

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Pasithorn A. Suwanabol, M.D., M.S., assistant professor of surgery, Department of Surgery, Medical School, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School.

Academic Record:

M.S.	2017	University of Michigan School of Public Health, Ann Arbor, MI
M.D.	2007	University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison, WI
B.S.	2002	University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

Professional Record:

2015 – present Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Suwanabol has excelled in teaching and mentoring and many of her students and mentees have gone on to successful academic careers. She has mentored faculty members, residents, medical students, and undergraduate students. She has served as the co-director of the Procedure-Based Care Branch for the Medical School and as the VAAHS medical student clerkship facilitator for general surgery and was recently appointed as the director of student research at the Center for Healthcare Outcomes and Policy (CHOP). Also, within CHOP, she serves as a core faculty member and mentors multiple research fellows whose research has been presented at surgical society annual meetings and who have gone on to successfully attain post-fellowship positions. Dr. Suwanabol co-developed and implemented an ethics training curriculum for surgical residents. She has been awarded the Silver Scalpel award for “Top Facilitator” for the Surgery clerkship twice (2020 and 2021).

Research: Dr. Suwanabol’s research focuses on palliative care, survivorship, and quality of life among surgical patients and the role of surgeons’ emotional well-being. Her body of work has provided critical insights into how to best anticipate and manage surgical patients and their families’ unmet needs. She has been successful in obtaining funding for her research through the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation, and the institution. She has authored 72 peer reviewed manuscripts in high-impact journals including *Annals of Surgery* and *JAMA Surgery*. She has been invited on 17 occasions to present her work nationally, along with five visiting professorships. In recognition of her accomplishments, Dr. Suwanabol was the recipient of the first ever American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons Young Researcher President’s Award in 2020.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Bamdad MC, Vitous CA, Rivard SJ, Anderson M, Lussiez A, De Roo A, Englesbe MJ, Suwanabol PA, “What We Talk About When We Talk About Coping: A Qualitative Study of Surgery

Residents' Coping following Complications and Deaths," *Ann Surg.* 2023 Mar 30. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36994739.

Rivard SJ, Vitous CA, Bamdad MC, Lussiez A, Anderson MS, Varlamos C, Duby A, Suwanabol PA, "I Wish There had been Resources: A Photo-Elicitation Study of Rectal Cancer Survivorship Care Needs," *Ann Surg Oncol.* 2023 Feb 27. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36847958.

Vu J, Cleary RK, Englesbe MJ, Brummett CM, Waljee JF, Suwanabol PA, "Post-discharge Opioid Consumption After Minimally Invasive and Open Colectomy: Does Operative Approach Matter?" *Ann Surg.* 2022 Apr 1; 275(4): 753 – 758. PMID: 32657943.

Suwanabol PA, Li Y, Abrahamse P, De Roo AC, Ju JV, Silveira MJ, Mody L, Dimick JB, "Functional and Cognitive Decline Among Older Adults After High-risk Surgery," *Ann Surg.* 2022 Jan 1;275(1):e132 – e139. PMID: 32404660. PMCID: PMC8060894.

Vitous CA, Byrnes ME, De Roo A, Jafri SM, Suwanabol PA, "Exploring Emotional Responses After Postoperative Complication: A Qualitative Study of Practicing Surgeons," *Ann Surg.* 2022 Jan 1;275(1): e124 – e131. PMID: 33443904; PMCID: PMC9437841.

Service: Dr. Suwanabol has an excellent service record. Nationally, she serves on numerous committees for national organizations including her role as the chair of the research subcommittee with the American College of Surgeons and as co-councilor in the Surgical Palliative Care Society. She serves on study sections including for PCORI, the American Board of Surgery, and the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs. Dr. Suwanabol sits on several editorial boards including *Diseases of the Colon and Rectum*, is an associate editor for the *European Journal of Surgical Oncology* and is an ad hoc reviewer for many journals. Institutionally, she was formerly a representative of the Medical School on the University's Senate General Assembly, and currently directs student research and a core at the Institute for Health Policy and Innovation (IHPI). Dr. Suwanabol provides care to patients at the VAAHS and has established a reputation for being a skilled and collaborative surgeon, working with members of multidisciplinary care teams. She has increased the advanced colorectal surgery program volume with the use of minimally invasive cutting-edge techniques and technology including robotics. Dr. Suwanabol has assumed numerous clinical leadership roles including the director of colorectal surgery and the co-director of the VAAHS Multidisciplinary Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program. In recognition of her clinical stewardship, she was recently appointed as the associate chief of surgery, Inpatient Surgical Services, at the VAAHS.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Suwanabol is an outstanding academic in colorectal surgery and truly stands out from her peers. She has an exceptional track record of grant capture with over \$4 million dollars in peer reviewed funding including NIH funding (R37, K08, R03) as well as numerous society grant awards. There are few colorectal surgeons who have achieved this degree of funding in their careers let alone as a junior academic and there is a steep increasing trajectory of grant success."

Reviewer B: "Comparing her with other colorectal surgeons in university positions, this level of funding and academic productivity, participation in grant and review boards, participation in [the] American Board of Surgery activities, and successful mentorship of medical students and residents, puts her in the top 3 or 4 percent of her peers."

Reviewer C: “Dr. Suwanabol serves on 11 national committees...Her national expertise is further highlighted to her selection as the Chair of the Committee of Surgical Palliative Care Research Committee for the American College of Surgeons, which is our largest national surgical society.”

Reviewer D: “...Dr. Suwanabol has established herself as one of the few surgical experts in palliative care...Dr. Suwanabol is far more productive and successful than most of her peers... Dr. Suwanabol has completed an R03 and a K award, and her recent R37 is a very favorable indicator that she is highly likely to be awarded an R01 in the future. It remains quite an accomplishment for surgeons, who have significant clinical demands, to obtain NIH funding even once. Dr. Suwanabol has achieved this multiple times, and she has demonstrated the resilience and productivity that gives every assurance that her federal funding will very likely continue.”

Reviewer E: “Dr. Suwanabol’s scholarly activity is very impressive for someone at this stage in her career, including more than 60 peer-reviewed articles in JAMA Surgery, Annals of Surgery, and other top-tier journals. In addition, she serves as an ad-hoc reviewer for the aforementioned journals and a dozen other journals. Further, she has presented her research in more than 40 invited presentations at national meetings, as well as serving as a moderator and panel discussant.”

Reviewer F: “Dr. Suwanabol has also demonstrated significant influence as an educator and mentor. She has mentored nearly 30 students and residents and is also a faculty mentor to early-career faculty, both at the University of Michigan and other institutions. She is an active participant as a lecturer for the students and residents (as listed in her curriculum vitae); her impact is most evident as she has twice received the Silver Scalpel Award as the ‘Top Facilitator’ for the Surgical Clerkship and has twice been nominated (including once as finalist) for the Arnold G. Coran Faculty Teaching Award.”

Summary of Recommendations:

Dr. Suwanabol is a surgical expert in survivorship and palliative care making her mark in the fields through her clinical and research advances. She has established herself as a thought-leader in the care and management of older adults undergoing surgery. She is a well-established and highly regarded clinician, researcher, and educator who will continue to make great contributions to the University of Michigan. I am pleased to recommend Pasithorn A. Suwanabol, M.D., M.S. for promotion to associate professor of surgery, with tenure, Department of Surgery, Medical School.



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

May 2024