

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

Sawsan As-Sanie, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, with tenure, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to professor of obstetrics and gynecology, with tenure, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.P.H.	2004	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
M.D.	1998	Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD
B.A.	1994	Boston University, Boston, MA

Professional Record:

2017-present	Associate Professor (with tenure) Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Michigan
2008-2017	Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Michigan
2005-2008	Clinical Lecturer, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Michigan
2003-2005	Clinical Lecturer, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of North Carolina

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. As-Sanie is a clinician scientist who provides clinical supervision to medical students, residents, and fellows in her outpatient minimally invasive gynecologic surgery (MIGS) and chronic pelvic pain clinics, the gynecology inpatient service, and the operating room. She held a leadership role in this capacity and served as the MIGS fellowship director from 2009-2023. Teaching evaluations are good to excellent. Research mentorship includes faculty members (one on a NIH K23 award), clinical fellows, residents, and post-doctoral fellows. She gives ad hoc guest lectures in the Medical School and has served on several dissertation committees. She has been a course director for several international society meetings including the World Congress of Endometriosis, EndoDubai, and the Global Congress on Minimally Invasive Gynecology. Overall, Dr. As-Sanie is a well-regarded teacher of learners as evidenced through receipt of the 2018 Token of Appreciation Award from Medical Students and twice the recipient of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Silver Speculum Award (2014, 2020), the highest teaching honor in the department.

Research: Dr. As-Sanie's research program focuses on the evaluation and treatment of endometriosis and chronic pelvic pain. Her overarching research goals are to identify

the neurobiological mechanisms of chronic pelvic pain, with a focus on the intersection between central sensitization, localized pelvic inflammation, and systemic inflammation, and describe the epidemiology and life-course trajectory of people with endometriosis and chronic pelvic pain, with a particular focus on identifying predictors of successful response to medical, surgical and integrative therapies for endometriosis and chronic pelvic pain. Dr. As-Sanie has an outstanding and consistent record of funding; she is one of only three MIGS fellowship-trained gynecologists in the United States who has R01-equivalent funding. Her current funding includes support as a multi-principal investigator or principal investigator on three National Institutes of Health (NIH) R01's and as a co-investigator on an award through Michigan State University. She also serves as a faculty mentor in the University of Michigan HEAL Initiative National K12 Clinical Pain Career Development Program and is a primary mentor on an NIH K23. Dr. As-Sanie's work has been recognized through several visiting professorships, 11 keynote lectures, invited international lectures, and 101 invited extramural talks nationally and internationally including in Canada, Iceland, Australia, South Africa, Turkey, Spain, Denmark, United Arab Emirates, and Austria. She has authored 86 peer-reviewed manuscripts in top-tier journals such as the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, *The American Journal of Pathology*, and *Pain*. Dr. As-Sanie's research has received several awards at national meetings including the Prize Paper award from the American Society for Reproductive Medicine Scientific Congress & Expo.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

- Yu J, Berga SL, Zou E, Schrepf AD, Clauw DJ, As-Sanie S, Taylor RN, "Neurotrophins and their receptors, novel therapeutic targets for pelvic pain in endometriosis, are coordinately regulated by interleukin-1 $\beta$  via the JNK signaling pathway," *Am J Pathol*. 13(8): 10461058, 08/2023. PM37164275.
- Sasamoto N, Shafir AL, Wallace BM, Vitonis AF, Fraer CJ, Sadler Gallagher J, DePari M, Ghiasi M, Laufer MR, Sieberg CB, DiVasta AD, Schrepf A, As-Sanie S, Terry KL, Missmer SA, "Trends in pelvic pain symptoms over 2 years of follow-up among adolescents and young adults with and without endometriosis," *Pain*. 164(3):613-624. 03/2023. PM35947080.
- Till SR, Schrepf A, Clauw DJ, Harte SE, Williams DA, As-Sanie S, "Association Between Nociceptive Pain and Pain Severity and Impact in Women with Chronic Pelvic Pain," *J Pain*. 01/2023. PM36958459.
- As-Sanie S, Till SR, Schrepf AD, Griffith KC, Tsodikov A, Missmer SA, Clauw DJ, Brummett C, "Incidence and predictors of persistent pelvic pain following hysterectomy in women with chronic pelvic pain," *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 225(5):568.e1-568.e11. 11/2021. PM34464585.
- Vilkins AL, Sahara M, Till SR, Ceci C, Howard R, Griffith KC, Waljee JF, Lim CS, Skinner BD, Clauw DJ, Brummett CM, As-Sanie S, "Effects of Shared Decision Making on Opioid Prescribing After Hysterectomy," *Obstet Gynecol*. 134(4):823-833. 10/2019. PM31503160.

