

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Jonathan L. Eliason, M.D., assistant professor of surgery, Department of Surgery, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D.	1996	University of Minnesota
B.S.	1992	Bethel College, St. Paul, MN

Professional Record:

2007–present	Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan
2004–2007	Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Eliason has major teaching responsibilities for undergraduate students, medical students, residents in general and vascular surgery, as well as vascular surgery fellows. He has been involved in formal classroom, group and case discussions for approximately 300 hours per year. This includes M3 student lectures, vascular surgery breakfast teaching meetings, vascular surgery case conferences and prior service as the M3 and M4 student facilitator for vascular surgery. This is in addition to his teaching that is done at the bedside and operating room. Dr. Eliason's teaching covers all aspects of care from the social needs of patients to diagnostic and therapeutic interventions, as well as the clinical basis of many vascular diseases. He is consistently ranked extremely high by his students and is revered as one of the best educators in the surgical rotations. One resident stated in their evaluation "Dr. Eliason is a great role model as a person, physician and surgeon. He shows great interest in us as residents and teaches a great deal. He is one of the best faculty to work with by far." Finally, Dr. Eliason has been recognized for his teaching efforts as he was awarded the Silver Scalpel M3 Student Teaching Award in 2008.

Research: Dr. Eliason has had considerable success in innovative basic and clinical science research. Much of his research has focused on the pathogenesis and treatment of aortic aneurysms and the management of traumatic vascular injuries. In 2011, Dr. Eliason was awarded funding of nearly \$1.5-million for several projects. These include: 1) novel research and innovation in developing a thoracic aortic balloon occlusion systems which was awarded a \$900,000 Department of Defense grant; 2) additional funds from the Michigan Innovation Center, the University of Michigan Medical School, and private donors contributing an additional \$130,000 for aortic occlusion research; 3) a \$350,000 educational grant from the Department of Defense focused on the design and implementation of a vascular injury training module incorporating didactic, simulation, and large animal hands-on components; and 4)

intramural funding through the McKay award system for examining the genetic basis of aortic aneurysm disease. His work with balloon occlusion systems has already resulted in two patent applications (U.S. and International). In addition to these grants, he is the principal investigator conducting a funded pilot study examining the validity between contrast enhanced ultrasound and CT angiography. Dr. Eliason has authored or co-authored 27 journal publications since his appointment and has contributed 11 book chapters during that same time. Dr. Eliason has presented his work at many of the major academic clinical vascular surgical societies in the United States where he is recognized as an outstanding clinician-scientist.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Eliason JL, Upchurch GR Jr: Endovascular abdominal aortic aneurysm repair. *Circulation* 117:1738-1744, 2008.

Lee JS, He K, Harbaugh CM, Schaubel DE, Sonnenday CJ, Wang SC, Englesbe MJ, Eliason JL: Michigan Analytic Morphomics Group (MAMG). Frailty, core muscle size, and mortality in patients undergoing open abdominal aortic aneurysm repair. *J Vasc Surg* 53:912-917, 2011. PMID 21215580

Burke CB, Henke PK, Hernandez R, Rectenwald JE, Krishnamurthy V, Englesbe MJ, Kubus JJ, Escobar GA, Upchurch GR Jr., Eliason JL: A contemporary comparison of aortofemoral bypass and aortoiliac stenting in the treatment of aortoiliac occlusive disease. *Annals of Vascular Surgery* 24:4-13, 2010.

Vandy F, Criado E, Upchurch GR Jr, Williams DM, Rectenwald J, Eliason J: Transluminal hypogastric artery occlusion with an Amplatzer vascular plug during endovascular aortic aneurysm repair. *J Vasc Surg* 48:1121-1124, 2008.

Stanley JC, Criado E, Eliason JE, Upchurch GR, Berguer R, Rectenwald JE: Abdominal aortic coarctation: Surgical treatment of 53 patients with a thoracoabdominal bypass, patch aortoplasty, or interposition aorto-aortic graft. *J Vasc Surg* 48:1073-1082, 2008.

Service: Dr. Eliason's administrative responsibilities at the University of Michigan include serving as the medical director of the Non-invasive Diagnostic Vascular Laboratory and as the co-director of the Multidisciplinary Aortic Program. Nationally, Dr. Eliason is a councilor for the Peripheral Vascular Surgery Society and on the Membership Committee for the Midwestern Vascular Surgical Society. Last year he held the position of chair of the grants and scholarship committee for the Peripheral Vascular Surgery Society. He is an ad hoc reviewer for several national publications including; *Annals of Vascular Surgery*, *Annals of Surgery*, *Journal of Vascular Surgery*, *Circulation*, *Journal of Trauma* and *The Lancet*.

Professional Work: Dr. Eliason provides care to patients primarily at the Cardiovascular Center and at the VA Medical Center where he is a consultant. He performs on average 250-300 complex operations per year and sees on average 500 outpatients per year. Dr. Eliason has been instrumental in the Diagnostic Vascular Laboratory expanding to additional off-sites, including Briarwood Health Associates. Dr. Eliason is also an active participant both clinically and administratively in the development of Multidisciplinary Peripheral Arterial Disease and Aortic

Programs in the Cardiovascular Center. These unique programs foster collaboration between vascular surgery, cardiac surgery, interventional radiology and cardiovascular medicine. Finally, Dr. Eliason works with Dr. James C. Stanley to provide complex operations for children with aortic and renal artery disease in a nationally and internationally recognized multidisciplinary program for pediatric renovascular hypertension.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “The quality of his scientific and clinical work rivals that of his fellow colleagues at a similar rank and surpasses the majority.”

Reviewer B: “His interest, skills, expertise and leadership in endovascular aortic aneurysm repair, in the management of aortic coarctations and in metabolic consequences of acute limb ischemia are all examples of why [Dr. Eliason] deserves this academic promotion.”

Reviewer C: “Notably, vascular surgery is a very dynamic, device-driven field at the present time and Dr. Eliason and his colleagues at the University of Michigan have been leaders in these efforts....He is developing a national reputation in our discipline and becoming a recognized expert in the areas of aortic therapies.”

Reviewer D: “...his academic work and presentations demonstrate a continued and deliberate effort to provide contributions to our vascular literature that is above and beyond his peers.”

Reviewer E: “His academic productivity is substantial and he has achieved a level of national prominence that would justify this promotion.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Jonathan L. Eliason, M.D. has exhibited outstanding academic and clinical productivity. He has published his work in a variety of journals, attracted extramural funding for research and has given numerous presentations in regional and national forums. He has an international reputation as an investigator, being an expert in aortic disease. He is viewed as one of the Medical School’s outstanding teachers of both students and residents. His potential for continued excellence in academic medicine is clear and he will no doubt provide a leading role in advancing the Medical School and the Health System in years to come. I am pleased to recommend Jonathan L. Eliason, M.D. for promotion to associate professor of surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School.



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James G. Woolliscroft, M.D.

Dean

*Lyle C. Roll Professor of Medicine*

May 2012