

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Kinesiology

Lindsey K. Lepley, assistant professor of kinesiology, School of Kinesiology, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of kinesiology, with tenure, School of Kinesiology.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 2014 University of Michigan, Kinesiology, Ann Arbor, MI
M.Ed. 2009 University of Virginia, Kinesiology, Charlottesville, VA
B.S. 2008 Grand Valley State University, Athletic Training, Allendale, MI

Professional Record:

2019 – present Assistant Professor, School of Kinesiology, University of Michigan
2017 – 2019 Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Farmington, CT
2015 – 2019 Assistant Professor, Department of Kinesiology, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
2014 – 2015 Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Rehabilitative Sciences, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: At UM, Professor Lepley has taught one graduate course three times - Beyond the Benchtop: Translating Neuromechanics to Performance and Injury Recovery (KINESLGY 513). At the University of Connecticut, Professor Lepley taught four courses per year. Her students have had a very positive response to her UM teaching, with evaluation scores ranging from 4.7-5.0 (with 5.0 being the highest rating) for UM-wide and Kinesiology-specific questions. Her teaching evaluations at the University of Connecticut were at or above the department and university mean.

Outside of classroom teaching, Professor Lepley has excelled in mentoring students. Currently, she oversees two Ph.D. students, two master's students, two laboratory technicians, and 20 undergraduate trainees from various disciplines, including kinesiology, biology, biomedical engineering, computer science, and rehabilitation robotics. The School of Kinesiology reviewers were impressed with her clear vision and lab organization whereby she creates and maintains detailed guides of student expectations.

Research: Professor Lepley has published a total of 38 peer-reviewed journal articles, of which she is the corresponding author of 26. Twenty-three papers have been published since starting her faculty position at the University of Michigan in 2019. Her work is published in high-quality journals and is highly cited. Professor Lepley is most definitely recognized as a thought leader in her area.

In addition to Professor Lepley's publication record, she has secured a diverse array of external and internal grants to support her research program. Most noteworthy is the \$2.5M in NIH funding, where she serves as the PI. This includes her K01 award and her recently funded R01 award (3rd percentile on the first submission). She has also been awarded two NIH Loan Repayment Awards, a co-investigator role on another NIH R01, and several smaller awards from various professional organizations such as the American College of Sports Medicine and the National Athletic Trainers Association.

Professor Lepley has been invited to give 39 talks on her research, including at the 2022 National Athletic Trainers' Association, where she received the New Investigator Award. She has led or participated in many conference symposiums and been invited to present her work at other universities, including Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, Universidad de los Andes in Santiago, Chile, Ohio University, and the University of Kentucky.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Lepley, LK, Deficits in Quadriceps Strength and Patient-Oriented Outcomes at Return to Activity After ACL Reconstruction: A Review of the Current Literature, 7(3) *Sports Health-A Multidisciplinary Approach*, 231-238, 2015.

Lepley, AS, Grooms, DR, Burland, JP, Davi, SM, Kinsella-Shaw, JM, Lepley, LK, Quadriceps muscle function following anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction: systemic differences in neural and morphological characteristics, 237(5), *Experimental Brain Research*, 1267-1278, 2019

Lepley, LK; Wojtys, EM and Palmieri-Smith, RM, Combination of eccentric exercise and neuromuscular electrical stimulation to improve quadriceps function post-ACL reconstruction, 22 (3), *Knee*, 270-277, 2015

Lepley, LK and Palmieri-Smith, RM, Quadriceps Strength, Muscle Activation Failure, and Patient-Reported Function at the Time of Return to Activity in Patients Following Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction: A Cross-sectional Study, 45 (12), *Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy*, 1017-1025, 2015

Lepley, LK, Palmieri-Smith, RM, Pre-operative quadriceps activation is related to post-operative activation, not strength, in patients post-ACL reconstruction, 24 (1), *Knee Surgery Sports Traumatology Arthroscopy*, 236-246, 2016.

Service: Professor Lepley has been dedicating time and energy to service activities at school and program levels. She was nominated by the National Athletic Trainers' Association's (NATA) Board of Directors to serve as the only non-tenured faculty member due to her national reputation.

Professor Lepley continues to contribute to NATA's grant programs by participating in the biannual assessment of pre-proposals and grants in the fall and spring. She was also asked to be a speaker at a NATA webinar, which led to the development of an inaugural grant writing workshop at the annual NATA Convention and Clinical Symposium. Internally, Professor Lepley joined a mental health pilot group that focused on developing a workshop to address the mental health crisis associated with the pandemic. The workshop was offered to the faculty of the School of Kinesiology, and a future iteration will be made available to the University community. She also was instrumental in evaluating the school's promotion and tenure policies for clinical track faculty.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Borrowing from NIH study section, when I think of innovation I think of the mantra that 'New Mindset->New Results.' Professor Lepley's work brings a new and refreshing mindset in several critical ways that will hopefully overcome barriers to understanding that have held us back."

Reviewer B: "It is evident from Dr. Lepley's CV that she is the 'total package'—she an outstanding scientist with a strong national and international reputation, she has clearly established her own independent and extremely successful research program, her teaching and service are outstanding, and many students have already benefited from her training and mentorship."

Reviewer C: “Another indicator of the strength of this candidate is the number of invited lectures that she has given, particularly at this stage of her career. Also noteworthy, is that she won the new investigator award from the National Athletic Trainers Association in 2022. She has established a national presence and there is no doubt that she will continue to thrive and advance her career as well as the field.”

Reviewer D: “Dr. Lepley has received multiple high-level awards for her early career contributions to science; 2 national awards (New Investigator and a Dissertation Award), a regional New Investigator Award, as well multiple university-level awards. This is note-worthy of her impact on science. Couple those recognitions with the success of receiving two (2) NIH-NIAMS Loan Repayment Awards.”


Reviewer E: “Based on the success of her graduate students, I believe she has made significant contributions to developing the next generation of leaders in the field of Athletic Training/Sports Medicine through her instruction and mentoring.”

Reviewer F: “Lindsey has been involved in academic conferences as an attendee and presenter as well as completing several interviews and presenting a significant number of invited lectures related to her research, which is exceptional given her current academic rank.”

Reviewer G: “In terms of the impact of Dr. Lepley’s work, she has exploited her post-doctoral training to learn techniques uncommon for athletic trainers. I also believe that her connections and mentorship through the University of Michigan (doctoral and post-doctoral fellowship) and University of Connecticut have provided training in grant writing. She has been successful with a K01 award and was also awarded an R01 while culminating the K. I do not know of another athletic trainer who has achieved that, and I have been in this profession since 1987.”

Reviewer H: “What makes Lindsey such an effective researcher is her connection to contemporary clinical practice and her excellence in using preclinical and clinical models to inform clinical practice.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Lepley’s aggregate achievements in research, teaching, and service have resulted in strong and enthusiastic support at all levels in our school and among the external reviewers for her promotion. Her work is very likely to make a significant impact in athletic training, physical therapy, orthopaedics, and beyond. It is with the support of the School of Kinesiology Executive Committee that I recommend Lindsey K. Lepley for promotion to associate professor of kinesiology, with tenure, School of Kinesiology.



Lori Ploutz-Snyder
Dean, School of Kinesiology.

May 2023