

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY  
COLLEGE OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
PROGRAM IN AMERICAN CULTURE

Alexandra Minna Stern, Ph.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, with tenure, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical School, associate professor of history, without tenure, Department of History, and associate professor of American culture, without tenure, Program in American Culture, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of obstetrics and gynecology, with tenure, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical School, professor of history, without tenure, Department of History, and professor of American culture, without tenure, Program in American Culture, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	University of Chicago
M.A.	1992	University of California, San Diego
B.A.	1990	San Francisco State University

Professional Record:

2007-Present	Associate Professor of History, University of Michigan
2006-Present	Zina Pitcher Collegiate Professor of History of Medicine, University of Michigan
2006-Present	Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Michigan
2006-Present	Associate Professor of American Culture Program, University of Michigan
2002-Present	Associate Director, Center for the History of Medicine, University of Michigan
2002-2006	Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Michigan
2002-2006	Assistant Professor of American Culture Program, University of Michigan
2000-2002	Assistant Professor of History, University of California, Santa Cruz
1999-2000	Interim Associate Director, Historical Center for the Health Sciences, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Stern is a dynamic and devoted teacher on issues of the history of medicine and science, reproduction, gender, ethics, and society in America. She has taught innovative courses and mentored many undergraduate, graduate, and medical students in the history of medicine and medical humanities. Within LS&A, she designed and taught an upper level Residential College

course focusing on the intersections of genetics and society. She developed and co-taught a new course on Physical and Psychological Illness in Literature that debuted in the fall of 2010. In addition, she was the instructor of record for six semesters of Rackham 571 in which students attended seminars in a colloquium series and reported to her on the content. Dr. Stern has given guest lectures in several other courses at Michigan and various outside universities, and she designed a week-long module on Latino health for the Latino Studies course. Since 2002, she has been the faculty sponsor of and has lectured to the Victor Vaughan Medical Student Society, which organizes monthly talks on medical humanities and medical history. At Michigan, Dr. Stern has served on seven dissertation committees and serves on three preliminary exam committees. Externally, she serves on one dissertation committee for the University of Illinois. Dr. Stern has directed four graduate students in independent studies, and has overseen the preparation of two honors theses in history, both of which won awards for scholarly excellence. She has also served as second reader for a Master's thesis completed at the University of Windsor.

Research: Dr. Stern is highly regarded as one of the leading historians of medicine. She has focused her work on the history of eugenics, human genetics, public health, infectious diseases, and reproductive health. She has published 35 peer-reviewed manuscripts, 19 since her promotion in 2006, and she is first or last author on the vast majority of these (and in many instances she is the sole author). Dr. Stern is sole author on all but one of eight book chapters that have been published since 2006, and she has published two books. She also lists numerous non-peer-reviewed papers, chapters, and editorials. Dr. Stern has also developed electronic media on select topics in her field. She has been exceptionally well funded for this work, with grant funding totaling over \$5M since 2005. Currently Dr. Stern serves as principal investigator on a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and co-principal investigator on a Centers for Disease Control grant, and has an Investigator Award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Her recognition in the field is demonstrated further by numerous invited presentations locally, nationally, and internationally, with many leadership positions at meetings. Furthermore, she has received several awards, one of which is for the best book in the history of medicine (Eugenics Nation: Faults and Frontiers of Better Breeding in America).

Service: Dr. Stern serves the Medical School in her capacity as associate director of the Center for the History of Medicine and performs many duties in this position. She directs the Oral History Program, assists alumni and emeriti with historical research projects, and helps to preserve the history of the Medical School and Hospital. In 2009, she was appointed as director of the Program in Contemporary History and Health Policy and is overseeing key aspects of research on pandemic influenza in the current era. As noted above, she serves as a faculty sponsor of the Victor Vaughan Medical Student Society for the History and Philosophy of Medicine, organizing the annual schedule and working closing with medical students. Nationally, she is a member of numerous professional societies and serves as a reviewer for innumerable scientific publications.

### Recent and Significant Publications:

Stern A.M., Cetron MS, and Markel H. eds.: The 1918-1919 Influenza Pandemic in the United States: Lessons Learned and Challenges Exposed. *Public Health Reports* 2010; Supplement 3:125, 2010.

Stern A.M.: A Quiet Revolution: The Birth of the Genetic Counselor at Sarah Lawrence College, 1969. *Journal of Genetic Counseling* 18:1-11, 2009.

Stern A.M.: 'We Cannot Make a Silk Purse out of a Sow's Ear': Eugenics in the Hoosier Heartland, 1900-1960. *Indiana Magazine of History* 103:3-38, 2007.

Stern A.M.: An Empire of Tests: Psychometrics and the Paradoxes of Nationalism in the Americas. In: Stoler, A. (ed.): *Haunted by Empire: Geographies of Intimacy in North American History*. Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 325-343, 2006.

Stern A.M.: Sterilized in the Name of Public Health: Race, Immigration, and Reproductive Control in Modern California. *American Journal of Public Health* 95:1128-1138, 2005.

### External Review:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Stern is best known, internationally, for her research on eugenics on the US west coast in the early to mid twentieth century, presented in *Eugenic Nation*. In the light of that book and the series of subsequent articles, she is now recognized as the leading authority on west coast eugenics...This also places her as a leading authority on US eugenics more generally."

Reviewer B: "Dr. Stern is well-known among historians of American medicine, health and disease....Stern is especially adept at relating such developments to broader cultural and policy questions, so her work continues to have special relevance for medical students, house staff, and allied health professionals."

Reviewer C: "Dr. Stern is a well-recognized and highly respected scholar whose work as a historian of medicine transcends her field. She has done seminal work in the history of the US Eugenics Movement...One of her most valuable contributions is her ability to embed historical analysis within a sound understanding of the underlying scientific, clinical and political questions."

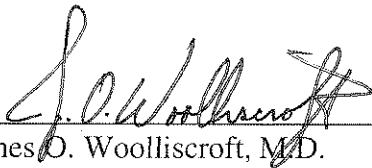
Reviewer D: "In short, she is a leader in our field and would earn the rank of full professor at any top-notch institution in the United States or European Union...In the area of the history of reproductive health, eugenics and sterilization, I would rank her at the top of her profession."

Reviewer E: "First, Dr. Stern is an innovative and productive scholar...Second, Dr. Stern has deservedly developed a national reputation as one of the leading scholars of her generation in the history of medicine...Third, she is unusually creative, disciplined, and productive."

Reviewer F: "...Dr. Stern is among the most promising historians of public health at work today. For someone only a little over ten years out from finishing her doctorate, she has produced a large and important body of scholarship...she has established an international reputation as a leading scholar of public health and eugenics."

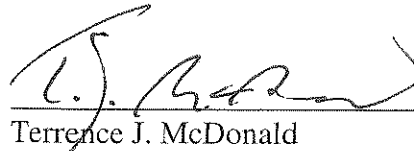
Summary of Recommendation:

Dr. Alexandra Stern has made major and significant contributions to medical history research and education through scientific inquiry, lectures, grant awards from numerous sources and mentoring efforts. She has established herself as one of the leading historians of medicine and her scholarly work in the areas of history of eugenics, human genetics, public health, infectious disease, and reproductive health is widely recognized nationally and internationally. I am pleased to recommend Dr. Alexandra Minna Stern for promotion to professor of obstetrics and gynecology, with tenure, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical School, professor of history, without tenure, Department of History, and professor of American culture, without tenure, Program in American Culture, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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James D. Woolliscroft, M.D.  
Dean  
*Lyle C. Roll Professor of Medicine*



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Terrence J. McDonald  
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,  
Professor of History and Dean  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2011