

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Dearborn
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

Nicholas Iannarino, assistant professor of language, culture, and communication, Department of Language, Culture, and Communication, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of language, culture, and communication, with tenure, Department of Language, Culture and Communication, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2014	University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
M.A.	2010	University of Dayton, Dayton, OH
B.A.	2009	University of Dayton, Dayton, OH

Professional Record:

2014 – present	Assistant Professor of Language, Culture, and Communication, Department of Language, Culture, and Communication
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Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Iannarino's courses are rigorous and engaging, and his expertise in interpersonal communication, health communication, public speaking, and quantitative and qualitative research methods covers the breadth of speech and communication curriculums. His teaching contributions have transformed discipline offerings, enhanced the rigor of several core courses, and developed a new focus in health communication that is responsive to student interests and contemporary academic trends. Since joining the faculty, Professor Iannarino has taught twenty-nine sections of four different courses in the speech and communication curriculums. These courses have been reviewed well by both students and faculty peers. In the rare cases where improvements have been suggested, Professor Iannarino has been exceptionally responsive to student needs and diligent in preparation and improvement. Each section he has taught resulted in overall positive ratings from students. The numerical scores on student evaluations are very high across the board in all courses. Student comments reflect how Professor Iannarino is able to balance a rigorous and demanding set of assignments with an open and engaging classroom demeanor and a clear dedication to student success. The courses he teaches are central to the communication major, important for the Dearborn Discovery Core, and an increasingly integral part of interdisciplinary efforts in public health that cut across different units on campus. His extensive and impressive teaching portfolio is clearly the work of an exceptionally skilled teacher that is continually striving to improve each course taught, every semester offered.

Research: Professor Iannarino's research explores the communicative strategies people use to make sense of and adjust to difficult life experiences, such as those that follow the diagnosis of severe and chronic illness. His particular interest in young adult cancer addresses an understudied population for cancer research and positions Professor Iannarino's work to make an

important contribution to the growing field of health communication. During his time at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, he has published nine peer-reviewed articles in highly reputable academic journals, as well as one encyclopedia entry. His research examines social support and biographical disruption in young adult cancer, how communication is used to adapt to illness, and the influence of health messages on individual well-being. Of the nine articles published, three are sole-authored, two are first-authored, two are second-authored, one is third-authored, and one is fourth-authored. It is a remarkable achievement at this point in his career that two of his sole-authored articles appear in flagship journals in the field of communication generally (*Communication Monographs*) and the leading journal in Professor Iannarino's research specialty (*Health Communication*). He was also chosen as a 2016-2017 Faculty Fellow in the Faculty Scholars Program in Integrative Healthcare at the University of Michigan Medical School, an appointment that led to an ongoing project on integrative health care in young adult oncology with the University of Michigan Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology Research Group. This group recently secured a \$75,000 innovation grant through the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center, for which Professor Iannarino is a co-investigator. His work is developing a national following in both academic journals and more public forums dedicated to improving health care delivery and patient lives through improved communication. His published work is already having an impact in the academy and beyond, and his broad-based research agenda using narrative, identity, humor, and interpersonal networking and support helps ensure Professor Iannarino will have an active and important research agenda moving forward.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Head, K.J., & Iannarino, N.T. (2019). It changed our outlook on how we want to live: Cancer as a transformative health experience for young adult survivors and their family members. *Qualitative Health Research*, 29, 404-417. doi:10.1177/1049732318800674.
- Iannarino, N.T. (2018). It's my job now, I guess: Biographical disruption and communication work in supporters of young adult cancer survivors. 4,491-514. doi:10.1080/03637751.2018.1468916.
- Iannarino, N.T. (2018). What a loser that guy was: Norm Macdonald's humorous critique of the romantic/warrior narrative. *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, 42, 241-257. doi:10.1177/0196859918771891
- Iannarino, N.T. (2018). My insides feel like Keith Richards' face: A narrative analysis of humor and biographical disruption in young adults' cancer blogs. *Health Communication*, 33, 1233-1242. doi:10.1080/10410236.2017.1350909.
- Head, K.J., & Iannarino, N.T. (2017). Understanding the psychosocial influences on high school football players' weight-gaining behaviors. *Western Journal of Communication*, 81, 127-147. doi:10.1080/10570314.2016.1235724.
- Iannarino, N.T., Scott, A.M., & Shaunfield, S.L. (2017). Normative social support in young adult cancer survivors. *Qualitative Health Research*, 27, 271-284. doi:10.1177/1049732315627645.
- Goldsmith, J., Wittenberg-Lyles, E.M., Platt, C., Iannarino, N.T., & Reno, J.E. (2016). Family caregiver communication patterns in oncology: Advancing a typology. *Psycho-Oncology*, 25, 463-470. doi:10.1002/pon.3862.

