

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AND VISUAL SCIENCES

Hakan Demirci, M.D., associate professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, without tenure, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Medical School, is recommended for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D.	1993	Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey
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Professional Record:

2010-present	Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Michigan
2008-2010	Associate Professor, rank received in Turkey, Istanbul, Turkey
2006	Instructor, Department of Ophthalmology, Thomas Jefferson University,
2001	Instructor, Department of Ophthalmology, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Demirci is an excellent teacher and mentor and has taught research staff and students, medical students, house officers, and fellows. Dr. Demirci has consistently organized and instructed educational courses throughout the United States at the annual American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) meeting. In the last three years he served as a senior instructor in six courses offered by the Academy. Dr. Demirci's contributions to the education of his peers earned him the Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Best Teaching Fellow Award from the W.K. Kellogg Eye Center. On the clinical side, Dr. Demirci mentors and teaches oculoplastic and retina surgery fellows, mostly through the departments' ASOPRS-approved fellowship program. Dr. Demirci teaches, guides and supervises the fellows in clinic and the operating room. He also helps to facilitate and supervise their clinical research projects, and provides career mentoring. In addition, he spends time with residents in wet lab, didactic and operating room teaching. Last year, under Dr. Demirci's supervision, one of the fellow's thesis was accepted by ASOPRS and has been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Dr. Demirci also mentors and trains international ocular oncology fellows. Dr. Demirci is also active in patient education initiatives. He organizes and gives lectures for the pediatric eye disease support group that meets quarterly. Finally, Dr. Demirci regularly gives in-service presentations to allied health professionals, to help with their professional growth and performance. Dr. Demirci also provides quarterly or semi-annually in-service training about medical and surgical management of ocular oncology patients to the staff in the clinic and operating rooms at the Kellogg Eye Center.

Research: Dr. Demirci is recognized as a leader in research nationally and internationally for his work in ocular oncology. Dr. Demirci's research involves several clinical and basic studies about ocular oncology. The focus of his clinical research includes innovative, targeted approaches with minimal side effects for ocular and orbital cancers. One example of this treatment approach includes photodynamic therapy for choroidal metastasis. It is a focal, effective treatment that targets only choroidal metastasis and spares the surrounding normal ocular tissue. He has shown that it can be used for the treatment of juxtapapillary tumors and can be repeated when needed. Dr. Demirci presented the results of this particular research at an international meeting and it has been accepted for publication in the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, one of the most prestigious journals in the field of ophthalmology. Dr. Demirci was the first to show that rituximab is a targeted antibody that can be used locally for the management of iris and orbital lymphomas by sparing the systemic side effects. The result of this study was published in the *JAMA Ophthalmology*, another highly prestigious journal in the field of ophthalmology. In addition, the result of his research on intralesional rituximab for orbital lymphoma has been accepted for publication in the *Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* journal. He is also among the first physicians to describe features of enhanced depth imaging optical coherence tomography, a newly developed ocular imaging technique in choroidal metastasis and choroidal hemangiomas. These studies were presented at several international meetings and published in the journal *Retina*.

Dr. Demirci's work has been of such a quality that a significant portion of the interest of an outside group of stem cell researchers from New York is working with us at Michigan is based on the potential of working with Dr. Demirci to advance cancer care with him in a collaborative manner. All of this recent work is in keeping with Dr. Demirci's consistent record of publications. He now has over 100 peer reviewed publications and 106 published abstracts to his credit including seven book chapters and one book.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Demirci H, Shields CL, Bianciotto CG, Shields JA: Topical imiquimod for periocular lentigo maligna. *Ophthalmology* 117:2424-2429, 2010.

Demirci H, Christianson MD: Orbital and adnexal involvement in sarcoidosis: analysis of clinical features and systemic disease in 30 cases. *Am J Ophthalmol* 151:1074-1080, 2011.

Demirci H, Cullen A, Sundstrom JM: Enhanced depth imaging optical coherence tomography of choroidal metastasis. *Retina* 34:1354-1359, 2014.

Demirci H, Grant JS, Elnor VM: Intralesional rituximab for primary iris lymphoma. *JAMA Ophthalmol* 133:104-105, 2015.

Demirci H, Worden F, Nelson CC, Elnor VM, Kahana A: Efficacy of Vismodegib (Erivedge) for basal cell carcinoma involving the orbit and periocular area. *Ophthalm Plast Reconstr Surg*; Epub ahead of print, Feb 11, 2015. PMID: 25675162.

Service: Dr. Demirci is extremely active in clinical care and maintains an active ocular oncology practice at the Kellogg Eye Center. He is well respected by ophthalmologists at the local to international levels. With his unique experience, he attracts some of the most challenging cases. Dr. Demirci has a national and international presence as a member of several societies – among them the American Academy of Ophthalmology, ASOPRS, and the International Society of Ocular Oncology. He is a regular reviewer of major clinical and research journals in ophthalmology, oncology ophthalmology research and is frequently invited to give presentations on his expertise in these areas. Dr. Demirci serves as a reviewer for several journals including *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences*, *Retina*, and *Cornea*.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Dr. Demirci is the only fellowship-trained ocular oncologist in Southeast Michigan and has assumed an important position as a resource for referral of patients with cancer of the eye, adnexa and orbit....He founded and heads the Great Lakes Ocular Oncology Study Group that has brought in internationally important speakers to the University of Michigan and had been well received and attended by the local ophthalmologic and oncology communities....I would rate Dr. Demirci much higher than most clinical academicians in terms of professional and academic productivity....His productivity has been impressive and he continues to advance in his field. He holds a unique position as the only fellowship-trained ocular oncologist in Southeast Michigan.”

Reviewer B: “Dr. Demirci has demonstrated not only outstanding innovation and leadership, but also truly exemplary scholarship in the studies of ocular oncology, inflammatory orbital disorders and various ophthalmic drugs, among many other ocular issues. He is well-known in the ocular oncology community and is regularly invited to share his work at national and international conferences....Dr. Demirci has won national and institutional awards throughout his career, including the receipt of the coveted Senior Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology this year! The receipt of these awards is a great indication of how well thought of he is, not only in the ocular oncology community, but in Ophthalmology as a whole.”

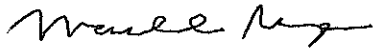
Reviewer C: “...Dr. Demirci certainly has earned a national and even an international presence in teaching and education in the complex world of ocular oncology. This area of expertise is highly regarded and very few have such strong credentials.”

Reviewer D: “Dr. Demirci is an outstanding clinician and accomplished teacher, as evidenced by his extensive list of organized and instructed educational courses. He has a stellar national and international reputation amongst his peers.... As a testament to his superb teaching skills, Dr. Demirci was awarded the Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) ...”

Reviewer E: “In the five years since his initial appointment, he has established an internationally recognized ocular service at the University of Michigan providing comprehensive care to patient [sic] suffering from rare malignancies.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Demirci has shown excellence and productivity in his clinical work, teaching, and research and I enthusiastically recommend Hakan Demirci, M.D. the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Medical School.



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

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