

Dear Colleagues,

Many of you have raised concerns about the impact of COVID-19 on research-track faculty.

We fully understand how disruptive this time has been for you, your families, trainees, research teams, and your overall academic productivity. As this relates to time in rank for research investigators, assistant research scientists and research assistant professors, the Office of Research has determined that our existing policies allow us to be flexible and supportive of COVID-related requests for additional time:

<https://research.umich.edu/appointments-promotions>.

Research investigators have a four-year review cycle. With a granted COVID-19 exception, the review cycle will be extended to a five-year period. Assistant research scientists or research assistant professors who are granted a COVID-19 exception may defer the promotion review for one year.

The process is explained on the Office of Faculty Affairs website at:

<https://faculty.medicine.umich.edu/office-faculty-affairs/research-track/time-rank>.

Criteria for an extension or deferral include:

- The faculty member's research productivity was greatly reduced because of laboratory or research unit closure, or shelter-in-home requirements for the research team due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The faculty member had to provide dependent care during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The faculty member or immediate family member required care due to COVID-19 infection.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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