

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGY

Lesli Skolarus, M.D., assistant professor of neurology, Department of Neurology, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of neurology, with tenure, Department of Neurology, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.S.	2010	University of Michigan
M.D.	2004	Wayne State University
B.S.	2000	University of Michigan

Professional Record:

2011-present	Assistant Professor of Neurology, University of Michigan
2009-2011	Clinical Lecturer, Department of Neurology, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Skolarus teaches vascular neurology to medical students and Neurology residents. On an annual basis, she gives a series of talks on stroke etiology and management to residents and medical students. In addition, she gives an annual lecture to neurosurgery residents on the neurologic examination. Dr. Skolarus also teaches residents and medical students while on the wards and during acute stroke cases. This includes didactic and bedside teaching focused on relevant medical literature in addition to clinical supervision. Dr. Skolarus is frequently invited to teach in other departments at UMHS including the Departments of Internal Medicine and Neurosurgery. In addition, Dr. Skolarus has mentored undergraduate students, medical students, neurology and emergency medicine residents, neurology fellows, School of Public Health graduate students and clinical faculty from Internal Medicine on conducting research in an underserved African American community and research best practices. She also mentored an epidemiology post-doctoral fellow to expand his work on stroke disparities and is currently mentoring another post-doctoral fellow on the role of stress and post-stroke disability. Dr. Skolarus' medical student and resident evaluations are outstanding and this is reflected in the scores and the comments she receives. Recent scores and comments from the medical student evaluations include 4.71 (mean 4.33) for "overall quality of teaching" and 4.86 (mean 4.37) for "overall ability to serve as a role model."

Research: Dr. Skolarus' research goal is to reduce racial health disparities surrounding stroke. Her productivity and collaborative science is evidenced by her 50 peer reviewed publications and grant funding which includes a K23 (PI Skolarus), R21 (PIs Skolarus, Morgenstern) and R01 (PIs Skolarus, Burke) awards. She has developed five main areas of expertise: 1) Community

Based Participatory Research (CBPR): CBPR is a research approach focused on a partnership between community members and an academic team who share responsibility in intervention development, implementation, and analysis. Using a CBPR approach, Dr. Skolarus holds a K23 award to develop and test a peer-led community intervention to increase stroke preparedness in Flint, Michigan. Dr. Skolarus and her community partners have recently submitted a U01 grant to expand and test this intervention in the entire Flint community. Dr. Skolarus and her community partner have spoken on this topic at national and international conferences. In addition, Dr. Skolarus was the recipient of a University of Michigan Cardiovascular Center Inaugural award for a CBPR project to design and test a text messaging intervention to reduce blood pressure in African American churches in Flint, Michigan. Finally, Dr. Skolarus has partnered with Federally Qualified Health Centers in Flint and Grand Rapids, Michigan to develop and test a new outcome measure for stroke preparedness interventions which is funded by an R21. Dr. Skolarus has explored geographic variation in acute stroke treatment which was featured on Stroke journal blog. She was also invited to speak to the National Institutes of Health's Brain Attack coalition on this topic in December. Dr. Skolarus has collaborated with international colleagues to assess barriers to calling 911 for acute stroke in the US and UK. Using nationally representative data, Dr. Skolarus and colleagues identified large racial differences in post-stroke disability. Now through an R01, she will link the National Health and Aging Trends Survey (NHATS) to Medicare files to explore potential causes of post-stroke disability with a focus on intensity of post-acute care. Dr. Skolarus has given three external grand rounds on this topic. She will also moderate a session at the American Public Health Association conference on health disparities. Dr. Skolarus has designed and tested interventions using text messaging including the church based intervention discussed above. She also developed and tested a text messaging intervention to reduce blood pressure among patients admitted to the UM Department of Emergency Medicine. This pilot study provided preliminary data for her recent R34 submission to optimize a text-messaging intervention among underserved patients cared for in the Hurley Medical Center Emergency Department. Additionally, Dr. Skolarus designed and tested an interactive voice response system among UM patients with post-stroke depression. Dr. Skolarus has explored the impact of Medicaid and Medicaid benefits on post-acute utilization. She also wrote a special report for *Stroke* focusing on the Impact of the Affordable Care Act for stroke patients. As part of the neurology health services research group, she has led and contributed to multiple papers on the cost and quality of neurologic care. She also led a study to improve guideline concordant care for atrial fibrillation for which she was awarded the Frank J. McDevitt, DO Excellence in Research Award for Clinical Care.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Skolarus LE, Zimmerman MA, Murphy JB, Brown DL, Kerber K, Bailey S, Fowlkes S, Morgenstern LB: Community based Participatory Research: A new approach to engaging community members to rapidly call 911 for stroke. *Stroke* 42:1862-1866, 2011.

