

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION  
INSTITUTE OF GERONTOLOGY

Susan L. Murphy, Sc.D., associate professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation, with tenure, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, associate professor of internal medicine, without tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation, with tenure, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and to professor, without tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School [also being promoted to research professor of gerontology, Institute of Gerontology, Medical School].

Academic Record:

Sc.D.	1999	Boston University
M.S.	1997	Boston University
B.S.	1994	Western Michigan University

Professional Record:

2021 – present	Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
2013 – present	Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Michigan
2013 – present	Research Associate Professor of Gerontology, University of Michigan
2011 – 2013	Research Assistant Professor of Gerontology, University of Michigan
2008 – 2013	Assistant Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Michigan
2006 – 2008	Research Assistant Professor of Geriatric Medicine, University of Michigan
2004 – 2006	Research Investigator of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
1999	Adjunct Faculty, Boston University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Murphy has actively taught and provided mentorship for a wide range of students, from undergraduate level to career development awardees. She has provided mentorship through the Practice Oriented Research Training (PORT) Program at the Michigan Institute for Clinical Health and Research (MICHR). The program ran for 11 years and was designed to teach practicing clinicians to learn research fundamentals and to apply for a small grant. She is a certified trainer in research mentorship through the National Research Mentoring Network and has served as a facilitator in the Mentoring Academy offered through MICHR. Dr. Murphy is currently planning a new course for MICHR; Pathways for Engagement, that would teach investigators how to engage with communities to provide community engaged research. She serves as a behavioral trial mentor in the Clinical Trials Academy, that is offered through the Medical School, and provides instruction in designing and refining a research study for two to four scholars per year. She has worked with fellowship grant funding, including in an NIH post-doctoral fellowship grant, and has also given numerous lectures in the department covering a wide range of research related topics and has presented at grand rounds on mentoring. Dr. Murphy has mentored several career development awardees and on the other end of the spectrum, continues to mentor Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) students.

Research: Dr. Murphy's research focuses on understanding symptom experience among people with chronic conditions and developing and testing behavioral and rehabilitation strategies to help people self-manage their condition. She is currently the principal investigator of grants funded through the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, professional societies and foundations. Her expertise in clinical trials has been highly valued in the department and in the Medical School, through her leadership role in the Behavior, Function and Pain Clinical Trial Service Unit. Her most recent research has involved people who have scleroderma, and her research has involved the advancement of rehabilitation and non-pharmacological management. Dr. Murphy's other main research area of interest is in course development and evaluation of best practices training. She recently received an NIH U01 grant to develop and test a training course for community health workers in underserved minority communities to learn research fundamentals to help them participate in research in the community. Dr. Murphy's research frequently involves collaboration with other schools and departments. She has given numerous invited presentations and has published 103 peer-reviewed articles.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Murphy SL, Mary B, Suiyuan H, Maya S, Gary C, Dinesh K: Intensive and app-delivered occupational therapy to improve upper extremity function in early diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis: a pilot two-arm trial. [in press *Rheumatology* (Oxford)]

Whibley D, Braley TJ, Kratz AL, Murphy SL: Transient Effects of Sleep on Next-Day Pain and Fatigue in Older Adults With Symptomatic Osteoarthritis. *J Pain* 20(11): 1373-1382, 2019. PM31085335

Murphy SL, Samuels EM, Kolb HR, Behar-Horenstein LS, Champagne E, Byks-Jazayeri C, Hahn J, Roth MT, Ennever F, Bajwa W, Singh M, Homish GG, Dubocovich ML: Best Practices in Social and Behavioral Research: A multisite pilot evaluation of the good clinical practice online training course. *J Clin Transl Sci* 2(2): 95-102, 2018. PM31660222/PMC6798520

Murphy SL, Kratz AL, Kidwell K, Lyden AK, Geisser ME, Williams DA: Brief time-based activity pacing instruction as a singular behavioral intervention was not effective in participants with symptomatic osteoarthritis *Pain* 157(7): 1563-1573, 2016. PM26963847

Murphy SL, Lyden AK, Kratz AL, Fritz H, Williams DA, Clauw DJ, Gammaitoni AR, Phillips K; Characterizing pain flares from the perspective of individuals with symptomatic knee osteoarthritis *Arthritis Care and Research* 67(8): 1103-1111, 2015. PM25580697

