

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan-Flint  
College of Health Sciences  
Department of Physical Therapy

Laura Smith, assistant professor of physical therapy, Department of Physical Therapy, College of Health Sciences, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of physical therapy, with tenure, Department of Physical Therapy, College of Health Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2015	Walden University
D.P.T.	2003	University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences
B.A.	2000	Trinity Christian College

Professional Record:

2013 – Present	Assistant Professor, University of Michigan Flint, Physical Therapy Department
2007 – 2012	Assistant Professor Musculoskeletal Coordinator, University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences Department of Physical Therapy San Diego, CA
2004 – 2006	Instructor, Northern Illinois University, Department of Physical Therapy, DeKalb, IL

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Smith taught seven different face-to-face courses in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program and ten different online courses in the Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy and Doctor of Philosophy programs. In addition, she is a willing and effective mentor, mentoring students in the post professional and entry-level programs. Her student course evaluations are consistently excellent with teaching effectiveness being rated at 4.5 on a 5.0 scale. Professor Smith represented the University of Michigan-Flint campus on the Interprofessional Education Center Executive Board and contributed significantly to development and implementation of an online interprofessional education course now being used on all three University of Michigan campuses. Professor Smith is the recipient of two teaching awards: Outstanding Faculty Award from the Midwest Interprofessional Education and Research Center, and 2) University of Michigan-Flint Provost Innovation in Teaching Prize in the online teaching category. Professor Smith extends her teaching beyond the classroom and initiated an orthopedic special interest journal club that is now attended by 100 students and multiple faculty. Her teaching expertise is supported by her board certification in Orthopedic Physical Therapy and she is a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy.

Research: Professor Smith has focused her research efforts on performance measures and injuries in athletes and on interprofessional education and collaborative practice. She consistently involves students in her research on athletes. Her research on breast injuries in female athletes is unique and promising for further development. Professor Smith's research in interprofessional education

collaborative practice is cutting-edge and highly productive. This research not only leads the field in interprofessional educational research, but will also enhance teaching and learning within the University of Michigan system. Her well-established relationship with the local school systems will continue to provide an avenue for future orthopedic and sports research and her extensive connections among interprofessional researchers will allow her to expand her interprofessional education and collaborative practice research in the future, thus providing her with significant potential for future research development and productivity.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Smith LJ, Eichelberger TD, Kane EJ. Breast Injuries in Female Collegiate Athletes - Prevalence, Type, and Impact on Sport Participation. *Eur J Breast Health*, 2018; 14: 46-50. doi:10.5152/ejbh.2017.3748
- Smith LJ, Curtis CP, Yorke A. Student considerations when selecting an entry-level Physical Therapy program. Does interprofessional education curriculum matter? *Journal of Interprofessional Education & Practice*, 2018; 11: 1-6. doi:10.1016/j\_xep.2017.12.009
- Smith LJ, Creps JR, Bean R, Rodda B, Alsalaheen B. Performance and Reliability of the Y-Balance Test™ in High School Athletes. *The Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness*, 2017, November. doi: 10.23736/S0022-4707.17.07218-8
- Smith LJ, Creps JR, Bean R, Rodda B, Alsalaheen B. Performance of high school male athletes on the Functional Movement Screen™. *Physical Therapy in Sport*, 2017, 17-23. doi:10.1016/j.ptsp.2017.07.001
- Smith LJ, Johnson-Lawrence V., Andrews M, Parker S. Opportunity for interprofessional collaborative care – findings from a sample of federally qualified health center patients in the Midwest. *Public Health*, 2017; 151, 131-136. doi:10.1016/j.puhe.2017.07.009

Service: Professor Smith made significant service contributions to the community, profession, and university. She focused her community and professional service to align with her research agenda in orthopedics and in interprofessional education. Professor Smith is a faculty fellow Liaison for the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists (AAOMPT) and University of Michigan-Flint. In this role she organized the UM-Flint Student Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy Association with almost 100 student members. Her role is to mentor students and help to create learning experiences outside of the classroom. Locally she offered sport screenings for high school athletes, incorporating orthopedic physical therapy residents and students in this service activity.

