

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

Akbar Waljee, 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.S.	2007	University of Michigan
M.D.	2002	Emory University
B.S.	1996	Emory University

Professional Record:

2012-present	Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
2009-2012	Clinical Lecturer, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
2005-2006	Clinical Instructor, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Waljee is very active in the clinical and research mentoring of trainees at all levels. He has mentored high school and undergraduate students on research projects, as well as masters' students through the National Clinician Scholars Program (NCSP) and the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation (IHPI). He also participates in the GI Junior Faculty to K-award (JF2K) program, reviewing pilot projects and preliminary data for career development applications. Dr. Waljee has also been involved in curriculum development, having provided teaching materials on predictive modeling for the former Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Masters and Scholars Program that is now part of the core curriculum for the NCSP. As a member of the GI Curriculum Committee, he drafted the Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) curriculum and reading list for GI and IBD clinical rotations. Dr. Waljee teaches Internal Medicine residents and GI fellows in the clinical setting at both the VA and the University of Michigan Hospital during GI clinic and IBD fellows clinic, in the Medical Procedures Unit, and while on the inpatient GI Consult service. He also provides didactic lectures through the noon conference at the VA and the GI fellows Clinical Research Conference at UM, and his teaching contributions were recognized with the GI Fellows Teaching Award in 2012. Dr. Waljee is also active in medical student teaching, serving as a discussion leader for M2 students for the Gastroenterology sequence, and as a faculty leader for the Systems Based and Hospital Based Branch for M4 students. In the area of peer education, Dr. Waljee is the faculty lead for the monthly VA Inflammatory Bowel Disease SCAN Conference, and participates in the UM GI-IBD Update for the Practicing Physician.

Research: Dr. Waljee's scholarly work is in the area of health services research, focused on the development and implementation of novel techniques to improve medical decision-making. His approach is to make use of the large volume of data that is available as a result of electronic medical records to design predictive models for individualized care, particularly in costly GI diseases and in low resource settings. Dr. Waljee has published 59 peer-reviewed papers, with many in high impact

journals. He holds a patent for “Algorithms to predict clinical response, adherence, and shunting with thiopurines,” and has three patent applications pending. Dr. Waljee is funded by a VA career development award to examine Inflammatory Bowel Disease in veterans, and is the principal investigator on two recently awarded large Department of Defense grants. He has been invited to present his work at numerous national meetings and peer institutions, and served as a reviewer for Veterans Affairs Rapid Response Projects (RRP).

Recent and Significant Publications:

Elmunzer BJ, Hayward R, Saini SD, Deshpande A, Schoenfeld PS, Waljee AK: A meta-analysis of endoscopic screening for colorectal cancer. *PLoS Med* Dec 9:e1001352, 2012.

Waljee AK, Mukherjee A, Singal AG, Zhang Y, Warren J, Balis U, Marrero J, Zhu J, Higgins PD: Comparison of imputation methods for missing laboratory data in medicine. *BMJ Open* 3(8), 2013.

Stidham RW, Lee T, Higgins PDR, Deshpande AR, Sussman DA, Singal AG, Elmunzer BJ, Saini SD, Vijan S, Waljee AK: Systematic review with network meta-analysis: the efficacy of anti-TNF agents for the treatment of Crohns disease. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 39:1349-1362. doi:10.1111/apt.12749, 2014.

Stidham RW, Lee T, Higgins PDR, Deshpande AR, Sussman DA, Singal AG, Elmunzer BJ, Saini SD, Vijan S, Waljee AK: Systematic review with network meta-analysis: the efficacy of anti-TNF agents for the treatment of ulcerative colitis. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 39:660-71. doi: 10.1111/apt.12644, 2014.

Konerman MA, Zhang Y, Zhu J, Higgins PD, Lok AS, Waljee AK: Improvement of predictive models of risk of disease progression in chronic hepatitis C by incorporating longitudinal data. *Hepatology* 61:1832-1841, 2015.

Service: Dr. Waljee provides clinical care with a focus on the treatment of veterans with Inflammatory Bowel Disease. He has served as the director of the IBD clinic at the Ann Arbor VA Healthcare System since 2009, and is involved in the VA Specialty Care Access Network (SCAN) and Clinical Video Telehealth (CVT) initiatives to treat chronic and complex diseases in rural and disadvantaged areas using tele-medicine. He also participated in the development of protocols to standardize care for IBD patients presenting with severe flares or after surgery. Dr. Waljee serves as an advisor to the VISN 11 Pharmacy Committee for the VA Medical Center, and is a GI consultant for the National VA Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) Committee. As a faculty member in the Global REACH program, he has traveled to Ethiopia and Taiwan to participate in the training of health care professionals in ways to enhance care for patients with GI and liver conditions.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “He has successfully obtained funding to pursue a variety of strategies to improve patient care. One of the things that is unique is the breadth of topics that he has covered... I believe that he will continue to be very successful in all the different projects that he decides to tackle.”

Reviewer B: “...Akbar Waljee MD, MSc, is a highly accomplished physician scientist, who is pioneering research efforts in the novel area of computer science facilitating precision medicine. His application of computer science and big data analytics to facilitate decision making for complex

gastrointestinal disease is cutting-edge. He has an outstanding funding record which will likely only increase given the importance of his work.”

Reviewer C: “His work is very focused and of high quality and is cited by leaders in the fields... Dr. Waljee has certainly put his Master’s Degree to good use and has a very strong publication record. He has also published a book chapter in a well-known inflammatory bowel text book... I have no hesitation in recommending him for promotion given his past work, his current interests, and his potential for future contributions to the field of inflammatory bowel disease as well as gastroenterology in general.”

Reviewer D: “Dr. Waljee is known for his educational and research efforts in inflammatory bowel disease, and more particularly, related to the application of computer algebra rhythms [sic] to assess data, such an approach is absolutely unique and contributory to the advancement of our field to our approach of personalized medicine in inflammatory bowel disease.”

Reviewer E: “In comparison to peer faculty at [my institution], I would consider Dr. Waljee’s productivity and standing to be clearly superior. This publication productivity is clearly mirrored by Dr. Waljee’s excellent track record in securing independent research funding, including from the VA, DOD, and many others. His innovation is reflected as well in his contribution to 4 patents, most notably in the application of machine learning and creation of algorithms applied to GI and liver conditions and treatment... His track record of research, publications, education and training puts him clearly in the top 10% of his generation nationwide.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Waljee is recognized nationally for his expertise in health services research in the area of Inflammatory Bowel Disease. He is strongly committed to teaching, and provides significant service, particularly to the VA, both regionally and nationally. Therefore, I enthusiastically recommend Akbar Waljee, 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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