

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AND VISUAL SCIENCES

Joshua R. Ehrlich, M.D., M.P.H, assistant professor of ophthalmology, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of ophthalmology, with tenure, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Medical School [also being promoted to research associate professor, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research].

Academic Degrees:

M.D.	2011	Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY
M.P.H	2010	Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health, New York, NY
A.B.	2004	Washington University, St Louis, MO

Professional Record:

2021-present	Research Assistant Professor, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2017-present	Assistant Professor, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Michigan
2015-2017	Clinical Lecturer, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Ehrlich instructs learners through both research mentorship and didactic teaching. He has mentored trainees at all levels in epidemiological research, global health research, research ethics, policy impact, career planning, and scientific writing. He has served as a research mentor for undergraduate students, medical students, residents, post-doctoral fellows, faculty, and several visiting scholars from India. He is an active clinician-scientist and is responsible for bedside teaching for learners at all levels. His teaching evaluations are very good to excellent. His teaching efforts were recognized through the receipt of a Medical Student Token of Appreciation in 2022. Dr. Ehrlich developed and is now the director of the Global Ophthalmology Fellowship program and served as the director of the resident glaucoma rotation (2019-2021). He teaches “Health and Disabilities Interprofessional Education” (PHARM517) and is a guest lecturer for “Epidemiology of Aging” (EPID677). He also initiated a two-year postgraduate National Clinical Scholars Program at the University of Michigan Institute for Healthcare and Policy to train clinicians to carry out policy-relevant research. Nationally, he was a guest lecturer at Johns Hopkins University for an epidemiology course, “Biology and Causes of Vision Loss in Older Adults.”

Research: Dr. Ehrlich’s research focuses on low vision, global ophthalmology, vision loss, aging, and dementia. He has an excellent record of success in obtaining funding support. His current research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Health and Aging Trends, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Wellcome Trust. He has authored 134

peer reviewed manuscripts in high impact journals, such as the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, *JAMA Ophthalmology*, and *PLoS One*. He has been a visiting professor at three institutions in the United States and has given 16 extramural invited talks nationally and internationally including in India and Ghana. He is a visiting scientist for the CDC Vision Health Initiative and was an Emerging Vision Scientist in 2018 for the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research. His work has been recognized through receipt of an achievement award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology in 2022.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

- Killeen OJ, De Lott LB, Zhou Y, Hu M, Rein D, Reed N, Swenor BK, Ehrlich JR, “Population Prevalence of Vision Impairment in US Adults 71 Years and Older: The National Health and Aging Trends Study,” *JAMA Ophthalmol.* 141(2): 197-204, 02/2023. PM36633858.
- Ehrlich JR, Goldstein J, Swenor BK, Whitson H, Langa KM, Veliz P, “Addition of Vision Impairment to a Life-Course Model of Potentially Modifiable Dementia Risk Factors in the US.” *JAMA Neurology.* 79(6): 623-626, 06/2022. PM35467745.
- Ehrlich JR, Swenor BK, Zhou Y, Langa KM, “The Longitudinal Association of Vision Impairment with Transitions to Cognitive Impairment and Dementia: Findings from the Aging, Demographics and Memory Study,” *J Gerontol: A Biol Sci Med Sci.*76(12): 2187-2193, 11/2021. PM34061956.
- Ehrlich JR, Ramke J, Macleod D, Burn H, Lee CN, Zhang JH, Waldock W, Swenor BK, Gordon I, Congdon N, Burton M, Evans JR, “Association between vision impairment and mortality: a systematic review and meta-analysis,” *The Lancet Global Health.* 9(4): e418-e430, 04/2021. PM33607015.
- Ehrlich JR, Ndukwe T, Chien S, Lee J, “The Association of Cognitive and Visual Function in a Nationally Representative Study of Older Adults in India,” *Neuroepidemiology.* 55(2): 126-134, 01/2021. PM33626538.

