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

Priti R. Shah, associate professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:
Ph.D.	1996	Carnegie Mellon University
M.S.	1992	Carnegie Mellon University
A.B.	1990	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Professional Record:
2006 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
1999 – 2006	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
1997 – 1999	Assistant Professor, University of Memphis
1995 – 1997	Post-doctoral Fellow, University of California, Santa Barbara

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Shah's teaching record shows a remarkable breadth, with particular strengths in engaging students. Student evaluations show that she is quite effective in reaching students, and is somewhat stronger in smaller classes than in large lecture settings. A consistent theme across all of her classes is an attention to rigor, basing course content in the recent as well as classic scholarly literature. Professor Shah has supervised nearly 60 undergraduate students in her research lab since 2006. She has also chaired or co-chaired nine dissertations and been a member of twelve dissertation committees. She has played an important curricular role within the department with her recent development of Psychology's "Responsible Conduct of Research" class to fulfill National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health requirements for trainees. She developed the course from scratch and has received high student ratings for this course.

Research – Professor Shah has made and continues to make important research contributions to cognitive science in the areas of working memory and executive functions and in graphical display comprehension and scientific reasoning. Her work bridges basic and applied research and exhibits an impressive combination of experimental cognitive research with the study of individual differences and development. She recently embarked on research that leads the field in important new directions. Her novel findings in working memory training and ADHD and executive functioning have attained high visibility and promise to yield important new advances. Professor Shah's overall productivity is very good and shows an accelerating trajectory. Some of her most recent publications are notable for the degree to which they set an agenda for the field for the next five to ten years. She is very successful in supporting her work through external funding.

<u>Recent and Significant Publications</u>:
"Cognitive training for ADHD: The importance of individual differences," with M. Buschkuehl,
    et al., *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*, in press.
"Building better brains," with J. Jonides, et al., *Scientific American Mind*, 23, 2012, pp. 59-63.
"Short- and long-term benefits of cognitive training," with S. M. Jaeggi, et al., *Proceedings of
    the National Academy of Sciences*, 2011, doi:10.1073/pnas.1103228108.
"Creative style and achievement in adults with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder," with H.
    A. White, *Personality and Individual Differences*, 50(5), 2011, pp. 673-677.

<u>Service</u> – Professor Shah has participated in important departmental committees, including the
Executive Committee. At the university level, she has been a member of the faculty senate and
several university-wide committees. She regularly reviews for prestigious journals in her
research area and serves on review panels for both the National Science Foundation and the
Institute for Education Science.

<u>External Reviewers</u>:
Reviewer (A)
"I would characterize Priti's scholarly accomplishments as strong. … Her work is thematic and
builds upon her prior studies as well as other work in the literature. There is a coherence to her
main research thrusts. …she has collaborated with an impressive array of people who have
strong international reputations."

Reviewer (B)
"Dr. Shah has a nice mixture of theoretical and practical accomplishments. She appears to be an
accomplished public citizen and teacher as well as researcher. … Dr. Shah is well known
nationally and internationally in…working memory… She may be even better-well-known in
the field of educational psychology, through her work on interpreting graphs…"

Reviewer (C)
"…I consider Dr. Shah to be a scholar of the highest quality, for whose work I have the utmost
admiration and respect, and whose influence on the field has included my own research program.
I believe that any research-focused psychology department would be lucky to have her as a Full
Professor in their ranks."

Reviewer (D)
"In terms of her reputation in the field, Dr. Shah is well known and respected both nationally and
internationally. A notable strength is her ability to work well with her colleagues at Michigan as
well as others in the field. Because Dr. Shah's research has great promise for translation to
education, it is in fact very important for her to work with researchers who bring their different
areas of expertise to bear on the issues she is investigating. Her work is appearing in excellent
journals and is highly cited, attesting to the quality of her work and her productivity."

Reviewer (E)
"I would characterize Dr. Shah as a superb empiricist who addresses important gaps or
ambiguities in the literature. She designs tight studies that are well-targeted to the driving
question, her data analyses are thorough, and she frankly considers alternative interpretations. In

my own papers or classes I quote her findings in a short statement, because her findings are clear, secure, and definitive."
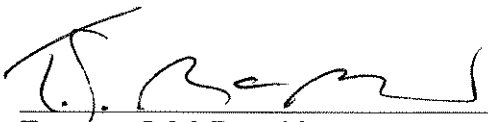
Reviewer (F)

"Let me start by saying that I endorse Dr. Shah's promotion and I do so with enthusiasm. From my perspective she has demonstrated both research creativity and productivity. She works well both independently and in a variety of collaborative contexts. ... Her work is solidly rooted in the cognitive domain, but also has strong implications for other disciplines, in particular education and human factors. She has published in journals targeting both her basic research as well as the applied disciplines."

Reviewer (G)

"Her research is of the highest quality, solid from the overall conception to the details. ... It has attracted attention not just in cognitive psychology, but also in the growing fields of education and information visualization, and more. She is known as a lucid, informative, and interesting speaker. She has broadly collaborated within and across disciplines and mentored a number of excellent students. Her teaching is inspired and inspiring, as broad and deep as her research, bringing her vision to classrooms, and finding ways to engage students at many levels and with diverse interests and background. Far more than enough to justify promotion to Professor."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Shah is a leader in basic and applied cognitive science, a combination that is rarely achieved in the field. She is a successful teacher and mentor at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, and is a valued contributor to the mission of multiple local units on campus. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Priti R. Shah be promoted to professor of psychology, with tenure, 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 2013