

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

Nithya Ramnath, M.B.B.S., associate professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School.

Academic Degrees

M.B.B.S.	1987	Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education, Pondicherry, India
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Professional Record:

2008-Present	Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
2007-2008	Associate Professor of Oncology, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, NY
1999-2007	Assistant Professor of Medicine, State University of NY at Buffalo

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Ramnath has consistently scored in the highest category for teaching scores since she came to the University of Michigan in 2008. Her teaching activities consist of didactic instruction, practical instruction in the clinics and in-patient settings, participating in postgraduate student dissertation committee meetings, fellow mentoring, graduate student seminars, and finally, input into lung and esophageal cancer related translational research at weekly laboratory meetings. Dr. Ramnath feels very strongly that mentoring at all levels is her most important teaching contribution and that it is important to teach not only clinical skills but life skills as well; balancing the demanding and rewarding profession of medicine with their personal lives. Dr. Ramnath strives to instill in her trainees the values of time management, being methodical, and seeing tasks through to completion. Since being appointed as an associate professor, Dr. Ramnath has mentored two hematology/oncology fellows, two Ph.D. candidates, two undergraduate students and one M4 student.

Research: Dr. Ramnath's scholarly interest focuses on ways to improve therapy for lung cancer by manipulating physiological systems in addition to identifying prognostic and predictive markers of lung cancer. Most of her scholarly career has been devoted to studying mechanisms underlying vitamin D metabolism in lung cancer. Her translational career began with studying the role of high dose vitamin D in the treatment of lung cancer which led to further understanding of derangements of vitamin D metabolism in lung cancer. Her research has been funded by the NIH as well as the VA. She has published 50 peer-reviewed articles since her appointment as an associate professor in high quality journals with 19 as first or senior author. She reviews grants for the NIH Cancer Genetics Study Section, the Lung Cancer Research Program for the Department of Defense, and the VA ONCB Study Section. She also serves as a grant reviewer for the Italian Ministry of Health. Dr. Ramnath currently sits on the editorial board of *Lung Cancer*

International and serves as an ad hoc reviewer on multiple other journals including *Cancer*, *Clinical Cancer Research*, and *Oncology*.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Chen G, Kim S, King AN, Zhao L, Simpson RU, Christensen PJ, Wang Z, Thomas DG, Giordano TJ, Lin L, Brenner DE, Beer DG, Ramnath N: *CYP24A1* Is an independent prognostic of survival in patients with lung adenocarcinoma. *Clin Cancer Res* 17:817-826, 2011.

Yoon HJ, Kim TH, Zhang J, Azizi E, Pham T, Paoletti C, Lin J, Ramnath N, Wicha M, Hayes D, Simeone D: Sensitive planar capture of circulating tumor cells by self-assembled graphene oxide based nano-arms. *Nat Nanotechnol* 8:735-741, 2013.

Ramnath N, Daignault S, Dy GK, Muindi J, Adjei A, Elingrod VL, Kalemkerian GP, Cease KB, Stella PJ, Brenner DE, Troeschell S, Johnson CS and Trump DL: A phase I/II pharmacokinetic and pharmacogenomic study of Calcitriol in combination with Cisplatin and Docetaxel in advanced non-small cell lung cancer. *Cancer Chemother Pharmacol* 71:1173-1182, 2013.

Ramnath N, Dilling T, Harris L, Kim A, Michaud G, Balekian A, Detterbeck F, Diekemper R, Arenberg D: Treatment of Stage III Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Diagnosis and Management of Lung Cancer, 3rd ed: American College of Chest Physicians Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines. *Chest* 143(5 Suppl):e314S-40S, 2013.

Zhang Z, Shiratsuchi H, Lin J, Chen G, Reddy RM, Azizi E, Fouladdel S, Chang AC, Lin L, Jiang H, Waghay M, Luker G, Simeone DM, Wicha MS, Beer DG, Ramnath N, Nagrath S: Expansion of CTCs from early stage lung cancer patients using a microfluidic co-culture model. *Oncotarget* 5:12383-12397, 2014.

