

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AND VISUAL SCIENCES

Hakan Demirci, M.D., associate professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, with tenure, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, with tenure, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D. 1993 Hacettepe University, Istanbul, Turkey

Professional Record:

2015-present	Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, with tenure, University of Michigan
2010-2015	Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, without tenure, University of Michigan
2008-2010	Associate Professor of Medicine, Istanbul University, Turkey
2006-2008	Instructor of Ophthalmology, Thomas Jefferson University
2001-2005	Instructor of Ophthalmology, Istanbul University, Turkey

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Demirci is a dedicated clinical and clinical research educator, working with medical students, post-graduate students, residents, fellows, allied health providers, and health care providers from around the world. He has worked with four University of Michigan students on a project at the joint University of Michigan and St. Paul's Hospital and Millennium Medical School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, involving a phone-based camera system for the detection of retinoblastoma, which is an intraocular tumor of infants. Dr. Demirci mentors and teaches residents in the ACGME approved program. He provides an extensive resident lecture series, a year-long annual review course for ophthalmology residents in the State of Michigan, preparation for board and in training national examinations, departmental grand rounds, and yearly orbital anatomy dissection and suture courses. He is often invited to give didactic lectures and teach dissection courses at the other programs in the state of Michigan, including Henry Ford Hospital. For fellowship education, Dr. Demirci is a member of the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery, where he participates in their sponsored fellowship at Kellogg Eye Center, as well as in the training of medical and surgical retina fellows in a program for intraocular tumors. Importantly, Dr. Demirci developed an Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology approved Ocular Oncology Fellowship to educate international physicians on all aspects of patient care, education, and research in ocular oncology. This fellowship provides training for fellows to be leaders of ocular oncology in their countries. The first international research fellow was from Turkey, and she currently works at the Ocular Oncology Service, University of Toronto. His first clinical fellow was from the Philippines; she was actively involved in multiple research projects and the writing of multiple manuscripts. After completing her clinical

fellowship, she returned to the Philippines and started to practice as one of few ocular oncologists and orbital surgeons in her country.

Research: Since 2010, Dr. Demirci has focused on innovative, translational approaches for the treatment of orbital and ocular cancers. He has helped bring into practice important new approaches to care, including the most recent use of rituximab for conjunctival lymphoma, sparing patients surgery. In the past, he has also helped introduce intraocular injections of chemotherapy as well as intra-arterial chemotherapy delivery for specific kinds of tumors. His research has been well-funded through the National Cancer Institute, the National Institutes of Health, foundation and industry grants. Dr. Demirci has published 182 peer-reviewed articles, and has been invited to give presentations at national conferences, including for the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, the Turkish Ophthalmological Society, and the World Ophthalmology Congress. He has also filed a patent application for a multispectral photoacoustic and ultrasound parallel imaging platform that was developed in his laboratory with collaboration from the Biointerfaces Institute at the University of Michigan, and field-tested in Ethiopia by medical students. The cell phone application detects white-eye reflexes in children, which may show the first signs of intraocular tumors and simulating conditions. Dr. Demirci has been instrumental in the growth and achievements of the ocular oncology program. His receipt of the Richard N. and Marilyn K. Witham Professorship in Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences has facilitated his ability to engage in meaningful research that has resulted in federal NIH funding as part of a research collaboration.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

Demirci H, Ozgonul C, Grisoloia ABD, Elnor VM: Intralesional Rituximab Injection for Low-Grade Conjunctival Lymphoma Management. *Ophthalmology* Mar 30,272-30,274, 2020 Online ahead of print.

Demirci H, Demirci FY, Ciftci S, Elnor VM, Wu YM, Ning Y, Chinnaiyan A, Robinson DR: Integrative Exome and Transcriptome Analysis of Conjunctival Melanoma and Its Potential Application for Personalized Therapy. *JAMA Ophthalmol*: 2019.

Owen JL, Kibbi N, Worley B, Kelm RC, Wang JV, Barker CA, Behshad R, Bichakjian CK, Bolotin D, Bordeaux JS, Bradshaw SH, Cartee TV, Chandra S, Cho NL, Choi JN, Council ML, Demirci H, Eisen DB, Esmali B, Golda N, Huang CC, Ibrahim SF, Jiang SB, Kim J, Kuzel TM, Lai SY, Lawrence N, Lee EH, Leitenberger JJ, Maher IA, Mann MW, Minkis K, Mittal BB, Nehal KS, Neuhaus IM, Ozog DM, Petersen B, Rotemberg V, Samant S, Samie FH, Servaes S, Shields CL, Shin TM, Sobanko JF, Somani AK, Stebbins WG, Thomas JR, Thomas VD, Tse DT, Waldman AH, Wong MK, Xu YG, Yu SS, Zeitouni NC, Ramsay T, Reynolds KA, Poon E, Alam M: Sebaceous carcinoma: evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. *Lancet Oncol* 20(12): e699-e714, 2019.

