

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Flint
College of Health Sciences
Department of Public Health and Health Sciences

Rie Suzuki, associate professor of public health, with tenure, Department of Public Health and Health Sciences, College of Health Sciences, is recommended for promotion to professor of public health, with tenure, Department of Public Health and Health Sciences, College of Health Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

PhD.	2005	University of Texas at Austin, Health Education and Behavior, Minor in Gerontology, Austin, Texas
M.A.	2001	University of Texas at Austin, Health Education, Austin, Texas
M. Soc.	1997	Bukkyo University, Social Welfare, Kyoto, Japan
B. Soc.	1995	Bukkyo University, Social Science, Kyoto, Japan

Professional Record:

2014 – Present	Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of Public Health and Health Science, University of Michigan-Flint
2014– 2015	Adjunct Visiting Researcher, Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Independent Living, University of Kansas
2008 – 2014	Assistant Professor (Tenure Track), Department of Public Health and Health Sciences, University of Michigan-Flint
2005 – 2008	Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Intervention research on disability and health, Oregon Health and Science University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Since her promotion to associate professor, Professor Suzuki taught six distinct courses at the undergraduate and graduate level in public health in both face-to-face and online courses. She has served as an academic mentor to 18 masters students, many of whom have gone on to doctoral programs. Her student course evaluations range from good to excellent with a mean of 4.075/5. Professor Suzuki's courses are well organized, and she is responsive to student queries outside of class hours. Professor Suzuki utilizes a wide variety of teaching techniques to actively engage students in the learning process whether on campus or online. During class discussions she utilizes probing open-ended questions to stimulate dialogue and critical thinking. Professor Suzuki utilizes real-life videos to demonstrate implementation of course concepts. Students report that Professor Suzuki is able to break down difficult concepts into manageable terms to promote student understanding. Professor Suzuki designed new courses and chaired a program-wide curricular restructuring committee when the Public Health Program sought initial accreditation.

Research: Professor Suzuki's research has focused on disability in the lived environment and public health. She completed several large studies since promotion to associate professor and

has published numerous articles in high level public health journals with grant support from the National Institution on Disability and Rehabilitation Research and National Institute on Aging. Her research findings suggest that mixed land use accessibility is associated with fewer fall experiences and better physical health outcomes in older adults. Additionally, those elders who perceive greater obstacles to walking around their neighborhoods have more functional limitations to their health. Professor Suzuki has been invited to speak at multiple international conferences and moderated the Japanese Society of Health and Medical Sociology Conference for several years. She effectively engages undergraduate and graduate students in her research and includes students in almost all of her presentations and publications. Professor Suzuki excels in research and clearly satisfies our criteria for promotion with respect to her scholarship.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Suzuki R, Blackwood J, Webster NJ, Shah S. (2021). Functional Limitations and Perceived Neighborhood Walkability Among Urban Dwelling Older Adults. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 9(831).
- Takashi N, McCarthy MJ, Suzuki R, Ogahara K, Ono-Kihara M, Kihara M, Nakayama T. (2021). Association of patient quality of life with the degree of agreement in the perceptions of patient disability within the stroke patient–rehabilitation therapist dyad: a cross-sectional study in postdischarge rehabilitation setting. *BMJ Open*, 11(5).
- Suzuki R, McCarthy MJ, Ganai, S. (2021). Functional Limitations and Barriers to Care Influence the Likelihood of Adherence to Mammography Guidelines. *American Journal of Health Behavior*, 45(2).
- Blackwood J, Suzuki R, Karczewsk, H. (2021). Neighborhood Walkability is Associated with a Recent History of Falls in Urban Dwelling Older Adults. *Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy* (online).
- Engle K, Homsy M, Suzuki R, Helvie K, Adler J, Plonka C, Zimmermann E. (2021). Newly Diagnosed Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease: The Relationship Between Perceived Psychological Support, Health-Related Quality of Life, and Disease Activity. *Health Equity*, 5(1), 42-48.
- Kruger SJ, Kruger D, Suzuki R. (2015). Assessing the Effectiveness of Experiential Learning in a Student Run Free Clinic. *Pedagogies in Health Promotion*, 1(2), 91-94.
- Suzuki R, Wallace PM, Small E. (2015). Race, Health-related Quality of Life and Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates in the National Health Interview Survey. *American Journal of Health Behavior*, 39(1), 132-139.
- Krahn GL, Horner-Johnson W, Hall T, Roid G, Andersen EM, Fujiura GT, Nosek MA, Cardinal BJ, Drum CE, Suzuki R, Peterson JJ. (2014). Development and Psychometric Assessment of the Function-Neutral Health-related Quality of Life Measure. *Archives Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 93(1), 56-74.

Service: Professor Suzuki has provided service at all levels of the university, most recently serving a key role in curriculum modification for the initial accreditation self-study in public health and revision of the college tenure and promotion guidelines. She has integrated her research and service in the Flint community and works collaboratively with many local health agencies to advance the health and safety of elders and persons with disabilities in the Flint area. Specifically, she has been very active with the Genesee County Commission on Aging and the

Aging and Disability Resource Center. Internationally, Professor Suzuki served with UNESCO Global Health and Education. Professor Suzuki clearly satisfies our criteria for promotion with respect to her service.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “The multidisciplinary nature of her work is underscored in the collaborative efforts established among colleagues at the University of Michigan-Flint (Wayne State, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor) and nationally. This is highly regarded and attests to the significance of her scholarly work and productivity.”

Reviewer B: “Second, Dr. Suzuki’s co-authored paper on neighborhood walkability and falls among older urban residents represents another significant scholarship with a carefully thought-out study design that also needed extensive data collection. I consider this work, in particular, to be outstanding mainly on the basis of its innovative conceptualization, and practical and policy implications that its findings bear.”

Reviewer C: “Dr. Suzuki is investigating important issues that have critical implications for practice and future research.”

Reviewer D: “Based on my assessment of Dr. Suzuki’s portfolio of publications, external and internal funding awards, conference presentations, student mentorship in research, evidence of national and international recognition for her scholarship, her service to the University of Michigan at Flint, the profession and the community, as well as her record of teaching and individualized instruction (e.g., thesis and applied projects described in her CV), I evaluate her overall accomplishments among the top standing among her peers.”

Reviewer E: “Dr. Suzuki has a varied focus with an emphasis on public health. Her attention to fall prevention in older adults is important research.”

Reviewer F: “What really stood out as important to me was her close work with community organizations in Flint to better understand how factors affecting environments and functional limitations, which she examined on a national level using CDC data, applied in the local setting. This type of research is extremely important and often underappreciated by journals because of lack of generalizability. However, I strongly believe that to make real improvements in quality of life and other domains in the purview of Dr. Suzuki’s research, that one must look locally. Otherwise, we, as academics and researchers, risk publishing data for each other rather than doing work that will help our communities.”

Reviewer G: “Dr. Suzuki conducts important research that has the potential to provide solutions to health disparities in the community.”

Reviewer H: “Overall, she has produced a body of research that is of high quality and meaningful because its focus is on the health and well-being of an understudied population.”

Summary of Recommendations:

Professor Suzuki is a strong researcher and teacher. It is with the support of the College of Health Sciences Executive Committee that I recommend that Rie Suzuki for promotion to professor of public health, with tenure, Department of Public Health and Health Sciences, College of Health Sciences.

Recommended by:



Donna Fry, Dean
College of Health Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



Sonja Feist-Price, Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Debasish Dutta, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2022