Iannarino, N.T., Veil, S.R., & Cotton III, A.J. (2015). Bringing home the crisis: How U.S. evening news framed the 2011 Japan nuclear crisis. *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*, 23, 169-181. doi:10.1111/1468-5973.12068.

Cotton III, A.J., Veil, S.R., & Iannarino, N.T. (2015). Contaminated communication: TEPCO and organizational renewal at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. *Communication Studies*, 66, 27-44. doi:10.1080/10510974.2013.811427.

Service: Professor Iannarino's service is exemplary at all levels, from discipline curriculum revision and planning of alumni events to his service on important departmental and college committees such as LCC Department Executive Committee, Dearborn Discovery Assessment Subcommittee, and CASL Academic Standards Committee. He is also a member of several student-focused committees such as the Writing Awards and Commencement Speaker selection committees. Professor Iannarino also plays an important role in expanding awareness of and synergies between health communication courses in CASL and programming in the College of Education, Health, and Human Services. He also collaborates with colleagues throughout the larger University of Michigan system. Outside of campus, his professional service is particularly advanced for a junior faculty member. He serves on multiple boards and reviews scholarship for some of the more significant journals in the communication field.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "His most outstanding publication, published in 2018 in *Communication Monographs*, one of the most well-established and respected journals in our discipline examines social support from the perspective of friends, family members, and romantic partners who supported young adult cancer patients over the course of their cancer diagnosis and treatment. This particular article adds to research that emphasizes the role of everyday talk in managing a health crisis. In fact, I am currently engaging in a study of communication work in the food allergy context and have drawn extensively on this particular article to shape my research questions and analysis. This illustrates the way Professor Iannarino's theoretical contributions transcend any one topic area to make a larger contribution to the literature on interpersonal communication about health."

Reviewer B: "I was impressed by (a) his familiarity with and use of several theoretical frameworks that are relevant to his program of research; (b) his ability to neatly articulate their key propositions; and (c) his demonstration of how readers' understanding of communication processes might be deepened because of how he situated his data against theory." [He has] maintained a consistent focus on communication and cancer survivorship, particularly among young adults, who are an understudied and underserved population and whose physical, psychosocial, and financial vulnerabilities are considerable."

Reviewer C: "Professor Iannarino has built an impressive body of research about the lived experience of people coping with cancer. I particularly appreciate his insights about the important and often overlooked role of humor in social support and coping. [An overview of this scholarship written by Professor Iannarino was] the best review I have seen in 20 years of studying the phenomenon. It inspired me to follow his work closely, and I could not be more impressed with its consistent quality and impact."

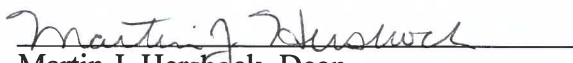
Reviewer D: “I would characterize Professor Iannarino as an emerging leader among health communication scholars addressing cancer-related interpersonal communication. He is committed to elevating the voices of young adult cancer survivors and their support providers. I am particularly impressed with how his body of work engages both academic stakeholders and broader publics.”

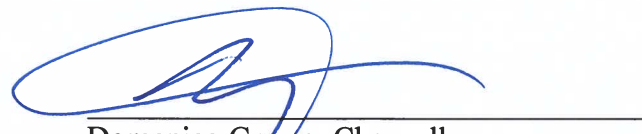
Reviewer E: “I particularly appreciate the strong theoretical grounding and contributions of his research, the methodological sophistication of the studies he conducts, and the high social relevance of his important research program. His research has been published in respected refereed scholarly journals and he has received several awards for his shared scholarship, conference presentations, and teaching. I am particularly impressed by his recent (2018) solo-authored publications in *Health Communication* and *Communication Monographs*. These two publications rest among the very top tier of scholarly outlets in the communication discipline and to have achieved two successful submissions at his career stage is very impressive.”

Reviewer F: “I found all of Professor Iannarino’s enclosed publications to contain well-supported, thoughtful analysis, revealing his grasp of narrative theorizing in the context of identity and relational work. These articles are thoughtfully designed and carefully implemented qualitative studies with both theoretical and practical implications for reconstructing life stories, relationship, and identities after biographical disruptions from cancer.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Iannarino is an engaging and rigorous teacher, an innovative scholar with a focused and impactful research agenda, and a highly valued member of the university community. We are very pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Nicholas Iannarino for promotion to associate professor of language, culture, and communication, with tenure, Department of Language, Culture, and Communication, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.


Martin J. Hershock, Dean
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters


Domenico Grasso, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

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