

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

Approved by the  
Regents  
May 21, 2015

Michal A. Olszewski, D.V.M., Ph.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

D.V.M.	1988	Warsaw University of Life Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine
Ph.D.	1997	Michigan State University, College of Veterinary Medicine

Professional Record:

2011-present	Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
2007-2010	Research Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
2003-2007	Research Investigator, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Olszewski is an enthusiastic and dedicated teacher. One of his strongest skills is his ability to inspire his students and challenge them with a combination of responsibility and thoughtful critiques. Feedback received from trainees includes: "With such lively and challenging discussions, Dr. Olszewski deepened my love for science and further motivated me to become a medical researcher," "...most impressive educators I have come across," "...his mentorship was instrumental in shaping my education..." For the past four years, Dr. Olszewski has taught the semester long IMM850 "Experimental Immunology" course to first-year graduate students. Comments from students include "this class was the most valuable class I took in graduate school," "most challenging yet most rewarding class in my graduate (and undergraduate) experience." Dr. Olszewski has also taught the semester long INTMED460/MICROB 460 "Eukaryotic Microbiology" course to undergraduate students. In both of these, Dr. Olszewski has had significant impact in re-vamping the programs to provide more in-depth learning, creativity and teaching modernized techniques to the students. He has been a UROP mentor since 2001. On average he has 6-8 undergraduate students training in his lab each year and has mentored five post-doctoral Ph.D. investigators and two M.D. fellows over the past six years. Dr. Olszewski was awarded the Faculty Recognition Award for Outstanding Mentorship in 2012.

Research: Dr. Olszewski's research niche is in the studies of fungal infections in the lung with a special interest in *Cryptococcus neoformans*. *Cryptococcus neoformans* is a leading cause of mortality due to central nervous system (CNS) infection worldwide, and his laboratory's main

focus is to enhance the understanding of the mechanisms of host defense against microbes. His long term goal is to expand the understanding of host-pathogen interactions in fungal and bacterial infections. Dr. Olszewski's love for teaching carries over into his widely successful collaborative efforts with colleagues. Not only does he focus on mentoring the next generation of scientists, he serves as a tremendous resource to his peers documenting several collaborative efforts, that without his expertise and direction, it is unlikely that the study and subsequent paper would have come to fruition. Dr. Olszewski has a successful independent research program yet is also recognized as a very strong team science player, who possesses the "perseverance, diplomatic disposition and integrity to work collegially in the evolving team science that will be crucial for the Medical School to maintain a leading position in biomedical research." Feedback from team science collaborators repeatedly comment on the mutually beneficial relationship they have in working with Dr. Olszewski and the fruitful culminating of their research and his invaluable knowledge. He has 48 peer-reviewed papers of which 21 he served as first or last author and one book chapter. Dr. Olszewski has maintained independent grant funding. Most recently, he has renewed a VA Merit Grant as principal investigator for a second time, as well as serving as a co-investigator on a VA Merit Review Grant and an NIH grant. Dr. Olszewski continues to be a productive scientist, frequently publishing in high impact peer-reviewed journals and shows a strong track record of the ability to secure independent grant funding.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

Qiu Y, Zeltzer S, Zhang Y, Wang F, Chen G, Murdock BJ, Toews GB, Bhan U, Osterholzer JJ, Standiford TJ, Olszewski MA: Early induction of CCL7 downstream of TLR9 signaling promotes the development of robust immunity to cryptococcal infection. *J Immunol* 188:3940-3948, 2012.

Qiu Y, Davis MJ, Dayrit J, Hadd ZD, Meister DL, Osterholzer JJ, Williamson PR, Olszewski MA: Immune modulation mediated by cryptococcal laccase promotes pulmonary growth and brain dissemination of virulent *Cryptococcus neoformans* in mice. *PLoS ONE* 2012, 7(10): e47853. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0047853.

He X, Lyons DM, Toffaletti DL, Zhang Y, Wang F, Qiu Y, Lee A, Dayrit J, Perfect JR, Olszewski MA: Virulence factors identified by *Cryptococcus neoformans* mutant screen differentially modulate lung immune responses and brain dissemination. *Am J Pathol* 181:1356-1366, 2012.

