

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSURGERY

Cormac Maher, M.D., associate professor of neurosurgery, with tenure, Department of Neurosurgery, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to professor of neurosurgery, with tenure, Department of Neurosurgery, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D.	1998	Georgetown University
B.S.	1994	University of Georgia

Professional Record:

2011-present	Associate Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Michigan
2006-2011	Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Maher teaches medical students and residents in the clinic, in the operating room, and in the classroom. In addition, he has mentored several undergraduate students. He receives outstanding evaluations from the residents and was the recipient of the 2014 Julian T. Hoff Resident Award from the Department of Neurosurgery, the highest teaching award voted upon by the residents. He serves as the associate program director for the Neurosurgical Residency Program and in that capacity has developed a variety of tools to help evaluate residents as they progress through the residency program. This has been important to the certification process by the ACGME as well as in helping residents understand their strength and weaknesses. Dr. Maher serves as the chair of the Education Committee, which has been important in developing new programs and directing the educational activities of the department. He has mentored a variety of students within the University of Michigan including helping three medical students obtain a M.S. degree here. He has been a significant mentor and contributor to the education of multiple residents, having published with them a variety of activities. On a local level, Dr. Maher has also been a member of the Residency Clinical Competency Committee as well as a lecturer for the M3 students during their neurology rotation. On a national level, he provides lectures to attending neurosurgeons on a variety of meetings including the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. Because of his clear style of presentation and because of his outstanding knowledge base in specific areas of neurosurgery, he is regularly called upon to give lectures at national meetings as well as having been asked to be a visiting professor in a variety of settings.

Research: Dr. Maher is prominent for his rigorous studies of epidemiology, natural history, and treated natural history, for a number of significant pediatric and adult neurosurgical conditions. He has been instrumental in assessing MRI findings and their significance in the clinical setting.

His work on incidental findings on MRI scan has been important in helping neurosurgeons understand whether a specific finding needs follow up, requires treatment, or can be considered something for which nothing further needs to be done. In addition, his development and understanding of Chiari malformation, both with respect to decision making as well as outcomes after surgical intervention, has been crucial. He has helped the entire field of neurosurgery understand this condition and most importantly make a decision with respect to neurosurgical intervention. Because of his clear style of presentation and the rigor in which he assesses these anomalies, a significant number of patients have been saved from unnecessary surgical procedures, and more importantly the neurosurgeons treating them have had a better understanding of the pathophysiology of given neurosurgical conditions as well as the appropriateness of neurosurgical interventions in these conditions. His research activity has been unusually productive. Since his promotion to associate professor, he has published an additional fifty papers. All of these publications have been in outstanding journals and he has received high praise for them. His ability to evaluate and synthesize materials from large MRI data bases and clinical data bases has been recognized throughout our institution. The results of these carefully planned evaluations have contributed significantly to the neurosurgical literature.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Strahle J, Muraszko KM, Kapurch J, Bapuraj JR, Garton HJL, Maher CO: Chiari malformation Type I and syrinx in children undergoing magnetic resonance imaging. *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics* 8:205-213, 2011.

Strahle J, Muraszko KM, Kapurch J, Bapuraj JR, Garton HJL, Maher CO: Natural history of Chiari malformation Type I following decision for conservative treatment. *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics* 8:214-221, 2011.

Al-Holou WN, Terman S, Kilburg C, Garton HJL, Muraszko KM, Maher CO: The prevalence and natural history of arachnoid cysts in adults, *Journal of Neurosurgery* 118:222-231, 2013.

Smith BW, Strahle J, Bapuraj JR, Muraszko KM, Garton HJ, Maher CO: The distribution of cerebellar tonsil position: implications for understanding the Chiari malformation. *Journal of Neurosurgery* 119:812-819, 2013.

Cools MJ, Al-Holou WN, Stetler WR, Wilson TJ, Muraszko KM, Ibrahim M, La Marca F, Garton HJ, Maher CO: Filum Terminale Lipomas: Imaging prevalence, natural history and conus position. *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics* 13:559-567, 2014.