Skolarus LE, Murphy JB, Zimmerman MA, Bailey S, Fowlkes S, Brown DL, Lisabeth LD, Greenberg E, Morgenstern LB: Individual and community determinants of calling 911 for stroke among African Americans in an urban community. *Circ Cardiovasc Qual Outcomes* 6:278-283, 2013.

Skolarus LE, Burke JF, Morgenstern LB, Meurer WJ, Adelman EE, Kerber KA, Callaghan BC, Lisabeth LD: Impact of state Medicaid coverage on utilization of inpatient rehabilitation facilities among patients with stroke. *Stroke* 45:2472-2474, 2014.

Burke JF, Freedman VA, Lisabeth LD, Brown DL, Haggins A, Skolarus LE: Racial differences in disability after stroke: Results from a nationwide study. *Neurology* 83:390-397, 2014.

Skolarus LE, Meurer WJ, Shanmugasundaram K, Adelman EE, Scott PA, Burke JF: Marked regional variation in acute stroke treatment among Medicare beneficiaries. *Stroke* 46:1890-1896, 2015.

Service: Dr. Skolarus has contributed to service both internally and externally. She serves on the neurology resident selection committee and completed two years on the neurology clinical competency committee (2012-2015). She schedules lectures for the bi-monthly vascular neurology conference for residents and medical students and weekly case conferences for neurology faculty, fellows and residents. She is also a co-director of the Integrated Michigan Patient-centered Alliance on Care Transitions I-MPACT. She serves on the American Heart Association's Stroke Minority Council. She is the co-chair of the Health Services Research Special Interest for the American Neurological Association. Dr. Skolarus reviews manuscripts for *Stroke*, *Neurology*, *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*, *Ethnicity and Disease*, *Implementation Science*, *PLOS-One*, *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, *Journal of the Neurological Sciences*, *Annals of Medical and Health Sciences Research*. She also reviews abstracts for the International Stroke Conference, Gerontological Society of America, American Neurological Association and the American Public Health Association.

Dr. Skolarus serves as an attending on the inpatient neurology service two to four weeks per year. She has a private cerebrovascular disorder clinic one half day per week and staffs the resident cerebrovascular disorder clinic about every six weeks. Dr. Skolarus attends stroke rounds to give advice on management of neurology inpatients about one week per month. She took acute stroke call on days, nights (average four nights/month) and weekends (one and a half days/month) and holidays in rotation with the Brain Injury Group. During this time, she takes outside hospital calls for acute stroke transfers/management as well as in-person evaluation at UM. Dr. Skolarus' care of an acute neurologic patient was featured in a *New York Times* article.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "When one thinks about health disparities research in stroke, Dr. Skolarus's [sic] name immediately comes to mind. She has 50 peer reviewed publications which deal almost exclusively with the issue of health disparities. She currently holds a K23, an R21 and an RO1 that focus on the delivery of stroke and racial disparities."

Reviewer B: "She has given educational presentations at several leading international meetings, such as the American Stroke Association, International Stroke Conference, and American Neurological Association. These activities are evidence of her national reputation in the field of stroke."

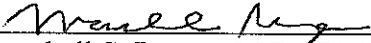
Reviewer C: “Dr. Skolarus has distinguished herself as a rapidly rising success in the field of stroke and stroke epidemiology. I expect her to be a leader in the field of stroke within the next 5-10 years....she is exactly the type of faculty member that we love to have. University of Michigan is lucky to have her.”

Reviewer D: “...Dr. Skolarus has an exemplary track record of service, education and accomplished research. She has made important contributions to stroke health disparities research and ranks among the top researchers at her level within this field.”

Reviewer E: “Her productivity and collaboration efforts regarding racial disparities, risk factors and community awareness are truly notable. She is especially passionate about community-based participatory research and racial disparities in public awareness regarding stroke. Her work in the African American churches has been truly outstanding.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Skolarus has had a meteoric rise as an academic physician-scientist in the stroke disparities field. She is the principal investigator on three NIH grants and has published 50 peer-reviewed papers in high caliber journals. She is an innovator; bringing community based participatory research (CBPR) to neurology. Her exceptional work in Flint, Michigan, has brought academics and local community members together to share equally in the design and conduct of research. I am pleased to recommend Lesli Skolarus, M.D. for promotion to associate professor of neurology, with tenure, Department of Neurology, Medical School.



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

May 2016