

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
School of Public Health  
Department of Environmental Health Sciences  
Department of Nutritional Sciences

Laura M. Rozek, associate professor of environmental health sciences, with tenure, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, associate professor of nutritional sciences, without tenure, Department of Nutritional Sciences, associate professor of global public health, without tenure, School of Public Health, is recommended for promotion to professor of environmental health sciences, with tenure, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, professor of nutritional sciences, without tenure, Department of Nutritional Sciences, and professor of global public health, without tenure, School of Public Health [also assistant professor of otolaryngology, Department of Otolaryngology, Medical School].

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2005	University of Michigan, Epidemiologic Science, Ann Arbor, MI
M.A.	2005	University of Michigan, Statistics, Ann Arbor, MI
M.S.	1999	University of Washington, Epidemiology, Seattle, WA
B.S.	1994	University of Notre Dame, Biology, South Bend, IN

Professional Record:

2019 – Present	Director of Academic Programs, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2015 – Present	Associate Professor of Global Public Health, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2015 – Present	Associate Professor, Department of Nutritional Sciences, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2015 – 2019	Director, Global Cancer Initiative, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2014 – Present	Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2014 – 2019	Associate Director, Office of Global Health, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2008 – Present	Assistant Professor, Department of Otolaryngology, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, MI
2008 – 2014	Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2005 – 2008	Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Division of Molecular Medicine and Genetics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Rozek has taught a range of courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, including several offerings of one large course of over 40 students. She has generally received excellent teaching evaluations; for example, she recently received instructor ratings of 4.9/5 or higher for courses including PH305: The Environment and Human Health, EHS 504: Genes and the Environment, and PH554: Applications in Global Health. She also directed the School of Public Health Global Health Certificate Program from 2014-2019 and has been a longstanding core faculty member in the School of Public Health Genetics Certificate Program. She has recently assumed the

role of academic director for the University of Michigan Southeast Asian Studies.

Professor Rozek has also been an active research mentor. Since 2014, she has served as primary mentor to five doctoral students, with each trainee having gone on to productive roles in their fields, including junior faculty positions at the University of Michigan and University of Pittsburgh. She has also served on six doctoral committees. Professor Rozek has frequently involved her trainees in her peer-reviewed manuscripts, with 31 in-rank publications with students/trainees as coauthors. She has also facilitated internships for many students both in the United States and abroad. While in rank, she has overseen 22 research internships, 17 of which were in Thailand, Indonesia, and Ethiopia. In addition, Professor Rozek has hosted four international Ph.D. students in her laboratory, providing short term training in global cancer research methods.

Research: Professor Rozek's research focuses on the characterization of somatic consequences of viral and environmental exposures in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, the characterization of the relationship between biology and social factors in cancer disparities, and global cancer disparities. Her work uses a range of methods to examine the full spectrum of epidemiologic, environmental, and molecular data to understand context-specific health outcomes to address the burden of cancer. Professor Rozek has established research collaborations both in the United States and abroad, including a focus on Southeast Asia. Her work has increasingly sought to address health disparities in cancer faced by underserved populations. For example, a recently funded R01 grant will characterize the somatic profile of African American colorectal cancers from Detroit and metropolitan areas of Louisiana and determine the joint contribution of dysregulated immune pathways and neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage.

Since 2014, Professor Rozek has published 75 peer-reviewed manuscripts, with four as first author and 17 as senior author. Overall, she has authored 123 peer-reviewed manuscripts, many of which have been published in leading journals including *Cancer*, *Cancer Epidemiology and Biomarkers*, *Lancet Oncology*, *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, and *Annual Review of Public Health*. Her publications have been cited over 20,000 times, and her h-index is 67, indicating broad and substantial influence of her published work. Professor Rozek has been successful in obtaining major research grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) via the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Her current externally funded grant portfolio includes three R01 grants as multiple principal investigator, generating a total of \$5.4M in direct costs. She is also the principal investigator on two sizable internal grants, one from the University of Michigan Precision Health program and another from the Center for Health Equity.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Rozek, L.S., Virani, S., Bellile, E.L., Taylor, J.M.G., Sartor, M.A., Zarins, K.R., Virani, A., Cote, C., Worden, F.P., Mark, M.E.P., McLean, S.A., Duffy, S.A., Yoo, G.H., Saba, N.F., Shin, D.M., Kucuk, O., Wolf, G.T. (2019). Soy Isoflavone Supplementation Increases Long Interspersed Nucleotide Element-1 (LINE-1) Methylation in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma. *Nutr Cancer*, 71(5):772-780. doi: 10.1080/01635581.2019.1577981.
- Argirion, I., Arthur, A.E., Zarins, K.R., Bellile, E., Crowder, S.L., Amlani, L., Taylor, J.M., Wolf, G.T., McHugh, J., Nguyen, A., Mondul, A.M., Rozek, L.S. (2020). University of Michigan Head and Neck SPORE Program. Pretreatment Dietary Patterns, Serum Carotenoids and Tocopherols Influence Tumor Immune Response in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma. *Nutr Cancer*. 11:1-13. doi: 10.1080/01635581.2020.1842895.
- Demanelis, K., Virani, S., Colacino, J.A., Basu, N., Nishijo, M., Ruangyuttikarn, W., Swaddiwudhipong, W., Nambunmee, K., Rozek, L.S. (2017). Cadmium exposure and age-

associated DNA methylation changes in non smoking women from northern Thailand. *Environ Epigenet.* 3(2):dvx006. doi: 10.1093/eep/dvx006.

