

APPOINTMENT/PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Willie Wonka, MD, MS, is recommended for promotion to clinical associate professor of pediatrics, on the Clinician-Educator pathway, Department of Pediatrics, Medical School.

Academic Degrees:

M.S.	2013	University of Michigan
M.D.	2005	Rush University
B.S.	2000	Syracuse University

Professional Record:

2017 – Present	Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Michigan
2012 – 2017	Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics University of Michigan
2011 – 2012	Clinical Lecturer, Department of Pediatrics, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching:

Dr. Wonka has a strong interest in education and is a regular contributor to medical student, resident and fellow education in the Division of Pediatric Nephrology. He is actively engaged in bedside teaching and didactics. He has been very involved in the course development and committees for the Transitions to Clerkship course and the Science & Practice of Medicine course for medical students. This also includes small group sessions throughout the year and case reviews. Additionally, Dr. Wonka is a member of the medical school's Doctoring faculty and has been teaching a cohort of first year medical students. He has served as a mentor for the past six years to one resident from each class and is active in both clinical and didactic teaching. He has received numerous awards from the residents for his dedication. For the past several years, his teaching evaluations have been uniformly excellent, and he has been recognized several times with the Pediatric Student Education Award from the University of Michigan Medical School.

Service:

Dr. Wonka has served institutionally on several levels including participating in the Clinical Competency Committee for both the Pediatric Residency and the Pediatric Nephrology Fellowship and as an interviewer for recruitment. Nationally, he is on the steering committee for the Neonatal Kidney Collaborative and the Nephcure Accelerating Cures Institute Steering Committee. As part of the Neonatal Kidney Collaborative, Dr. Wonka is the Co-Chair for the Manuscript Committee. Dr. Wonka was recently elected to serve as the in the Chair the annual American Society of Pediatric Nephrology Meeting in 2021. He was also an abstract reviewer for the World Congress of Nephrology and a poster facilitator for the Pediatric Academic Society.

Professional Work:

Dr. Wonka is highly sought after for his clinical expertise and input. In addition to being the Director of the Pediatric Acute Care Nephrology Program. Dr. Wonka is a dedicated and busy clinician spending a full day per week in outpatient clinic and averaging 10-12 weeks on service per year. He is also involved with outreach to St. Johns Hospital and will be expanding services to Beaumont Hospital this year. Dr. Wonka collaborates with the Pediatric Cardiologists in a multidisciplinary single ventricle clinic, to provide the best care to a complex patient group with significant comorbidities.

Scholarship:

Dr. Wonka's research is primarily focused on pediatric critical care nephrology. He has garnered funding from a variety of sources to support the majority of his research including foundations and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He participates in a number of multicenter collaboratives including the Neonatal Kidney Collaborative, Prospective Pediatric Acute Kidney Injury study group, and the Kidney Interventions During Membrane Oxygenations study group. It is impressive that at this stage of his career, his scholarly work includes 22 peer-reviewed manuscripts, two book chapters, and more than 25 abstracts. Additionally, he is an ad-hoc reviewer for many prestigious journals including *JAMA Pediatrics*, *PLOS One*, and *Pediatric Transplantation*.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Harer MW, Askenazi DJ, Boohaker LJ, Carmody JB, Griffin RL, Guillet R, **Wonka W**, Swanson JR, Charlton JR, Neonatal Kidney Collaborative (NKC).: Association Between Early Caffeine Citrate Administration and Risk of Acute Kidney Injury in Preterm Neonates: Results from the AWAKEN Study. *JAMA Pediatr* 172(6): e180322, 01/2018. PMID: 29610830

Criss CC, **Wonka W**, Sunkara B, Gish JS, Hsieh L, Mcleod JS, Robertson JO, Matusko N, Gadepalli SK. Acute Kidney Injury in Necrotizing Enterocolitis Predicts Mortality. *Pediatr Nephrol*. 2017 Oct 5. PMID: 28983789

Wonka W, Askenazi DJ, Bridges BC, Cooper DS, Fleming GM, Paden ML, Verway M, Sahay R, King E, Zappitelli M. The Impact of Fluid Overload on Outcomes in Children Treated with Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation: a Multi-Centre Retrospective Cohort Study. *Pediatr Crit Care Med*. 2017 Dec;18(12):1126-1135. PMID: 28937504

