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

Christine M. Veenstra, M.D., M.S., 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:
- M.S.  2013  University of Pennsylvania
- M.D.  2005  Wayne State University
- B.S.  2000  University of Michigan

Professional Record:
- 2016 - present  Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
- 2013 - 2016  Clinical Lecturer of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:
Teaching: Dr. Veenstra is a dedicated educator, teacher, and mentor for numerous medical students, fellows, and house officers in the laboratory and the clinic. Many of these mentees have published peer-reviewed articles and have continued on to faculty positions. She regularly leads didactic sessions for hematology/oncology fellows and residents related to gastrointestinal oncology. Dr. Veenstra has been invited to lecture at the University of Pennsylvania and Stanford University. She is also a member of the Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Clinical Competency Committee and was awarded the Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program Faculty Service Award in 2016.

Research: Dr. Veenstra’s research focuses on factors that influence the quality of cancer care, variations, and disparities in care, with a specific focus on colorectal cancer care. She has published 21 peer-reviewed articles in high impact journals, including the Journal of the American Medical Association, Medical Care, Journal of Oncology Practice, and Cancer. Dr. Veenstra has completed an NIH K07 career development award entitled “Partner Engagement and Receipt of Surveillance in Colorectal Cancer Survivors.” This work has resulted in the development of a dyadic, web-based intervention entitled “Current Together After Cancer.” Dr. Veenstra serves as an ad hoc reviewer for several journals including the Journal of Clinical Oncology, Cancer and Journal of the National Cancer Institute. In 2019, Dr. Veenstra was awarded the Institute for Healthcare and Innovation (IHPI) Emerging Scholar Award.

Recent and Significant Publications:


**Service:** Dr. Veenstra’s clinical work focuses on the care of patients with gastrointestinal malignancies, specifically patients with colorectal and rectal cancer. She collaborates very closely with surgical colleagues and radiation oncology colleagues to provide high-quality, evidence-based colorectal cancer care. Dr. Veenstra also participates in the weekly Multidisciplinary Colorectal Cancer tumor board. She was elected as the vice chair of the Rogel Cancer Center Emerging Leaders Council in 2020. She also serves on the Hematology/Oncology Peer Review Committee and is an associate member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

**External Reviewers:**

**Reviewer A:** “Dr. Veenstra has an excellent track record of scholarship including in the quality, quantity, focus, and scholarly impact of her research particularly in the areas of the quality of cancer care for patients living with cancer, cancer survivors, and their families. She has recently completed funding support as the principal investigator on an NIH K07 award focused on partner engagement and receipt of surveillance in colorectal cancer survivors and was recently awarded an R37 award to study patterns of use of targeted therapies for metastatic colorectal cancer in diverse populations…she has demonstrated a strong track record of outstanding scholarship and continuous extramural funding as Assistant Professor. She also has demonstrated a commitment to teaching with both formal and informal instructional activities within the department of internal medicine.”

**Reviewer B:** “Dr. Veenstra’s scholarship has largely been focused upon cancer health services research, and as a medical oncologist, the synthesis of her clinical and scientific expertise has yielded work of high quality. Within the cancer health services research field, Dr. Veenstra’s portfolio has addressed the quality of cancer care, partner roles in care delivery, as well as the financial and employment effects of cancer diagnosis and treatment upon individuals. Quality of cancer care is a venerable and important area of investigation in the field, and her publications have demonstrated innovation, particularly through the exploration of cancer surveillance as a novel outcome. The employment impact of cancer upon patients is an especially important area of research in the cancer control field and a unique strength of Dr. Veenstra’s work.”

**Reviewer C:** “As evidenced by her current funding, Dr. Veenstra is a highly innovative and impactful clinician health services researcher…I am impressed by both the impact or her work and her potential. Because of this distinction, I would expect that she would easily be promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at [my institution] and other peer institutions…Dr. Veenstra has uniquely positioned herself to make lasting contributions to the wellbeing of cancer patients and their informal supporters. I have every expectation that she will continue to be recognized nationally as one of the leaders in the field, and I look forward to learning from her work.”
Reviewer D: “[Dr. Veenstra’s] area of research-focused on understanding the role of spouses/partners, other family members, and other informal supporters in patients’ receipt of recommended cancer care and leveraging family members to improve equity and quality of care—is a greatly important topic that is understudied...In summary, Dr. Veenstra has an impressive record of scholarship and an emerging national reputation in a very important area of study. I would recommend in favor of her promotion to Associate Professor.”

Reviewer E: “[Dr. Veenstra’s] research has provided novel insights into the experiences of partners of patients with cancer. Her visiting professorships at University of Pennsylvania and Stanford, as well as her service on the Editorial Board of JOP, are evidence of her national recognition for important scholarly accomplishment...It is my opinion that Dr. Veenstra has demonstrated substantial scholarly activity, commitment to education, and clinical accomplishment.”

Reviewer F: “Dr. Veenstra has clearly established herself as an expert in cancer health services research specifically related to care delivery and value in cancer care...Most importantly, I have always been impressed by Dr. Veenstra as a person. She is delightful to talk to, and I have always hoped for the opportunity to collaborate with her. Nationally, is highly considered not just as an investigator, but as a colleague. After reviewing her record, I am certain that she would be a strong candidate for promotion at my institution. I am delighted to give Dr. Veenstra my strongest recommendation for promotion to Associate Professor with tenure.”

Summary of Recommendation:
Dr. Veenstra has demonstrated excellence as a clinician, educator, and researcher. She is a well-established mentor and instructor and has made great contributions to the Department of Internal Medicine. I am pleased to recommend Christine M. Veenstra, M.D., M.S. for promotion to associate professor of internal medicine, with tenure, Department of Internal Medicine, Medical School.

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

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