Demirci H, Niziol LM, Ozkurt Z, Slimani N, Ozgonul C, Liu T, Musch DC, Materin M: Do Largest Basal Tumor Diameter and the American Joint Commission Cancer Staging Influence Prognostication by Gene Expression Profiling in Choroidal Melanoma? *Am J Ophthalmol*: 2018.

França M, Ayres B, Parrish E, Demirci H: How to Measure the Largest Basal Dimension of Choroidal Melanoma: A Mathematical Study. *Retina*: 2018.

Service: Dr. Demirci provides exceptional clinical care to his patients in the Ocular Oncology and Eye, Plastic, Orbital and Facial Cosmetic Surgery Services at the Kellogg Eye Center. He is one of a limited number of ocular oncologists in the United States who also has additional training in oculoplastics and orbital surgery. His training, innovative, cutting-edge, and collaborative approach to patient care have made the Kellogg Eye Center one of the major ocular oncology referral centers in the country. He also serves as the director of the ocular oncology service. Dr. Demirci has been the driving force in creating and continuing the Great Lakes Ocular Oncology Study Group, to promote better patient care, education, and research in the great lakes region. This study group meets annually, and includes physicians from all over the great lakes area to share information on conjunctival and intraocular tumors. The success of this study group has prompted the formation of similar study groups such as the Southeast Ocular Oncology Group, and the Ohio Ocular Oncology Group. He created a pediatric eye disease support group for patients that meets quarterly where he organizes and gives lectures about pediatric cancers. He served as the chair for the International Society of Ocular Oncology in 2019, and is a reviewer for nine journals.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Dr. Demirci is a world-renowned ocular oncologist who has established his reputation based on his fascinating research over the last 10 years. Dr. Demirci has been instrumental in putting University of Michigan at the forefront of ocular oncology. He has established a referral-based practice as well as cutting-edge research.”

Reviewer B: “Dr. Demirci has gained a regional, national and international reputation as evidenced by his speaking engagements in many professional meetings including annual meetings of AAO and ARVO...Overall Dr. Demirci [sic] has demonstrated continued and important contributions to scholarship and clinical practice and has been recognized worldwide by his peers as a valuable member of the ocular oncology specialists.”

Reviewer C: “He has five visiting professorships to his credit, along with 15 other extramural invited presentations that demonstrate an international reputation. He has been very productive academically and his h-index is indicative of someone who is very influential in his field. I would estimate that Dr. Demirci is in the top 10% of others in his peer group.”

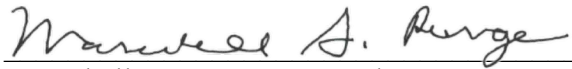
Reviewer D: “His excellent mathematical study regarding the measurement of the largest basal dimension of choroidal melanomas, his investigation of the basal tumor diameter in the staging influence prognostication by gene expression profiling in choroidal melanomas and the integrative exome and transcriptive analysis of conjunctival melanomas are significant contributions in ocular oncology.”

Reviewer E: “A review of Dr. Demirci’s CV and a Pubmed search show an astonishing degree of productivity. In fact, in providing evaluations of many candidates being considered for Professor of Ophthalmology at top academic institutions I have not yet encountered a CV with such an extensive bibliography.”

Reviewer F: “Dr. Demirci has made excellent service contributions to our profession. He is a member of important societies and has organized a regional Ocular Oncology Study Group...I recommend his promotion without reservation. Having recently completed my 8-year term as Chair of Ophthalmology at [my institution], I can say with certainty that Dr. Demirci would meet the criteria for the rank of Professor if he were on the faculty at [my institution].”

Summary of Recommendations:

Dr. Demirci as had a great impact on ocular oncology and has advanced the care of affected patients, recognizing his unique combination of clinical skills, academic insights, and the ability to apply innovative thinking to implement real solutions and approaches. I am pleased to recommend Hakan Demirci, M.D. for promotion to professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, with tenure, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Medical School.



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

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