PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Public Health
Department of Epidemiology

Alison M. Mondul, assistant professor of epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of epidemiology, with tenure, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health.

Academic Degrees:
Ph.D. 2009 Johns Hopkins University
M.S.P.H. 2002 Emory University
B.S. 1998 University of Illinois

Professional Record:
9/2014 – Present Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, University of Michigan
School of Public Health
6/2012 – 8/2014 Research Fellow, NCI, NIH, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics
6/2009 – 6/2012 Post-doctoral Fellow, NCI, NIH, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics
9/2001 – 5/2002 Graduate Research Assistant, Emory University

Summary of Evaluation:
Teaching – Since coming to the University of Michigan, Professor Mondul has taught and/or developed multiple classes, including: EPID 621 Cancer Epidemiology; EPID 643 Surveillance and Publicly Available Datasets (newly developed); EPID 709 Fundamentals of Epidemiology; and PUBHLTH 401 Exploring the Public Health Spectrum of Cancer: From Prevention to Survivorship (newly developed). In addition, she is adapting EPID 643 to be taught as part of our newly launched online MPH. Since Fall 2015, she has taught three or four classes each academic year. Her teaching evaluations have been good to excellent. She has chaired two doctoral committees (one completed), and served on three additional doctoral committees. She has also mentored more than a dozen masters students. Notably, her advisees have first-authored seven peer-reviewed publications. She has also provided invited guest lectures on multiple occasions in other courses.

Scholarship – Professor Mondul is a productive researcher whose work focuses on the role of modifiable risk factors in the etiology of human cancer. She has contributed to a number of specific research areas, including the etiology and prevention of prostate cancer, the role of lipid-lowering medications in the etiology and progression of cancer, and the role of vitamin D in cancer etiology and prevention. Towards improving our understanding of the etiology and progression of prostate cancer, Professor Mondul has established herself as a leader in metabolic profiling, as a means to discover novel, not previously considered biochemical and molecular pathways that may be
contributing to risk of prostate cancer. She has also begun collaborating internationally. Her work has involved use of molecular epidemiologic techniques, including biomarkers, genome-wide association studies, and metabolomics profiling.

At present, Professor Mondul has two active research grants, including a highly competitive Department of Defense Idea Development Award, considered to be equivalent to a National Institutes of Health (NIH) R01, on which she is the principal investigator (PI). She currently is also serving as the PI on a Cancer Control and Population Sciences Award from the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center. During her time in rank, she has been the PI on a NIH/NCI SPORE in Prostate Cancer Career Enhancement Award, the PI on two grants from the NIH Office of Dietary Supplements, and a co-investigator on an NIH R01 supplement. Professor Mondul has published a total of 90 peer-reviewed papers, of which 42 have been published since her appointment at the School of Public Health. Of the 42, 10 are first-authored, one co-first authored and six senior-authored. Her papers have appeared in leading journals, including the American Journal of Epidemiology, Cancer Research, Journal of the National Cancer Institute, and the British Medical Journal. Her work has been highly cited, as reflected by her Scopus h-index of 30 and Google Scholar h-index of 36. Her paper on circulating vitamin D and prostate cancer was one of the most highly cited papers of 2017 for the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) and highlighted in a special issue entitled “Best of AACR.”

Recent and Significant Publications:

Service – Professor Mondul has served on four committees in the Department of Epidemiology (admissions committee; doctoral committee; masters committee; and, currently, the recruitment committee). She had a central role in developing the epidemiology Ph.D. student mentoring group, which provides interaction between faculty and Ph.D. students in a semi-social setting encouraging conversation and mentoring around selected subjects including work-life balance; career paths in academia, government, and industry; imposter syndrome; and gender bias. She has been a grant reviewer for the Blue Boxer Prostate Cancer Research Fund within the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center, the National Research Mentoring Network Proposal Preparation Program, the AAAS UNC-GA Research Opportunities Initiative, and an ad-hoc grant reviewer for an NCI study section. Since 2018, she has served as an associate editor for the journal Cancer Causes and Control, and she has been a reviewer of manuscripts for 18 journals, including a number of top journals in her field.
External Reviewers:
Reviewer (A): “Her paper published on circulating vitamin D and prostate cancer survival was one of the most highly cited papers of 2017 for the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) journals. As such, it was featured in a special issue entitled ‘Best of AACR’ and highlighted at the 2018 AACR Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL.”

Reviewer (B): “I have found Dr. Mondul’s publications on vitamin D and cancer important to my work, and have cited those publications multiple times in my grant applications and published papers.”

Reviewer (C): “The research utilizing the metabolomic methodologies is an exciting direction and forms the basis of her current Department of Defense Idea grant. Clearly Alison’s mentoring is being quite successful in helping to develop a next-generation of cancer epidemiologists.”

Reviewer (E): “These accomplishments all indicate a growing increase in research trajectory, national reputation, and citizenship in the larger scientific community. Dr. Mondul’s accomplishments are exemplary for someone in this field’s peer group.”

Reviewer (F): “In brief, Dr. Mondul has an impressive record of scholarship and innovation in cancer epidemiology, with an established national reputation.”

Reviewer (G): “Dr. Modul’s CV demonstrates a clear pattern of accomplishment that suggests that she will continue to be a successful scientist and an asset to the School of Public Health.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Mondul has made significant contributions to a number of specific research areas, including the etiology and prevention of prostate cancer, the role of lipid-lowering medications in the etiology and progression of cancer, and the role of vitamin D in cancer etiology and prevention. Her teaching has been substantial, making important contributions to four significant courses in our M.P.H., undergraduate, online, and summer session programs. Professor Mondul has demonstrated service to the department, the school, and to the profession nationally. It is with the support of the School of Public Health Executive Committee that we recommend Alison M. Mondul for promotion to associate professor of epidemiology, with tenure, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health.

F. DuBois Bowman, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Public Health

May 2020