

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

Elliot Tapper, 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:

2009	M.D.	Emory University
2005	A.B.	University of Chicago

Professional Record:

2016 – Present      Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Tapper founded the online platform, #LiverTwitter. He has created a niche where he is known as ‘twitter’s hepatologist,’ disseminating research findings and educational vignettes. As of June 2020, the weekly reach has risen to 12 million users each week. Dr. Tapper has launched tweetorials, which are strings of paired tweets that educate on cirrhosis topics. As an associate editor for the *Journal of Hepatology*, he develops a social media strategy that focuses on enriching the educational value of the communications through an international platform. Dr. Tapper’s teaching is comprised of supervising clinical fellows, and instruction to residents, medical, graduate, and undergraduate students. His work with these trainees has led to several of them publishing research papers in medical science journals, presenting their findings at institutional, national, and international conferences and successfully receiving research grants. In 2018, the graduating fellows recognized Dr. Tapper’s teaching excellence with the Award for Best Teacher.

Research: Dr. Tapper is internationally recognized for his research in cirrhosis. His research aims to optimize risk stratification for overt hepatic encephalopathy and its complications with a focus on hospitalization and falls, and to develop interventions to prevent its development. Dr. Tapper has developed risk-scores and protocols for in-hospital management of overt hepatic encephalopathy, which substantially reduced 30-day readmissions. His research also aims to define the correlation between frailty markers – disability, muscle strength and muscle bulk – with the risk of hepatic encephalopathy. His research has led to the development of risk assessment tools for patients with liver disease based on disability indices. Dr. Tapper has an excellent track record of grant funding. He currently serves as the principal investigator for an NIH K23 award, a sub-award from the Pepper Center, an award from Gilead Sciences, and a clinical trial of a treatment for ascites, as well as serving as a co-investigator on additional awards. He was the recipient of the Margaret Gyetko Junior Faculty Endowment award (2019-2024). His expertise in this field is evidenced by his service on the American Gastroenterology Association international study section, and his service on the editorial boards of *Hepatology*, *Hepatology Communications*, *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, and *Liver Transplantation*. Dr. Tapper has served as an ad hoc reviewer for numerous leading journals, and has been recognized as a top reviewer by *Alimentary Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* and *Liver Transplantation*. Since his appointment at the University of Michigan in

2016, he has given 29 extramural invited presentations at conferences around the globe including England and Austria.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Tapper EB, Konerman M, Murphy S, Sonnenday CJ: Hepatic encephalopathy impacts the predictive value of the Fried Frailty Index. *Am J Transplant* 18(10): 2566-2570, 2018.

Tapper EB, Lok ASF: Use of Liver Imaging and Biopsy in Clinical Practice. *N Engl J Med* 377(23): 2296- 2297, 2017.

Tapper EB, Parikh ND, Sengupta N, Mellinger J, Ratz D, Lok AS, Su GL: A risk score to predict the development of hepatic encephalopathy in a population-based cohort of patients with cirrhosis. *Hepatology* 68(4): 1498-1507, 2017.

Tapper EB, Parikh ND: Mortality due to cirrhosis and liver cancer in the United States, 1999-2016: observational study. *BMJ* 362: k2817, 2018.

Tapper EB: Building Effective Quality Improvement Programs for Liver Disease: A Systematic Review of Quality Improvement Initiatives. *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* 14(9): 1256-1265.e3, 2016.

Service: In addition to his research and teaching activities, Dr. Tapper is an active member of multiple institutional committees, including the Internal Medicine Quality Council, Readmissions Work Group, and Gastroenterology Peer Review Committee. He also serves on several national committees, including the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, Practice Metrics Committee (vice chair), American Gastroenterology Association (AGA), Research Advisory Council, AGA Nominating Committee (Liver and Biliary Section), and Ancillary Studies Committee (PCORI PAL-LIVER Trial). Dr. Tapper has recently been appointed as the director of the Cirrhosis Program for the division of gastroenterology and hepatology. In this role, he leads the effort to improve the population health tools to improve care.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Dr. Tapper is already a nationally recognized authority on risk stratification in HE and its complications, with a particular interest in the links between frailty and HE. He has also made innovative contributions regarding the use of patient reported outcomes and quality improvement in hepatology, as well as the development of decision aids for medical decision-making strategies in liver disease...He is an extraordinarily productive physician-scientist who enjoys well-deserved national and international recognition for his work in HE and quality improvement in liver care. He has also made extensive contributions to both the University of Michigan and the national hepatology community through educational and administrative service. I support his proposed promotion with my *highest level of enthusiasm and without reservation.*”

Reviewer B: “Very few people in the field have the productivity and drive that Dr. Tapper has demonstrated throughout his still short career...I think that Dr. Tapper’s contributions to the discipline have been substantial, he is [junior] and has already set the bases to accomplish important research in the field. This is not only me talking but he is widely recognized by having already been invited to visiting professorships and to participate in consensus conferences and co-author guidelines from the main liver society in the world, the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases...I think that Dr. Tapper is a talented, efficient and innovative clinician researcher who has

established himself as a leader in the fields of quality improvement and encephalopathy and who is a consummate educator.”

Reviewer C: “Even this relatively short period of time at the University of Michigan, he has become an outstanding clinical researcher. He is one of the most influential investigators in the area of clinical liver disease, particularly with relevance to complications of cirrhosis...I’m very impressed with how focused he is, and I believe it is certain he will be very successful, and his work will have a major influence on the practice of hepatology going forward...I believe that Dr. Tapper is most deserving of this promotion. I believe that he is an outstanding academic physician and regarding him as one of the most impressive rising stars in the field of hepatology.”

Reviewer D: “Dr. Tapper is a highly productive and talented clinical researcher. He has focused on a number of important areas in hepatology...He is nationally and internationally recognized as an investigator in liver disease...Dr. Tapper has had a very impressive career, both as a trainee and more recently as a junior faculty member. I am confident he will maintain this productivity and continue on the same trajectory.”

Reviewer E: “[Dr. Tapper’s] publication list is really impressive, ... and he seems to write scientific literature at an astounding and evidently increasing speed. He has touched upon a broad spectrum of issues, with a focus on skilled use of registry data for elucidation of what interests him...His standing among colleagues and peers is excellent as a scientist and as a collaborator, and he is rapidly and firmly establishing himself as a reliable, knowledgeable and pleasant party in the relevant circles...I would highly value to have [Dr. Tapper] in my own staff, where in my judgement he would much exceed the requirements for the planned promotion.”

Summary of Recommendations:

Dr. Tapper is an internationally recognized expert in the field of in cirrhosis and risk stratification between frailty in hepatic encephalopathy. His work has been highly impactful in the field and he has created a niche where he extends knowledge of both the epidemiology of encephalopathy and its impact on patient reported outcomes and physical function. I am pleased to recommend Elliot Tapper, M.D. for promotion to associate 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 of Medical Affairs  
Dean, Medical School

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