

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

Chad W. Tiernan, assistant professor of physical therapy, Department of Physical Therapy, College of Health Sciences, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of physical therapy, with tenure, Department of Physical Therapy, College of Health Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2012	University of Michigan, Movement Science, Ann Arbor, MI
M.S.	2004	University of Michigan, Movement Science, Ann Arbor, MI
B.S.	1999	University of Michigan, Movement Science, Ann Arbor, MI

Professional Record:

2021	Interim Associate Director, Ph.D. in Physical Therapy Program, University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, MI
2016 - present	Assistant Professor, University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, MI
2012-2015	Assistant Professor, Husson University, Bangor, ME
2012	Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
2011-2012	Research Associate, Institute of Gerontology, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
2009-2011	Research Associate, Center for Autism and Communication Disorders, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2000-2001	Physical Therapist Aide, Spine Program, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Tiernan has made significant contributions to teaching within the Department of Physical Therapy, teaching in two distinct physical therapy degree programs: the entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) and the Ph.D. program. Professor Tiernan has taught four distinct courses in addition to Independent Study and Dissertation Candidacy courses. His primary teaching emphasis has centered on research methodology and statistics. Professor Tiernan's teaching proficiency is mirrored in his consistently positive course evaluations. The majority of Professor Tiernan's teaching evaluations are over 4.0 on a 5.0 teaching scale. He averages 4.3 (Q1) with students routinely praising him as an "excellent instructor." He integrates the latest evidence-based instructional techniques and knowledge into his teaching methods. Professor Tiernan serves as a staunch advocate for evidence-based curriculum and assessment outcomes, emphasizing the importance of student success and quality improvement for his courses. Professor Tiernan takes a student-centered approach that extends beyond academic content. His willingness to adapt and create a supportive classroom environment that encourages students to prioritize their health and well-being is evident and is expressed by his students.

Professor Tiernan excels in the realm of student advising and mentoring. His considerable research acumen integrates into his teaching approach, enabling highly effective mentorship for

both Ph.D. and Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students. He has served as committee chair and co-chair on two Ph.D. student committees. Under his mentorship, one Ph.D. student has achieved notable scholarly accomplishments, culminating in the publication of two articles in esteemed peer-reviewed journals. Professor Tiernan's mentorship is exemplified by the presentation of nine peer-reviewed presentations, with eight students serving as co-authors, underscoring his commitment to cultivating rich and collaborative research.

Professor Tiernan's teaching expertise is substantiated by the Agho Teaching Excellence Award he has received, emphasizing his commitment to delivering exceptional educational experiences and highlighting his standing as a distinguished educator among the faculty. Professor Tiernan clearly satisfies our criteria for promotion with tenure with respect to his teaching.

Research: Professor Tiernan's scholarly pursuits revolve around investigating the influence of mobility on the health and overall well-being of diverse populations, with a particular emphasis on older adults. His research has included the development of a comprehensive dataset encompassing mobility, falls, and health parameters in community-living older adults. Other research lines explore areas related to interprofessional education and the competency of healthcare students. Professor Tiernan has a well-defined research agenda earning him national and international recognition as a respected scholar. During his time at UM-Flint, Professor Tiernan has six manuscripts published in top-ranking, first-quartile, peer-reviewed journals where he is first author on four and the second author on one. Professor Tiernan has contributed to nine research posters and platform presentations, including eight at national or international conferences establishing his national/international research reputation. Professor Tiernan clearly satisfies our criteria for promotion with tenure with respect to his research.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Tiernan C, Schwarz D, Goldberg A. (2023). Associations of usual and fast gait speed with physical performance and balance confidence in community-dwelling older adults: Implications for assessment. *Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy* (in press accepted July 2023).
- Tiernan C, Goldberg A. (2023). The original and short versions of the Activities-specific Balance Confidence (ABC) Scale in community-dwelling older adults: Clinical implications based on scale agreement, internal consistencies, and associations with self-rated health. *Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy*. 46(2):132-138. doi: 10.1519/JPT.0000000000000345 Tiernan p.3
- Tiernan C, Schwartz D, Goldberg A. (2022). Dual-task cost of the Enhanced Gait Variability Index in community-dwelling older adults [published online ahead of print, 2022 Sep 28]. *Gait & Posture*. 98:237-239. doi:10.1016/j.gaitpost.2022.09.087
- Trojanowski S, Tiernan C, Yorke A. (2022). Gait speed self-prediction accuracy for people with neurological conditions in inpatient rehabilitation. *Physical Therapy Reviews*. 27(3):239-246. doi: 10.1080/10833196.2022.2039870
- Sherman E, Berg K, Cooper D, Gustitus R, Tiernan C. (2020). Does mode matter? Perception of student competence following an IPE communication experience. *Journal of Interprofessional Education and Practice*. 21, 1000363. doi: 10.1016/j.xjep.2020.100363.

