

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Kinesiology

Leah E. Robinson, associate professor of kinesiology, with tenure, School of Kinesiology, is recommended for promotion to professor of kinesiology, with tenure, School of Kinesiology.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2007	The Ohio State University
M.S.	2002	The Ohio State University
B.S.	2000	North Carolina Central University

Professional Record:

2015 – present	Associate Professor, School of Kinesiology, University of Michigan
2012 – 2014	Associate Professor, School of Kinesiology, Auburn University
2002 – 2012	Assistant Professor, School of Kinesiology, Auburn University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Robinson has made a number of valuable contributions to the School of Kinesiology curriculum. She created and taught a one-month study abroad course for a group of undergraduate students travel to the University of Wollongong in Australia. Another highlight includes her collaboration with four other Kinesiology faculty members on a provost-funded initiative (Transforming Learning for the Third Century) to create a series of upper-level elective courses that took a blended approach to classroom instruction that enabled students to learn (a) partially online; (b) partially in a conventional class under the teacher’s supervision; and (c) through an integrated learning experience. Her participation in the initiative indicates her willingness to try innovative teaching with the goal of enhancing the student learning experience.

Research: Professor Robinson is also recognized for her performance on a series of research studies that have cumulatively made a substantive contribution to research in motor development. She has used carefully planned and executed experimental designs, measurement outcomes and statistical analyses that have generated a substantial amount of novel and informative data. Performing intervention studies in schools was recognized to be demanding and requires unique methodology, and she has been able to be a productive researcher in spite of this challenge. It should be recognized that her research has made novel contributions in part because it focuses on at-risk preschool children from low socioeconomic and ethnic minority communities. These groups have otherwise been dramatically understudied.

A major accomplishment in Professor Robinson’s record of extramural support during the interval after her promotion to associate professor is that she was awarded, as the PI, an NIH R01 that is entitled, “A PATH (Promoting Activity and Trajectories of Health) for Children.” This grant is funded from 2016–2021. In addition, she was the PI for a competitive supplement to her R01 that was funded via the NIH Common Fund Award (2017-2018).

Professor Robinson has authored or co-authored 82 peer reviewed research papers, 65 published in the rank of associate professor since 2012, and 45 in rank at Michigan since 2015. Her

publication rate at UM was 9.6 papers/year with ~ 45% (4.2 papers/year) as first or senior author, and she was first or senior author on more than 50% of papers that contribute to her h-index (14 of 27). The impact of her research is supported by a high citation rate with a steady increase in citations over time: 1) more than 3500 Google Scholar citations; and 2) with Google Scholar citations progressively increasing from 2012 (106 citations/year) to 2015 (346 citations/year) to 2018 (763 citations/year). Using the more conservative Scopus database, she has more than 1300 citations, with the rate of citations progressively increasing from 2012 (37 citations/year) to 2015 (101 citations/year) to 2018 (304 citations/year).

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Palmer, K.K., Chinn, K.M., and Robinson, L.E. (2019), "The Effect of the CHAMP Intervention on Fundamental Motor Skills and Outdoor Physical Activity in Preschoolers," *Journal of Sport and Health Science*, 8, 98–105.
- Clark, J.E., Bardid, F., Getchell, N., Robinson, L.E., Schott, N., and Whitall, J. (2019), "Reflections on Motor Development Research across the 20th Century: Six Empirical Studies that changed the Field." *Journal of Motor Learning and Development*.
- Robinson, L.E., Veldman, S.L., Palmer, K.K., and Okely, A.D. (2017), "A Ball Skills Intervention in Preschoolers: The CHAMP Randomized Controlled Trial." *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*, 49(11), 2234–2239.
- Robinson, L.E., Stodden, D.F., Barnett, L.M., Lopes, V.P., Logan, S.W., Rodrigues, L.P., and D'Hondt, E. (2015), "Motor Competence and its Effect on Positive Developmental Trajectories of Health," *Sports Medicine*, 45(9), 1273–1284.
- Logan, S.W., Robinson, L.E., and Getchell, N. (2011), "The Comparison of Performances of Preschool Children on Two Motor Assessments," *Perceptual and Motor Skills*, 113, 715–723. doi:10.2466/03.06.25.PMS.113.6.715-723

Service: Professor Robinson's service activities since 2015 have been considerably more than that expected for an associate professor. She has served as a program chair for the movement science program for three years, she has served on several university executive/advisory committees and has been extremely active in professional service with various external organizations. She served on a scientific committee for the National Academy of Science that was charged with developing a policy report of physical activity and physical education in schools. She has certainly performed more than the expected amount of service. Furthermore, much of her service has been high impact and not simply committee membership.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Robinson ranks very highly relative to her peer group. I would rank her within the top 10 people in the world working in her field of study."

Reviewer B: "Dr. Robinson's expertise in motor development and motor competence is widely recognized. She has received national and international recognition for her scholarly contributions."

Reviewer C: "The volume of published work, funding and strong standing she has established in this line of work, clearly set her as a leader in her field and I can only see her continuing

rising and becoming a super star among her peers working in the same field in the next few years.”

Reviewer D: “Dr. Robinson has demonstrated that she is a comprehensive scholar and is outstanding in her peer group.... Few motor development scholars develop an extramurally funded line of work that will continue to address important public health problems. So, Dr. Robinson is unique in achieving her level of excellence.”

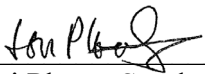
Reviewer E: “Her research is theoretically driven, field-based, and translational. Her work spans theory to practice for a critical age group. Rising obesity rates among children have been considered a public health crisis. Dr. Robinson’s body of work provides the theoretical grounding for the interventions she implements. And, her results show positive behavioral outcomes.”

Reviewer F: “Her publication output is far above average with respect to quantity, but above that she has led or contributed to several papers that have attained the status of ‘must have read’ in the field of motor development.”

Reviewer G: “She has developed a comprehensive body of research that has contributed to a better understanding of child motor skill development with vital implications for long-term outcomes in pediatric and public health. Translational applications of Dr. Robinson’s research findings have transformative potential for population health.”

Reviewer H: “I consider her work superior relative to her peer group in the same area of research, based on quality and impact conceptually, methodologically, and analytically. In my opinion, Dr. Robinson has surpassed senior scholars in quality of research in motor competence and physical activity.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Robinson is a highly valued member of our school, and her aggregate achievements in research, teaching, and service have resulted in unanimous and enthusiastic support at all levels in our school as well as from external reviewers, for her promotion. From my perspective, her highly collaborative interdisciplinary approaches over several areas of motor skill research is a strong asset for Kinesiology. It is with the support of the School of Kinesiology Executive Committee that I recommend Leah E. Robinson for promotion to professor of kinesiology, with tenure, School of Kinesiology.



Lori Ploutz-Snyder
Dean, School of Kinesiology

May 2020