Approved by the Regents
May 21, 2020

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

Arash Soleimanpour, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D.	2004	Northeast Ohio Medical University
B.S.	2003	Kent State University

Professional Record:

2014-present	Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
2012-2013	Instructor of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania
2010-2013	Research Investigator, University of Pennsylvania

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Soleimanpour is a supportive mentor who continuously guides the learner to set them up for their own productive career. His teaching has included informal mentoring to trainees including six undergraduate students since 2008, two post-graduate fellows, one clinical fellow, a graduate student, a faculty member and three medical students. He serves on several Ph.D. student dissertation committees currently and has previous experience teaching within the residency program. Dr. Soleimanpour coordinates the diabetes curriculum for medical students, and has taught numerous lecture series, including one course: Bench-to-Bedside. He has served as a faculty advisor for University of Michigan students for the diabetes awareness and college diabetes network.

Research: Dr. Soleimanpour is an exceptional scientist whose primary scholarly research focus is on islet cell transplantation; new onset diabetes after transplantation; and control of pancreatic beta cell function by mitophagy. His scholarly activities have had a significant impact on diabetes and pancreatic islet biology research. He has 25 peer-reviewed publications in high impact journals including *Diabetes*, *Autophagy* and *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. Dr. Soleimanpour has produced eight types of web or media based articles and educational materials. He has a strong record of extramural funding and is currently the principal investigator of a National Institutes of Health R01 grant, and funding through the American Diabetes Association and a career development award through the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Dr. Soleimanpour has received national and international recognition for his research, including the ASCI Young Physician-Scientist Award, the CSCTR Early Career Development Award, and the JDRF-Danish Diabetes Academy Career Development Award. He has been invited to present his research on 14 occasions regionally, nationally and internationally.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Pearson G, Soleimanpour SA: Visualization of endogenous mitophagy complexes in situ in human pancreatic beta cells utilizing proximity ligation assay. *Journal of Visualized Experiments*, May 2; 125: 1-8, 2019.

Corsa CAS, Pearson GL, Renberg A, Askar M, Vozheiko T, MacDougald OA, Soleimanpour SA. The E3 ligase parkin is dispensable in pancreatic β-cells and adipocytes for metabolic homeostasis: *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, May 3;294(18):7296-7307, 2019.

Pearson G, Chai B, Vozheiko T, Liu X, Kandarpa M, Piper RC, Soleimanpour SA: Clec16a, Nrdp1, and USP8 form a ubiquitin-dependent tripartite complex that regulates beta cell mitophagy. *Diabetes*, Feb;67(2):265-277, 2018.

Soleimanpour SA, Ferrari AM, Raum JC, Groff DN, Yang J, Kaufman BA, Stoffers DA: Diabetes susceptibility genes *Pdx1* and *Clec16a* function in a pathway regulating mitophagy in β-cells. *Diabetes*, Oct; 64 (10): 3475-3484, 2015.

Soleimanpour SA, Gupta A, Bakay M, Ferrari AM, Groff DN, Fadista J, Spruce LA, Kushner JA, Groop L, Seeholzer SH, Kaufman BA, Hakonarson H, Stoffers DA: The diabetes susceptibility gene *Clec16a* regulates mitophagy. *Cell*, Jun; 157 (7): 1577-1590, 2014.

Service: Dr. Soleimanpour is an active member of the University of Michigan Diabetes Research Center, the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, the Endocrine Society, the Alpha Omega Alpha National Medical Honor Society, and the Philadelphia Endocrine Society. He has contributed to his field with service as ad hoc reviewer for 25 journals such as *PLOS One*, and *Journal of Molecular Endocrinology*, and has served as editorial board member for *Scientific Reports*, *Frontiers and Endocrinology*, and *Diabetes*. In 2019, Dr. Soleimanpour was appointed as associate editor of *Clinical Diabetes and Endocrinology*. He has served on the American Diabetes Association Research Grant review committee. In August, 2015, Dr. Soleimanpour began serving as the director of the Diabetes Transition Program at the University of Michigan. His clinical interests include comprehensive care for adolescents and young adult type 1 diabetes patients transitioning from pediatrics to adult endocrinology.

External Reviewer:

Reviewer A: "I have worked with Dr. Soleimanpour on a few occasions in service roles for national organizations and he has always demonstrated integrity, hard work, and great enthusiasm. Dr. Soleimanpour has a clear passion for diabetes research and advocacy…He is a well-respected, insightful and enthusiastic colleague who is sought after as a committee member, reviewer, and organizer for national organizations in our field."

Reviewer B: "Scott has a true curiosity and fascination about diabetes that is evidenced by his funded research, numerous high impact manuscripts, strong questions that he asks at scientific meetings, and overall excitement about research discoveries related to diabetes. Scott is also a well-respected scientist among faculty, students, and the medical community."

Reviewer C: "Dr. Soleimanpour has also provided significant service to the university and to professional organizations within his field. He has taken leadership roles in the organization of local and regional diabetes research conferences. Dr. Soleimanpour is clearly a positive and increasingly recognized force for the diabetes research community."

Reviewer D: "While my area of scientific expertise is only peripherally related to that of Dr. Soleimanpour, I view him as a commanding and demanding scholar based upon our many discussions, seminar presentations and publications. Dr. Soleimanpour has published fourteen papers since completing his postdoctoral fellowship in Dr. Doris Stoffers' program at the University of Pennsylvania, an exceptional training environment for islet biologists and diabetes investigators."

Reviewer E: "In addition to his productivity in publishing manuscripts, Scott has demonstrated success in securing extramural funding from the NIH, JDRF, and the American Diabetes Association. His ability to secure funding for his salary and laboratory is quite impressive considering the tenuous funding climate that all principal investigators are experiencing at the moment. I am confident that with his novel ideas and work ethic, Scott will continue to receive extramural grant awards and continue on his upward trajectory in academia."

Reviewer F: "Arash (Scott) Soleimanpour is a tremendous scientist and colleague who, while developing a first-level nationally recognized program, also steps out of his way in terms of service, training, and dedication, in order to make the environment better for others around him. He is well on his way to becoming a top-tier leader and role model at your institution."

Summary of Recommendations:
Dr. Soleimanpour is a highly skilled physician-scientist endocrinologist with research and clinical expertise in type I diabetes. He is a basic science researcher with an interest in understanding the molecular mechanisms of, and developing therapies for, type I diabetes. I am pleased, therefore, to recommend Arash Soleimanpour, M.D. for promotion to associate professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School.

Marschall S. Runge, M.D., Ph.D.
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs
Dean, Medical School

May 2020