

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

The University of Michigan-Flint  
College of Health Sciences  
Department of Physical Therapy

Jennifer A. Blackwood, associate professor of physical therapy, with tenure, Department of Physical Therapy, College of Health Sciences, is recommended for promotion to professor of physical therapy, with tenure, Department of Physical Therapy, College of Health Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2013	Western Michigan University, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, Kalamazoo, MI
M.A.	2000	University of Michigan-Flint, Physical Therapy, Flint, MI
B.S.	1998	University of Michigan-Flint, Health Sciences, Flint, MI
B.S.	1995	Bowling Green State University, Biology, Bowling Green, OH

Professional Record:

2022 – Present	Director of Physical Therapy, Department of Physical Therapy, University of Michigan-Flint
2017 – Present	Associate Professor (Tenured), Department of Physical Therapy, University of Michigan-Flint
2013 – 2017	Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Therapy, University of Michigan-Flint
2013 – 2016	Coordinator of the Post Professional Geriatric Certificate and Residency Program, Department of Physical Therapy, University of Michigan-Flint
2010 - 2012	Interim Co-Director of the Post Professional Geriatric Certificate and Residency Program, Department of Physical Therapy, University of Michigan-Flint
2009 – 2013	Instructor and Coordinator of the Post Professional Geriatric Certificate and Residency Program
2004 – 2006	Adjunct instructor, Therapeutic exercise course, Physical Therapy Program, Wayne State University
2004	Adjunct instructor, Musculoskeletal course, Physical Therapist Assistant Program, Professional Skills Institute, Toledo, Ohio

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Blackwood effectively engages students both inside and outside of the classroom. Since her promotion to associate professor, Professor Blackwood taught four distinct courses and several independent studies at the graduate level in physical therapy in both face-to-face and online courses. In addition, she has served as an academic advisor to approximately 12-14 students per year, faculty mentor to three to five graduate student research assistants per year, faculty advisor for one to three physical therapy case reports per year and chaired three dissertation committees. Professor Blackwood's courses are well organized. She incorporates application of learned material into her course assignments. For example, students in her geriatric physical therapy course conduct a five-week health and wellness program at local senior centers to gain immediate applied experience with learned topics in the course. The majority of Professor Blackwood's student teaching evaluations are over 4.0 on a 5.0 scale. Since her appointment as associate professor, she received the Provost Innovation Teaching Prize.

Professor Blackwood has redesigned existing courses to apply evidence-based teaching methods and content, participated in department wide curricular restructuring, and developed proposals to create an accelerated joint B.S. in health sciences/Doctor of Physical Therapy pathway as well as a new B.S. in exercise science degree. She brings her exceptional research skills into teaching by providing highly effective mentoring of her Ph.D. and D.P.T. students in their research courses. Professor Blackwood goes beyond teaching in the classroom and laboratory to advocate for her mentees as they enter their new professions by nominating them for state and national awards and mentoring them into professional associations. Physical Therapy students mentored by Professor Blackwood have won state and national awards through the Michigan and American Physical Therapy Associations for their research presentations and publications. Professor Blackwood has also been sought out by directors of other departments to help mentor their faculty in teaching applied research methodology. Professor Blackwood clearly satisfies our criteria for promotion with respect to her teaching.

Research: Professor Blackwood is a nationally known scholar in the field of aging research on falls and balance. She has specifically studied falls and balance deficits in older adults with cognitive dysfunction and with chronic disease such as cancer or cirrhosis. Her research documenting fall risk in the older cancer survivor population and establishing the psychometric properties of common fall risk measures in this population has led to inclusion of fall risk measures in assessments of older cancer survivors.