Tiernan C, Fleishman H, Hiscox M, Shaver S, Stauffer S, Thibodeau P. (2019). Investigating factors related to self-rated health in older adults: A clinical approach using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) model. *Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy*, 42(2), 86-97. doi:10.1519/JPT.000000000000130.

Service: Professor Tiernan has played integral roles in various departmental committees: dissertation committees, Research Committee, Student Progress Committee and the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) self-study workgroup. His service as the interim director of the Ph.D. Program underscores his leadership and administrative abilities. His service to the College of Health Sciences involves active membership on the CHS Research Committee, CHS Academic Standards Committee and the Dean's Award Committee. He has contributed to the university by serving on the Nominating Committee ensuring faculty representation in faculty governance and awarding faculty, staff, and student awards. His community service is focused on volunteerism for the United Way of Genesee County and the Chad Tough Foundation. Professionally, Professor Tiernan is an active member of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) and the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). He further supports the profession by reviewing manuscripts for high-impact journals like the *Physical Therapy Journal and Rehabilitation*.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "...I had the opportunity to evaluate Dr. Chad W. Tiernan's research accomplishments and service contributions. For the three manuscripts provided in this review, they were all published in non-predatory journals with an Impact Factor ranging from 0.7-2.7. The manuscripts matched Dr. Tiernan's research foci: balance and gait. In addition, Dr. Tiernan had one platform and eight poster presentations at state/national/international conferences. I believe Dr. Tiernan's P & T documents (three manuscripts and curriculum vitae) provide sufficient evidence that he has met the CHS Criteria for Tenure and Promotion for promotion to Associate Professor with tenure."

Reviewer (B): "...The quality of Dr. Tiernan's work is good with efforts to advance the assessment and measurement tools available to rehabilitation professionals in treatment of older adults. Dr. Tiernan meets the expectations outlined in the College of Health Sciences Criteria for Tenure and Promotion through the quantity, quality, and impact of his scholarly activities. He has shown a good balance of leadership and independent work along with appropriate collaborations."

Reviewer (C): "Dr. Tiernan's work is disseminated in high-level journals and at reputable conferences where his findings make it to those who need them most. With new accreditation rules his training and experience with research will allow him to mentor junior faculty members as they strive to elevate their level of scholarship. His efforts are clearly above the level of Assistant Professor and surpass that of many Associate Professors in this field."

Reviewer (D): "Dr. Tiernan has an active research agenda with a record of scholarly dissemination. Several of Chad's publications are published in prestigious and high impact journals in the field of physical therapy, movement science, and gerontology including The Journal of Physical Therapy, Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics and Gait and Posture

journal. Chad's publications in these journals is an indication of Chad's impact and quality of scholarship. Overall, Dr. Tiernan has a good record of scholarship with an active research agenda. Chad has a distinguished publication record in terms of focus, quality, and impact."

Reviewer (E): "The articles presented in this portfolio provide new implications for geriatric assessment. All three of the articles presented are of good quality and show a competent scholarly impact. Two of the articles mentioned above were published in JGPT which has a high impact factor in the rehabilitation field. I believe that the level and quantity of his research is on par for researchers investigating geriatric physical therapy."

Summary of Recommendation:


Professor Tiernan is an exceptional teacher and researcher. I fully concur with the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee and enthusiastically recommend Chad W. Tiernan for promotion to associate professor of physical therapy, with tenure, Department of Physical Therapy, 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

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