

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan – Flint  
College of Health Sciences  
Department of Public Health and Health Sciences

Reza Amini, assistant professor of public health and health sciences, Department of Public Health and Health Sciences, College of Health Sciences, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of public health and health sciences, with tenure, Department of Public Health and Health Sciences, College of Health Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2015	University of North Texas, USA
M.P.H	2010	University of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Sciences, Iran
D.M.	1994	Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Iran

Professional Record:

2016-Present	Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health and Health Science, University of Michigan-Flint
2016-2016	Adjunct Faculty, University of North Texas
2015-2018	Adjunct Faculty, Grand Canyon University
2015-2016	Adjunct Faculty, Tarrant County College District
2014-2015	Fellowship, University of North Texas
2013-2014	Teaching Fellow, University of North Texas
2012-2013	Teaching/Research Assistant, University of North Texas
2001-2011	Director of Research Division, Medical and Eng. Research Center, Iran
1997-2001	Researcher, Medical and Engineering Research Center, Iran General
1994-2011	Practitioner

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Amini taught eight different courses at the undergraduate and graduate level in public health. His teaching is primarily in face-to-face courses but he has also taught online. He served as primary reader for eight master's capstones/theses. His student course evaluations range from very good to excellent. Professor Amini's courses are well planned, intellectually stimulating, and engaging to various types of learners. He values and encourages student engagement utilizing multiple evidence-based strategies, including the use of various technologies, e.g. Kahoot, Camtasia, Poll Everywhere. Students often comment positively on his ability to use examples and illustrations, innovative teaching methods, expertise in content and overall enthusiasm for teaching. Professor Amini actively engages students during advising sessions and often follows up with them throughout the semester. When completing his University of Michigan Interprofessional Education Fellowship, Professor Amini developed an online interprofessional education communication module that is being implemented in the College of Health Sciences this year and is now available across the University of Michigan system. Professor Amini has received several teaching awards being recognized for teaching excellence by students and faculty peers.

Research: Professor Amini's primary area of research has focused on the interactions of cognitive impairment, health, and hospitalization rates in older community-dwelling adults. His research findings defining the relationship of current or past cigarette smoking with executive brain

function suggests that all older adults with a past history of smoking should be tested for cognitive impairments, specifically impairment of executive function. He further identified a positive relationship between cognitive impairment in older adults and re-hospitalization rates for conditions such as diabetes mellitus or heart attack. Professor Amini's research has significant implications to inform clinical practice guideline development and contribute to best practice models with regard to mitigating the effects that cognitive impairment has on health care management in the aging population.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Amini, R., Kawser, B. (2020): The impact of the interaction between mild and mild-to-moderate cognitive impairment with chronic health problems on hospital admission among community-dwelling older adults. *Geriatrics and Gerontology International*. doi: 10.1111/ggi.14070

Amini, R., Sahli, M., Ganai, S. (2020): Cigarette smoking and cognitive function among older adults living in the community. *Aging, Neuropsychology, and Cognition*. doi: 10.1080/13825585.2020.1806199

Amini, R., Chee, K.H., Ingman, S.R. (2020): Elder Care in Iran: A Case with a Unique Demographic Profile. *Journal of Aging and Social Policy*. doi.org/10.1080/08959420.2020.722896.

Amini, R., Chee, K. H., Mendieta, M., Parker, S. (2019): Online Engagement and Cognitive Function among Senior Adults: a longitudinal study (data retrieved from NHATS 2011-2016). *Geriatrics and Gerontology International*, 19(9), 918-923. doi.org/10.1111/ggi.13749

Amini, R., Chee, K.H., Swan, J., Mendieta, M., Williams, T.M. (2019): The Level of Cognitive Impairment and Likelihood of Frequent Hospital Admissions. *Journal of Aging and Health*, 31(6), 967-988. doi: 10.1177/0898264317747078.

Swan, J. H., Brooks, J., Amini, R., Moore, A., Turner, K. (2017): Smoking Predicting Physical Activity in an Aging America. *The Journal of Nutrition, Health and Aging*. doi: 10.1007/s12603-017-0967-3.

