Approved by the Regents
May 17, 2012

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

John P. Wolfe, associate professor of chemistry, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of chemistry, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
B.A.	1994	University of Colorado, Boulder

Professional Record:

2008 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Michigan
2002 – 2008	Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Michigan
1999 – 2002	National Institutes of Health NRSA Post-doctoral Fellow, University of California, Irvine

Summary of Evaluation:
Teaching – Professor Wolfe is recognized as one of the top teachers in the undergraduate chemistry courses. In recognition of his excellence he received the University of Michigan Chemistry Faculty Teaching Award in 2009. He has taught thousands of students over the last five years in the undergraduate organic chemistry course alone and student evaluations are in the top quartile. In fact, his scores are among the highest scores in the department at this level. At the graduate level, he has taught three specialty courses and received high scores here as well. Professor Wolfe is a dedicated research mentor. He has supervised seventeen undergraduates and has served on multiple graduate student thesis and preliminary committees.

Research – Professor Wolfe has gained national and international recognition as an expert in the field of synthetic organic chemistry. His research efforts focus on the development of metal-ligand complexes that efficiently catalyze important reactions in the synthesis of small molecules. This topic has been an important focus since the beginning of his independent career, and much of his recognition in the field originates from this program in palladium chemistry. Professor Wolfe has published 22 research papers since his promotion to associate professor. He has also been invited to present at a large number of seminars, both nationally and internationally. Professor Wolfe has had excellent success in obtaining funding from major governmental agencies as well as various starter grant/fellowship/awards programs. In the last year alone he has been awarded new grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

Recent and Significant Publications:
"Intramolecular alkene aminopalladation reactions of (Dppf)Pd(Ar)[N(Ar(1))(Ch(2))(3)Ch= Ch(2)] complexes. Insertion of unactivated alkenes into Pd-N bonds," with J. D. Neukom and N. S. Perch, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, 132, 2011, pp. 6276-6277.

"Asymmetric palladium-catalyzed Carboamination reactions for the synthesis of eEnantiomerically enriched 2-(arylmethyl)- and 2-(alkenylmethyl)pyrrolidines," with D. N. Mai, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, 132, 2010, pp. 12157-12159.

"Asymmetric tandem Wittig rearrangement/Mannich reactions," with N. C. Giampietro, *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*, 49, 2010, pp. 2922-2924.

"Synthesis of polycyclic nitrogen heterocycles via alkene aminopalladation/carbopalladation cascade reactions," with D. M. Schultz, *Organic Letters*, 12, 2010, pp. 1028-1031.

Service – Professor Wolfe has served on a number of important departmental and university committees. He has been very active in reviewing manuscripts for many important professional journals and funding agencies. Professor Wolfe currently serves on the editorial advisory board of an important journal in his field.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"...John has made his mark in the field of organic synthesis methodology and catalysis. He has established a very cohesive research program... John and his group have made a number of significant research advances since he was promoted to associate professor. ... I expect him to remain a prominent member of the organic chemistry community for many years to come."

Reviewer (B)

"...Wolfe has always been productive in his career, steadily publishes one or two papers...per year, as well as a variety of quality work in more specialized journals..."

Reviewer (C)

"John Wolfe has established himself as a leader in the invention of catalytic methods for forming valuable heterocyclic molecules. ...[he] is widely recognized for his research contributions, as evidenced by over 70 invited lectures he has present in the US and Canada since 2003 and his success in renewing both his NSF and NIH research grants."

Reviewer (D)

"In my opinion John's are among the most exciting recent discoveries in the area of catalytic amination. On re-reading his papers I am genuinely impressed with the creativity, rigor, and scholarship he brings to bear in tackling his research problems... His chemistry is on a steep upward trajectory..."

Reviewer (E)

"Wolfe is clearly one of the top individuals in his [generation]...with respect to accomplishment, talent, and likelihood of continued future success. With Wolfe, there is no hype, just results and important ones. Wolfe will undoubted[ly] continue to grow as his work progresses and I expect him to make seminal contributions to many areas of science."

Reviewer (F)

"...undergraduate and graduate students from his lab have all obtained productive employment. ... Wolfe has excelled and been very productive in his research and is recognized as an emerging leader... He has been able to maintain strong funding at the immediate post tenure juncture,

which is often a difficult stage in a scientist's career. … Additionally, he has been recognized by the University of Michigan teaching award."

Reviewer (G)
"…based on the materials you sent me and his recent success in funding (which is a testament to his science and fortitude), I would easily support promotion…"

Summary of Recommendation:
Professor Wolfe has excelled in teaching, service, and research, gaining both national and international recognition. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor John P. Wolfe be promoted to the rank of professor of chemistry, 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

May 2012