

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan – Flint
College of Health Sciences

Gergana D. Kodjebacheva, associate professor of public health and health sciences, with tenure, Department of Public Health and Health Sciences, College of Health Sciences, is recommended for promotion to professor of public health and health sciences, with tenure, Department of Public Health and Health Sciences, College of Health Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2009	University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Public Health: Community Health Sciences
M.A.	2005	University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Urban Planning: Environmental Analysis and Policy, Los Angeles, CA
B.A.	2003	University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), Economics, Los Angeles, CA

Professional Record:

2017 - present	Associate Professor, with tenure, University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, MI
2013 - present	Faculty Associate International Institute, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2012 - 2017	Assistant Professor, University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, MI
2012-present	Member, Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2005-2009	Graduate Student Researcher, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), David Geffen School of Medicine
2003-2005	Graduate Student Researcher, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, UCLA

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Kodjebacheva has demonstrated a strong commitment to teaching excellence since her promotion to associate professor in 2017. She has taught six distinct courses, emphasizing experiential learning and actively engaging students in their scholarly interests. Her teaching philosophy prioritizes creating a sense of belonging among students by listening to their needs and fostering a supportive learning environment. Professor Kodjebacheva's pedagogical approach includes interactive class activities that require students to apply their knowledge, incorporating multimedia elements like videos, audios, and polls. Her course materials are designed to promote active learning and critical thinking.

Professor Kodjebacheva plays a pivotal role in student advising and mentoring, chairing 19 thesis/capstone projects and collaborating with students as co-authors on various publications and presentations. Her dedication to students is reflected in consistently high course evaluation scores, with most scores on critical items exceeding 4.0, often ranging from 4.5 to 5.0. The average scores from all her classes since her last promotion are indicative of exceptional teaching quality. Her innovative approach, such as incorporating Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI)

and addressing topics like healthcare entrepreneurship, extends her educational impact beyond the classroom. Her receipt of the Hagerman Faculty and Innovation Awards in 2020 and 2023 further underscores her exceptional contributions to teaching and innovative approaches in education, solidifying her as a highly valued member of the academic community.

Research: Professor Kodjebacheva is a nationally renowned scholar specializing in the field of socio-economic determinants of parental and child health. Her professional journey is characterized by a strong publication and presentation record, with 13 peer-reviewed publications to her name, including eight as the first author. Her research is focused on investigating factors affecting health and healthcare access, ultimately leading to the development of interventions aimed at enhancing the lives of women and children. Notably, she has displayed remarkable adaptability by conducting research in response to public health emergencies such as the Flint Water Crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professor Kodjebacheva has demonstrated ability to secure research funding, both internally and externally. She has successfully obtained a total of \$129,626 in research funding since her last promotion, reflecting her commitment to advancing her field. Her funding achievements include grants from the College of Health Sciences, totaling \$25,984, as well as recognition at the university level with the Frances Willson Thompson Fellowship. Her external funding endeavors resulted in a \$28,642 grant from the Genesee County Community Foundation of Greater Flint, where she served as the co-investigator for the Speak to Your Health Survey in 2018. Professor Kodjebacheva's proactive engagement in research professional development positioned her to submit a NIH R15 grant proposal, which received positive feedback, emphasizing her potential to secure federal funding in the future.

Professor Kodjebacheva is a collaborative researcher known for actively involving students in her research projects and mentoring fellow faculty members within the College of Health Sciences. Her dedication to research mentorship, coupled with her outstanding scholarly contributions, firmly establishes her qualifications for promotion.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Keiser M, Kodjebacheva GD, Kandasamy D.* “Evaluating the impact of a multifaceted distracted driving prevention program.” *Journal of Emergency Nursing*. Status: Accepted on 3/26/23. The article proof was returned to the journal; awaiting publication.

Kodjebacheva GD, Culinski T,* Kawser B,* Coffey K.* “Satisfaction with pediatric telehealth services compared to pediatric non-telehealth services among pediatric patients and their caregivers: A systematic review of the literature.” *JMIR Pediatrics and Parenting*. 2023;6:e41554. doi: 10.2196/41554.

Kodjebacheva GD, Culinski T,* Kawser B,* Saman A.* “Satisfaction with pediatric telehealth services according to the opinions of adolescents: A literature review.” *Frontiers in Public Health*. 2023; 11:1145486. doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2023.