Service: Dr. Maher is a member of the AANS (American Association of Neurological Surgeons) as well as the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and the Pediatric Section of the AANS. He has served on a variety of important committees in these organizations including the Washington Committee, in which he worked to develop an understanding of governmental relations and their significance in pediatric neurosurgery. In addition, he served on the Publications Committee which oversees the creation and dissemination of important new neurosurgical materials. His work on the Ethics Committee has been important as neurosurgery faces some of the important issues with respect to conflict of interest, adequacy of testimony, and has helped the national

organizations focus their efforts with respect to patient care. A member of the Young Neurosurgeons Committee, the Scientific Program Committee, the Education Committee, and the Pediatric Section Executive Committee, have all contributed to his understanding of organized neurosurgery and he has been viewed as a quickly rising senior leader within organized neurosurgical circles. Particularly within the pediatric arena, Dr. Maher has helped evaluate programs with respect to fellowships in pediatric neurosurgery and as to whether they are competent to provide such fellowships.

He is a strong member within the department on a variety of committees including being the chair of the Education Committee and the chair of the Clinical Research and Outcomes Committee. He participates as a member of the Finance Committee, the Clinical Operations Committee, and the Clinical Competency Committee. Since 2013, he has served as the associate chair for clinical research and outcomes in the Department of Neurosurgery, and as such acts as a quality assurance officer within the department. His service as an associate residency program director has resulted in important innovations within the Department of Neurosurgery, particularly in respect to residency training. Dr. Maher is one of the busiest neurosurgeons within the department. He has a practice that covers the full spectrum of pediatric neurosurgery with a special emphasis on cranial pathology, particularly vascular disease, tumors, and Chiari malformation. He is widely viewed as an outstanding neurosurgeon and has been listed in *Best Doctors of America* each year since 2007 as well as *Top Doctors* in metro Detroit and *Hour Magazine's, Top Doctors*.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Dr. Maher has been incredibly productive in research activities, having published over 100 peer reviewed articles, including 45 publications since his last promotion...The vast majority of these are in the best journals in our profession...these publications have made a major impact on our specialty over the years, and have enhanced our understanding of many disease processes....I can attest personally to the fact that he is picked to lead national efforts because it is well known within our specialty that he ‘gets things done.’ He is an effective leader...I would rank him among the top 10% of thought leaders in our specialty.”

Reviewer B: “Dr. Maher fulfills the overall criteria of national reputation in Neurosurgery, particularly in the area of Chiari malformation type one, where he is widely considered a ‘thought leader’...Dr. Maher has attained leadership positions in several of our national organizations and his imprint is being made on the development of neurosurgical trainees through various education related positions...”

Reviewer C: “He has set an example for the world of neurosurgery in how to think clearly and scientifically about important clinical questions. In my opinion, he is one of the handful of neurosurgical leaders in the area of the natural history of nervous system abnormalities and the implications for their treatment.”

Reviewer D: “Dr. Maher is one of a handful of pediatric neurosurgeons in North American who are making a significant mark on the field through their publications and educational and

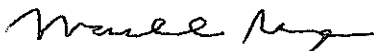
leadership contributions nationally and internationally. Accordingly, he's a rising leader who is rapidly gaining respect in our community....Dr. Maher stands out among our colleagues in Pediatric Neurosurgery, having achieved seminal research and served in leadership positions in a specialty known for its heavy clinical load and emergencies, and in which little protected time is afforded. I expect that Dr. Maher will continue to rise on the leadership ladder in our national societies."

Reviewer E: "Dr. Maher is a thought leader in North American pediatric neurosurgery....He was a major leader in the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, Young Neurosurgeons Committee, and subsequently on key AANS governance committees...He is a consummate academic pediatric neurosurgeon and a highly valued colleague and leader in our field."

Reviewer F: "Dr. Maher and his colleagues at University of Michigan have provided unprecedented information defining the natural history and incidence in children with specific disease pathologies of the central nervous system. He has instituted a rigorous data review process with excellent statistical validation to guide the neurosurgery community in problematic decision making. Said simply, he has truly impacted clinical practice patterns around the world."

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Maher is an outstanding member of the Department of Neurosurgery. He has had an extremely strong academic career with numerous publications in peer reviewed journals, national leadership positions within organized neurosurgery, and strong leadership within the Department. He has excelled in all activities from teaching, research, and service and is highly sought after by a variety of institutions across the United States. I am pleased, therefore, to recommend Cormac Maher, M.D. for promotion to professor of neurosurgery, with tenure, Department of Neurosurgery, Medical School.



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

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