Service: Dr. As-Sanie has a substantial record of service at international, national, and institutional levels. Internationally, she is a member of eight national and international societies, three of which required an election for the position. Dr. As-Sanie was elected to the executive board of the International Pelvic Pain Society where she rose through the ranks from secretary to treasurer to vice president and subsequently president in 2018. She continues to serve on the board as an advisory member. She is also a member of the International Committee Monitoring the Assisted Reproductive Technologies/World Health Organization, World Endometriosis Research Foundation/Endometriosis Phenome and Biobanking Harmonization Project. Nationally, she has served on more than 10 committees in several organizations. She has held leadership responsibilities including chair of the Research Committee for the American Association for Gynecologic Laparoscopists, vice chair, then chair-elect, then chair for the Endometriosis Special Interest Group for the American Society of Reproductive Medicine. Dr. As-Sanie was selected as the scientific program chair of the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons 2024 Annual Meeting. She is the deputy editor of the *Journal of Minimally Invasive Gynecology (JMIG)* and performs peer reviews for numerous journals. In 2019, she was given the Editorial Award from JMIG in recognition of outstanding reviews and authorship. Institutionally, she serves as the co-chief of the Division of Gynecology, director of the University of Michigan Endometriosis and Chronic Pelvic Pain Center, and was a previous ACAPT member and chair. She also serves on departmental DEI committees and in recruitment at all levels. In 2021, her departmental contributions were recognized through receipt of the Robert K Ferguson and Virginia A. Ferguson Professorship of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Dr As-Sanie is an internationally recognised leader in the field of endometriosis, pelvic pain and minimally invasive gynecological [sic] surgery. Dr As-Sanie’s achievements extend beyond scholarly activity and teaching capability, to being a role model for excellence, drive, and productivity... She is a willing and patient teacher and mentor whose humility makes her an exceptional colleague and doctor.”

Reviewer B: “Dr. Sa-Sanie’s scholarly contributions are monumental. She has been an investigator or co-investigator on several grants from funding sources including NIH and professional foundations as well as institutional grants from the University of Michigan and industry sectors. She has published over 85 peer-reviewed manuscripts and six chapters...the relevance and timeliness of many of her publications have had a significant impact on clinical practice...”

Reviewer C: “Dr. As-Sanie has also provided valuable contributions to the educational mission of the University. Dr. As-Sanie engages in classroom teaching for residents and students at the University. Indeed, she has received the Silver Speculum Teaching Award from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology twice

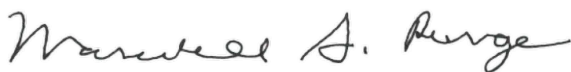
(2014, 2020), demonstrating her excellent in teaching. Furthermore, she has provided substantial mentorship to faculty and fellows at the University, and she currently serves as mentor for a K23 awardee as well as for the University's K12-funded Clinical Pain Career Development Program.”

Reviewer D: “Dr As-Sanie is one of less than a handful in the field who has successfully received NIH grants. In my opinion, there is no other individual in the field of Complex Gynecology and pelvic pain who holds the same stature, recognition, and academic respect as Dr[.] As-Sanie.”

Reviewer E: “Dr. As-Sanie has established a national and international reputation in her field, which is evidenced by leadership roles in national and international societies, invited presentations, honors and awards, and service to the field, including NIH study sections and editorial roles.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. As-Sanie is an internationally recognized expert in the field of endometriosis and chronic pelvic pain as evidenced by her grant funding, publication record, invited lectures, and committee work. She is held in high esteem by her colleagues and peers. She has demonstrated a significant commitment to teaching, making valuable contributions to the teaching, and mentoring of a broad range of learners both clinically and in their research endeavors. Her institutional, national, and international service is outstanding and her accomplishments in her field to date are reflected by the numerous national and international invitations and awards. I am pleased to recommend Sawsan As-Sanie, M.D., M.P.H. for promotion to professor of obstetrics and gynecology, with tenure, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 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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