Swan, J., Amini, R., Moor, A. (2017): Life Course and Physical Activity of An Aging America. *The Journal of Aging and Social Change*, 7(3), 49-62.

Service: Professor Amini made significant service contributions to the community, profession, and university. His community and professional service align with his research agenda. He is actively engaged with the Speak to Your Health Project to assess health factors in Genesee County and he has conducted research to evaluate the effectiveness of the Genesee Health Plan. Nationally, Professor Amini is an active member of the Aging and Public Health (APH) section of the American Public Health Association where he has served as an APH councilor for two years and is on the conference planning committee. He is currently an associated editor for the *Journal of Health and Quality of Life*. Professor Amini focused his department service on curricular and program development to prepare the programs for certification and accreditation. He contributed significantly to the college's research strategic planning and has served on numerous search committees. At the university level, he served on the Administrative Services Advisory Committee. Professor Amini has been adept in

filling key service needs within the College of Health Sciences and his service contributions are high quality.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A) “Dr. Amini’s work on smoking and exercise patterns among older adults was provocative. Here again, he is commended for efforts to disentangle complex behaviors that develop and interact over time in terms of their contribution to health-related quality of life. Indeed, I reviewed this article several times as the presumption of interaction and causal pathways represents a position open to discussion. While, at first glance, I was skeptical, after careful reading and consideration, I am persuaded that the findings from this article present a novel and thought-provoking conceptualization of the problem.”

Reviewer (B) “In reading the three articles submitted for review, I am impressed at the breadth of research that Dr. Amini is conducting and his skills as a writer, quantitative analyst and synthesizer of complex information. The profile and history of Elder Care in Iran was particularly informative and I expect will be a go-to article for international researchers who do cross-cultural comparisons of health care, nursing care and informal caregiving for geriatric populations.”

Reviewer (C) “In my opinion the quality is excellent, well organized, written and documented ... they are important scholarly contributions to the literature, especially in the area of aging and cognitive functioning.”

Reviewer (D) “In comparison to others in the field, Dr. Amini is stellar in the quality of his work. The number of publications is superior to others in similar institutions. The article entitled, ‘The level of cognitive impairment and the likelihood of frequent hospital admission’ (2019) can certainly be called outstanding. It is methodologically significant and has both practical and meaningful implications for those caring for individuals with MCI and CI.”

Reviewer (E) “Dr. Amini has been active and an exemplary scholar in his field. In addition to his teaching and administrative tasks, Dr. Amini has been able to engage in research and creative activities where he has created a defined scholarly path and built strong teams to support his agenda.”

Reviewer (F) “Dr. Amini has established a strong framework and perspective that guides his scholarship and research work. He uses the life-course perspective which is a springboard for assessing multi-dimensional factors determining quality of health with regard to the cumulative influence of our life trajectories on health, aging and different contexts. In these lenses, he has a wide spectrum of following through with research that provides depth and breadth for application of the outcomes of research projects to public health policies, long-term health care services, and health care disparities.”

Reviewer (G) “In summary, Dr. Amini’s professional juncture of Sociology, Gerontology and Medical Science is a necessary intersection addressing urgent issues within our country now, demanding problem solving skills in research and education.”

Reviewer (H) “I would consider his publication ‘The level of cognitive impairment and likelihood of frequent hospital admissions’ in the Journal of Aging and Health (impact factor = 2.007) to be his most significant piece of work. This article brings together two areas that appear to be areas of strength, cognitive impairment in older adults and healthcare utilization. This article is written

with a multidisciplinary team of investigators (several of whom from where he did his dissertation) analyzing national data sets.”

Summary of Recommendations:

Professor Amini is a strong researcher and teacher. I fully concur with the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee and the director of the Department of Public Health and Health Sciences and enthusiastically recommend Reza Amini for promotion to associate professor of public health and health sciences, with tenure, Department of Public Health and Health Sciences, College of Health Sciences.

Recommended by:



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Donna Fry, Dean  
College of Health Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



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Sonja Feist-Price, Provost and  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



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Deba Dutta, Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2021