

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Györgyi Csankovszki, associate professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 2001 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
M.S./B.S. 1995 Yale University

Professional Record:

2012 – present Associate Professor, Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, University of Michigan
2005-2012 Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, University of Michigan
2001-2005 Post-doctoral Research Associate, University of California, Berkeley

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Csankovszki is an extraordinary educator who has contributed to the teaching mission of MCDB on multiple levels. While in rank, she has taught six courses, including the large enrollment courses of Introductory Biology (BIO 172) and Genetics (BIO 305). In addition, she teaches a popular upper-level literature reading course (MCDB 417: Chromosome Structure) as well as two seminar courses (MCDB 600 and 800) and a course designed to help undergraduates gain authentic teaching experience (MCBD 412). In all of these diverse courses, Professor Csankovszki's performance has been outstanding. She is leading the effort to work with CRLT to revamp instruction in BIO 172 to make it more inclusive for students. In her laboratory, she is considered a strong and supportive leader and has successfully mentored several undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral trainees of diverse backgrounds. Her record of supporting students in and out of the classroom is considered one of the most impressive in MCDB.

Research – Professor Csankovszki is a developmental biologist studying the role of Condensins, which are protein complexes that regulate gene expression, organize chromosomes structure, and are required for equal partitioning of chromosomes during cell division. She uses the nematode *C. elegans* as a model. In particular, her laboratory is focused on how hermaphroditic nematodes with two X chromosomes have X-linked gene expression at a similar level as males (who have a single X). Her lab has identified several mechanisms by which a Condensin complex represses hermaphroditic X chromosome gene expression approximately two-fold to achieve balance with males. In addition, she has provided key findings elucidating how Condensins work with other complexes to achieve proper chromosome segregation during cell division (mitosis) and gamete formation (meiosis). She has maintained a federally-funded research program and is well positioned to continue to make significant advances in the future.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Condensin I protects meiotic cohesion from WAPL-1 mediated removal,” with M.R. Hernandez, et al., *PLoS Genetics*, 14(5), 2018, p. e1007382. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pgen.1007382.

“An H4K16 histone acetyltransferase mediates decondensation of the X chromosome in *C. elegans* males,” with A. C. Lau, et al., *Epigenetics and Chromatin*, 9, 2016, p. 44.

“Anchoring of heterochromatin to the nuclear lamina reinforces dosage compensation-mediated gene repression,” with M. J. Snyder, et al., *PLoS Genetics*, 12(9), 2016, p. e1006341. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pgen.1006341.

“Balancing up and downregulation of the *C. elegans* X chromosome,” with A. C. Lau, *Current Opinions in Genetics and Development*, 31, 2015, pp. 50-56. DOI: 10.1016/j.gde.2015.04.001.

Service – Professor Csankovszki served as the associate chair of undergraduate studies from 2015-2018, and she not only effectively oversaw the entire MCDB/Biology curriculum, she also promoted changes that revised and improved the structures of our majors. These include the launching of the highly successful Biology, Health, and Society (BHS) major. Her willingness to engage with students in office hours, in the laboratory, and beyond has had a profound influence on students’ education and careers. In addition, she is an active member of MCDB, serving on faculty search committees and the MCDB Executive Committee. Her extraordinary commitment to ensuring the success of MCDB’s educational mission cannot be understated.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Dr. Csankovszki’s service record at the University of Michigan is quite impressive; in particular, her clear dedication to inclusive teaching and course design.”

Reviewer (B)

“Dr. Györgyi Csankovszki has significantly contributed to our understanding of the role of large protein complexes critical for gene regulation and chromosome segregation. [She] is a well-respected scientist in the community...[and] has published a number of important papers on dosage compensation and on mitosis in high-quality journals. Her record of teaching accomplishments would make anyone pale with envy!”

Reviewer (C)

“Dr. Csankovszki certainly does solid independent research work and has published six senior-author papers since her promotion to Associate Professor in 2012. ... She clearly is a major contributor to the teaching mission at your institution. I note that she received a teaching award in 2012. In my experience these are very hard to get and signify outstanding teaching. Dr. Csankovszki clearly incorporates evidence-based pedagogy practices into her teaching. From 2015 to 2018 she was the Associate Chair for Undergraduate studies, which represents a significant contribution.”

Reviewer (D)

“...the candidate’s qualification in terms of scholarship/research/scientific leadership are good when considered alone; but they are extraordinary when considered [in] light of her obviously huge commitment to innovative teaching and meaningful departmental and university service. Such people are a huge asset to any university lucky enough to employ them and provide real evidence of that school’s commitment to undergraduate education. I strongly hope that you promote her – I certainly strongly recommend that you do so!”

Reviewer (E)

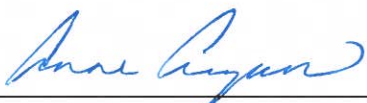
“Dr. Csankovszki has pushed her way into a highly competitive field and has made her mark with a number of important publications and is clearly a dedicated and motivated scientist. Her record of funding success is a strong indication of her research being impactful and important to her peers...”

Reviewer (F)

“Dr. Csankovszki has produced excellent work throughout her career, with several groundbreaking publications in the molecular biology of dosage compensation in both mammals and *C. elegans*. I consider her a genuine scholar in the field.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Csankovszki has established a productive research program examining the role of Condensins in regulating gene expression, X chromosome structure, and partitioning of chromosomes during mitosis and meiosis. Her well-funded research program continues to make important new discoveries in these areas. Her impact on MCDB’s teaching mission is impressive, and her record of outstanding undergraduate instruction and graduate research mentoring is deeply valued by her colleagues, as are her efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in how MCDB’s curriculum is taught. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Györgyi Csankovszki be promoted to professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Anne Curzan, Dean
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