Approved by the Regents
May 17, 2012

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Gyorgyi Csankovszki, assistant professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2001	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
M.S.	1995	Yale University
B.S.	1995	Yale University

Professional Record:

2005 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, University of Michigan
2001 – 2005	Post-doctoral Fellow, University of California, Berkeley

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Csankovszki is a highly dedicated and effective teacher. Her primary teaching responsibilities have been a large enrollment course on genetics, which is a core course for biology concentrators. Using a large lecture course grant from the Center for Learning and Teaching, she has brought active learning technology to this course. She developed an upper-level undergraduate course on chromosome structure and function, which includes a significant writing component. Student evaluations are exceptional and are among the highest in the department. Professor Csankovszki is also a committed and talented mentor for students working in her research laboratory. Students offer praise for the stimulating research environment she provides.

Research – Professor Csankovszki works in an exciting field that affects many facets of gene regulation. She is widely recognized as an outstanding scientist whose accomplishments are significant and whose recent discoveries promise to yield new conceptual and mechanistic insights into chromosome function. Her contributions are characterized by experts in the field as reliably of outstanding quality, solid, insightful, creative, elegant, and potentially ground-breaking. She has secured both extramural and intramural funding that has supported productive research by graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research assistants, and undergraduate students. The results of her research group are documented in substantive publications that have appeared in high profile peer-reviewed journals.

Recent and Significant Publications:

"*xol-1*, the master sex-switch gene in *C. elegans*, is a transcriptional target of the terminal sex-determining factor TRA-1," with B. Hargitai, et al., *Development*, 136, 2009, pp. 3881-3887.

"Restricting dosage compensation complex binding to the X chromosomes by H2A.Z/HTZ-1," with E. Petty, et al., *PLoS Genetics*, 5(10), 2009, e1000699.

"Three distinct condensin complexes control *C. elegans* chromosome dynamics" with K. Collette, et al., *Current Biology*, 19(1), 2009, pp. 9-19.

"Recruitment and spreading of the *C. elegans* dosage compensation complex along X chromosomes," with P. McDonel and B.J. Meyer, *Science*, 303(5661), 2004, pp. 1182-1185.

Service – Professor Csankovszki has served on a number of important departmental committees. At the university level, she was the organizer of the campus-wide Worm Joint Lab Meetings (2006-2009), which is an important forum for interaction among laboratories with shared research interests in the department, the Medical School, and the Life Sciences Institute. Professor Csankovszki has also served as a faculty advisor in 2010 for Rackham Merit Fellowships Students in the Rackham Summer Institute. At the national level, she was a member of the organizing Committee for the 2008 *C. elegans* Development and Evolution Meeting.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"Her research interests are well chosen. …[they] promise to yield interesting new conceptual and mechanistic aspects…"

Reviewer (B)

"Dr. G. Csankovszki ranks high in her field. She is often invited to chair sessions and to present her work at meetings. She has made very important contributions to the fields of dosage compensation and chromosome segregation."

Reviewer (C)

"While her work on the dosage compensation complex was beautiful and important, Gyorgyi's work on the three condensin complexes was truly seminal and has led to important new discoveries in several labs, including Gyorgyi's. … She is well funded, even in these most difficult of times, and [is] clearly committed to teaching."

Reviewer (D)

"…[Csankovszki] has an impressive set of research papers, either published or under review for publication. … It seems clear that she is making a steady and successful career as an independent scientist… The achievements of Dr. Csankovszki during the past six years as an Assistant Professor are equally well or superior to those of other scholars in the field or in our own institute."

Reviewer (E)

"…Dr. Csankovszki's research has been extremely solid to date. The quality of her data and experimental design lead to rigorous conclusions. She has made important contributions to [the] SMC [structural modifications of chromatin] field."

Reviewer (F)

"In addition to scholarly research, it is clear that Dr. Csankovszki is teaching interesting and challenging courses, and [is] active in service at the University of Michigan. With two grants, her tenure package makes a strong case."

Reviewer (G)
"Dr. Csankovszki has excelled in two essential areas as a faculty member – developed a strong independent research program and is an excellent mentor. … I would rank Dr. Csankovszki's [promotion case] in the top half of this very very strong group of researchers based on published work, the success of ongoing projects and the confidence that she will produce ground-breaking results long into the future."

Reviewer (H)
"…Dr. Csankovszki's research papers represent a significant body of work… …she has established herself as an important contributor in the fields of chromosome organization and epigenetics, having become a regular participant in some of the most important conferences in her research areas…"

Summary of Recommendation:
Professor Csankovszki has established a productive and well-funded research program in an important area of biological investigation. She has a distinguished record of teaching and her service contributions are very strong. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Gyorgyi Csankovszki be promoted to the rank of associate professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History, and Dean,
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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