

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

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR LAINIE FRIEDMAN ROSS  
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. Ross's scholarship and leadership in bioethics, particularly in issues related to the ethical care of children, have been groundbreaking and transformative. She is arguably the most influential, accomplished, and important pediatric ethicist of our time.

She is a 1982 graduate of Princeton University where she earned a bachelor's degree from the School of Public and International Affairs (Previously the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs). In 1986, Dr. Ross earned her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She then trained in Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and New York-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, and earned an MPhil and Ph.D. in philosophy from Yale University, in 1992 and 1996, respectively.

Dr. Ross has made foundational and transformative contributions to many of the most pressing ethical issues in pediatrics and in medicine, more generally. Her core areas of expertise include ethical and policy issues in pediatrics, clinical decision-making, death and organ transplantation, genetics/genomics, clinical research ethics, and human subject protections.

Her work plays a central role in the Medical Humanities and Clinical Bioethics (MHCB) curriculum at OUWB and in the undergraduate bioethics education offered at OU. For instance, all of the MHCB coursework on neuroethics draws on Dr. Ross's work, and at least three of the current MHCB3 seminars are focused entirely or primarily on aspects of her work (in pediatric ethics, transplantation ethics, and end-of-life ethics).

Dr. Ross's work has also been instrumental in the development of various ethics-related clinical simulations—for example, Dr. Brummett's brain death simulation—for OUWB students and trainee physicians at Corewell (formerly Beaumont) Health. Furthermore, her

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work has inspired many papers written by Professors Jason Wasserman, Abram Brummett, and Mark Navin.

She has mentored Dr. Navin, and has invited Drs. Wasserman and Navin to publish journal articles and participate in research symposia. Dr. Ross has published five books, over 225 peer-reviewed journal articles, and book chapters, and is currently writing a sixth book examining ethical issues related to siblings in health care.

An in-demand speaker for national and international events, she has been awarded prestigious honors and academic appointments including the Kellogg National Leadership Class, Hastings Center Fellow, the Patricia Price Browne Prize in Biomedical Ethics, and John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow. In 2015, Dr. Ross received the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) William G. Bartholome Award for Ethical Excellence; this is the AAP's highest award for contributions to pediatric ethics.

Having served in leadership roles in various national and international committees and organizations, Dr. Ross has authored many important position statements for these institutions. She has led the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Bioethics; the American Academy of Pediatrics Executive Committee of the Section on Bioethics; the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Advisory Committee for Human Research Protections; the United Network for Organ Sharing Ethics Committee; the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities Board of Directors; the Illinois Department of Public Health, Genetic and Metabolic Diseases Advisory Committee; and the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics Social, Ethical and Legal Implications Committee.

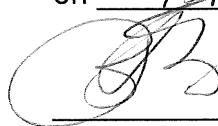
Dr. Ross currently serves as the University of Chicago's Carolyn and Matthew Bucksbaum Professor of Clinical Medical Ethics, as well as a professor in the Departments of Pediatrics, Medicine, and Surgery. She is co-director of the Institute for Translational Medicine and associate director of the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics. In January 2023, Dr. Ross will be appointed as the inaugural chair of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry's new Department of Health Humanities and Bioethics. She will also serve as the next director of the Paul M. Schyve, MD Center for Bioethics.

Dr. Lainie Friedman Ross embodies the core values of clinical ethics and humanistic medicine for which Oakland University is emerging as a national leader. The impressive nature of her achievements reflects values that are shared by faculty, staff, and students across Oakland University. Accordingly, we cannot think of a more qualified or deserving candidate for an Oakland University honorary degree than Dr. Lainie Friedman Ross, MD, Ph.D.

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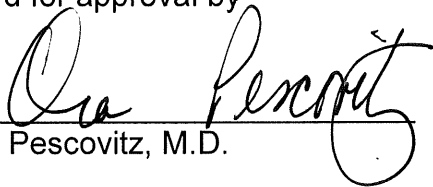
3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees periodically awards honorary degrees at its Formal Sessions.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** The awarding of honorary degrees is an established tradition in academe, by which the University reaffirms its scholarly,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

Submitted to the President  
on 1/31, 2023 by



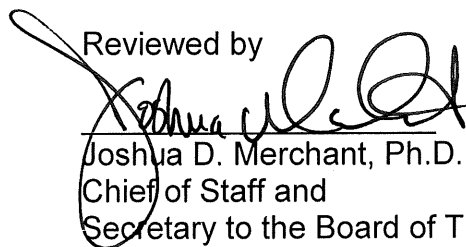
Britt Rios-Ellis, M.S., Ph.D.  
Executive Vice President for  
Academic Affairs and Provost

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