PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Dearborn
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

Michelle T. Leonard, associate professor of psychology, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to professor of psychology, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2008	Clinical Psychology, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
M.A.	2004	Clinical Psychology, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
B.A.	2002	Psychology, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI

Professional Record:

2014-present	Associate Professor, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Dearborn, MI
2008-2014	Assistant Professor, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Dearborn, MI

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Leonard is rated excellent in teaching. Professor Leonard is an outstanding teacher who has been essential and instrumental in teaching and developing curriculum for the Master of Science (MS) in psychology program, while expertly contributing to academic success of undergraduate students. Psychology faculty view introductory psychology as an important gateway to the major and perhaps to higher education, and she has been engaging and approachable in this role. At the graduate level, Professor Leonard teaches a high volume of the courses required for licensing in the clinical health psychology program. Her instruction and management of a vibrant clinical practicum program allows the masters' candidates to fulfill licensing requirements, and to gain employment as providers in medical and mental health settings. Professor Leonard's student evaluations are notably high with her overall instructor ratings being above the department average and including perfect scores in some courses (average of 4.72). In addition, students rate her as knowledgeable (average of 4.91), her teaching as high in effectiveness (average of 4.76) and her courses as having very high achievement standards (average of 4.75). Peer evaluations paint her as an engaging instructor who provides substantial information with an energetic and humorous, yet thoughtful approach. Professor Leonard broadens students' perspectives and enhances their knowledge base and skills while flexibly using innovative techniques and activities to pique interest and ensure student success. Professor Leonard is also an excellent research mentor to undergraduate and graduate students. She has supervised 13 master's theses and three honors theses projects, and has actively engaged as a secondary advisor on 13 graduate thesis committees. Her advisees have benefitted from her leadership, achieving recognition through conference presentations, competitions, and publications.

Research: Professor Leonard is rated excellent in her research. Professor Leonard is a versatile and collaborative researcher in the field of clinical health psychology. Since her promotion to associate professor, she has published nine high quality peer-reviewed journal articles,

commentary, and two book chapters. In addition to her first authored works, she provides substantial input on collaborative works including providing a theoretical framework, research design, statistical analysis, and clinical implications. Professor Leonard's work within the sub-specialty of clinical health psychology blends a keen level of clinical expertise with psychological theory and research evidence resulting in work that informs treatment, management, and prevention of medical conditions. A unique aspect of her work is the inclusion of socio-cultural factors as she explores the impact of intimate relationships and personal coping styles on chronic conditions, such as pain. Sophisticated multi-method studies have revealed complex interactions of emotional, interpersonal, and sociocultural variables as they impact physical conditions and health related behaviors.

Along with her main work on intimate relationships and chronic pain, Professor Leonard's collaborative work with colleagues and students exemplifies a strong grounding in traditional academic research coupled with an aptitude for addressing current challenges across a variety of populations. Professor Leonard's recent research has been inclusive as she engaged in addressing predictors of health outcomes in underrepresented groups such as Arab Americans, Syrian refugees, and individuals identifying as LGBTQ+. The timeliness of her work is reflected in recent publications which incorporate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

<u>Recent and Significant Publications:</u>

Abraham, C., Leonard, M.T., & Giraud, C. (in press). "Romantically Close And Socially Distant: Self-Protective Behaviors For Emerging Adults Seeking Romantic Relationships During The Pandemic." *American Journal for Health Education*.

Sankari, S., Wrobel, N., Leonard, MT, Grasser, L., Sankari, A., & Javanbakht, A., (2023). "Relationship between PTSD and sleep disturbances in Syrian refugees in the United States." *Avicenna Journal of Medicine*.

Chatkoff, D. K., Leonard, M. T., Najdi, R. R., Cruga, B., Forsythe, A., Bourgeau, C., & Easton, H. (2022). "A brief survey of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the chronic pain experience." *Pain Management Nursing*, 23(1), 3-8.

Leonard M, Giraud C, & Abraham C. (2022) "Coupling with COVID: The Role of Dyadic Coping in Relationship Satisfaction and Psychological Distress during the COVID-19." *Pandemic Journal of Family Issu*es. 2022 Mar. PMCID: PMC8891893.

Leonard, M. T., Krajewski-Kidd, K., Shuler, R., Wesolowicz, D., Miller, C., & Chatkoff, D. (2019). "The Impact of Emotional Regulation Strategies on Pain Catastrophizing in the Context of Interpersonal Relationships." *The Clinical Journal of Pain*, 35(12), 925-932.

Cole, A., Leonard, M.T., McAuslan, P., (2018). "Social Media and Couples: What Are the Important Factors for Understanding Relationship Satisfaction?" *Cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking*, 21(9), 582–586.

