

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

Rajiv Saran, M.B.B.S., associate professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.S.	2001	University of Michigan
M.D.	1987	Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research Chandigarh, India
M.B.B.S.	1984	Jawahar Lal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Madras University, Pondicherry, India

Professional Record:

2006-present	Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
1999-2006	Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Since coming to the University of Michigan, Dr. Saran has shown a strong commitment to teaching. He gives two lectures every other year for renal fellows on the fundamentals of pathophysiology and management of chronic kidney disease (CKD) and does substantial clinical teaching as well. His teaching scores from the fellows are excellent and have gone up substantially over the past two years. Dr. Saran teaches a very complex and difficult section on renal pathophysiology to medical students. His presentations are undergoing continual quality improvement to better address the needs of the students. In addition, he has mentored a number of trainees in research and provided excellent support and teaching in that arena. Finally, Dr. Saran is a highly sought after instructor on the methods of clinical research.

Research: Dr. Saran is a highly productive and established investigator. He is currently the principal investigator for several major projects of national and international significance related to CKD surveillance and end stage renal disease (ESRD) practice patterns. He has established long-term funding through a variety of sources including the Center for Disease Control and the Department of Veterans Affairs. His contributions have already had substantive impact on the diagnosis and treatment of patients with CKD and ESRD and are poised to have even greater impact in the next several years.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Chandra P, Sands RL, Gillespie BW, Levin NW, Kotanko K, Kiser M, Finkelstein F, Hinderliter A, Pop-Busui R, Rajagopalan S, Saran R: Predictors of heart rate variability and its prognostic significance in chronic kidney disease. *Nephrol Dial Transplant* Epub 2011 July.

Korgaonkar S, Tilea A, Gillespie BW, Kiser M, Eisele G, Finkelstein F, Kotanko P, Pitt B, Saran R: Serum potassium and outcomes in CKD: Insights from the RRI-CKD cohort study. *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol* 5:5762-769, 2010.

Saran R, Hedgeman E, Plantinga L, Burrows NR, Gillespie BW, Young EW, Coresh J, Pavkov M, Williams D, Powe NR, for the CDC CKD Surveillance Team: Establishing a national chronic kidney disease surveillance system for the United States. *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol* 5:152-161, 2010.

Saran R, Elder SJ, Goodkin DA, Akiba T, Ethier J, Rayner HC, Saito A, Young EW, Gillespie BW, Merion RM, Pisoni RL: Enhanced training in creation of vascular accesses predicts arteriovenous fistula placement and patency in hemodialysis patients: Results from the dialysis outcomes and practice patterns study. *Ann Surg* 247:885-891, 2008.

Saran R, Bragg-Gresham JL, Levin NW, Twardowski ZJ, Wizemann V, Saito A, Kimata N, Gillespie BW, Combe C, Bommer J, Akiba T, Mapes DL, Young EW, Port FK: Longer treatment time and slower ultrafiltration in hemodialysis: Associations with reduced mortality in the DOPPS. *Kidney Int* 69:1222-1228, 2006.

Service: Dr. Saran is the associate director of the Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center (UM-KECC), one of the premier research organizations in the areas of CKD and ESRD epidemiology and cost containment. Dr. Saran is on the editorial board of *Advances in Chronic Kidney Disease* and serves as an ad hoc journal reviewer for several publications including *American Journal of Kidney Diseases* and *Journal of American Society of Nephrology*. Finally, Dr. Saran is a clinical leader in the treatment of patients with CKD and ESRD. He contributes a half-day general nephrology outpatient clinic and six to eight rotating between the chronic dialysis and the acute renal consult services.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "He has been invited in the international scene on [a] regular basis for guest lectures on CKD, ESRD and dialysis. He has been involved in various important committees both at national as well as at international level[s]."

Reviewer B: "...I have come to admire his insight and ability to articulate his research questions, findings and implications...I am fully supportive of the promotion of Dr. Saran to Professor of Medicine; he is an outstanding faculty member who is a credit to the University of Michigan."

Reviewer C: "Rajiv and his associates were the first to show that the corresponding [mortality] rate among certain European countries is lower than ours because in those countries the duration

of each dialysis treatment is longer and the amount of excessive fluid removal from a patient via ultrafiltration per unit dialysis time is lower. Ever since this seminal discovery, a large number of dialysis units in this country and in other parts of the world are improving their dialysis techniques based on what Rajiv has found....Because of this most important discovery, Rajiv has done the dialysis community a great service and is regarded as a hero among dialysis-centric healthcare professionals.”

Reviewer D: “Rajiv enjoys an international reputation of being a very knowledgeable and conscientious nephrologist with an innate curiosity that is evident in his approach to both his patients and his research... It is evident that he leverages his knowledge and excellent interpersonal relationships to develop and maintain productive collaborations for advancing his research activities.”


Reviewer E: “Although Dr. Saran has worked in several areas of nephrology research, his research work related to CKD and ESRD have been extremely well received by the academic nephrology community and has propelled him to national and international prominence in this field. There is no question that Dr. Saran is now considered a leading authority in the area of CKD surveillance as evidenced by his continued research funding and publications in prominent journals.”

Reviewer F: “Dr. Saran’s expertise is recognized by the research community and [he] has been invited to review for [a] number of prestigious journals...Furthermore, he has established a vast collaborative network across the world and is extensively published in highly respected journals...”

Reviewer G: “Several of his publications...have direct implications in the management of patients with renal disease. My assessment is that Dr. Saran’s studies have had a significant impact on the field of Nephrology.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Saran is an acclaimed epidemiology and outcomes investigator in the areas of CKD and ESRD, as well as a highly regarded clinician whose research is recognized nationally and internationally. Through his multiple research efforts he has made critical new insights that have already contributed significantly to the care provided to patients with CKD and ESRD. Finally, he continues to contribute substantially to the education of future physicians and clinical researchers. It is with the great enthusiasm that I recommend Rajiv Saran, M.B.B.S. for promotion to professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School.


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

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