Professor Blackwood is a prolific researcher with 35 peer-reviewed publications since promotion to associate professor. Of the 36 publications, she is first author on 19 and included students in 20 of the publications. She has garnered \$67,503 in external research funds and is seeking additional external funding. Since being promoted to associate professor, Professor Blackwood has received national research awards from two components of the American Physical Therapy Association: American Geriatric Physical Therapy Excellence in Geriatric Research Award and the Academy of Oncologic Physical Therapy Research Award. Students under her mentorship have received multiple student research awards through the Michigan Physical Therapy Association and the American Physical Therapy Association. She is an excellent researcher who engages students in her research so that she may provide them with necessary research mentorship. Professor Blackwood excels in research and clearly satisfies our criteria for promotion with respect to her scholarship.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Blackwood J, Karczewski H, Huang M, Pfalzer L, Katz, “Activities of Daily Living Disability in Older Cancer Survivors By Age, Stage, and Cancer Type.” *Journal of Cancer Survivorship*. 2020. 14; 768-779. doi.org/10.1007/s11764-020-00891-x
- Blackwood J. “Cognitive Function and Falls in Older Adults with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus.” *Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy*. 2018;42(2):E91-E96. doi:10.1519/JPT.000000000000209.
- Blackwood J. “The Influence of Cognitive Function on Balance, Mobility, and Falls in Older Cancer Survivors.” *Rehabilitation Oncology*. 2019; 37(2):77-82
- Murphy S, Tapper E, Blackwood J, Richardson J. “Why do Individuals with Cirrhosis Fall? A Mechanistic Model for Fall Assessment, Treatment, and Research.” *Digestive Diseases and Sciences*. 2019;64:316–323. doi: 10.1007/s10620-018-5333-8
- Blackwood J, Rybicki K, Huang M. “Mobility Measures in Older Cancer Survivors: An Examination of Reliability and Minimal Detectable Change.” *Rehabilitation Oncology*. 2021; 39(2):74-80. doi: 10.1097/01.REO.0000000000000216
- Blackwood J, Suzuki R, Karczewski H. “Neighborhood Walkability is Associated with a Recent History of Falls in Urban Dwelling Older Adults.” *J Geriatr Phys Ther*. 2022 Jan-Mar 01;45(1):E8-E15. doi: 10.1519/JPT.0000000000000300

Service: Professor Blackwood effectively integrates her research agenda with her service to the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy where she serves on the Academy's Falls Clinical Practice Guideline Workgroup. She also serves on the APTA, the Academy of Oncologic Physical Therapy Balance and Falls Special Interest Group, and as an elected delegate from Michigan to the APTA Annual Meeting. Her local community service involves engaging students in offering fall risk screening events at local senior centers. She also serves as a reviewer for several high impact geriatrics journals. Within the university, Professor Blackwood has served at all levels including the recent UM-Flint Bylaws Task Force. In recognition of her significant administrative skills, she was recently appointed as Director of the Physical Therapy Department. Professor Blackwood clearly satisfies our criteria for promotion with respect to her service.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Since obtaining tenure and the rank of Associate Professor, she worked on 36 manuscripts (20 as first author), encompassing retrospective analyses, systematic reviews, cross-sectional, and experimental designs. She has about 200 citations indicating the quality of her published material and the recognition she receives from her peers."

Reviewer B: "Dr. Blackwood has a strong scholarly agenda with grant funding and has mentored 4 PhD students. She has received many awards at the state and national level for her research. I believe that her standing is very strong in relation to others in her peer group who are in the same field."

Reviewer C: "Dr. Blackwood's contributions to the profession of physical therapy in the last 10 years have elevated her standing in the profession. Demonstration of this standing is noted in the engagement (by invitation) that she has in the work to develop a clinical practice guideline for balance and falls within the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy, and national awards received from the American Physical Therapy association, the Academy of Oncology Physical Therapy and Geriatric Physical Therapy. One of those alone would support her strong standing within the profession of physical therapy; however, all these combined should leave no doubt of her reputation and promise for the future."

Reviewer D: "Dr. Blackwood exceeds expectations in scholarship and service. In fact, her level of scholarship exceeds many individuals in the field of physical therapy."

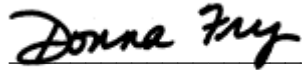
Reviewer E: "I find her abilities and accomplishments to be excellent. Since her most recent promotion she has been a very productive scholar. Aside from quantity, the scope of research spans across several aspects of balance abilities among different clinical populations. Her research explores areas of great interest to clinicians."

Reviewer F: "Compared to other faculty of similar rank, she has been prolific in this review cycle. Dr. Blackwood has demonstrated her ability to complete the research cycle using multiple methodologies through dissemination beyond presentations to publication in reputable journals and educational sessions to translate research to practice for physical therapists."

Reviewer G: "Dr. Blackwood has demonstrated the ability to attract significant amount of intra-mural and extra-mural research grants to support her research related activities."

Summary of Recommendations: Professor Blackwood is an exceptional researcher and teacher. It is with the support of the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee that I enthusiastically recommend that Jennifer A. Blackwood be promoted to professor of physical therapy, with tenure, Department of Physical Therapy, College of Health Sciences.

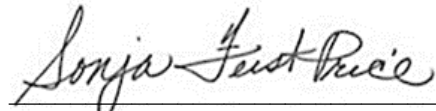
Recommended by:



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Donna Fry, Dean  
College of Health Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



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



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Debasish Dutta, Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2023