

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Filip Bednar, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of surgery, Department of Surgery, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.D.	2007	Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
Ph.D.	2007	Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
A.B.	2000	Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

Professional Record:

2016 – Present	Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Michigan
2016 – 2019	Staff Surgeon, VA Ann Arbor Health System

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Bednar is an acclaimed and effective teacher and mentor who delivers effectively via multiple avenues including didactic lectures in the classroom, teaching in the operating room and on the wards, and mentorship in the research laboratory. He has mentored residents, post-doctoral fellows, medical students, graduate students, and undergraduate students. He is the primary faculty mentor for the undergraduate pre-surgical club. He also serves on graduate student dissertation committees. He participates in Pharmacology and Cancer Biology journal clubs and seminars. Teaching evaluations are very good to excellent, often above the mean for the department. Dr. Bednar served as an invited instructor for the highly regarded international biennial pancreatic cancer course held at the Cold Springs Harbor Laboratory. In recognition of his teaching skills, he was selected as the Medical Student Surgery Clerkship Facilitator within his section. Notably, his prowess in mentorship and teaching has been repeatedly brought to light through the success of his mentees, and by meritorious recognition of his work including the Arnold G. Coran Faculty Teaching Award, and the William W. Coon Award, presented by each chief resident class to the faculty member who best exemplifies great care for their patients and laudable mentorship to the residents. Dr. Bednar was inducted into the departmental Academy of Surgical Educators in 2022.

Research: Dr. Bednar's research interests focus on the regulation of tumor immune response and the tumor microenvironment in pancreatic cancer. He has been successful in obtaining grant funding for his research with funding as a multi-principal investigator on a National Institutes of Health (NIH) R01, the principal investigator of an American Surgical Association grant, and an NIH R37 subK sourced funding through the University of Texas. He is a co-investigator of an NIH R01 and has three past foundation grants as the principal investigator. His support of team science and participation in the multidisciplinary Pancreatic Diseases Initiative program at the university has led to collaborations with Johns Hopkins University and the pancreatic cancer program at the University of Western Ontario. He has authored 43 peer reviewed manuscripts

many in high-impact scientific journals including *Cancer Discovery*, *Nature Cancer*, and *Epigenomes*. He has been invited on 14 occasions to present his work nationally and internationally including in Canada and Japan. Dr. Bednar was awarded the Dr. Frank Limpert Clinical Scholar Award by the Rogel Cancer Center in 2021.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Yan W, Menjivar R, Bonilla M, Steele N, Kemp S, Du W, Donahue K, Brown K, Carpenter E, Avritt F, Irizarry-Negron V, Yang S, Burns W, Zhang Y\*\*, Pasca Di Magliano M\*\*, Bednar F\*\*, “Notch signaling regulates immunosuppressive tumor-associated macrophage function in pancreatic cancer,” *Cancer immunology research*. 09/2023. (Accepted/In Press).
- Steele NG, Carpenter ES, Kemp SB, Sirihorachai VR, The S, Delrosario L, Lazarus J, Amir E-AD, Gunchick V, Espinoza C, Bell S, Harris L, Lima F, Irizarry-Negron V, Paglia D, Macchia J, Chu AK Y, Schofield H, Wamsteker E-J, Kwon R, Schulman A, Prabhu A, Law R, Sondhi A, Yu J, Patel A, Donahue K, Nathan H, Cho C, Anderson MA, Sahai V, Lyssiotis CA, Zou W, Allen BL, Rao A, Crawford HC, Bednar F\*\*, Frankel TL\*\*, Magliano MP D\*\*, “Multimodal mapping of the tumor and peripheral blood immune landscape in human pancreatic cancer,” *Nature Cancer*. 1(11): 1097-1112, 10/2020. PM34296197.
- Zhang Y, Lazarus J, Steele NG, Yan W, Lee H-J, Nwosu ZC, Halbrook CJ, Menjivar RE, Kemp SB, Sirihorachai VR, Velez-Delgado A, Donahue K, Carpenter ES, Brown KL, Irizarry-Negron V, Nevison AC, Vinta A, Anderson MA, Crawford HC, Lyssiotis CA, Frankel TL, Bednar F\*\*, Magliano MP D\*\*, “Regulatory T cell depletion alters the tumor microenvironment and accelerates pancreatic carcinogenesis,” *Cancer Discovery*. 10(3): 422-439, 01/2020. PM31911451.
- Choudry HA, Bednar F, Shuai Y, Jones HL, Pai RK, Pingpank JF, Ahrendt SS, Holtzman MP, Zeh HJ, Bartlett DL, “Repeat Cytoreductive Surgery-Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemoperfusion is Feasible and Offers Survival Benefit in Select Patients with Peritoneal Metastases,” *Ann Surg Oncol*. 26(5): 1445-1453, 05/2019. PM30825033.
- Bednar F, Zenati MS, Steve J, Winters S, Ocuin LM, Bahary N, Hogg ME, Zeh HJ, Zureikat AH, “Analysis of Predictors of Resection and Survival in Locally Advanced Stage III Pancreatic Cancer: Does the Nature of Chemotherapy Regimen Influence Outcomes?,” *Ann Surg Oncol*. 24(5): 1406-1413, 05/2017. PM27896518.