Kodjebacheva GD, Tang C, Groesbeck F,* Walker L,* Woodworth J, Schindler-Ruwisch J. “Telehealth use in pediatric care during the COVID-19 pandemic: A qualitative study on the perspectives of caregivers.” *Children*. 2023;10:311. doi: 10.3390/children10020311.

- Kodjebacheva GD, Hristova SG, Savov V. "Development and evaluation of an intervention to promote the use of eyeglasses among Romani families in Bulgaria." *Frontiers in Public Health*. 2023;11:1096322. doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2023.1096322.
- Koleilat M, Vargas N,* VanTwist V,* Kodjebacheva GD. "Perceived barriers to and suggested interventions for physical activity during pregnancy among participants of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)." *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. 2021;21(1):69. doi: 10.1186/s12884-021-03553-7
- Koleilat M, Kim LP,* Cortes B,* Kodjebacheva GD. "Perceived motivators, barriers and intervention strategies related to weight loss after childbirth among WIC participants in Southern California." *American Journal of Health Promotion*. 2020;34:294-302. doi: 10.1177/0890117119895948.
- Kodjebacheva GD, Lapeyrouse L, Rahrig J,* Walker L,* Campbell K.* "Strategies to promote safe water drinking identified by and for women of reproductive age." *American Journal of Health Promotion*. 2019;33:756-759. doi: 10.1177/0890117118820172.
- Kodjebacheva GD, Creech C, Walker L,* Linton M, Inoue S, Alnarshi J,* Monga R. "Health communication in neonatal intensive care: Results of focus groups or interviews with parents, nurses and physicians." *Californian Journal of Health Promotion*. 2017;15:48-58. <https://doi.org/10.32398/cjhp.v15i3.1908>.

Service: Professor Kodjebacheva's extensive service contributions span multiple levels, including within the Department of Public Health and Health Sciences, where she chaired the curriculum committee and served as a co-faculty advisor to an academic honor society (Upsilon Delta Phi). She has played pivotal roles in the College of Health Sciences, including participating in faculty review committees. At the university level, she has been actively involved in various committees, including the Institutional Review Board and Academic Affairs Advisory Committee. Her commitment extends to the health administration community and professional organizations (Great Lakes Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives (GLACHE), where she engages in committee work to advance the field. Professor Kodjebacheva's comprehensive and impactful service across these domains clearly demonstrates her dedication to the institution, the public health field, and healthcare administration, exceeding the criteria for promotion based on her service contributions.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "...She (Professor Kodjebacheva) is highly published, and has presented her findings internationally, nationally, regionally, and locally. Dr. Kodjebacheva includes students in her research and publications, which is important at a teaching institution. Dr. Kodjebacheva's accomplishments are well in line with others working in the same field, when compared to others at similar institutions I believe her accomplishments exceed others."

Reviewer (B): "...Gergana has published in relevant and respected journals in the field of health care and public health. Many journals have higher impact factors or are considered top-tier journals in the public health field. Dr. Kodjebacheva's scholarly work concentrates on improving the health of children. This area of research is critical given the growth of global interest in child health."

Reviewer (C): “Dr. Kodjebacheva has an established research agenda that is productive, funded, impactful, and responsive not only to community needs (i.e., Flint Water Crisis) but also to national issues impacting the health of children and parents (i.e., COVID-19 pandemic).”

Reviewer (D): “She is productive in her research area and the topics of research are relevant and timely for dealing with public health issues. Her research projects are more than analyzing the existing data and data collection takes more time and effort.”

Reviewer (E): “Dr. Kodjebacheva has constructed a focused body of work in the area of socio-economic determinants of health and their impact on parental and child health. Her work is timely and relevant with clear practical application.”

Summary of Recommendation:

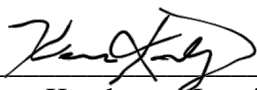
Professor Kodjebacheva is an exceptional researcher and teacher. I fully concur with the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee’s unanimous decision and enthusiastically recommend Gergana D. Kodjebacheva for promotion to professor of public health and health sciences, with tenure, Department of Public Health and Health Sciences, College of Health Sciences.

Recommended by:



Shandowyn Parker, Acting Dean
College of Health Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



Yener Kandogan, Interim Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Donna Kay Fry, Interim Chancellor
University of Michigan – Flint

May 2024