Service: Dr. Ehrlich has a strong institutional, national, and international service record. Internationally, he is the secretary for the International Society of Geographic and Epidemiologic Ophthalmology and is a member of the Commission on Global Eye Health, Lancet Global Health. He has performed ad hoc grant reviews for three international study sections; XonMW Visual Impairment Program, Netherlands, World Health Organization, and Flight for Sight, United Kingdom. Nationally, he was on the annual meeting program committee for the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), he chaired the Cares Taskforce for the American Glaucoma Society and currently co-chairs Prevent Blindness Center for Vision and Population Health and the International Education Subcommittee of the American Glaucoma Society. Dr. Ehrlich is an ad hoc grant reviewer for five NIH study sections and served as a reviewing editor for the journal of *Ophthalmic Epidemiology* since 2018. He has been an ad hoc reviewer for numerous leading journals including the *Journal of Glaucoma*, *Eye*, and *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*. Institutionally, Dr. Ehrlich is a member of Global REACH, the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation, and the Michigan Center on the Demography of Aging. He is the co-director of Kellogg Eye Center International Ophthalmology and a member of the Education and Research committees for the Department of Ophthalmology.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “I am constantly impressed by Dr. Ehrlich’s scholarly production in the area and would say currently he is [a] leader in this area of research...in 2023 alone he has been involved in research looking at the role of social determinants in vision impairment related disability, characterizing trends in older adult vision loss, consequences of diabetic retinopathy in aging adults with insurance, relationships between vision impairment and dementia, vision related anxiety in older adults, associations with social isolation and economic hardship. He has also served on the American Academy of Ophthalmology Task Force on Global Ophthalmology, a testament to the recognition in the field of his expertise and leadership.”

Reviewer B: “...in addition to his dedication to the generation of knowledge, has shown a strong commitment to service. He has served on numerous study sections, reviewed extensively for many journals, has chaired the American Glaucoma Society’s Cares Taskforce, and has mentored medical students, residents, postdocs, and junior faculty.”

Reviewer C: “Dr. Ehrlich’s contributions to academia and research are both vast and impactful. His work has been featured in high-caliber journals such as ‘Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science’ and ‘JAMA Neurology,’ focusing on key issues like vision impairment, aging, and cognitive decline. The reach and implications of his research go beyond academia, influencing meaningful changes in public health policy.”

Reviewer D: “Dr. Ehrlich has become a well-recognized and well-respected expert in the use of population-based epidemiology for the studies of aging and vision impairment, the relationship between vision and hearing impairment in aging, and global ophthalmology. His work is of high quality with direct and exciting implications for intervention options and healthcare resource distribution, both in the US and in other countries. Most notably, his work has underscored the significant relationship between vision health and cognitive health, particularly in that vision impairment potentiates the impact of cognitive decline (mild cognitive impairment).”

Reviewer E: “Dr. Ehrlich has become a well-recognized and well-respected expert in the use of population-based epidemiology for the studies of aging and vision impairment, the relationship between vision and hearing impairment in aging, and global ophthalmology. His work is of high quality with direct and exciting implications for intervention options and healthcare resource distribution, both in the US and in other countries. Most notably, his work has underscored the significant relationship between vision health and cognitive health, particularly in that vision impairment potentiates the impact of cognitive decline (mild cognitive impairment).”

Reviewer F: “With respect to his ability to generate external funding with his research, Dr. Ehrlich [sic] demonstrates a progression from past small grants, to current several grants in which he serves as Co-Investigator in research-initiated (R01) grants for national and international projects, and co-leader of research cores in infrastructure grants (P30, U01), with the corresponding presentations in professional conferences and invited seminars. His pending grant applications also show a move towards serving as PI and Co-I in large projects. This is evidence of a rising trajectory as well in this area.”

Summary of Recommendations: Dr. Ehrlich has launched an impressive start to his academic career, distinguishing himself as a leading researcher and scholar in the field of low vision, global ophthalmology, vision loss, aging, and dementia. He is a phenomenal clinician, has made significant teaching contributions, and has a strong national and international service record. We are pleased to recommend Joshua R. Ehrlich, M.D., M.P.H. for promotion to associate professor of ophthalmology, with tenure, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, 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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