Service: Dr. Bednar is active with service activities at the national and institutional levels. Nationally, he is a standing member of the Pancreatic Cancer Research Program study section for the Department of Defense and on grant review committees for the Society for Surgical Oncology and the Association for Academic Surgery. He has also been active on five committees within the Association for Academic Surgery and the Society of Surgical Oncology. Dr. Bednar serves as an ad hoc reviewer for several journals including *PLoS One*, *Nature Communications*, and *Cancer Research*. He is an editor for *Annals of Surgery Open* and holds membership in eight professional societies. Institutionally, he has served as a member of six committees within the Department of Surgery, and on the steering committees for two departmental and University centers – the Center for Basic and Translational Science and the Center for Cell Plasticity and Organ Design. He is also an active member of the institutional surgical value analysis team. His training in peritoneal malignancy care has made the heated intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) program a high-volume center within the state of Michigan and enhanced the development of a suite of regional therapy approaches to the department’s treatment of solid organ tumors. Dr. Bednar’s expertise in

minimally invasive laparoscopic and robotic approaches to the care of pancreatic and gastric cancer has made him the primary surgeon for the hereditary gastric cancer program wherein he excels in providing holistic and compassionate care to patients.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “In addition to his research accomplishments, Dr. Bednar is also an excellent mentor. He is passionate about his subject matter, as noted by his teaching awards and recognitions and by the manner he engages students, and other mentees (and mentors) of all levels. He has mentored several students who have gone on to successful careers in research.”

Reviewer B: “In summary, Dr. Bednar is nationally recognized as an outstanding surgical oncologist and cancer biologist. Reflective of this Dr. Bednar has received several national research awards including the Karl Storz Research award and [the] American Surgical Society Fellowship award. Finally, Dr. Bednar has active funding as PI on [an] NIH R01 and co-investigator on a second R01 and R37 award.”

Reviewer C: “He is also in ‘rare air’ when it comes to grant funding among active surgical oncologists, with two R01 grants (one as MPI and one as Co-I), as well as his prestigious multi-year Fellowship Award from the American Surgical Association, one of the highest honors available to aspiring junior academic surgeons.”

Reviewer D: “...I consider, based on both the quality and quantity, his scholarly works to be of the highest level. He has nearly 40 peer-reviewed publications with roughly 15 publications reflecting work generated since joining the faculty in 2016. His work ranges from the very high impact scientific journals such as Cancer Discovery, Nature Cancer, and Epigenomes to some of our very best surgical journals...”

Reviewer E: “...Filip exemplifies his leadership qualities which have been recognized by the numerous national leadership roles he has been selected for including the Basic and Translational Research Committee, Committee on Academic Advancement and Leadership Committee of the Association for Academic Surgery, and the Research Committee and Peritoneal Surface Malignancy Disease Site Working Group of the Society of Surgical Oncology. His recognition as a leader in the field is further exemplified as a standing member of the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program - Pancreatic Cancer Research Program (PCARP) study section and several other grant review committees as well as serving as an Editor for the journal Annals of Surgery Open.”

Reviewer F: “He has won several national awards from Surgical societies and has been an invited speaker at multiple peer institutions and conferences, all of which speak to his national scholarly reputation...Dr. Bednar has been an important contributor to the fields of GI oncology and pancreatic cancer research and has been recognized as such through strong grant support, multiple invited speakerships, and a strong publication record.”

Reviewer G: “Dr. Bednar has mentored both medical students, graduate students, and residents. His excellence in teaching was recognized by the Arnold G. Coran Faculty Teaching Award, the

William W. Coon Award. In addition, he was a finalist for the Silver Scalper Award for his excellence as clerkship director.”

Summary of Recommendation: Dr. Bednar is a well-respected general surgeon and surgeon-scientist, has been academically productive, is highly professional, collegial, and collaborative in his work, and is an admired teacher and mentor. His greatest scholarly impact has been identifying the active Notch signaling in multiple compartments of the tumor microenvironment in both human samples and murine models. I am pleased to recommend Filip Bednar, M.D., Ph.D. for promotion to associate professor of surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, 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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