Approved by the Regents
May 16, 2024

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

Kanishka T. Jayasundera, M.B.Ch.B., M.S., associate professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, with tenure, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, with tenure, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.S.	2019	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
M.B.Ch.B.	2000	University of Auckland, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Auckland, New Zealand
B.S.	1997	University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

Professional Record:

2020 - Present	Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2017-2020	Associate Professor (without tenure) Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2011-2017	Assistant Professor, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Jayasundera is an outstanding teacher. His teaching focuses on clinical training along with formal didactic education. Learners include clinical retina fellows, inherited retinal disease fellows, residents, and medical students. Teaching evaluations are very good to excellent. Dr. Jayasundera has been the fellowship director of the Inherited Retinal Degenerations Program since 2012. He has provided training and mentorship to many clinical retina and inherited retinal disease fellows, is the faculty moderator for electroretinography conferences, and lectures on inherited retinal degenerations, uveitis, and retinal diseases to residents at the Kellogg Eye Center. He is a mentor on a D43 grant and a previous mentor on an NIH K08 award. Nationally, he has taught several courses for foundation annual meetings including the American Academy of Optometry, Foundation Fighting Blindness, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology, along with educational lectures to specialists and researchers. He developed "E blasts for grand rounds" in 2016 to reach ophthalmologists globally.

Research: Dr. Jayasundera investigates inherited retinal diseases (IRDs), the phenotype of the genetic variants of each disease, the quantitate of the impact of the disease on patient functioning and quality of life, and evaluative therapies for IRDs. He is specifically looking at the landscape of known and missing heritability in Black patients with IRDs and is examining the uptake of genetic testing in this population. He also has developed patient-reported outcomes that are IRD-specific, which have been validated in multiple languages; these have been licensed by several pharmaceutical companies testing therapeutics such as gene therapy for clinical trials in inherited

retinal diseases. The measures have also been licensed to the Foundation Fighting Blindness for use in all natural history studies pertaining to IRDs and used in over 50 academic centers worldwide. Dr. Jayasundera has received substantial funding from numerous industry sponsored grants including from Allergan Sales, LLC, 4D Molecular Therapeutics, Editas Medicine, ProQR Therapeutics, Lexitas Pharma Services, and The Emmes Corporation totaling more than $3.5M. He currently has a submitted R01 that has received an excellent funding score. He is the primary applicant on three U.S. patents and two copyright notices. He has authored 93 peer reviewed manuscripts in highly ranked journals including the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, *Ophthalmic Genetics*, and *Ophthalmology Retina*. He was a visiting professor at Oakland University and has been invited on 36 occasions to speak about his research both nationally and internationally including in Canada, Australia, France, New Zealand, Brazil, the United Kingdom, and Croatia.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Jayasundera KT, Abuzaitoun RO, Popova L, Abalem MF, Andrews CA, Lacy GD, Fresco DM, Much DC, "Construct Validity of Inherited Retinal Disease-Specific Patient-Reported Outcome Measures," *Am J Ophthalmol*. 248:116-126, 2023. PM36470512

Van Phuc Nguyen, Jun Song, Diane Prieskorn, Junhuang Zou, Yanxiu Li, David Dolan, Jie Xu, Jifeng Zhang Jayasundera KT, Jun Yang, Yehoash Raphael, Naheed Khan, Michael Iannuzzi, Charles Bisgaier, Y Eugene Chen, Yannis M Paulus, Dongshan Yang, "USH2A Gene Mutations in Rabbits Lead to Progressive Retinal Degeneration and Hearing Loss," *Transl Vis Sci Technol*. 2023 Feb 1;12(2):26. doi: 10.1167/tvst.12.2.26

Lacy GD, Abalem MF, Andrews CA, Abuzaitoun R, Popova LT, Santos EP, Yu G, Rakine HY, Baig N, Ehrlich JR, Fahim AT, Branham KH, Swenor BK, Lichter PR, Dagnelie G, Stelmack JA, Musch DC, Jayasundera KT, "The Michigan Vision-Related Anxiety Questionnaire: A Psychosocial Outcomes Measure for Inherited Retinal Degenerations," *Am J Ophthalmol* 225: 137-146, 2021. PM33309692/PMC8184579

