UMMS Draft Definition of Scholarship

To achieve academic advancement at UMMS, faculty must demonstrate scholarship individually or through contribution(s) to a team. Scholarship has three essential components: advancement of knowledge, dissemination, and impact.

- **Scholarship advances research, education or practice through discovery, integration, application or transmission of knowledge.** Scholarly activities can include the discovery of new knowledge through investigation, the integration of knowledge to generate new understanding, the application of knowledge to provide new solutions for individuals or communities, or the development of novel educational approaches for the transmission of knowledge. Scholarship is valued in each of the three missions of research, education and clinical practice.

- **Scholarship must be in a form that is disseminated and evaluated, allowing critical review.** Scholarly work results from a rigorous and structured approach and includes peer-reviewed publications; books, book chapters and reviews; innovative educational materials; peer-reviewed meeting abstracts and presentations; patents, new therapies and technologies; and evidence-based products such as policy statements, safety and quality studies, innovations in patient care, and clinical guidelines.

- **Scholarship has a measurable impact at the local, regional, national or international level on a discipline, practice or community.** For example, a research discovery influences the direction of a field or provides a platform for others to build on; a meta-analysis integrates an area of knowledge for new policies or guidelines; application of knowledge to clinical practice improves the health of individuals or communities; a novel educational approach enhances learning.

**Assessment of Scholarship**

The scholarship of a candidate is assessed by the quality and quantity of a body of scholarly work, and the depth and breadth of impact of the scholarship. The quality, quantity and impact of scholarly work should be judged in the context of the field or discipline of scholarship. The specific contributions of the candidate to the scholarly work must be clear and substantial. In particular, scholarly contributions to multi and interdisciplinary collaborations should be supported by statements of the candidate’s role and intellectual contributions to the work. The impact of scholarship may be determined by statements by external evaluators and measures of the influence of the work on the discipline, practice or community. The breadth of impact of the scholarship (local, regional, national, international) is expected to expand with academic rank.

The academic reputation of a candidate also reflects their scholarly impact and can be assessed by measures such as:

- the impact of the candidate’s publications
- invitations to speak on the area of the candidate’s scholarship
- contributions to professional organizations
- leadership responsibilities
- funding to conduct research, educational projects, or clinical innovations
- service on committees developing guidelines or policies
- service on review panels
- service as a consultant
- service as a peer reviewer, on editorial boards or as editor of a journal
- awards