Service: Dr. Murphy has an extensive record of service. She has served on a wide range of international and national committees and currently serves on the American College of Rheumatology Clinician Scholar Education Advisory Committee, and Research Foundation Strategic Planning Committee, the National Football League Players Association Pain Management Committee and Pain Education Committee, and the University of Washington Data Safety Monitoring Board. She is on the advisory board for the University of Michigan-Flint Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program and currently serves on six institutional committees at MICH and at the departmental level. Dr. Murphy was a founding director of the Behavior, Function and Pain Clinical Trial Service Unit for Michigan Medicine, and has made significant

contributions to the service model and other aspects of the clinical trials enterprise. She has also served on numerous international and national study sections, most recently as a grant reviewer for the NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Science IDEA Center and is a journal reviewer for *Arthritis care and Research and Pain*.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Dr. Murphy’s research on chronic pain management has created a solid and respectable foundation for all future studies in her field. Her research on non-pharmacological chronic disease management through physical activity has the potential to have profound clinical impact. In particular, her research on mobile technologies and physical activity has already impacted osteoarthritis treatment and prevention and may ultimately help reduce the economic and health burden of arthritis on our society...Based on my personal and professional knowledge of Dr. Murphy’s scholarship activities, productivity, leadership, and professional service, I strongly recommend without hesitation that she be promoted to the rank of Professor with tenure in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.”

Reviewer B: “Extramural funding is also a measure of research productivity. Dr. Murphy has a sustained record of grant funding to support her research. She currently has 13 grants supporting her research and she is PI on five of these grants. This is a very strong record for her overall research program, demonstrating both quality and quantity...in her disciplines of occupational therapy and rehabilitation, I believe that Dr. Murphy’s scholarly accomplishments are very strong compared to other faculty who are in this stage of career advancement, especially regarding the quantity of peer-reviewed articles and sustained extramural funding to support her research. Dr. Murphy has a strong record of service contributions to the disciplines of occupational therapy and rehabilitation. She has a strong history of acting as a reviewer for study sections for funding agencies as indicated in her CV.”

Reviewer C: “I believe Dr. Murphy has maintained an impressive externally-funded research program, published many high-quality papers, is a prominent teacher and mentor, and has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to university and professional service and thus, meets the criteria for Professor at the University of Michigan, and would also meet the criteria for promotion at [my institution]...She is a known expert, nationally and internationally, in the fields of rehabilitation, rheumatology, chronic pain, and social and behavioral health...Dr. Murphy seems well-qualified for a promotion from Associate Professor to Professor at the University of Michigan. She has excelled in her research, teaching, and service activities.”

Reviewer D: “In terms of focus, I would note her long-standing investigation of the impacts of and non-pharmacologic treatments for pain and fatigue in older adults with rheumatic conditions is a major theme in her publications. This area will only increase in importance over time. Her work on modern evidence-based methods for investigations of behavioral therapies is also very critical and has had an important impact on research in this field. She was also one of the earliest investigators to employ actigraphs for activity and sleep monitoring in rheumatology...I also find Dr. Murphy’s publications on fatigue in both osteoarthritis and systemic sclerosis to be of great importance to the field. Fatigue as a cardinal symptom of rheumatic diseases has not been studied extensively enough and these papers are outstanding...it is my opinion that Dr. Murphy would meet the qualifications for Professor in the School of Public Health at [my institution].”

Reviewer E: “In the last 3 years, I have reviewed over 20 dossiers for promotion to full professor, including faculty within and outside my institution in a variety of rehabilitation disciplines. Each of these faculty were successfully promoted to the rank of full professor with tenure, and I can say with confidence that Susan fits squarely within this peer group...In the last year, I served as Chair for 2 committees and Committee Member for an additional 2 committees, each charged with the School-level review of faculty seeking promotion to full professor rank in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at [my institution]...Thus, I can say with confidence that Susan would likely be appointed at the rank of professor with tenure at [my institution].”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Murphy is an exceptional educator and researcher. She has an extensive record of mentorship. Her research on chronic conditions and best practices training has produced work that continues to grow in significance. I am pleased to recommend Susan L. Murphy, Sc.D., for promotion to professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation, with tenure, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and to professor of internal medicine, without 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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