PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
COLLEGE OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND THE ARTS

Yanzhuang Wang, associate professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and associate professor of neurology, without tenure, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of neurology, without tenure, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	University of Heidelberg
M.S.	1990	Nankai University
B.S.	1987	Nankai University

Professional Record:

2012 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Neurology, University of Michigan
2011 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, University of Michigan
2005 – 2011	Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, University of Michigan
2003 – 2005	Associate Research Scientist, Yale University
1999 – 2003	Post-doctoral Fellow, Yale University School of Medicine

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Wang teaches two courses that support the majors offered by the Program in Cell Biology and he has done an excellent job in these courses. Professor Wang also devotes considerable time and effort to mentoring trainees in his research laboratory; since 2011 he mentored nine post-doctoral fellows, five graduate students, and ten undergraduate researchers. One of his PhD students received the prestigious ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award and two were awarded highly competitive Rackham Pre-doctoral Fellowships.

Research – Professor Wang studies the molecular mechanisms by which the Golgi apparatus, an essential organelle dedicated to cellular protein trafficking, is assembled and disassembled during the cell cycle. He has made seminal discoveries on the functions of GRASP proteins and their roles in Golgi assembly and disassembly. He also discovered that the Alzheimer-associated amyloid Abeta causes Golgi-fragmentation leading to increases in toxic amyloid production. His studies showed that experimentally rescuing the Golgi structure caused a significant reduction in Abeta secretion, which may open avenues for the development of drugs to treat Alzheimer's disease. The external reviewers commented on the elegance and importance of this work, and that he is internationally recognized for his discoveries related to the Golgi apparatus. Professor Wang's funding record is outstanding, with three active National Institutes of Health R01 grants to support his laboratory.

Recent and Significant Publications:

"Cell cycle regulation of VCIP135 deubiquitinase activity and function in p97/p47-mediated Golgi reassembly," with X. Zhang, *Molecular Biology of the Cell*, 26(12), 2015, pp. 2242-2251, epub 2015 Apr 22.

"Aβ-induced Golgi fragmentation in Alzheimer's disease enhances Aβ production," with J. Gunjan et al., *PNAS Plus*, 111(13), 2014, E1230-9, PMID 24639524; PMCID PMC3977293 (highlighted by almost 100 news agents worldwide).

"Phosphorylation regulates VCIP135 function in Golgi membrane fusion during the cell cycle," with X. Zhang and H. Zhang, *Journal of Cell Science*, 127, 2014, pp. 172-181, PMID: 24163436; PMCID: PMC3874786.

"Regulation of cargo sorting and glycosylation by the Golgi matrix proteins GRASP55/65," with Y. Xiang, et al., *Nature Communications*, 4(1659), 2013, pp. 1-12, PMID: 2352074; PMCID: PMC3620728.

Service – Professor Wang's service contributions have been important and considerable. In addition to service on a departmental faculty search committee and the Graduate Admissions Committee, he served as an associate chair for research and facilities for the past one and a half years. Professor Wang has done an outstanding job in this role, working hard to manage departmental space and facilities. He has done significant service for the scientific community as a reviewer of proposals for multiple granting agencies and in organizing and chairing sessions at scientific conferences.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

"Dr. Wang is at the forefront of research on Golgi biogenesis and the formation of Golgi stacks, a fundamental process of cell biology. His work on Golgi defects in Alzheimer's disease has gotten a lot of press, and provides an interesting and novel pathway—one that is potentially targetable with a drug."

Reviewer (B)

"In terms of his scholarly accomplishments, I rate him very high. … I think Dr. Wang is a fine credit to the University of Michigan. I find his work creative, imaginative, solid and detailed. Colleagues like him are a valuable resource in any top-notch program like yours."

Reviewer (C)

"It is no exaggeration to say that Dr[.] Wang has taken up the mantle of Rothman, Schekman, and Balch in terms of using cell free systems to identify interesting phenomena in the Golgi apparatus and trans Golgi network (TGN), and then set out to discover the molecular bases for these phenomena… He does superb work in an under-recognized but highly clinically relevant area…"

Reviewer (D)

"Dr. Wang has a great deal of energy, and he combines original thinking with solid, steady progress toward defined goals. … His strong NIH support is an indicator that his achievements are held in high regard... Overall, I find Dr. Wang's research accomplishments to be impressive."

Reviewer (E)
"Dr. Wang has a distinguished research career that has largely focused on the regulation of the Golgi complex in health and disease. … His level of research support is exceptional, and speaks strongly for the scientific community's view of his achievements."

Reviewer (F)
"Yanzhuang's research achievement is reflected by his impressive publication record, which is excellent in both quantity and quality. He asks important questions in the field, and addresses these questions creatively and meticulously. His work is concrete and of high quality, and solidly pushes his field forward."

Reviewer (G)
"…Dr. Wang has been extremely successful in parlaying his ability to manipulate Golgi fragmentation and reassembly in vitro to learning about the basic mechanisms, regulation, and function of Golgi stacking. There are very few laboratories that have mastered this biochemical system, and Dr. Wang has led the way using purified components instead of crude or fractionated cytosol."

Reviewer (H)
"I am convinced that Dr. Wang will continue to be a highly active contributor to our understanding of the regulation of Golgi structure and function, in health and disease; he will also continue to contribute actively to your teaching programs."

Summary of Recommendation:
Professor Wang is a highly respected cell biologist and a dedicated teacher. He is also a conscientious and valued colleague. The Executive Committees of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and the Medical School, and we recommend that Associate Professor Yanzhuang Wang be promoted to the rank of professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of neurology, without tenure, Medical School.

Andrew D. Martin, Dean
Professor of Political Science and Statistics
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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

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