

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

James K. Richardson, M.D., associate professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation, with tenure, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation, with tenure, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Medical School.

Academic Degree:

1984	M.D.	University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
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Professional Record:

2002-present	Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Michigan
1995-2002	Assistant Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Michigan
1990-1995	Lecturer, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Richardson is an active and effective teacher in a variety of arenas. He has expanded his role at the medical student level, providing two 90-minute lectures to the year two class, as well as the two lectures he has been presenting to the year three class. At the resident physician level, he provides clinical teaching in the electrodiagnostic laboratory two half-days per week, and staffing three resident physicians in a resident continuity clinic. He also provides lectures to resident physicians and neuromuscular fellows several times per year. Residents have honored him with the Silver Crutch award six times and he is the only faculty member to receive a Gold Crutch award. Similarly, he is the only faculty member to win a Platinum Crutch award. Dr. Richardson's mentoring also includes biomedical engineering doctoral students, and a junior physician who is the recipient of a NIH K12 award. Dr. Richardson has been recruited to perform a variety of extramural and national teaching tasks including visiting professorships at 11 different institutions and courses at conferences affiliated with the American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine and Association of Academic Physiatrists.

Research: Dr. Richardson has 42 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals (with an additional manuscripts recently submitted), along with 10 book chapters. The work of Dr. Richardson and his colleagues has yielded six national awards. Dr. Richardson is the principal investigator of a five-year award from the NIH investigating gait and balance in middle-aged and older persons with diabetic neuropathy. This work will determine what clinical characteristics and/or specific neuromuscular capacities allow an older person to successfully negotiate a walking surface perturbation, and includes an innovative technique for administering an unexpected, but

standardized, perturbation by means of a specially designed shoe. It is anticipated that the data from this work will guide a future intervention study, using resilience to perturbation during gait as an outcome.

Recent and Most Significant Publications:

Son J, Ashton-Miller JA and Richardson JK: Frontal plane ankle proprioceptive thresholds and unipedal balance. *Muscle & Nerve* 39:150-157, 2009.

Richardson JK, Ho S, Wolfe J and Spiegelberg T: The nature of the relationship between smoking and ulnar neuropathy at the elbow. *Am J Phys Med Rehab* 88:711-718, 2009.

Eckner JT, Whitacre RD, Kirsch NL and Richardson JK: Evaluating a clinical measure of reaction time: an observational study. *Perceptual and Motor Skills* 108:717-720, 2009.

Richardson JK, Thies SB, DeMott TK and Ashton-Miller JA: Gait analysis in a challenging environment differentiates between fallers and non-fallers among older patients with peripheral neuropathy. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil* 86:1539-1544, 2005.

Richardson JK, Thies S, DeMott T and Ashton-Miller JA: Interventions improve gait regularity in patients with peripheral neuropathy while walking on an irregular surface under low light. *J Am Geriatr Soc* 52:510-515, 2004.

Service: Dr. Richardson serves as an associate editor for the *American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. He continues to serve on the editorial board for *Clinical Biomechanics*. He has been an ad hoc reviewer for 15 separate journals, and of grant proposals for five separate research entities. He has served on the research committee for the American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine since 2007, and he has been suggested to serve as the next chair. Dr. Richardson has been named co-director of the University of Michigan Electrodiagnostic Laboratory. He oversees the clinical and educational missions of the laboratory, which evaluates approximately 3,000 patients per year, working to assure the quality of both missions. The electrodiagnostic studies are used to guide surgical and other patient care decisions. Dr. Richardson staffs the laboratory two half days per week, and also staffs a three-resident physician clinic weekly. His own clinic frequently includes patients with gait and balance disorders as well as patients with spinal disorders.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "...I do not think there is anybody in the country who is recognized as a better educator than Dr. Richardson...Dr. Richardson is one of the clear scientific leaders in his area of gait and balance research in the country...He is recognized as a national and international leader in our field."

Reviewer B: "Dr. Richardson is very well regarded in the field of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. He has an impressive array of scholarly activity with multiple articles, grants, and research projects. His scholarship has impacted the field in many topics...The overarching

theme of this research, I think, is to develop ways to improve safety for people with balance and gait issues, and therefore it is very important for the advancement of the field and for the advancement of patient care.”

Reviewer C: “...Dr. Richardson’s research has positively impacted the field of neuromuscular medicine and has definitely resulted in seminal advancement of our rehabilitation management of peripheral neuropathy. Based on his scholarly activities and research track record, Dr. Richardson has established a national/international reputation.”

Reviewer D: “His publications and national presentations place Dr. Richardson in the top 10% of all academic PM&R physicians in the country. However, only an elite few can also claim a NIH R01 award. Thus, I would rank Dr. Richardson in the top 1-2% of all academic PM&R physicians in the United States.”

Reviewer E: “...Dr. Richardson has made significant contributions to our field and should be promoted to the academic rank of Professor. I have no doubt that he would achieve this same academic rank in any department of PM&R in the country. His scientific record, teaching contributions, commitment to the field and to the institution, and interpersonal skills make him an excellent candidate for such a distinction. The future of PM&R depends on academic physiatrists such as Dr. Richardson.”

Reviewer F: “Finally, an abstract submitted with mentee James T. Eckner was judged to be in the top 5% of abstracts at the American Association of Neurology meeting in Toronto, 2010 and was selected for early release to media outlets. This resulted in the research being featured on National Public Radio...I am certain that many universities, including [my institution], would be delighted to have Dr. Richardson as a faculty member.”

Reviewer G: “Jim has developed a special niche at the intersection of PM&R, clinical neurophysiology, biomechanics, and sports medicine. Few individuals are as accomplished in all of these areas and Jim is among the foremost physiatrists working in his field. I rank him among the top few physiatrists in his area of clinical and research specialization, and among the top 20 up-and-coming physiatrists nationally...I consider Dr. Richardson one of the finest mentors in the field of PM&R.”

Reviewer H: “...I have seen Dr. Richardson lecture in several settings and can attest personally to the fact that he is an outstanding speaker. He is well organized and engaging, and clearly gets across the important ideas in his lecture.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Richardson has succeeded in providing senior research, teaching, clinical and administrative leadership within the department and the Medical School. He has established a national leadership reputation in our field. His excellent teaching in our institution and at the national level is second to none and he mentors residents and junior faculty with ease and with demonstrated results. He has filled several administrative leadership roles in the department and is currently co-director of the Electrodiagnostic Laboratory. His productivity and high energy

are tremendous assets to the Department and to the faculty at the University of Michigan and this is well recognized by colleagues across the country. Therefore, Dr. Richardson is an exceptional candidate for promotion to professor, with tenure, in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. O. Woolliscroft", written over a horizontal line.

James O. Woolliscroft, M.D.

Dean

Lyle C. Roll Professor of Medicine

May 2011