

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

Sameer D. Saini, M.D., M.S., associate professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.S.	2007	University of Michigan
M.D.	2001	Brown University
B.A.	1995	Brown University

Professional Record:

2017-present	Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
2011-2017	Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
2008-2010	Clinical Lecturer of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Saini is involved in both clinical and research mentoring of internal medicine residents, gastroenterology fellows, and junior faculty. He also participates in the education of medical students through small group discussions with M1 and M2 students. In the clinical setting, Dr. Saini teaches in the endoscopy unit, GI clinic, and on the inpatient consult service at the Veterans Affairs Healthcare System. He is the lead clinician for the GI clinic at the VA, and in 2017, he was appointed as the associate director of the GI fellowship program. He implemented a new specialty care medical home model that led to the GI clinic providing outstanding clinical care while also receiving the best-ever teaching evaluations from internal medicine residents and GI fellows. This model is now serving as an exemplar for a national GI access initiative, on which he serves as a subject matter expert for Veterans Affairs Office of Veterans Access to Care. Dr. Saini also serves as the director of the weekly GI Clinical Research Conference. As the director of the GI Early Career Faculty Mentoring Program (JF2K), more than 80% of early career investigators received K-level awards within three years. Additionally, he serves as the chair of the Junior Faculty Advisory Council at the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation, and as the co-director of the Mentoring Core at the Veteran's Affairs Health System Research and Development Center for Clinical Management Research. Since 2018, Dr. Saini has served as the associate director of the NIH T32 GI Epidemiology Training Program.

Research: Dr. Saini's scholarly interests focus on measuring appropriate use of GI endoscopic procedures (such as colonoscopy and upper endoscopy), and on developing and evaluating interventions to reduce use of inappropriate low-value services. His research has translated into several tools and innovations, including a validated electronic algorithm that curtails the overuse of upper endoscopies. Dr. Saini's grant success rate has been exceptional, with roles as the principal investigator, co-principal investigator, and co-investigator of several highly competitive federal and foundation grants, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Institutes of

Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute (NCI), and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Dr. Saini's research has resulted in 99 peer-reviewed articles, with many in high impact journals including the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, and *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Recognition of Dr. Saini's standing in the field is evidenced by his role as the co-editor of the Red Section of the *American Journal of Gastroenterology*, and his many invited visiting professorships and national presentations at meetings such as the National Quality Forum.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

Adams MA, Rubenstein JH, Lipson R, Holleman RG, Saini SD: Trends in wait time for outpatient colonoscopy in the Veterans Health Administration, 2008-2015. *J Gen Intern Med*. 2020 [Epub ahead of print].

Kurlander JE, Rubenstein JH, Richardson CR, Krein SL, DeVries R, Zikmund-Fisher B, Yang YX, Laine L, Weissman A, Saini, SD: Physicians' perceptions of proton pump inhibitor risks and recommendations to discontinue: A national survey. *American Journal of Gastroenterology*. 115(5):689-696, 2020.

Maratt JK, Kerr EA, Klamerus ML, Lohman SE, Froehlich W, Bhatia RS, Saini SD: Measures used to assess the impact of interventions to reduce low-value care: a systematic review. *J Gen Intern Med*. Sep;34(9):1857-1864, 2019.

Rubenstein J, Pohl H, Adams MA, Kerr E, Holleman R, Vijan S, Dominitz JA, Inadomi JM, Provenzale D, Francis J, Saini SD: Overuse of repeat upper endoscopy in the Veterans Health Administration: a retrospective analysis. *Am J Gastroenterol*. Nov;112(11):1678-1685, 2017.

Kerr EA, Kullgren JT, Saini SD: Choosing Wisely: how to fulfill the promise in the next 5 years. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. Nov;36(11):2012-2018, 2017.