Wonka W, Charlton JR, Jetton JG, Guillet R, Mhanna MJ, Askenazi DJ, and Kent AL. State of the Art Review: Neonatal Acute Kidney Injury. *Pediatrics*. 2015 Aug;136(2):e463-73. PMID: 26169430

Wonka W, Cornell TT, Heung M, Troost J, Ehrmann BJ, Lombel RM, Blatt NB, Luckritz K, Hieber S, Gajarski R, Kershaw DB, Shanley TP, and Gipson DS. Validation of the KDIGO acute kidney injury criteria in a pediatric critical care population. *Intensive Care Med*. 2014 Oct;40(10):1481-8.

Reviewer Quotes:

Reviewer A: "While I cannot comment on the clinical care he affords his patients, though I do not doubt that it is excellent, his work in acute kidney injury, its diagnosis and its long-term ramifications has greatly impacted the approach to care children, world-wide... He has performed

primary data analysis, ancillary studies and been a writing chare for ALL of these national cooperatives. This is a testament to his enormous contributions to these studies as well as the very high esteem in which he is held by his colleagues both regionally and nationally.”

Reviewer B: “In my opinion, Dr. Wonka has achieved national recognition in his specialty field and demonstrates outstanding service, and excellence in teaching and scholarship. Dr. Wonka has rapidly created a role and national respect for his service to his field. He has become a key national committee member in Nephrology collaborative work including the National Kidney Multidisciplinary Collaborative and the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology... Dr. Wonka has also demonstrated excellence in teaching, served as a strong mentor for a number of post-graduate trainees at University of Michigan. He has routinely received faculty awards at the University for resident teaching. Nationally, he is recognized as an excellent speaker and has provided a number of well-received invited presentations regionally and nationally.”

Reviewer C: “Dr. Wonka’s career has been highlighted already by excellence in scholarly activities, teaching, clinical service, and service at the national level. Dr. Wonka is largely regarded at the national level as an expert in acute kidney injury and specifically neonatal acute kidney injury...He has received the Top Resident Teacher Award in the Department of Pediatrics three times since 2012... Dr. Wonka has transformed the landscape of the Division of Pediatric Nephrology since joining faculty at the University of Michigan in 2010.”

Reviewer D: “I have followed Dr. Wonka’s scholarly and professional activities as he has become very well known for his leadership in the collaborative networks looking at AKI in the neonate. He is also well known for clinical expertise in technical solutions to acute kidney injury especially in the infant and younger child...From a clinical prospective, Dr. Wonka has become “go to” person for issues with dialysis in small infants, and he is seen as consistently thoughtful, helpful, and accurate...Dr. Wonka is clearly in the top 10% of his peer group.”

Reviewer E: “I can confidently say that he is one of the most capable and relied-upon pediatric nephrologists at our institution, not only by me but also by my all other urology colleagues. His clinical care is thorough, fully evidence-based, and totally compassionate and patient-centered... I reviewing his CV, I am also very impressed with how well he is connected with regional and national pediatric nephrology academic network, resulting in many collaborative publications... I have heard many complementary remarks about his professionalism and respect for others.”

Reviewer F: “Willie has been of great help in coordinating the care of these complex patients. Since joining the faculty he has been a welcome and dependable colleague. It is not faint praise when we can confidently refer someone and then not need to worry about further follow up. We are confident that the referral will be followed through with excellent care...I believe that Dr. Wonka’s scholarly and professional work is well above many of these who are in the same promotion category.”

Career Development (Junior Level only)

Example Career Development plans can be found here: [Department User Drop Box folder](#)

Summary of Recommendations

Dr. Willie Wonka has developed a successful career as an academic pediatric nephrologist. He is highly regarded by his peers and is recognized for his expertise in clinical care, education, and research. He has garnered a national reputation as a clinical investigator and has been a valuable leader at our Institution. I enthusiastically support his proposed promotion to Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics.

Marschall S. Runge, MD, PhD
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs
Dean, Medical School