon and is able to impart these skills to residents on a regular basis. He is viewed by the residents as a wonderful technical teacher.

Research: Dr. Maher's research focuses on outcomes studies, particularly with respect to common neurosurgical problems. At present he has 51 peer-reviewed publications and has published 27 of these since coming to the University of Michigan. He focuses on all areas of pediatric neurosurgery, but specifically long term outcomes within pediatric neurosurgical diseases. Several of his publications have contributed significantly to the understanding of the natural history of a variety of disease processes. He has done so through careful evaluation of large databases available through the electronic record system at the University of Michigan. He has accomplished this work through mentoring of medical students and residents within the department and has done so in an outstanding fashion. These publications have led to his recognition within the greater neurosurgical community. He is regularly asked to speak at organized neurosurgical meetings because of his particular expertise in the area of tethered cords and vascular neurosurgery.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Al-Holou W, Yew A, Boomsaad Z, Garton HJL, Muraszko KM, Maher CO: The prevalence and natural history of arachnoid cysts in children, *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics* 5:578-585, 2010.

Al-Holou WN, Garton HJ, Muraszko KM, Ibrahim M, Maher CO: The prevalence of pineal cysts in children and young adults, *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics* 4:230-236, 2009.

Al-Holou WN, Muraszko KM, Garton HJ, Buchman SR, Maher CO: The outcome of tethered cord release in secondary and multiple repeat tethered cord syndrome, *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics* 4:28-36, 2009.

Maher CO, Scott RM: Linear vein-based arteriovenous malformations in children, *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics* 4:12-16, 2009.

Maher CO, Goumnerova LG, Madsen JP, Proctor M, Scott RM: Outcome following multiple repeated spinal cord untethering operations. *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics* 106:434-438, 2007.

Service: Dr. Maher is a board certified pediatric neurosurgeon who has completed two distinct fellowships, one in pediatric neurosurgery and another in vascular neurosurgery. This makes him unique among pediatric neurosurgeons in the United States and his expertise in pediatric vascular neurosurgery is reflected not only in his research but also in his service contribution to patients. He maintains a very active and busy clinical practice, seeing the largest number of pediatric neurosurgical cases within our ICU. He is also a strong member of the national scene within neurosurgery. He is a member of all the major pediatric neurosurgical societies and has been on the executive committee of the Young Neurosurgeons group. He has been the young neurosurgeon liaison to the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) Ethics Committee and has been an Ethics Committee member. He has also been on the Publications Committee as well as the Scientific Program Committee of the AANS. He is regularly asked to give lectures on a variety of areas in pediatric neurosurgery and is a valuable member of the scientific program committees for national neurosurgery. Within the University, he serves as the pediatric neurosurgery ACU director and directed a reorganization of mid-level providers in pediatric neurosurgery. He is also a member of multiple important committees within the Mott Children's Hospital and was elected to the faculty senate. He holds a unique place in neurosurgery with expertise in both pediatric neurosurgery and cerebrovascular neurosurgery. He is regularly recruited to other institutions but chooses to work at the University of Michigan and grow our pediatric neurosurgery program. He has emerged as a strong institutional leader.

External Review:

Reviewer A: "I can state Dr. Maher's standing within the field of Neurosurgery is outstanding, and he is recognized for the contribution of several sentinel papers within the field."

Reviewer B: “His publication productivity probably exceeds the established norms for promotion to Associate Professor at most Universities and frankly is pretty competitive for promotion to full Professor at this point. The diversity of his co-authors speaks to his ability to collaborate with many others on important research subjects.”

Reviewer C: “I have never been at a national meeting where his presentation was not among the best if not the best of those being presented and have never failed to learn....Dr. Cormac Maher is one of the leaders of this generation in the field of Pediatric Neurosurgery...”

Reviewer D: “...he ranks in the upper fifth of pediatric neurosurgeons with respect to both the number and the quality of the publications and presentations he has completed.”

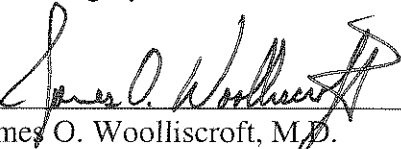
Reviewer E: “I consider him to be amongst [sic] the top pediatric neurosurgeons in his generation. There is little question that he is viewed as a leader in pediatric neurosurgery and an excellent teacher and educator, both locally and at the national level.”

Reviewer F: “He has clearly established himself as a thought leader in pediatric neurosurgery, indicated by his interest and productivity in evidence based evaluation of natural history in pediatric neurosurgical diseases.”

Reviewer G: “...if I had a position available for him and could lure him away from the University of Michigan, I would hire him in an instant. I endorse his promotion to Associate Professor with tenure without reservation...I have used the information from his publications in my clinical practice on a number of occasions.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Maher represents a unique individual with outstanding clinical skills for which he is recognized within the department and externally, as well as a strong academic profile. By making use of databases available at the University of Michigan, he has asked some of the most important questions facing pediatric neurosurgeons when trying to make a decision as to what should be done for an individual patient. These studies have resulted in numerous publications which are often cited and strongly valued by the pediatric neurosurgical community. He is viewed by residents as a strong teacher who provides outstanding advice, not only with respect to clinical decision making but also surgical technique. Dr. Maher is a leader within the field of pediatric neurosurgery, and is considered a consummate educator on all levels. I am pleased to recommend his promotion to associate professor, with tenure, in the Department of Neurosurgery.


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

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