Peterson, L.A., Bellile, E.L., Wolf, G.T., Virani, S., Shuman, A.G., Taylor, J.M., Rozek, L.S. (2016) University of Michigan Head and Neck Specialized Program of Research Excellence Program. Cigarette use, comorbidities, and prognosis in a prospective head and neck squamous cell carcinoma population. *Head Neck.* 38(12):1810-1820. doi: 10.1002/hed.24515.

Stoffel, E.M., Koeppe, E., Everett, J., Ulintz, P., Kiel, M., Osborne, J., Williams, L., Hanson, K., Gruber, S.B., Rozek, L.S. (2018). Germline Genetic Features of Young Individuals With Colorectal Cancer. *Gastroenterology.* 154(4):897-905.e1. doi: 10.1053/j.gastro.2017.11.004.

Service: Professor Rozek has provided valuable internal service at the department, school, and university levels. Within her department, she has served on the Recruiting Committee since 2018. At the school, she has played a highly active role in the new undergraduate program, serving since 2018 on both its admissions and education committees. Professor Rozek has also been a leader in global health programs, serving from 2014-2019 as the associate director of its Office of Global Health, and from 2015-2019, as the director of its Global Cancer Initiative. Since 2019, she has served as the director for the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Michigan International Institute where she oversees and directs center programming, staff, outreach, endowment funds and fundraising initiatives, student and faculty funding, and the Master's in Regional Studies program. In terms of external service, Professor Rozek has served on the Executive Committee of the NCI's International Head and Neck Cancer Epidemiology Consortium since 2018. She is also on the national advisory board for the Graduate Education and Training in Southeast Asia program, funded by the Luce Foundation. Her scientific review activities include serving as an ad-hoc member of an NCI Cancer Epidemiology study section, reviewing manuscripts for multiple major cancer and epidemiology journals, and reviewing grants for the American Association for Cancer Research.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Rozek has an extensive track record of outstanding transdisciplinary research in the fields of cancer and environmental epidemiology. Her published work in this field is fascinating, extensive, and includes clinical, molecular, and genetic characterization of multiple cancers... Dr. Rozek's expertise in global cancer research, an attempt to reduce cancer in low- and middle-income countries, will advance our understanding of the role of environmental exposures that may be unique to low- and middle-income countries."

Reviewer B: "Dr. Rozek has made sustained and high impact contributions to the field of cancer molecular epidemiology and global health, with a particular emphasis on head and neck and colorectal cancers... She has been extremely productive during her time as an Associate Professor, and as evidenced by her current research program and future research goals, I believe she will continue to grow as an innovative researcher and leader in molecular epidemiology, health disparities, and global health equity."

Reviewer C: "Based on her publication record in terms of quantity, quality, and impact and leadership roles she has attained a national/international reputation as a cancer researcher. She has also built a sustained base as a PI of external research funding and has developed a productive research pipeline in areas of public health and clinical significance."

Reviewer D: "She has demonstrated how dietary factors as well as exposure to environmental contaminants such as cadmium can influence methylation and ultimately disease risk. She also has

published several papers on head and neck cancer, work carried out on a funded SPORE. Ongoing work on HPV integration should lead to further insights into its influence on prognosis. More recently, she is working on health disparities and is a collaborator in DANCE to study colorectal cancer. This is an important and expanding area of research that will likely provide significant new possibilities for funding.”

Reviewer E: “Dr. Rozek’s research productivity has been strong having published over 116 (69 at rank) peer-reviewed papers in excellent journals such as the Journal of Clinical Oncology, Cancer Research and the International Journal of Cancer. Among her publications, 34 include her students as first author and 23 are as senior author, illustrating her excellent mentorship... I was impressed particularly with a 2019 paper resulting from the Head and Neck SPORE that showed in vivo epigenetic changes as in intermediate biomarker in a clinic trial, and is potentially ground breaking.”

Reviewer F: “Based on Google Scholar, her publications have earned 18,938 citations and her H-Index is 66...a very high indicator of productivity and impact for comparison with her peer researchers. Dr. Rozek’s contribution to cancer molecular epidemiology is extraordinary...[She] has obtained significant accomplishments as a scholar, mentor, researcher, and teacher at this stage of her career. Her research and scholarship exceed criteria of superior intellectual achievement.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Rozek’s work uses a range of methods to examine the full spectrum of epidemiologic, environmental, and molecular data to understand context-specific health outcomes to address the burden of cancer. She is an excellent teacher and mentor and is an active member of the school, university, and professional communities. It is with the support of the School of Public Health Executive Committee that I recommend Laura M. Rozek for promotion to professor of environmental health sciences, with tenure, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, professor of nutritional sciences, without tenure, Department of Nutritional Sciences, and professor of global public health, without tenure, School of Public Health.



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

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