

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY

Tomasz Cierpicki, Ph.D., assistant professor of pathology, Department of Pathology, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of pathology, with tenure, Department of Pathology, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2002	University of Wroclaw, Poland
M.S.	1998	Wroclaw University of Technology, Poland

Professional Record:

2010-present	Assistant Professor of Biophysics, University of Michigan
2009-present	Assistant Professor of Pathology, University of Michigan
2006-2009	Research Assistant Professor of Molecular Physiology and Biological Physics, University of Virginia

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Cierpicki's teaching has been directed mostly at graduate students in formal courses and in the laboratory, and to post-doctoral fellows in the laboratory. The formal classes in chemical biology and medicinal chemistry have involved about 20 students in each class with a total teaching time of between 10 and 20 hours a year. The number of hours in a laboratory setting is difficult to define, but probably is in the hundreds of hours a year. He has served on 17 dissertation committees. In his course evaluations, he is regarded as an enthusiastic, dedicated educator with course evaluations generally averaging between 4.4 and 4.6 out of 5. He was course director of Chemical Biology 502 from 2012 to 2014, where he was actively involved in preparation of the curriculum. Overall, Dr. Cierpicki has made an important commitment to education, mainly in the research setting.

Research: Dr. Cierpicki's research has included the development of small molecules targeting the menin-MLL-LEDGF interaction in leukemia, development of small molecule inhibitors targeting epigenetic modulators in cancer, structure function studies of proteins involved in the development of acute leukemia and targeting protein-protein interaction using small molecules. Since his arrival at the University of Michigan, he has been a co-author of 32 manuscripts in high-impact journals for which he was the first author of three and the senior author of seven. In 2011, he was made an American Cancer Society Research Scholar. His research has been continually funded from external sources including the NIH, the American Cancer Society, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and industry including Kura Oncology, Incorporated and Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Incorporated. He has been invited to present his work at national and international venues including the University of South Carolina, Case Western University,

Boston University, Michigan State University, and forums in Italy, Poland, and Germany. He has also presented seminars at industry venues, including Novartis, Amgen, and Acetylon. He has served on study sections for the National Science Foundation, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the NIH, and groups in Poland, Italy, Switzerland, and the UK.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Murai MJ, Chruszcz M, Reddy G, Grembecka J, Cierpicki T* (*Corresponding author): Crystal structure of menin reveals binding site for mixed lineage leukemia (MLL) Protein. *J Biol Chem* 286:31742-31748, 2011.

Grembecka J, He S, Shi A, Purohit T, Muntean AG, Sorenson RJ, Showalter HD, Murai MJ, Belcher AM, Hartley T, Hess JL, Cierpicki T* (*Corresponding author): Menin-MLL inhibitors reverse oncogenic activity of MLL fusion proteins in leukemia. *Nat Chem Biol* 8:277-284, 2012. (this publication was highlighted in *Nat Rev Cancer* 12:154, 2012 and *Nat Rev Drug Discov* 11:190, 2012).

Murai MJ, Pollock J, He S, Miao H, Purohit T, Yokom A, Hess JL, Muntean AG, Grembecka J, Cierpicki T* (*corresponding author): The same site on the integrase-binding domain of lens epithelium-derived growth factor is a therapeutic target for MLL leukemia and HIV. *Blood* 124: 3730-3737, 2014.

Lund G, Dudkin S, Borkin D, Ni W, Grembecka J, Cierpicki T* (*corresponding author): Inhibition of CDC25B phosphatase through disruption of protein-protein interaction. *ACS Chem Biol* 10:390-340, 2014.

Borkin D, He S, Miao H, Kempinska K, Pollock J, Chase J, Purohit T, Malik B, Zhao T, Wang J, Wen B, Zong H, Jones M, Danet-Desnoyers G, Guzman ML, Talpaz M, Bixby DL, Sun D, Hess JL, Muntean AG, Maillard I, Cierpicki T, Grembecka J: Pharmacologic inhibition of the menin-MLL interaction blocks progression of MLL leukemia in vivo. *Cancer Cell* 27: 589-602, 2015. (this paper was highlighted in *Cancer Cell* 27:431, 2015; *Nat Rev Cancer* April 16, 2015 and *Cancer Discov* 27:589-602, 2015).

Service: Dr. Cierpicki has made commitments to his institution and has served on several important committees including the Center for the Discovery of New Medicines Core Leadership Team, the Cancer Research Committee, and the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research. He has also been an interviewer and candidate evaluator for the Graduate Program in PIBS, for the doctoral program in chemical biology and for the Molecular and Cellular Pathology Preliminary Exams Committee. He has also been an active recruiter of students for the Chemical Biology Doctoral Program. He has been an ad hoc reviewer for 16 high-impact, peer-reviewed journals.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "I would describe Dr. Cierpicki as a very talented and insightful structural biologist and biophysicist whose research program is likely to provide highly impactful contributions to small-molecule discovery for PPI (protein-protein interaction). Dr. Cierpicki has demonstrated impressive creativity and success in characterizing PPI using protein chemistry, NMR, x-ray crystallography. He has then translated these insights to identify drug-like compounds that bind to these sites."

Reviewer B: "...Dr. Cierpicki's pioneering work in structural biology and chemical biology has made him a leader in these fields....I appreciate both the high scientific value and potential clinical applicability of his work. His research accomplishments are outstanding....He has established a strong interdisciplinary research program and I am highly confident he will be successful in his future research programs and continue to be a leader in structural biology and drug discovery."

Reviewer C: "His seminal findings have caught significant attention in the leukemia community...Dr. Cierpicki is an outstanding researcher with national and international recognition. He has established a high quality and impactful research program in chemical biology of cancer, maintaining a continued and exciting program covering basic and translational research."

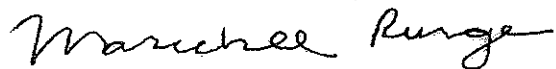
Reviewer D: "...his productivity and scientific contributions have had important impacts on cancer biology and drug design....Not only has he published groundbreaking work but he has also headed a multi-disciplinary approach that has already identified potential inhibitors. This is a big deal!...As judged by his publications, new collaborations with industry and submitted grants, I expect that his trajectory is still increasing exponentially."

Reviewer E: "...he is a world-leading expert on the menin/MLL interaction and its potential as a drug target for treating leukemia. The progress he has made, together with his collaborator Prof. Jolanta Grembecka, in this very difficult area of research is quite stunning....It is the hallmark of an outstanding scientist that they refuse to be limited by their scientific 'comfort zone,' being willing to learn whatever knowledge or techniques are required to advance their work. Prof. Cierpicki exemplifies this attitude and vision. That he does so skillfully and successfully is attested to not only by his many strong publications, and his strong and consistent record of funding for his research program, but also by the fact that the compounds he discovered have been licensed by a commercial company with the aim of developing them as a pharmaceutical agent."

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Cierpicki is a nationally and internationally prominent scientist who has made significant contributions to the field of small molecule inhibitors of protein-protein interactions in cancer, especially leukemia, where much of his research has centered around MLL-Menin interactions and CDC25-B phosphatase. He is a superb educator and mentor and a leader with contributions

both externally and within the university and medical school. I am pleased to recommend Tomasz Cierpicki, Ph.D. for promotion to associate professor of pathology, with tenure, Department of Pathology, Medical School.



Marschall S. Runge, M.D., Ph.D.
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs
Dean, Medical School

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