

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

Approved by the  
Regents  
May 21, 2015

Christopher J. Sonnenday, M.D., assistant professor of surgery, Department of Surgery, Medical School, and assistant professor of health management and policy, Department of Health Management and Policy, School of Public Health, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School, and associate professor of health management and policy, without tenure, Department of Health Management and Policy, School of Public Health.

Academic Degrees:

M.H.S	2004	The Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore
M.D.	1997	Vanderbilt University
B.A.	1993	Northwestern University

Professional Record:

2008-present	Assistant Professor of Health Management and Policy, University of Michigan School of Public Health
2008-present	Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan
2006-2008	Clinical Lecturer, Department of Surgery, University of Michigan
2005-2006	Instructor in Surgery, Johns Hopkins University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Sonnenday is an outstanding educator and mentor. His teaching efforts span all levels of learners and include students, residents, allied health professionals, and fellows across multiple departments. He serves as the facilitator for the M3 transplant surgery clerkship, as well as the M4 transplant surgery subinternship. Dr. Sonnenday's teaching and education efforts are demonstrated at the national level as he participates on the Consensus Committee, held jointly by the ASTS/AHPBA/SSO societies to help define the credentials necessary for accredited Hepatobiliary Fellowship. In addition, he serves on the University of Michigan General Surgery Residency Clinical Competency Committee and hence plays a crucial role in the evaluation of residents. Dr. Sonnenday holds a joint appointment with the Department of Health Management and Policy (HMP) at the School of Public Health (SPH). In this role, he has given 2-4 lectures per year as part of the SPH courses or symposia, and from 2008-2012 he taught a two week session in the HMP capstone class. In 2009, Dr. Sonnenday's frailty program began with two UM undergraduates and since that time Dr. Sonnenday has expanded the focus to include analytic morphomics research projects and has personally mentored more than 70 students. The program introduces students to didactic lectures and project-based curriculum that

greatly enhances access of students to research. The success of these programs has inspired the creation of the Academic Surgeon Development Program, a first of its kind mentorship program sponsored by the Department of Surgery. Additionally, each year, Dr. Sonnenday helps execute weekly curriculum for students working with faculty in the Department of Surgery through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) and Summer Biomedical Research Program (SBRP).

Research: Dr. Sonnenday's research efforts include clinical issues in liver transplantation, disparities in healthcare, and frailty as a metric in patient selection for liver transplantation and complex surgical care. In 2010, Dr. Sonnenday published a paper in the *Journal American College of Surgeons* describing the role of measured sarcopenia in predicting mortality after liver transplant that significantly advanced the field by giving the important but nebulous concept of frailty some quantifiable metrics. In 2011, Dr. Sonnenday received a multi-year grant from the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Career Development Award to further investigate this topic. Dr. Sonnenday's research efforts have generated 46 peer-reviewed publications in high impact journals including *Annals of Surgery*, *American Journal of Transplantation*, and *Journal of American College of Surgeons*, 12 book chapters, two books, and numerous presentations at the local, regional and national level. He is on the editorial board for the *Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery* and a member of the grant submission peer review service for the American Society of Transplant Surgeons.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Englesbe MJ, Patel SP, He K, Lynch RL, Schaubel DE, Harbaugh C, Holcombe SA, Wang SC, Segev DL, Sonnenday CJ: Sarcopenia and mortality after liver transplantation. *J Amer Coll Surg* 211:271-278, 2010.

Mathur AK, Osborne NH, Lynch RL, Ghaferi AA, Dimick JD, Sonnenday CJ: Racial/ethnic disparities in access to care and survival for patients with early stage hepatocellular carcinoma. *Arch Surg* 14:1158-1163, 2010.

Englesbe MJ, Terjimanian MN, Lee JS, Sheetz KH, Harbaugh CM, Hussain A, Holcombe SA, Sullivan J, Campbell DA Jr, Wang SC, Sonnenday CJ: Morphometric age and surgical risk. *J Am Coll Surg* 216:976-985, 2013.

Welling TH, Feng M, Wan S, Hwang SY, Volk ML, Lawrence TS, Zalupski MM, Sonnenday CJ: Neoadjuvant stereotactic body radiation therapy, capecitabine, and liver transplantation for unresectable hilar cholangiocarcinoma. *Liver Transpl* 20:81-88, 2014.

Waits SA, Kim EK, Terjimanian MN, Tishberg LM, Harbaugh CM, Sheetz KH, Sonnenday CJ, Sullivan J, Wang SC, Englesbe MJ: Morphometric age and mortality after liver transplant. *JAMA Surg* 149:335-340, 2014.

Service: Dr. Sonnenday actively serves on institutional, regional, national and international committees. He is nationally recognized as a leader in the field of transplantation and hepatopancreaticobiliary surgery and currently provides national committee leadership as

program chair for the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Annual Meeting and program co-chair for the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association World Congress. He is a member of the Extended Criteria Liver LEAN team and Abdominal Organ Committee of Gift of Life Michigan Organ Procurement Organization. Institutional committee membership includes Liver Transplant Executive Committee, Comprehensive Cancer Center Protocol Review Committee and Department of Surgery Academic Development Committee. Dr. Sonnenday's recognition as an international leader is demonstrated by peers as they appointed him to leadership roles in two internationally respected committees. Dr. Sonnenday is the director of the Liver Transplant Program at the University of Michigan where he specializes in liver and pancreatic oncology and non-malignancy, as well as a multi-organ transplant surgeon. His appointment to this critical leadership position reflects the high regard he enjoys by his peers. He is considered to be extraordinarily personable and compassionate. His teaching and surgical skills are considered excellent, as demonstrated by his teaching evaluations.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Sonnenday is universally known as a surgical leader in liver transplantation in the United States...Dr. Sonnenday's surgical innovations alone, including side-to-side cavostomy and his treatment of cholangiocarcinoma, have made him one of the most prominent liver transplant surgeons in the country."

Reviewer B: "His national reputation is one of academic productivity, charismatic presence at the national level, and as a robust clinical expert. I think he is a credit to the University of Michigan, their transplant program, and their research efforts, and will continue to be so for many years to come as he continues to develop into a prominent national leader in academic surgery. His character, integrity, and the love his patients have for him make him a role model for future academic surgeons as well."

Reviewer C: "Dr. Sonnenday has become a master clinician, expert liver surgeon, and is the surgical director of the liver transplant program at Michigan. In that capacity, he has been an excellent mentor to fellows as well as surgical residents and is a research advisor to a number of students who are performing clinical research in surgery."

Reviewer D: "He has close to 50 manuscripts in peer reviewed journals. Of note is the fact that the vast majority of these publications are in highly respected surgical journals with high impact factors such as Annals of Surgery, American Journal of Transplantation, and Journal of American College of Surgeons."

Reviewer E: "On a national level, he has written and spoken on several important elements of liver transplantation surgery including analyses of risk assessment of mortality following liver transplantation."

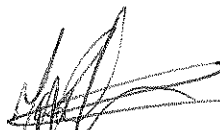
Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Sonnenday is well respected by his colleagues and considered to be an outstanding clinician, talented educator and leader in the field of transplantation. Therefore, we strongly recommend Christopher J. Sonnenday, M.D. for promotion to associate professor of surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School, and associate professor of health management and policy, without tenure, Department of Health Management and Policy, School of Public Health.



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



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Martin A. Philbert  
Dean, School of Public Health

May 2015