

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Public Health
Department of Health Behavior and Health Education

Alison L. Miller, associate professor of health behavior and health education, with tenure, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health, is recommended for promotion to professor of health behavior and health education, with tenure, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2000	University of Michigan
M.A.	1997	University of Michigan
B.A.	1992	Wesleyan University

Professional Record:

2020-Present	Member, Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation
2018	Adjunct Assistant Professor (Research), Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
2016-Present	Associate Professor, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, University of Michigan School of Public Health
2015-Present	Associate Research Scientist, Center for Human Growth and Development, University of Michigan
2015-2016	Research Associate Professor, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, University of Michigan School of Public Health
2013-2013	Visiting Scholar, University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health and Institute for Human Development
2007-2015	Assistant Research Scientist, Center for Human Growth Development, University of Michigan
2006	Adjunct Assistant Professor (Research), Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
2002-2006	Assistant Professor (Research), Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
2002-2006	Research Associate, E.P. Bradley Hospital, East Providence, Rhode Island
2000-2002	Post-doctoral Fellowship, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Miller has been the instructor of note for seven classes since being appointed associate professor. She developed a new course, HBHE 634 - Child Health and Development, that has had consistently high evaluations (4.79 to 4.90 on Q1 and 4.90 to 4.95 on Q2) and a waiting list each time it was offered. Students have praised her for her enthusiasm for the topic and her ability to make the material accessible and relevant for public health students. Students have also remarked on her attention to issues of equity in course topics (e.g., threats to child health as a function of social factors) and to interpersonal dynamics in the classroom. As a result, Professor Miller was nominated for the university-wide Golden Apple Teaching award in

2017. In 2018, Professor Miller developed and taught another new course, HBHE - Mental Health Interventions, which was similarly well received by students (4.75 to 4.92 on Q1 and 4.86 to 4.96 on Q2). Both of these courses have been in high demand and highly valued by students. Professor Miller began teaching the first-year Ph.D. seminar, HBHE 800, in Fall 2018 (4.50 to 5.00 on Q1 and 5.00 to 5.00 on Q2) and has substantially redesigned this course. In addition to an emphasis on conceptual models for research, this course meets the federal Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarship (RCRS) requirement and includes a focus on professional development and current issues regarding research ethics in publication.

Professor Miller has served on 19 Ph.D. committees in departments within the school and across other university units including psychology, kinesiology, and nursing. She has mentored post-doctoral scholars, having been primary supervisor for eight fellows and an informal mentor for many others. She was the primary sponsor for two National Institutes of Health (NIH) F32 awardees, each of whom secured assistant professor positions starting Fall 2020. Prior post-doctoral fellows she has mentored have gone on to assistant and associate professorships and research director positions. She also supervises trainees as an associate director of an NIH funded T32 program, Training in Developmental Science to Improve Child Health and Well-Being. She runs weekly didactic seminars for M.D. and Ph.D. trained post-doctoral fellows. Advanced trainees from pediatrics, kinesiology, psychology, nursing, information, social work, and public health also attend. Professor Miller has been academic advisor to 29 masters students, advised 15 independent study students, and supervised 17 summer internships. Thirty of these students have also worked in her lab, with some hired into full-time positions. This work has resulted in published scientific papers and/or community-facing products where students translated research into health education tools.

Research – Areas of interest for Professor Miller’s research include understanding mechanisms by which exposure to stressors in the social and physical environment can get ‘under the skin’ to shape child health, and how better understanding such mechanisms may inform and improve intervention approaches to foster positive outcomes. This includes the examination of how child bio-behavioral mechanisms (e.g., biological stress response, behavioral self-regulation) and family factors (e.g., parenting stress, chaos in the home) correlate with child behaviors such as unhealthy eating, poor sleep or excessive media use. Her work emphasizes behavioral interventions that address health domains such as obesity prevention and type I diabetes management. Specific research themes include: 1) longitudinal studies examining child stress, self-regulation interventions, and family processes in relation to health outcomes such as obesity among young low-income children; 2) early relational health and parenting capacity; and, 3) community-based research, intervention and translation with emphasis on child environmental health, supporting parents and providers, and translational efforts emphasizing cross-disciplinary approaches.

Professor Miller has been the principal investigator (PI) or multiple PI on 24 grants totaling \$10.8 million in direct costs (six of these have been awarded since 2016, with \$2.6 million in direct costs) and a co-investigator on 34 others (15 of these since 2016, with \$1.5 million in direct costs). She has had continuous NIH funding since 2003 including from The Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR), which has funded her research for a decade through the Science of Behavior Change initiative. Additional funding for Professor Miller’s

