

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

Paul N. Pfeiffer, M.D., associate professor of psychiatry, with tenure, Department of Psychiatry, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to professor of psychiatry, with tenure, Department of Psychiatry, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.S.	2009	University of Michigan
M.D.	2004	University of Michigan
B.A.	1997	Dartmouth College

Professional Record:

2016-present	Associate Professor of Psychiatry (with tenure), University of Michigan
2010-2016	Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of Michigan
2008-2010	Clinical Lecturer of Psychiatry, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Pfeiffer's primary teaching contributions focus on training and mentoring fellows and early career investigators in health services research. He has mentored medical students, post-doctoral fellows, and faculty members. He also mentors three Veterans Affairs Career Development awardees and three K awardees. Didactically, he has developed and delivered lectures related to psychopharmacology for non-prescribing mental health providers, as well as a psychopharmacology course for psychologists and a mini course for social work graduate students, and suicide prevention to behavioral health care managers as part of the Michigan Collaborative Care and Implementation Support Team (MCCIST) program. He is currently providing clinical instruction to psychiatry residents during their elective rotation with the Veteran Affairs Ann Arbor Health Care System's Neuromodulation Service. Dr. Pfeiffer consistently receives good to excellent ratings on teaching evaluations (3.86-5.0 out of 5.0).

Research: Dr. Pfeiffer's research interests include measuring and improving the quality of depression care in integrated health systems, with a particular focus on high-risk populations such as those with recent psychiatric hospitalization, testing the effectiveness of peer-based interventions for improving mental health treatment engagement and outcomes as well as identifying clinically useful suicide risk factors and developing health service interventions to reduce suicide risk. Dr. Pfeiffer is currently the principal investigator of an R01-funded multi-site randomized controlled trial to test the effectiveness of a peer support intervention for reducing suicide attempts among high-risk adults. In addition, he is also a co-principal investigator of a VA-funded randomized controlled trial (MIDAS) to test the effectiveness of a team-based quality improvement program to increase the delivery of cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia (CBTI). Dr. Pfeiffer is a co-principal investigator on a randomized controlled trial funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs (IIR16) to assess peer-based intervention to reduce risky alcohol

use among Veterans Affairs Emergency Department patients. He recently took on the principal investigator role when Dr. Fed Blow retired from the Veterans Affairs Ann Arbor Healthcare System. Additionally, Dr. Pfeiffer also serves as a co-investigator on other studies including major grants led by colleagues Drs. Kara Zivin and Rebecca Sripada. He is sought after as a mentor and collaborator by early career, mid-career, and senior faculty collaborators at the University of Michigan, other U.S. academic centers, and in Europe. He has authored 97 peer-reviewed publications, many in top-tier journals such as *JAMA*, the *Journal of Affective Disorders*, and the *American Journal of Community Psychology*. He presents at national and international levels including the Netherlands.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

- Fortney JC, Bauer AM, Cerimele JM, Pyne JM, Pfeiffer P, Heagerty PJ, Hawrilenko M, Zielinski MJ, Kaysen D, Bowen DJ, Moore DL, Ferro L, Metzger K, Shushan S, Hafer E, Nolan JP, Dalack GW, Unützer J, “Comparison of Teleintegrated Care and Telereferral Care for Treating Complex Psychiatric Disorders in Primary Care: A Pragmatic Randomized Comparative Effectiveness Trial,” *JAMA Psychiatry* 78(11): 1189-1199, 2021. PM34431972/PMC8387948
- Bowersox NW, Jagusch J, Garlick J, Chen JI, Pfeiffer PN, “Peer-based interventions targeting suicide prevention: A scoping review,” *Am J Community Psychol* 68(1-2): 232-248, 2021. PM33720444
- Lee AA, Sripada RK, Hale AC, Ganoczy D, Trivedi RB, Arnow B, Pfeiffer PN, “Psychotherapy and depressive symptom trajectories among VA patients: Comparing dose-effect and good-enough level models,” *J Consult Clin Psychol* 89(5): 379-392, 2021. PM34124925
- Pfeiffer PN, Pope B, Houck M, Benn-Burton W, Zivin K, Ganoczy D, Kim HM, Walters H, Emerson L, Nelson CB, Abraham KM, Valenstein M, “Effectiveness of peer-supported computer-based CBT for depression among veterans in primary care,” *Psychiatr Serv* 71(3): 256-262, 2020. PM31931686
- Lapidos A, Abraham KM, Jagusch J, Garlick J, Walters H, Kim HM, Vega E, Damschroder L, Forman J, Ahmedani B, King C, Pfeiffer PN, “Peer mentorship to reduce suicide attempts among high-risk adults (PREVAIL): Rationale and design of a randomized controlled effectiveness-implementation trial,” *Contemp Clin Trials* 87: Epub, 2019. PM31525489

