

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
School of Social Work

Katrina R. Ellis, assistant professor of social work, School of Social Work, and assistant professor of health behavior and health education, School of Public Health, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work, and associate professor of health behavior and health education, without tenure, School of Public Health

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2015	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
M.P.H.	2008	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
M.S.W.	2008	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
B.A.	2002	Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana

Professional Record:

2018 - present      Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of Michigan  
Assistant Professor, School of Public Health, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation

Teaching: Professor Ellis has made important contributions to MSW education in the School of Social Work, offering required courses in both in-person and online delivery formats. She utilizes state of the art learner-centered strategies of co-creating standards for community learning, which help to foster a safe environment for discussion of challenging topics that are common in the social work classroom. Professor Ellis' teaching evaluation scores are very strong and stand out for the depth in which she includes core content on privilege, oppression, diversity, and social justice. She is intentional about using both student evaluation feedback and ongoing professional development to improve her teaching and to expand her repertoire in areas such as Universal Design and online teaching. Professor Ellis has regularly served as an advisor to students and goes above and beyond minimum expectations by advising and mentoring students at multiple career levels.

Research: Professor Ellis' scholarship focuses on promoting health equity for African American families across the cancer continuum. Given the alarming racial disparities in rates of early diagnosis and survivorship, her work is well positioned to advance the science of improving health outcomes for African Americans using a culturally tailored approach that is distinctive and unique for its family-centered approach. Her scholarship artfully blends qualitative and quantitative methods and adopts a community-engaged approach to working with a population that commonly (and for legitimate reasons) harbors mistrust of health care providers and health-related research. Such work requires sustained and patient trust-building and engagement with community members to include them in study design and reporting of findings.

Within this area, Professor Ellis has developed an exceptional record of publication. Since entering the tenure stream in 2018, she has published 26 articles in peer-reviewed journals, of which she is first author on more than half. She publishes her work in high-impact interdisciplinary journals with multidisciplinary teams of scholars and routinely includes students and trainees as co-authors on these works. Her work is also influencing the work of others, as evidenced by her impressive and growing citation rate (h-index of 19, which compares favorably against average citation rates of social work scholars at the same career level). Professor Ellis has also garnered over \$1 million in

sponsored funding to support her research agenda. She was recently awarded a National Cancer Institute Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Award to Promote Diversity (K01) which will provide the mentoring, skills, and support to develop and test a family-tailored intervention for promoting cascade screening for hereditary cancers in African Americans. Her selection as an inaugural University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center Health Disparities Scholar is a testament to the impact her interdisciplinary work is making in the cancer research area.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

- Ellis, K.R., Griffith, D.M., Allen, J.O., Thorpe, R.J., & Bruce, M.A. (2015). "If you do nothing about stress, the next thing you know, you're shattered:" Perspectives on stress, coping and health among African American men. *Social Science & Medicine*, 139, 107-114. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2015.06.036>
- Ellis, K.R., Janevic, M.R., Kershaw, T., Caldwell, C.H., Janz, N.K., & Northouse, L. (2017). Meaning-based coping, chronic conditions and quality of life in advanced cancer and caregiving. *Psycho-Oncology*, 26(9), 1316-1323. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pon.4146>
- Ellis, K.R., Janevic, M.R., Kershaw, T., Caldwell, C.H., Janz, N.K., & Northouse, L. (2017). The influence of dyadic symptom distress on threat appraisals and self-efficacy in advanced cancer and caregiving. *Supportive Care in Cancer*, 25(1), 185-194. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00520-016-3385-x>
- Ellis, K.R. (2022). Cancer and Caregiving among Older Black Americans and Families. In L. Chatters (Ed.), *Annual Review of Gerontology and Geriatrics*, (Volume 41, pp., 211-248). Springer Publishing.
- Ellis, K.R., \*Raji, D., \*Olaniran, M., Alick, C., Nichols, D., & Allicock, M. (2021). A systematic scoping review of post-treatment lifestyle interventions for cancer survivors and supporters. *Journal of Cancer Survivorship*, 16, 233-256. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11764-021-01013-x>.
- Ellis, K.R., Young, T.L., Langford, L. (2023). Advancing racial health equity through family-focused interventions for chronic disease management. *Preventing Chronic Disease*, 20, E27. <https://doi.org/10.5888/pcd20.220297>

Service: Professor Ellis' service record is likewise substantial and impactful at the school, the university, the community, and the broader professional levels. She has served on a variety of significant school-level committees and has played a special role in diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in the school and university. At the university level, her efforts have been synergistic with her research foci, and here in particular it is noted that she was appointed a core member at the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center Health Behavior and Outcomes Program, where she has worked to elevate geriatric oncology and support community-clinical-academic research collaborations. Professor Ellis' professional service record is likewise exceptional.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "In conclusion, Dr. Ellis appears to be a productive and passionate scholar and caring mentor/teacher who excels in all areas. I strongly recommend that she be promoted to Associate Professor."

Reviewer (B): "Based on my review of the materials, the research accomplishments, disciplinary service, and future promise of Dr. Ellis are significant and meaningful. I believe this promising scholar would be granted promotion and tenure at peer institutions and look forward to seeing her work progress."

Reviewer (C): “At both institutions [my institution and my prior institution], I am confident that Dr. Ellis would meet the requirements for associate professor with tenure.”

Reviewer (D): “To summarize, Dr. Ellis’s [sic] scholarly work is of excellent quality, timely, relevant, and multidisciplinary, and makes important contributions to her areas of study. She has an impressive funding record; publishes in well-respected journals; conducts quality research that utilizes community-based and interprofessional approaches; disseminates her work nationally; and provides national service in her field of interest. I have the utmost confidence in Dr. Ellis’s [sic] ability to build on her current work and continue to make contributions in the years to come.”

Reviewer (E): “My overall evaluation of Dr. Ellis’ record is very positive. She has attained a level of scholarly productivity that is comparable or higher, and the quality of her work is comparable to other scholars promoted to Associate Professor, with tenure.”


Reviewer (F): “Dr. Ellis’s [sic] research accomplishments and professional service easily meet the requirements for someone being considered for promotion to Associate Professor, with tenure, at [my institution], assuming the rest of her record supports excellence in teaching.”

Summary Recommendation: Professor Ellis has made important contributions to the profession, the university, and the School of Social Work through her scholarly work in cancer health equity, her dedicated efforts to promote student learning, and her engagement in service at all levels. It is with the support of the School of Social Work Executive Committee and the School of Public Health Executive Committee that we recommend Katrina R. Ellis for promotion to the rank of associate professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work, and associate professor of health behavior and health education, School of Public Health.



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Beth Angell  
Dean and Professor of Social Work  
School of Social Work



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F. DuBois Bowman, Ph.D.  
Dean, School of Public Health

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