Qiu Y, Davis MJ, Dayrit JK, Carolan J, Osterholzer JJ, Curtis JL, Olszewski MA: Scavenger receptor A modulates the immune response to pulmonary *Cryptococcus neoformans* infection. *J Immunol* 191:238-248, 2013.

Davis MJ, Tsang T, Dayrit JK, Qiu Y, Freij JB, Huffnagle GB, Olszewski MA: Macrophage M1/M2 polarization dynamically adapts to changes in cytokine microenvironments in *Cryptococcus neoformans* infection. *MBio*. 4 mBio.00264-13, 2013.

Service: Dr. Olszewski serves on the editorial boards of *Infection and Immunity*, *International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Immunology* and *PLOSOne* and these positions are

testimonials to his national and international recognition as an authority on fungal immunology research. He serves as a grant reviewer for Medical Research Council, UUK and Wellcome Trust and EU-sponsored research grant proposals. He serves as ad hoc reviewer for the American Heart Association and VA ORD INFB study sections and as a reviewer for 12 scientific journals. Dr. Olszewski holds membership in the *American Thoracic Society*, *American Society for Microbiology*, *Medical Mycological Society of the Americas* and the *American Association of Immunologists*. His work has been presented at nearly 20 national and international meetings, including NIH workshops, the American Thoracic Society meetings and most recently, his extensive involvement at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on *Cryptococcus* and cryptococcosis in Amsterdam. Locally, Dr. Olszewski serves on several university and VA committees, include the GSAC Graduate Program in Immunology, and the Midwest Neglected Infectious Diseases Meeting, Steering Committee Member. He has served as chair of the Committee for Animal Studies IACUC at the VAMC Ann Arbor since 2003. Dr. Olszewski has received multiple Department of Veterans Affairs Performance Awards for his service and scholarly activity.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "...I am very excited about the path and direction of Michal's research program. He is asking central question [sic] about the nature of the immune response to clinically relevant fungal pathogens. He has also established himself as an excellent collaborator for others in the field."

Reviewer B: "His papers are in highly regarded journals in our field and his work is consistently first rate....Considering that this individual has been making scientific contributions for more than two decades and his excellent productivity I believe that this promotion is quite overdue."

Reviewer C: "The influence of his work to the field is important. In a field dominated by individuals who study the fungus first and merely use the host as a tool to understand the impact of a gene loss, Michal has created a true niche in mycology. His focus on macrophages and dendritic cells has been at the forefront of the field not only in the realm of cryptococcosis, but in the larger arena of medical mycology."

Reviewer D: "[Michal] has established a niche in the detailed examination of host response to *C. neoformans*. There are only a few researchers with this expertise in the world, and he is clearly respected among them."

Reviewer E: "Michal Olszewski has become in a few years an outstanding scientist who brings new tools, new approaches to the field. And I really think that his work has impacted the field. The excellence of his work is recognized by his peers, as shown by the invitations as speaker at the 3 recent International Conferences on *Cryptococcus* and *Cryptococcosis* (organized in Japan, USA, The Netherlands), [and] by the research seminars given in outside institutions."

Reviewer F: "Michal is also to be evaluated on teaching and service. Michal has excelled in mentoring of undergraduates, medical students, graduate students, and postdocs, and continues to teach in several courses, including a course directorship....There is no doubt that he will

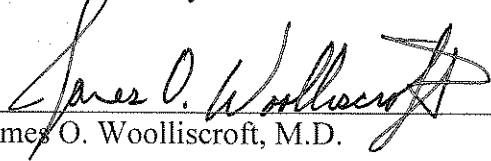
continue to excel as a teacher in the same manner he has exemplified as an independent investigator.”

Reviewer G: “...I think University of Michigan should do everything possible to promote Dr. Olszewski to the rank of Associate Professor since he already has an international reputation in cryptococcal immunology and is regarded as a leader in the field of fungal immunology....Considering his productive research, teaching and mentoring [junior] investigators and considerable service to [the] national and international scientific community, one can easily foresee him as an internationally recognized future leader in medical mycology especially of fungal immunology.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Michal Olszewski is a superb immunologist with a remarkable talent to impact the minds of future researchers and broaden the understanding of fungal and bacterial infections through his robust team science collaborations. I strongly support Michal A. Olszewski, D.V.M., Ph.D. for promotion to associate professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School.

Recommended by:

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

May 2015