

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Nursing

Akshay Sharma, assistant professor of nursing, School of Nursing, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of nursing, with tenure, School of Nursing.

Academic Degrees:

PhD	2015	Emory University, Atlanta, GA
MPH	2010	Emory University, Atlanta, GA
MBBS	2006	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Professional Record:

2016 – Present	Assistant Professor, University of Michigan, School of Nursing, Ann Arbor, MI
2015 – 2016	Research Fellow, Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, Atlanta, GA

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Sharma is an excellent teacher who significantly advances the School of Nursing's educational mission. He employs an interactive approach in the classroom which emphasizes active participation using mobile and online technologies. He teaches courses on pathophysiology, microbiology, and infectious diseases to undergraduate nursing students. He has had numerous teaching assignments since joining the School of Nursing. He regularly teaches N245, 'Pathophysiology,' and N236, 'Microbiology and Infectious Diseases,' the latter of which he developed for the new revised School of Nursing curriculum. His student reviews indicate that Professor Sharma employs new, best, and innovative models of teaching and learning. In 2020, Professor Sharma was honored with the Mae Edna Doyle Teacher of the Year Award and the Inclusive Teaching Award (2023).

Professor Sharma is sought out by nursing and public health students for his expertise in mentoring. He has had some experience mentoring students across levels. Most mentoring activities have resulted in either publications or abstract presentations with mentees. Professor Sharma's ability to connect with students from undergraduate to post-doctoral trainees, is a testament to his teaching and mentoring skills. He was selected as a mentor (one of twenty from around the world) for the International AIDS Society Mentorship Programme.

Research: Professor Sharma's program of research focuses on advancing the field of HIV and STI prevention among sexual and gender minority individuals in the U.S. As an infectious disease epidemiologist, he seeks to promote the sexual health of sexual and gender minority individuals by designing and evaluating comprehensive approaches to increase their engagement in HIV and STI prevention. Professor Sharma has participated in the submission of 20 extramural grant proposals, 25% of which have been funded either by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and has active grants – one as the principal investigator (PI) with the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, R21, and one as the co-investigator (co-I) with the National Institute of Mental Health and Office Behavior and Social Science Research, R25. His completed grants include an R21 and co-investigator on both a U01 and an R01. Professor Sharma's

program of research is exceptionally relevant and of great significance. He has brought in over \$6.3 million in funding as a PI/MPI (two - R21s) and co-I (R25, CDC). He submitted fifteen grants in addition to the five that were funded.

Professor Sharma regularly disseminates his research through presentations and peer-reviewed journals. Since 2016, he has published a total of 33 peer-reviewed articles, including 13 as first author. He has also had 32 abstracts and presentations over that time with one invited presentation in 2020. In addition to the 2020 School of Nursing Mae Edna Doyle Teacher of the Year award and 2023 the School of Nursing Inclusive Teaching award; he was the 2017 University of Michigan Government Relations Road Scholars Tour Scholar. In 2021, he received an Honorable Mention Award from the American Public Health Association HIV/AIDS Section for Excellence in Abstract Submission and a 2022 International AIDS Society Mentorship Programme Mentor award.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Sharma, A., Gandhi, M., Sallabank, G., Merrill, L., and Stephenson, R. (2023). "Perceptions and experiences of returning self-collected specimens for HIV, bacterial STI and potential PrEP adherence testing among sexual minority men in the United States." *AIDS and Behavior*, 2023; 27(4), 1091-1105. doi: 10.1007/s10461-022-03846-8
- Sharma, A., Gandhi, M., Sallabank, G., Merrill, L., and Stephenson, R. (2022). "Study evaluating self-collected specimen return for HIV, bacterial STI and potential pre-exposure prophylaxis adherence testing among sexual minority men in the United States." *American Journal of Men's Health*, 2022; 16(4). doi:10.1177/15579883221115591
- Sharma, A., Garofalo, R., Hidalgo, M., Hoehnle, S., Mimiaga, M., Brown, E.,... and Stephenson, R. (2019). "Do male couples agree on their sexual agreements? An analysis of dyadic data." *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 2019; 48(4), 1203-1216. doi: 10.1007/s10508-019-1391-z
- Sharma, A., Kahle, E., Todd, K., Peitzmeier, S., and Stephenson, R. (2019). "Variations in testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections across gender identity among transgender youth." *Transgender Health*, 2019; 4(1), 46-57. doi: 10.1089/trgh.2018.0047
- Sharma, A., Wang, L., Dunville, R., Valencia, R., Rosenberg, E., and Sullivan, P. (2017). "HIV and sexually transmitted disease testing behavior among adolescent sexual minority males: Analysis of pooled Youth Risk Behavior Survey data, 2005-2013." *LGBT Health*, 2017; 4(2), 130-140. doi:10.1089/lgbt.2016.0134

Service: Professor Sharma contributes service to the school, the university, and nationally. Most notably, he serves as a member of the School of Nursing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Implementation Committee, the School of Nursing Feedback and Communication Guideline Committee, and the School of Nursing LGBTQ+ Faculty Network Lead. Professor Sharma has served on the School Curriculum Committee twice, and the Department of Health Behavior and Biological Sciences Advisory Committee. He is also engaged in LGBTQ+ activities on the wider University of Michigan campus and represented the School of Nursing at the University of Michigan National Center for Institutional Diversity convention.

At a national level, Professor Sharma is an Editorial Board Member for *Transgender Health* and has been a grant reviewer for the CDC's Special Emphasis Panel and also through Emory University's Global Health Institute to evaluate applications on initiating HIV antiretroviral therapy in non-traditional settings such as the emergency room and on increasing PrEP use among Black cisgender women in the U.S. He was one of 20 mentors selected for the International AIDS Mentorship Programme, in which he mentored a new investigator to develop a program of research. He serves as a peer reviewer for 30 journals and has reviewed numerous abstracts for the American Public Health

Association's annual meeting and the National LGBTQ Health Conference. Professor Sharma also holds membership in numerous professional societies both national and international.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “[Professor Sharma’s] pedagogical investment is... witnessed by his willingness to mentor numerous undergraduate, masters, and doctoral students. His continued support and involvement in the development of scholars is significant, including ensuring that their work is disseminated and published.”

Reviewer B: “[Professor Sharma is] an innovative leader in research on HIV and STIs in sexual and gender minority individuals.”

Reviewer C: “...[Professor Sharma] has demonstrated superior ability as an early-stage investigator...as evidenced by successfully obtaining competitive NIH funding...and widely disseminat[ing his] scholarship.”

Reviewer D: “[Professor] Sharma’s work...demonstrates a strong scholarly profile marked by high-quality research, substantial contributions across various domains, a well-defined and relevant focus, and a significant impact.”

Reviewer E: “[Professor] Sharma’s dossier is strong and demonstrates a consistent nationally and growing internationally recognized record of scholarly productivity, independent research funding and impact to the field.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Sharma is a dynamic researcher who is known for his focused program of research on biomedical strategies that can reduce HIV transmission. He is an admirable teacher and mentor, and he is a leader who contributes to external and internal service. It is with the support of the School of Nursing Executive Committee that we recommend Akshay Sharma for promotion to associate professor of nursing, with tenure, School of Nursing.



Patricia D. Hurn
Dean and Professor
School of Nursing

May 2024