research has come from the American Heart Association, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), as well as internal university funds including from the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research (MICHR) Pilot Grant Program and M-Cubed. She has multiple grants currently under review as either a PI or co-investigator including two R01 grants and a R21. Professor Miller has published 181 papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals, 121 of which were published since becoming associate professor in 2016. She is first author on 31 papers (11 of these since 2016), senior author on 30 papers (23 of these since 2016), and second author on 44 papers (24 of these since 2016). Based on the current trajectory of her peer reviewed publications, which includes 37 papers published in 2020 and/or in press or accepted, there is a very strong likelihood of substantial future productivity.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Miller, A.L., Lo, S.L., Bauer, K.W. & Fredericks, E.M. (2020). Developmentally informed behaviour change techniques to enhance self-regulation in a health promotion context: a conceptual review. *Health Psychology Review*. 14:1, 116-131.
- Bohnert, A., Loren, D.M., & Miller, A.L. (2020). Examining Childhood Obesity through the Lens of Developmental Psychopathology: Framing the Issues to Guide Best Practices in Research and Intervention. *American Psychologist*. 75(2):163-177.
- Miller, A.L., Miller, S.E., LeBourgeois, M.K., Sturza, J., Rosenblum, K.L., & Lumeng, J.C. (2019). Sleep duration and quality are associated with eating behavior in low-income toddlers. *Appetite*. 135, 100-107.
- Miller, A.L., Gearhardt, A.N., Retzlaff, L.B., Sturza, J., Kaciroti, N., & Lumeng, J. C. (2018). Early childhood stress and child age predict longitudinal increases in obesogenic eating among low-income children. *Academic Pediatrics*. pii: S1876-2859(18)30012-3.
- Miller, A. L., Song, J.H., Sturza, J., Lumeng, J. C., Rosenblum, K., Kaciroti, N. and Vazquez, D. M. (2016). Child cortisol moderates the association between family routines and emotion regulation in low-income children. *Developmental Psychobiology*. 59, 99-100.

Service – Professor Miller currently serves as the chair of the Health Behavior and Health Education Masters of Public Health Committee. In this role, she oversees curricular decisions, identifies gaps, approves new courses, and provides guidance for both students and faculty regarding curricular issues. Other health behavior and health education committees she has served on include the Masters of Public Health and Doctoral Admissions Committees, ad-hoc chair of a clinical faculty search committee, and the Prelim Grading Committee for doctoral students. At the school level, she has served on the committee for reaccreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), and served on the Applied Practice Experience (APEX) subcommittee. Professor Miller has provided substantial service to the university serving as a member of the Office of Research Compliance Review (ORCR) Advisory Committee, which oversees non-financial research and human subject issues for compliance, including University of Michigan-wide Institutional Review Board (IRB) policies. She is also a member of the COVID-19 Task Force, where she has presented information on mental health impacts of the pandemic to the university president and other deans across University of Michigan units. Prior to its closing this past summer by the University of Michigan Office of Research due to COVID-19 financial complications, Professor Miller served as an Executive Committee member of the Center for Human Growth and Development (CHGD) and was the faculty director of the CHGD

Media Management and Behavioral Coding Core. Externally, she has served on an NIH study section (Psychosocial Development, Risk and Prevention; PDRP) since 2015, conducts ad-hoc peer reviews for numerous journals across disciplines, and serves on the Consulting Editorial Board for *Child Development*, the leading journal in her field. She is a member of numerous expert advisory committees and is frequently invited to provide expert opinions at various NIH workshops, speak at professional meetings, and provide feedback on policies for local and state government. Her research has been featured in numerous media outlets ranging from University of Michigan School of Public Health internal publications and podcasts to national media.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “I am thoroughly impressed by the quality of her thinking, by the caliber of her scholarship, and by her groundbreaking and vital program of research. She is making what I consider to be fundamental contributions to both developmental psychology and public health by joining and integrating developmental science and public health science.... if she were a member of my department, I would enthusiastically support her promotion and am absolutely certain that decisions at the Department, School, and University level would be uniformly and enthusiastically positive.”

Reviewer B: “Dr. Miller has accomplished an impressive level of scholarship that matches what most scholars have accomplished with the equivalent numbers of years in a tenure track position. She is a leading researcher that brings both strong theory and rigorous methods to the application of developmental science to promote children’s health. That said, I enthusiastically and without hesitation recommend that Dr. Miller be awarded promotion to Professor with tenure.”

Reviewer C: “There is no doubt in my mind that Dr. Miller exceeds the criteria for promotion to full professor at my home institution. She has a clear national reputation and a sustained and impactful program of research. She also has a clear commitment to teaching/mentoring as evidenced by the number students she has advised, mentored, and supervised in their studies, internships, and grant-funded fellowships; and her role in planning a new program in mother child health. She has made important service contributions to the institution, profession and community. Her community engagement/translational work would be highly valued here.”

Reviewer D: “...the strongly positive and highly persuasive features of this case for promotion at this juncture in Miller’s career are clear-cut and compelling. I support Miller’s promotion without reservation... In sum, I underscore that Dr. Alison Miller stands out as a superlative scholar and mentor, and is likely to continue to rise in national prominence in the fields of developmental science and public health.”

Reviewer E: “...she is a well-trained, established investigator with recognized expertise at a national level. Her promotion has my full support... Her important contributions have ... impacted the direction of development of the field at large... consider her to be an established thought leader in the field... I did not see evidence that she recently secured a new major grant as a Principal Investigator, which would make the promotion the proverbial ‘slam dunk.’”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Miller's research integrates a developmental science perspective with a focus on public health concerns that disproportionately affect low-income children, developing intervention approaches that promote health equity and foster positive well-being for children and families. Professor Miller is an innovative teacher whose courses are in high demand and an invaluable member of the health behavior and health education community. It is with the support of the School of Public Health Executive Committee that we recommend Alison L. Miller for promotion to professor of health behavior and health education, with tenure, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health.



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

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