

ORA HIRSCH PESCOVITZ, M.D.
PRESIDENT, OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
Biography

Oakland University President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D. has more than 30 years of experience leading positive and significant change in academic health centers and universities. The cumulative impact of the changes implemented under her guidance has had transformative effects on the internal dynamics and external relations at the institutions where she has served.



Her tenure at Oakland began in July 2017. Drawing on her distinctive style of seeking feedback while inspiring stakeholders about the possibilities of higher education and a public university, Dr. Pescovitz's presidential term is distinguished by elevating Oakland as a national model university for its public health and safety policies, community engagement initiatives and an increased level of state funding that supports student success, research and an inclusive and welcoming campus. Furthermore, her focus on making college accessible and affordable is a driving force in *The Wall Street Journal's* ranking of Oakland as the best value among its peer institutions, and transforming the university as a vital "talent pipeline" for the region.

Dr. Pescovitz is in the forefront of university presidents advocating for a greater role for education, civility in public life and moral clarity in response to issues and events shaping public discourse. In her outspoken advocacy, she has authored op-eds on her "four guiding principles" by which to keep campuses' safe while upholding the First Amendment.

She is a vociferous proponent for nonpartisan, non-ideological thought and supporting a university's mission "to foster well-informed, independent reasoning and humble inquiry about complicated issues of history, power and justice."

A renowned pediatric endocrinologist and researcher, Dr. Pescovitz is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, and has published more than 180 papers and books.

Prior to her appointment at Oakland, she served as Senior Vice President and U.S. Medical Leader for Eli Lilly and Company; Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs at the University of Michigan and Chief Executive Officer for Michigan Medicine. Before working at U-M, Dr. Pescovitz was President and CEO at Riley Hospital for Children, Executive Associate Dean for Research at Indiana University School of Medicine and Interim Vice President for Research at Indiana University.

Dr. Pescovitz earned her medical degree from Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine where she was awarded Distinguished Alumni Awards from both the Feinberg School of Medicine and Northwestern University.

She has received numerous awards for research, teaching, and leadership, including being named a Distinguished Hoosier by Indiana's Governor; Lifetime Achievement award from the Human Growth Foundation, Detroit Crain's Newsmakers of the Year; Crain's 100 Most Influential Women, Michigan Business Women Hall of Fame, 2023; and, the 2023 Citizen's Research Council of Michigan Eugene A. Gargaro, Jr. Public Service Award.

She is a proud mother to three children, three in-law children, and nine grandchildren. Her partner, Dr. Daniel Walsh is a cardiologist at the Corewell Health System.