Professor Smith has served on the Midwest Interprofessional Education Committee Advisory Council and received the 2017 Faculty Excellence Award from this organization. Her service to the University in interprofessional education is truly commendable. Professor Smith represented the University of Michigan-Flint on the executive board of the Interprofessional Education Center on the Ann Arbor campus since its inception. As part of this she led the development of an online interprofessional education online course that is used across all three University of Michigan campuses. She also chaired the College of Health Sciences Interprofessional Education Committee to promote interprofessional educational experiences on our campus. In addition to these interprofessional committees, Professor Smith has served on the University of Michigan-Flint Office of Extended Learning Advisory Committee and the General Education Curriculum Committee. Within the college, Professor Smith served on the Curriculum Committee. At the

departmental level, Professor Smith provided leadership to the Post-Professional Clinical Professional Development Programs through leading a strategic planning effort and developing a Bridge to Credentialing Program for foreign nationals. She also chaired the DPT Convocation Committee.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “Dr. Smith’s successful dissemination of multiple peer-reviewed scholarly works in the areas of adolescent/high school athletes and interprofessional education, and the quality writing in the samples of scholarly writing that I was provided, support Dr. Smith’s high level of achievement and an ability to continue to be successful in these areas of research.”

Reviewer (B): “I would consider the study entitled ‘Validity and Reliability of the Vestibular/Ocular Motor Screening and Association with Common Concussion Screening Tools’ to be outstanding among the papers I was asked to review. Assessment of concussion screening tools is an extremely timely topic in many realms, including impact sports, military/combat activity, vehicular crashes, and elderly falls. This particular study that Dr. Smith co-authored was nicely designed, utilized a much larger sample size than required, was well-written, and demonstrated clearly that the use of this tool with individuals suspected of sustaining a concussion would not produce false-positive results.”

Reviewer (C): “Dr. Smith has served as an Advisory Council Member of the Midwest Interprofessional Practice Education and Research Center, Michigan Center for Interprofessional Education Introduction to IPE chair, curriculum work group, and executive committee, and SHPS IPE task force chair. This amount of engagement speaks to her passion for IPE as seen by teaching, scholarship, and service. She was also awarded with the Faculty Excellence Award from the Midwest Interprofessional Practice Education and Research Center.”

Reviewer (D): “As much as clinical research is exciting, necessary, and important to push the profession forward, it is Dr. Smith’s work on education and interprofessional collaboration that, to me, is most outstanding. This line of research compliments her previous dissertation work, which focused on academia and educational research. It is not common for physical therapists to have a passion for educational research. Yet, similar to the work my colleagues and I are doing with health-services related research, it is a high priority as the profession moves forward. Educational research involving IPE, and the role it has on students’ choice of DPT program is extremely important as the landscape of healthcare continues to change in this country. It is rare to find someone who is passionate on both clinical research, and educational research, which can have a direct impact on students’ learning and ultimately performance in clinical practice.”

Reviewer (E): “The three publications included for my review were all very high quality ..., all based on various quantitative questionnaires administered to patients, athletes or physical therapy students. In each of these publications, a clear case was made for the importance of the investigation and the results were summarized clearly and supported by the data. Statistical analysis appeared to be appropriate and conclusions were justified by the results and analyses. These are outstanding examples of questionnaire research and reporting”

Reviewer (F): “Her work on breast health and injury reporting supports the vital role Dr. Smith’s work plays in filling in gaps in knowledge. This manuscript, published in the *European Journal of Breast Health*, has potential to become a sentinel study in this area.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Smith is an excellent teacher, quality researcher, and has an exceptional service record. I enthusiastically recommend Laura Smith for promotion to associate professor of physical therapy, with tenure, Department of Physical Therapy, College of Health Sciences.

Recommended by:



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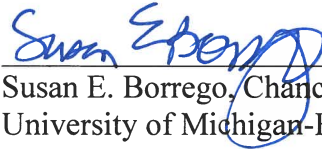
Donna Fry, Dean  
College of Health Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



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Susan E. Alcock, Interim - Provost and  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



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Susan E. Borrego, Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2019