Service: Dr. Saini provides clinical care at the VA Hospital, where he sees patients in the GI clinic, performs GI endoscopic procedures, and rounds on the GI consult service. He serves as the lead clinician for the VA GI clinic, as the director of the Veterans Affairs Health System Research and Development Center for Clinical Management Research, and Program for Access, Community Care, and Specialty Services. At the University of Michigan, Dr. Saini is a member of the Protocol Review Committee, Health Behavior and Outcomes Committee, and Promotions and CV Review Committee. He also founded and serves as the chair of the GI Research Advisory Council, which oversees all research activities of the division. Nationally, he serves on the Performance Measures Committee of the American College of Physicians and is a counselor for the Clinical Practice Section of the American Gastroenterological Association Institute Council. Dr. Saini serves as an ad hoc journal reviewer on several journals including *Gastroenterology*, *American Journal of Gastroenterology*, and *Annals of Internal Medicine*. In 2017, he was elected as a fellow of the American Gastroenterological Association.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "I am particularly impressed with his systematic review of studies trying to reduce low-value care...This work appears to be a road map for how to improve the design of research

aimed at reducing low-value care, a critically important topic in modern medicine, and perhaps even more so in the setting of the COVID-19 pandemic...it is clear that he is extremely productive as a scientist and his research program is very well funded...Based on his productivity, national to international reputation with regards to improving the care we deliver, and success in competing for research funding, I believe that Dr. Saini would have a very strong chance of being promoted to full professor at my home institution.”

Reviewer B: “Where Dr. Saini truly distinguishes himself is in the area of research grants and leadership. Sameer directs two VA centers and has served in many leadership roles in gastroenterology mentoring. He has multiple PI and co-PI grants and is co-I on over 10 grants. In this aspect he is in the top 1% in the country. Dr. Saini has a number of outstanding papers. His JAMA and BMJ papers looking at the appropriate use of colonoscopy are important and potentially practice changing. He has a more broadly take on overuse evaluating Choosing Wisely and considering how it can improve care in the next 5 years, which was published in Health Affairs... In short, in my opinion, Dr. Saini is among the top 10% of associate professors nearing advancement to Professor, in the country. He would be a strong asset at any institution.”

Reviewer C: “...his recent work in Gastroenterology on personalizing colonoscopy screening for [seniors] based on clinical factors that fills an important niche about age-based screening recommendations, and has potential to impact screening guidelines worldwide [is most noteworthy]. This impressive body of work has earned him a national reputation in the field of colon cancer screening and surveillance...I have quoted and presented his work in my own research, and regard him as a leader in the field of personalizing colon cancer screening...In comparing Dr. Saini to his peers around the country, he is undoubtedly ahead of the curve by a magnitude of difference given his scholarly work, research productivity, educational and committee services. He meets and exceeds the requirements for promotion to the Professor at my institution.”

Reviewer D: “Worth highlighting is that his research has translated into several tools and innovations to reduce low-value care. For example, he helped develop a validated electronic algorithm to curtail overuse of upper endoscopies and is currently working with partners across several VA national program offices to implement these algorithms health system wide. This is the hallmark of a successful and impactful health services researcher, one who can not only publish papers but also translate them into health care improvements...Dr. Saini has a national reputation and it is evident that he has attained several professional achievements and continues to excel among his peers.”

Reviewer E: “His work on defining methods to identify low-value health interventions transcend the field of gastroenterology and extend to many other areas of healthcare. Based on his scholarly productivity to date and his extensive grant funding that will lead to new discovered in the years to come, I have no doubt he will advance the reputation of the University of Michigan... He has all of the altruistic and humanistic qualities worthy to be successful.”

Summary of Recommendations:

Dr. Saini is a leader in the field of personalizing colon cancer screening and has made important contributions to the field of gastrointestinal endoscopy, providing several tools and innovations to reduce low-value care. He also provides significant service to the University of Michigan, the Ann Arbor Veterans Affairs Healthcare System, and national organizations. I am pleased to recommend Sameer D. Saini, M.D., M.S. for promotion to professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School.



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

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