

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
February 7, 2025**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR RICHARD FRANKEL
A Recommendation**

1. Division and Department: Academic Affairs, Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

2. Introduction: In accordance with Article IX of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, honorary degrees may be awarded by the Board of Trustees in recognition of distinguished accomplishment and service within the scope of the arts and letters, sciences, professions, and public service as recognized and supported by the University. The awarding of honorary degrees reaffirms Oakland University's scholarly, creative, and humanitarian values and ties the University to the community at large.

Dr. Frankel serves as Professor of Medicine at Indiana University, Research Scientist at the Indiana University Center for Health Services and Outcomes Research in the Regenstrief Institute, and Core Investigator at the VA HSR&D Center for Health Information and Communication at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center. Dr. Frankel has embodied the values of empathy and patient-centered care that animate the teaching and training of our medical and health science students. Across more than 250 publications and countless efforts at teaching, training, outreach, and mentoring, and the development of programs like Mapping the Landscape, Dr. Frankel has championed the importance of seeing the doctor.-patient relationship in all of its social and emotional contexts, and centering medical practice in the conversations that take place between doctors and patients.

Dr. Frankel currently leads the Advanced Scholars Program for Internists in Research and Education (ASPIRE) program where he has served as mentor for over 35 research fellows and 15 early career faculty. Dr. Frankel's long and distinguished career has already been recognized in numerous ways, including the American Academy on Physician and Patient's George Engel Award and the Lynn Payer Award, though perhaps most impactful is the Richard Frankel Award for Creating a Loving Community, which was established in 2018 by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Research Institute in recognition of Dr. Frankel's work.

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Based on his work we recommend that Dr. Richard Frankel be awarded a Doctor of Medicine, honoris causa from the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine at 2 PM on Friday, May 9, 2025.

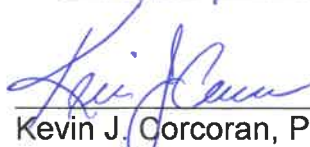
3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees periodically awards honorary degrees at its Formal Sessions.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** The awarding of honorary degrees is an established tradition in academe, by which the University reaffirms its scholarly, creative, and humanitarian values and its ties to the wider community.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost has recommended approval of the recipient to receive an Honorary Degree.
8. **Recommendation:**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees award the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine *Honoris Causa* to Richard Frankel.
9. **Attachments:** None.

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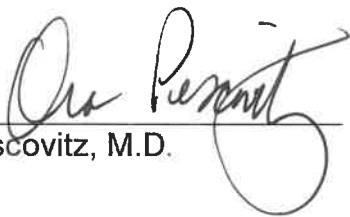
Submitted to the President

on 1/28/25, 2025 by



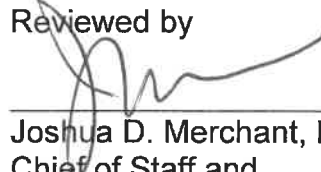
Kevin J. Corcoran, Ph.D.
Interim Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 1/30, 2025
to the Board for Approval by



Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

Reviewed by



Joshua D. Merchant, Ph.D.
Chief of Staff and
Secretary to the Board of Trustees