

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

Puneet Garg, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D. 1992 University College of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India

Professional Record:

2010-present Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
2006-2010 Clinical Lecturer, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan,

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Garg is a devoted and very active educator both in the clinical setting and in the laboratory. His teaching includes undergraduate students, graduate students, and post-doctoral research fellows in the laboratory setting, and clinical teaching to medical students, residents and fellows during clinical service and through seminars. He has been a small-group leader for the M2 sequence on various aspects of renal pathology and nephrology. For the last three years, he has been a finalist to receive the Teaching Prize that is awarded by the nephrology fellows to recognize excellence in teaching.

Research: Dr. Garg is an exceptional scientist with national recognition who has been investigating nephrin signaling and podocyte biology in glomerular disease. He has published 28 manuscripts in high impact peer-reviewed journals (15 as first or senior author), and 20 abstracts. Dr. Garg's work has been well funded throughout his career, and he is presently the principal investigator on an R01 funded by the NIH, and has been a previous award recipient of a K08 grant, and awards from the National Kidney Foundation, and the American Society of Nephrology. As a testament to his scholarly expertise, Dr. Garg has given extramural invited presentations, reviews manuscripts for leading journals such as *PLoS One*, has reviewed abstracts for the American Society of Nephrology, and has served on study sections for the National Kidney Foundation, American Society of Nephrology, American Diabetes Association, and the VA Merit Award Nephrology Study Section.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Garg P, Verma R, Cook L, Soofi A, Venkatarreddy M, George B, Mizuno K, Gurniak C, Witeke W and Holzman LB: Actin-depolymerizing factor cofilin-1 is necessary in maintaining mature podocyte architecture. *J Biol Chem* 285:22676-22688, 2010.

George B, Verma R, Soofi AA, Garg P, Zhang J, Park TJ, Giardino L, Ryzhova L, Johnstone DB, Wong H, Nihalani D, Salant DJ, Hanks SK, Curran T, Rastaldi MP, Holzman LB: Crk1/2-dependent signaling is necessary for podocyte foot process spreading in mouse models of glomerular disease. *J Clin Invest* 122:674-692, 2012.

Verma, R, Venkatarreddy M, Kalinowski A, Patel SR, Salant DJ and Garg P: Shp2 associates with and enhances nephrin tyrosine phosphorylation and is necessary for foot process spreading in mouse models of podocyte injury. *Mol Cell Biol* 36:596-614, 2015.

Verma, R, Venkatarreddy M, Kalinowski A, Patel SR, and Garg P: Integrin ligation results in nephrin phosphorylation in vitro. *PLoS One* 11:e0148906, 2016.

Venkatarreddy M, Verma R, Kalinowski A, Patel SR, Shisheva A, and Garg P: Distinct requirements for vacuolar protein sorting 34 downstream effector phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate 5-kinase in podocytes versus proximal tubular cells. *J Am Soc Nephrol* 27:2702-2719, 2016.

Service: Dr. Garg is regarded as a dedicated and skilled physician who is active in clinical care. He sees patients in the nephrology general clinic and at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System (VAAAHS). His clinical expertise is in improving the management of patients with renal disorders. He is also well regarded by those he mentors both in the clinical and research settings. In addition to his clinical duties, Dr. Garg is on the editorial board of *Nature Scientific Reports*. Dr. Garg plays a significant service role as the nephrology section chief at the VAAAHS. Institutionally, Dr. Garg serves as a member on the Nephrology Fellowship Program Evaluation Committee.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "In recent years, he has clearly superseded his mentor in terms of the quality and relevance of his research... His focus on signaling pathways in podocytes and developmentally related proximal tubular cells is laudable... The scholarly impact of his published work is outstanding... Dr. Garg is a clear outlier in terms of the very high quality and relevance of his research when compared to his peers in the United States and worldwide."

Reviewer B: "I believe Dr. Garg is a dedicated and well-recognized physician-scientist who also evinces a strong commitment to advancing new knowledge in the area of glomerular disease research and who clearly meets the University of Michigan criteria for promotion to Associate Professor... He has been successful in obtaining independent extramural funding and has been continually supported by funding from the National Institutes of Health since 2008... He has been asked to take on the important role as director of nephrology at the Ann Arbor VAMC. This is an affirmation of the confidence placed by the division in his abilities."

Reviewer C: “Dr. Garg’s creativity and productivity have been recognized by funding agencies. His list of awards (K08, Career Development, R03 and now R01) is impressive in the regularity of the awards and the consistency of the research themes, relating to intra-cellular podocyte function.”

Reviewer D: “Puneet has continued to study the signaling interactions among components of the podocyte slit diaphragm and is publishing insightful senior author papers without his former mentor, a sure sign of scientific independence... Puneet has published his research via a steady stream of outstanding papers in respected journals... These are a testament to the importance and relevance of his research findings and the solidness of his data.”

Reviewer E: “Dr. Garg is a highly productive physician-scientist who has achieved national recognition as an independent investigator in a highly competitive field. He has made the difficult K-to-R transition. He is publishing important papers in leading journals. He is active in professional service. He is on an upward trajectory and I fully anticipate that he will continue to excel.”

Reviewer F: “Puneet has made fundamental contributions to our understanding of dynamic actin assembly in maintaining integrity of the slit diaphragm... Puneet has focused on the mechanisms regulating nephrin phosphorylation, proposing that targeting these signaling pathways would be therapeutic targets... His invited talks, his peer review work on grant review panels, his role as an ad hoc reviewer for many journals and his membership on the Scientific Reports Editorial Board demonstrates the esteem in which he is held as a scientist.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Garg is an exceptional physician scientist who has made important contributions in the area of glomerular podocyte, and in teaching and service. He is a novel scholar who is highly regarded by the national research community. He serves the university with distinction, has demonstrated academic leadership, and is an outstanding mentor. Therefore, I enthusiastically support Puneet Garg, M.D. for promotion to associate professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School.



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

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