Service: Dr. Pfeiffer has an extensive service record. He is the director of the Mental Health Innovation Services and Outcomes (MHISO) program within the Department of Psychiatry, and the director of the Mental Health Scientific Program within the Veterans Affairs Center for Clinical Management Research. As the program director of psychiatry, he has overseen the recruitment of two new faculty members within the past several years and currently supervises and mentors five faculty members who are all active research investigators, some of whom have clinical responsibilities or split appointments with other services in the VA. Dr. Pfeiffer is also an associate director of the Michigan Collaborative Care Implementation Support Team (MCCIST) where he provides training and implementation support aimed at collaborative care implementation in primary care clinics across Michigan. This project is funded by a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan contract. He currently serves on the Department of Psychiatry Senior Leadership Council. Dr. Pfeiffer holds current membership in professional societies including the American Psychiatric Association and the American Association of Suicidology. Dr. Pfeiffer has served as an ad hoc reviewer for 25 journals, including prestigious journals such as the *Journal of Clinical*

*Psychiatry, Journal of Psychological Services, Behavior Therapy, and the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry.* Dr. Pfeiffer is an ad hoc reviewer for several study sections including the National Institute of Mental Health, the Department of Defense, and the VA Health Services Research and Development.

Dr. Pfeiffer's clinical effort takes place at the Veterans Affairs Ann Arbor Healthcare System within the Neuromodulation Service and Primary Care Mental Health Integration Service. His clinical interest revolves around depression care across the continuum of severity of illness, specifically encompassing high-risk patients who have been psychiatrically hospitalized, and patients seen in primary care for mild to moderate depression. Dr. Pfeiffer's clinical activities include new patient evaluations, ketamine infusions, esketamine, and repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation treatments primarily for patients with treatment-resistant depression. He also provides psychiatric consultant services for collaborative care management.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Pfeiffer has a strong track record of teaching including mentoring faculty who have achieved their own grants and innovative publications such as Dr. Lee's Good-Enough-Level vs. dose-response analysis of VA psychotherapy data. He has provided teaching consistently throughout his career including developing curricula and providing training nationally and internationally. Dr. Pfeiffer has provided service both nationally – serving on grant review committees and serving as a journal reviewer – as well as locally as seen by his consistent committee membership at the University of Michigan."

Reviewer B: "Dr. Pfeiffer has played a supportive role as co-investigator in a great number of funded grants, so he clearly is a valued collaborator. Although his funding as a principal investigator is rather modest in amount, it has potential for high impact. In particular, his current NIMH-funded R01 examining the effectiveness of peer mentorship to reduce suicidal behavior in high-risk adults is both significant and innovative. It is also especially difficult research to conduct (not to mention the added challenges he and his team must have faced in its implementation during the corona virus pandemic.) His scoping review on the potential of the peer-mentoring model along with the background work for that proposal are already useful contributions that I look forward to his building further on as the results of his current and future studies emerge."

Reviewer C: "Dr. Pfeiffer has held a number of important leadership positions, and currently serves as Director of the Mental Health Scientific Program for the VA Center for Clinical Management Research (CCMR). The CCMR is nationally recognized as one of the premier organizations developing innovative clinical management programs to improve the quality, effectiveness, safety, and efficiency of care."

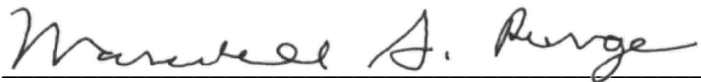
Reviewer D: "It seems clear that Dr. Pfeiffer's national reputation continues to grow, and there is increasing appreciation of the importance of his research to the field of Psychiatry. Most of his invited presentations are regional, but assuming he continues his overall trajectory, he is positioned to emerge among the most influential psychiatric health services researchers nationally. A relative weakness is his international reputation; I see two invited lectures outside of the U.S. and the small UK grant noted above. Here again, however, he shows evidence of deliberate efforts to incrementally grow his influence."

Reviewer E: “This collection of research is critically important and he is a leading expert particularly on peer interventions. As of July 2022, he has 12 active grants covering NIMH, VA and career development awards, of which he is PI or co-PI on two. His productivity includes 92 publications...”

Reviewer F: “...has an excellent record of research and scholarly work. His research funding since last promotion is solid and includes three large VA grants as PI or Co-PI and one ROI as PI. He is also currently funded as a co-investigator on numerous grants, indicating he is a valuable collaborator...This level of funding and publication is commensurate with research faculty we have promoted to professor with tenure at [my institution].”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Pfeiffer is making significant contributions to the field of depression treatment; specifically, by improving depression care and reducing the risk of suicide. He is an outstanding research scholar as evidenced by his success in obtaining extramural funding, testing, and implementing novel interventions, and disseminating his research in high-impact publications. He is highly regarded and often sought after by peers who recognize him for his expertise in clinical care, education, and research. I enthusiastically recommend Paul N. Pfeiffer, M.D. for promotion to professor of psychiatry, with tenure, Department of Psychiatry, Medical School.



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

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