

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BEHAVIOR AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Arden M. Morris, M.D., associate professor of surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School, and associate professor of health behavior and health education, without tenure, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health, is recommended for promotion to professor of surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School, and professor of health behavior and health education, without tenure, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health.

Academic Degrees:

M.P.H.	2002	University of Washington
M.D.	1993	Rush Medical College
A.B.	1986	University of Pennsylvania

Professional Record:

2010-present	Associate Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education (HBHE), School of Public Health, University of Michigan
2009-present	Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan
2009	Adjunct Associate Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health, University of Michigan
2009	Adjunct Assistant Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health, University of Michigan
2003-2009	Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Morris teaches and mentors graduate students, medical and nursing students, residents, post-doctoral fellows, and junior faculty. She provides formal lectures and instruction in classrooms and national conferences, and in the clinic, operating room, and bedside. Student lecture topics cover a variety of issues such as socio-cultural competence, breaking bad news, colorectal cancer management, and bowel obstruction. Dr. Morris spends over 900 hours per year on teaching efforts. She has served as a co-chair and member on two dissertation committees for HBHE doctoral candidates. She received the Outstanding Clinician Award from the 2014 Medical School Dean's Awards. Annual resident evaluations rate her in the superior category for being a great teacher in the operating room, encouraging resident participation in the OR and clinic, approachability, and interest in the residents' education and as an excellent role model for providing compassionate patient care. She serves as a course instructor for the UM

School of Public Health and on the planning committee and core faculty at the UM Rackham School of Graduate Studies and UM Robert Woods Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program. An important teaching contribution for Dr. Morris is being the founder and co-director of the Qualitative and Mixed Methods Learning Lab. Her expertise in helping surgeons increase their knowledge to improve surgical outcomes is well-known and she is highly sought after to be a presenter, panel member, and faculty at national and international society and course meetings, such as for the American College of Surgeons and Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland.

Research: The research interests of Dr. Morris are in understanding and reducing racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in surgical outcomes; quality and processes of care for colon and rectal cancer; patient-centered outcomes in colon and rectal surgery; and measuring non-fatal outcomes to assess the quality of surgical care. Her research exploring surgical disparities with cancer patients has led to important publications that have affected government and national cancer care policies. She is highly productive with international recognition in surgical outcomes research and has 73 peer-reviewed publications in leading journals such as *Medical Care*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, as well as ten book chapters. She received the visiting scholar award from the Russell Sage Foundation and is the principal investigator on a current grant from the American Cancer Society to study disparities in colorectal cancer care. Since her last promotion, she has had four visiting professorships at leading academic medical centers and attended 30 national and international presentations as an extramural invited or keynote speaker. She has been a committee member of several national study sections, currently with the American Cancer Society, Psychosocial and Behavioral Research, and National Quality Forum. She is an ad hoc reviewer for 13 journals and recently was on three editorial boards.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

Morris AM, Rhoads KF, Stain SC, Birkmeyer JD: Understanding racial disparities in cancer treatment and outcomes. *J Am Coll Surg* 211:105-113, 2010.

Waljee AK, Higgins PD, Waljee JF, Tujios SR, Saxena A, Brown LK, Chaudhary MN, Morris AM: Perceived and actual quality of life with ulcerative colitis: a comparison of medically and surgically treated patients. *The American Journal of Gastroenterology* 106:794-799, 2011.

Mead E, Doorenbos AZ, Haozous EA, Alvord LA, Flum DR, Morris AM: Shared decision making for cancer care among racial and ethnic minorities: a systematic review. *American Journal of Public Health* 103:e15-29, 2013.

Veenstra CM, Regenbogen SE, Hawley ST, Griggs JJ, Banerjee M, Kato I, Ward KC, Morris AM: A composite measure of personal financial burden among patients with stage III colorectal cancer. *Medical Care* 52:957-962, 2014.

Morris AM, Regenbogen SE, Hardiman KM, Hendren S: Sigmoid diverticulitis: a systematic review. *JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association* 311:287-297, 2014.

Service: Dr. Morris' dedication to the quality of patient care in the medical community has been outstanding. She has served on numerous institutional and national committees that advance the understanding of the complex field of surgical outcomes. Currently, she is a member of several University of Michigan Health System committees related to the cancer center, marketing, ostomy services, outcomes, disparities, research, and policies. She also serves on committees with the Research Foundation of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Society of University Surgeons, and the American Gastroenterological Association, and is the chair of the Quality Assessment and Safety Committee for the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons and the president of the Surgical Outcomes Club, American College of Surgeons. Dr. Morris has an excellent reputation among her peers as being a leader in the field of cancer care policy as it relates to disparities.

In March 2011, Dr. Morris developed the new division of Colorectal Surgery at UMHS and served as division chief. Transparent, informative and supportive communication was important with developing the team of referring physicians, colleagues, patients and families. She developed, implemented and directs the patient-centered Multidisciplinary Colorectal Cancer Clinic and is a core faculty member of the Michigan Bowel Control Program. Patients come from across the U.S. and other countries to obtain treatment from Dr. Morris. She has been recognized nationally for her contributions to colorectal cancer care, including her participation with the center of excellence program in rectal cancer care with the American College of Surgeons.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "In short, Dr. Morris' work creates a bridge between clinical practice and outcomes research efforts, which broadly informs policy development...Dr. Morris is an outstanding faculty member who has contributed to the advancement of the field of surgical outcomes/health services research. I would place her in the top 5% of American surgeons in this field based on the originality, quality, and significance of her work. In addition, her accomplishments in serve to the University of Michigan have been significant. I believe that Dr. Morris would be promoted to full professorship at any of the top institutions in the United States."

Reviewer B: "Dr. Morris has established herself as an international leader in surgical outcomes research with a focus on health care disparities. Her impact on the field has been substantive and growing....She has presented widely at national and international scientific symposia and has had visiting professorships at numerous leading academic medical centers. She has been principal investigator on two large research grants, one ongoing. She has been highly productive in publishing and presenting her findings."

Reviewer C: "An important publication in the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* (2010) focused on understanding racial disparities in cancer treatment and outcomes, which informs cancer care policy as it relates to disparities. Another more recent publication in *Medical Care* in 2014 looks at personal financial burden among patients with stage III colorectal cancer.

This paper has particular relevance to IOM recommendations for cancer care plans that include an estimate of out-of-pocket costs.”

Reviewer D: “Dr. Morris’ scholarly work has had a significant impact on her field and has advanced the field. She is a leader in health services research as applied to general surgery and specifically, colorectal surgery. She is truly one of the best-known health services researchers in surgery in the United States and has been extremely productive.”

Reviewer E: “Dr. Morris has outstanding contributions to the field of Colorectal Surgery and to disparities research. She is the Division Chief of Colorectal Surgery at the University of Michigan and has several ongoing grants including a prestigious grant from the American Cancer Society....Based upon her accomplishments to date that would place her in the top 10% of all surgical division chiefs in academic medical centers.”

Reviewer F: “In the current field of health policy research Dr. Morris is clearly recognized as one of the key contributors and one of the few colorectal surgeons with this expertise. Her work has absolutely advanced the understanding of this complex subject and resulted in seminal advances in the field.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Morris is highly respected and internationally recognized for her leadership, scientific contributions, teaching, mentoring, and clinical expertise in surgical outcomes, disparities and colorectal cancer care. We strongly recommended Arden M. Morris, M.D. for promotion to professor of surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School, and professor of health behavior and health education, without tenure, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health.



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



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Martin A. Philbert  
Dean, School of Public Health

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