

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

Vanessa K. Dalton, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, with tenure, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D.	1997	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
M.P.H.	1996	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
B.A.	1992	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Professional Record:

2005-present	Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Michigan
2001-2005	Lecturer, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Throughout residency and since appointment to the faculty in 2001, Dr. Dalton has actively participated in the educational activities of the medical students and house officers in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Her clinical teaching includes both didactic sessions in a number of classroom settings as well as clinical teaching of residents and fellows. She spends six weeks a year as the attending on the gynecology service and takes three to four in-house calls per month during which she supervises and teaches medical students, residents and fellows. She also instructs medical students, residents and fellows in the weekly family planning clinic, which includes training in diverse office-based procedures. She provides oversight and mentorship for the resident research requirement including mentorship of individual projects. She also provides mentorship for fellows and junior faculty research activities and serves as an associate director for a T32 program in health services research. Not only is she an excellent teacher but she is a superior role model. Her teaching evaluations have been uniformly exemplary and comments from medical students and house officers have included: "Dr. Dalton did an excellent job as a teacher during the week I spent with her...She also did an excellent job involving the medical students during surgery and utilizing it as an opportunity to teach...One of the best faculty here in my estimation...She always puts patient care first but puts resident education at high priority and is supportive and motivating."

Research: Dr. Dalton's academic focus has been on the women's reproductive health services, with a particular focus on access to services, treatment preferences, and how adopting new (evidence-based) practices will affect cost, quality and satisfaction in a non-research setting. She

has made major contributions in two areas. Dr. Dalton's work on manual vacuum aspiration has led the way in changing practice. Until recently, most spontaneous abortions (miscarriages) were managed in operating rooms with general anesthesia. Her research, presentations and publications on cost benefit of manual vacuum aspiration and office management of miscarriage, her work on patient treatment preference and her significant contributions on the historical reasons behind practice patterns has led to a shift in practice across the United States where early pregnancy loss is now managed in physician offices with less invasive tools and less serious anesthesia. This practice change has swept the country beginning in large part at the University of Michigan where this change has led to significant improvements in patient care and reductions in hospital costs with marked improved access to the operating rooms for procedures that are more appropriate for that space. Currently, she is in the final year of a K08 funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to study the use of various treatment options for early pregnancy failure, women's preference for and access to various options, and how the availability of all options might affect cost and the quality of care- taking patient preferences into consideration. Dr. Dalton's second area of major influence has been in reproductive health access and contraception uptake domestically and in Ghana and this is consistent with her K08 research focus on availability, acceptability and access to options. She has studied access to contraception by medically complicated women and by various low income groups in the United States and Africa. She also serves as the director of the International Family Planning Fellowship Program, which established a two-year post-graduate training program in family planning in Ghana and supports projects aimed at increasing the quality of reproductive health services in Ghana.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

Dalton VK, Harris LH, Bell J, Schulkin J, Steinauer J, Zochowski M, Fendrick AM: Treatment of early pregnancy failure: does induced abortion training affect later practices? *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 204:493.e1-6, 2011.

Dalton VK, Harris LH, Kane-Low L, Gold KJ, Schulkin J, Fendrick AM: Provider knowledge, attitudes and treatment preferences for early pregnancy failure. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 202:531.e1-8, 2010.

Carlos RC, Dempsey AF, Resnicow K, Ruffin MT, Patel DA, Straus CM, Dalton VK: Feasibility of using maternal cancer screening visits to identify adolescent girls eligible for human papillomavirus vaccination. *J Women's Health* 19:2271-2275, 2010.

Dalton VK, Harris L, Cohn L... Fendrick AM: Treatment patterns for early pregnancy failure among Michigan Medicaid participants. *J Women's Health* 18:1-7, 2009.

Dalton VK, Harris L, Weisman CS... Castleman L: Patient preferences, satisfaction and resource use in office evacuation of early pregnancy failure. *Obstet Gynecol* 108:103-110, 2006.

Service: Dr. Dalton is a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and a diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Within the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr. Dalton serves as a member of the departmental Quality

Assurance Committee. More importantly, she serves as the director of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology's Health Services Research Group which currently consists of five faculty members and two family planning fellows. In this role, Dr. Dalton provides leadership for the members, directs training activities and is largely responsible for the mission of the program. She also supervises the resident research program for the department which involves assisting residents in the development of their ideas and projects, review and approval of proposed projects, and mentorship/assistance throughout their projects. Nationally, Dr. Dalton has served as an abstract reviewer for the annual meeting of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and has represented ACOG on several committees aimed at reducing perioperative complications including the Surgical Care Improvement Project. In addition, she is also the chair of the Pharmavite, LLC Research Award in Menopause review committee and regularly serves as an ad hoc reviewer for numerous peer-reviewed journals.

Professional Work: Dr. Dalton's clinical expertise is in the area of contraception and family planning, as well as general obstetrics and gynecology. She directs the high-risk family planning and contraception clinic and consultative services and is also the associate director of the fellowship in family planning. She has a particular interest in office-based procedures and is leading efforts to expand the type and volume of the department's office-based procedures. The early pregnancy unit in the new Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital is a reflection of this new focus and of Dr. Dalton's contributions to the specialty. This unit which she will direct will continue to be a laboratory for innovation and exemplar of optimal practice. She will continue to staff the medical complications contraception clinic, the manual vacuum aspiration clinic, the family planning clinic as well as her own women's health clinic.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "A promotion to the rank of associate professor with tenure is highly appropriate as recognition of Dr. Dalton's exemplary accomplishments....Her early career has been marked by high productivity, fundability from numerous sources, and increasing levels of independence and responsibility. Indeed, had she been on faculty [at my institution], she would have been promoted prior to this time."

Reviewer B: "I know that you value Vanessa's contribution to your Department as much as the obstetrics and gynecology community values her contributions to the field....She has established a specific area of research and published appropriately over her career in reference to total and first author publications, as well as the quality of the data and overall work."

Reviewer C: "In addition to her key roles in patient care and teaching, Dr. Dalton has, over the past several years, made important contributions to the literature in early pregnancy failure treatment and training. Having published prize-winning papers in this field, she is considered a national leader."

Reviewer D: "She has an impressive teaching portfolio both nationally and internationally. I would rank Dr. Dalton in the top 10% of her peers. She has been a highly productive academic and has already made major contributions to her field."

Reviewer E: "I have the highest regard for Dr. Dalton and her contributions to our field...Her academic, administrative and clinical appointments reflect her deep commitment to her scholarly work...In summary, Vanessa Dalton is a skilled researcher and scholar with a deep commitment to improving women's health."

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Dalton's research has changed United States practice around early pregnancy failure. She has developed a national and international reputation for her research and teaching in family planning and women's access to health services. As a teacher and administrative leader she will continue to be an important asset to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and University of Michigan Health System. I am pleased to recommend Vanessa K. Dalton, M.D. for promotion to associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, with tenure, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical School.

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

James O. Woolliscroft, MD.

Dean

*Lyle C. Roll Professor of Medicine*

May 2012