

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
February 6, 2023**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR MICHAEL TRESE
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. Michael Trese was unanimously the committee's top choice for this honor. His career is beyond impressive and his long-standing involvement with Oakland University is truly awe-inspiring.

Dr. Trese is currently considered by many to be the father of modern pediatric vitreoretinal surgery. His nominators note: "Dr. Trese refined his surgical techniques, which have now become the standard operating procedure for pediatric retinal surgery. Over the past few decades, Dr. Trese has taught his techniques to hundreds of pediatric surgeons worldwide, resulting in the saving of sight for thousands of affected infants. Before Dr. Trese's revolutionary surgical procedures, children with severe pediatric eye disease had little or no hope of regaining sight."

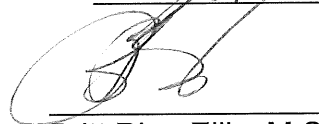
His impressive career has resulted in over 300 published articles and numerous awards including the Laureate Recognition Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology in 2021. He also founded a nonprofit foundation known as the Pediatric Retinal Research Foundation (PRRF), a not-for-profit foundation dedicated to funding clinically-relevant basic science and clinical research to eliminate retinopathy of prematurity and associated retinal diseases. The PRRF website <https://www.pediatricn-f.org/> serves as an international resource for families of children with pediatric eye disease.

Dr. Trese's involvement with Oakland University began in 1982. It is not an understatement to say that he has been a critical component of the success of the Eye Research Institute. Dr. Trese recently passed away, so this would be awarded posthumously.

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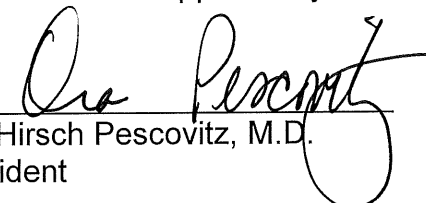
3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees periodically awards honorary degrees at its Formal Sessions.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** The awarding of honorary degrees is an established tradition in academe, by which the University reaffirms its scholarly, 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 awards the honorary degree of Doctor of Science *Honoris Causa* to Michael Trese.
9. **Attachments:** None.

Submitted to the President
on 2/3, 2023 by

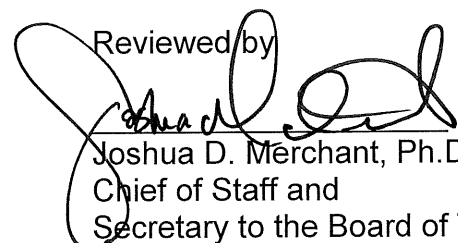


Britt Rios-Ellis, M.S., Ph.D.
Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 2/1, 2023
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