Lacy GD, Abalem MF, Andrews CA, Popova LT, Santos EP, Yu G, Rakine HY, Baig N, Ehrlich JR, Fahim AT, Branham KH, Stelmack JA, Swenor BK, Dagnelie G, Musch DC, Jayasundera KT, "The Michigan Retinal Degeneration Questionnaire: A Patient-Reported Outcome Instrument for Inherited Retinal Degenerations," *Am J Ophthalmol* 222: 60-68, 2021. PM32858027/PMC7907279

Otte B, Andrews C, Lacy G, Branham K, Musch DC, Jayasundera KT, "Clinical trial design for neuroprotection in *RHO* autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa; outcome measure considerations," *Ophthalmic Genet*, 42(2): 170-177, 2021. PM33406961/PMC7987885

Service: Dr. Jayasundera has an outstanding service record at all levels. Internationally, he is involved in the Foundation Fighting Blindness Consortium, including as a member of the Scientific Advisory Board and was on the Board of Directors of the Pan-American Ophthalmological Foundation. Nationally, he is a member of a national working group that works with the FDA and is an oral board examiner for the American Board of Ophthalmology. He is a member of the editorial board of *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science* and is an ad hoc reviewer for several journals. He reviews grants for the Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia and the Foundation for Fighting Blindness Scientific Advisory Board. Dr. Jayasundera is a member of eight professional societies and gained membership through a competitive process for two since 2020. Institutionally, he has been the associate chair of strategic planning and

implementation since 2021, and the director of the Inherited Retinal Diseases Program since 2017. Dr. Jayasundera has subspecialty training in three areas and is the only ophthalmologist in the country with this training making him highly sought after for his clinical expertise.

External Reviewers:
Reviewer A: "Dr. Jayasundera is highly regarded in the field of IRD. He is well-known as director of one of the top IRD centers in the world and he has continued to innovate and publish throughout his time at Michigan. [He] developed and directs one of the few IRD fellowships in the United States. He has trained many international as well as domestic fellows…"

Reviewer B: "Dr. Jayasundera is committed to serving his community and beyond. He is the Associate Chair in Strategic Implementation at the Kellogg Eye Center, and served as the Director of Strategic Planning for the Kellogg Eye Center. On a national level, Dr. Jayasundera is [the] Medical Chair of the FFB; he is an examiner for the American Board of Ophthalmology; and Member of the Regulatory Endpoints and Trial Design for IRD working group. Dr. Jayasundera also serves as a Member on several of the world's leading ophthalmology boards and associations."

Reviewer C: "He is among a handful of senior-career retinal specialists with expertise in genetic diagnosis and clinical trials in inherited retinal disorders. Further, he has distinguished himself in the development and deployment of retinal prostheses such as Argus II implates, a breakthrough device for improving the lives of end-stage retinal degeneration patients. Given the current funding environment, his continuous and substantial grant support is particularly noteworthy and commendable."

Reviewer D: "He has participated as an instructor in several institutional, national, and international programs. He directs a fellowship in inherited retinal degenerations and electrophysiology and has trained [m]ore than 35 fellows. He has authored or co-authored 95 peer-reviewed articles in well regarded medical journals and is co-editor of one textbook. He has received several awards and is a member of several professional societies including the Retina Society, the Macula Society, and the American Ophthalmological Society."

Reviewer E: "Dr. Jayasundera's productivity of 95 peer-reviewed publications is impressive. However, I am more impressed by the fact that since his appointment as Associate Professor in 2017, he has 58 peer reviewed publications and an h index of 24. Clearly, his work is having an impact."

Reviewer F: "Dr. Jayasundera has established himself as a leader in each aspect of the tripartite model of academic ophthalmology. He is a valued clinician who leads critical areas in his department. His research productivity is exceptional. The teaching efforts put forth by Dr. Jayasundera are laudable."

Summary of Recommendations:

Dr. Jayasundera is an international leader in IRD. He has distinguished himself in the development and deployment of retinal prostheses, a breakthrough device for improving the lives of end-stage retinal degeneration patients. He is among the few surgeons worldwide to have delivered the first FDA approved treatment for a genetic disease, voretigene neparvovec. Dr. Jayasundera is an outstanding clinician, researcher, and educator who has a strong record of service. I am pleased to recommend Kanishka T. Jayasundera, M.B.Ch.B., M.S. for promotion to professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, with tenure, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Medical School.

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

May 2024