Service: At the Ann Arbor VA, Dr. Ramnath is in charge of the Precision Oncology Program for the Veterans. Her role in this program has resulted in state-of-the-art care for Veterans with lung cancer and identification of targets for individualized cancer care. She also provides the e-consult service for the national Precision Oncology Program. Dr. Ramnath serves as the VA director of research for Oncology and the local PI for clinical trials that allow Veterans with specific lung cancers access to specific clinical trials. At the University of Michigan, she serves on the Medical School Admissions Committee and recently became involved in community outreach activities, specifically playing a role in extending expertise in the clinical arena to the Mid-Michigan Consortium of hospitals. Her efforts in this area are leading to innovative ways to improve access to clinical trials. On the national level, Dr. Ramnath serves on the Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) Guidelines Committee for the American College of Chest Physicians and the Scientific Review Committee for the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Clinically, Dr. Ramnath maintains an out-patient practice at the University of Michigan and the VA. She also attends on the consult service at the VA and on the in-patient adult oncology service at the University of Michigan. She routinely involves palliative care discussions with her patients with Stage 4 cancer and is often assisted by colleagues in palliative care. Dr. Ramnath also works closely with pulmonary and thoracic surgery in the care of patients with earlier stages of lung

cancer in addition to colleagues in radiation therapy, as this is an integral part of the treatment of lung cancer.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Dr. Ramnath has a long list of accomplishments as an outstanding clinician-scientist. Her work is of very high caliber, and she focuses on cutting edge areas of clinical research. Her contributions to the field of NSCLC are quite impressive and she can be expected to perform at a high level for years to come.”

Reviewer B: “Dr. Nithya Ramnath is making important contributions in clinical and translational investigations relevant to the clinical problem of lung cancer. She is a productive physician scientist whose scholarly work, mentorship and national service indicate that she is an important academic contributor in this area.”

Reviewer C: “Based on a thorough review of her dossier and my knowledge of the field of thoracic oncology, I would judge Dr. Ramnath to be an accomplished translational investigator. She has high quality publications that deal with basic science and clinical studies. She has been continuously funded throughout her academic career, indicating a high level of peer respect. Her service and teaching accomplishments are excellent.”

Reviewer D: “I am confident that she will continue to make impactful contributions to advance treatments of lung cancer through a better understanding of predictive markers of response to immunotherapy.”

Reviewer E: “...Dr. Ramnath engages in teaching in her area of expertise, has an extensive knowledge of thoracic oncology and is able to effectively develop careers as shown by the individuals that seek her out as a mentor and [for] post-doctoral training...Dr. Ramnath’s clinical and research programs are clearly focused around lung cancer including discovery, translation to clinical trials and clinical care. The quality and scholarly impact of her work is very high.”

Reviewer F: “Her work spans the areas of drug development, biomarker discovery, and immunoncology. She leads a number of institutional clinical trials and industry-funded studies. She has secured research funding through a variety of mechanisms including federal grants, foundation awards, and industry support...Taken together, her track record of peer-reviewed funding is very strong. This is superbly aligned with her publication record...She has first authored manuscripts in *Chest* (the premier publication of the American College of Chest Physicians)...In addition, she has authored several insightful review articles and books chapters. Through this body of work, Dr. Ramnath has developed a national reputation for excellence as a translational researcher. I am well aware of the innovation and impact of her work, and rate her as excellent in scholarship.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Nithya Ramnath is a compassionate clinical oncologist who is translating her bench research into treatment therapies for her patients. All who have reviewed her work believe that she is not only mentoring and training students and junior faculty to become excellent oncologists, but moving the field of thoracic oncology forward in research and treatments. It is for these reasons that I recommend Nithya Ramnath, M.B.B.S. for promotion to 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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