McAuslan, P., Leonard, M., & Pickett, T. (2017, May 4). "Using the media practice model to examine dating violence in emerging adults." *Psychology of Popular Media Culture*.

Leonard, M. T., Chatkoff, D. K., & Maier, K. J. (2017). "Couples' Relationship Satisfaction and its Association with Depression and Spouse Responses within the Context of Chronic Pain Adjustment." *Pain Management Nursing.*

Chatkoff, D., Leonard, M.T., and Maier, K., (2015) "Pain Catastrophizing Differs between and within WHYMPI Pain Adjustment Classifications: Theoretical and Clinical Implications from Preliminary Data." *Clinical Journal of Pain,* 31(4), 349-354.

Leonard, M.T and Geisser, M (2014). "Using What We Know about Couples in the Context of Chronic Pain to Push for Continued Progress: Commentary on Vivekanantham and Colleagues." *Pain Medicine,* 15(5), 726-727.

Service: Professor Leonard is rated excellent in her service. Professor Leonard is valued at the discipline level for her contributions as director of the MS in psychology program. The challenge of leading two cohorts of students through the program and providing clinical placements during the pandemic was met with distinction. Beyond the expected responsibilities, she provides pro-bono clinical supervision for students completing practicum placements in medical settings. Professor Leonard serves as an inspirational professional mentor at the graduate and undergraduate level and provides personal support to the LGBTQ+ population on campus. Professor Leonard's service to the department, college and university is notable, including current service as an at-large representative on the Department Executive Committee, and past service on the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Restructuring Task Force. She contributes to academic excellence on campus through her long-standing efforts as a lecturer reviewer and on faculty search committees in and beyond her college. She has provided expertise in mental health through service to the campus Counseling and Psychological Services center and other mental health initiatives. Professor Leonard enhances the visibility of the campus regionally and nationally through professional service as an ad hoc reviewer for psychology and medical journals, as well as her collaboration with Henry Ford Hospital and Michigan Psychological Association on jointly held research symposiums.

External Reviewers:
Reviewer A: "Dr. Leonard's publication record, one article per year on average, is appropriate given her teaching and mentoring load. Notably, she has increased her productivity in the last few years. I was impressed by how she began to research COVID at a time when most of us were overwhelmed trying to manage students and classes. Her COVID research is instrumental for our understanding of individuals and couples during and post-pandemic. It is a fruitful area of work in which her publications stand out."
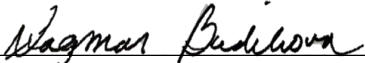
Reviewer B: "Dr. Leonard is really a unique talent. Not only is she academically trained in sociocultural influences on health (with a focus on pain), but she is well trained in techniques to assess psychological functioning and mental health. Her more recent published work appears in journals that are important to the field of pain science including Clinical Journal of Pain and Pain Medicine, which helps enhance the visibility of her work. Relatedly, she has been invited multiple times to give keynote lectures on her research. Altogether, this level of scholarly productivity makes Dr. Leonard a very formidable candidate for promotion in my opinion."

Reviewer C: "Dr. Leonard's keen understanding of the importance of coping with pain, PTSD-related sleep disturbance, and interpersonal impact on managing chronic health concerns has been well regarded in research and clinical communities, to which I can attest as Associate Editor of *Quality of Life Research, Translational Behavioral Medicine*, and *Psychosomatic Medicine*. Dr. Leonard's research, particularly her work on pain catastrophizing in the interpersonal context, will distinguish the psychology department and the University of Michigan-Dearborn as a national leader even further."
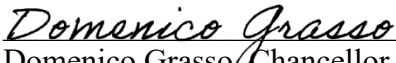
Reviewer D: "I have appreciated Professor Leonard's work because many of her publications in the area of pain are empirically sophisticated and clinically relevant. In terms of outstanding publications, her articles published in Cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking, Pain Medicine and Clinical Journal of Pain would all be considered outstanding by academic and practicing health psychologists."

Reviewer E: "I am impressed by her program of research, her clear commitment to students, and adaptability, especially during challenging times. To cut to the chase, it is clear to me that Dr. Leonard's is a strong case for promotion to full professor. Her work has been very programmatic, focusing on the links between relationship processes and pain, and several of her papers have offered important insights to the field."

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Leonard has made important research contributions in clinical health psychology. She is also an excellent teacher and mentor, promoting student success and professional development at graduate and undergraduate levels. Her service contributions in her discipline, college, university, and profession forward the strategic goals of the campus and visibility of the campus in the region. We are pleased to recommend, with the support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Michelle T. Leonard for promotion to professor of psychology, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

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Dagmar Budikova, Dean   Domenico Grasso, Chancellor
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters   University of Michigan-Dearborn

May 2024