

Dr. Bennet Givens  
University Senate  
119 Independence Hall  
1923 Neil Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210

September 5, 2017

Dear Dr. Givens,

The Honorary Degrees Committee of the University Senate has carefully reviewed the dossier of Dr. Atul Gawande for an honorary degree from The Ohio State University. Dr. Christopher Ellison, Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs, College of Medicine, brought forward the nomination.

Dr. Gawande is an influential and world-renowned medical educator. He is an esteemed surgeon, gifted writer, pioneering researcher, thought leader and public health advocate. He practices general and endocrine surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and is a professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Samuel O. Thier Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School. He is also executive director of Ariadne Labs, a joint center for health systems innovation, and Chairman of Lifebox, a nonprofit that works on reducing deaths in surgery globally. Dr. Gawande has written extensively on medicine and public health. He is the author of the books *Complications*, *Better*, *The Checklist Manifesto*, and *Being Mortal*.

His 2015 book, *Being Mortal: Illness, Medicine and What Matters at the End*, is a valuable contribution to the growing literature on aging, death and dying. It is also a call for a change in the philosophy of health care. Gawande writes that members of the medical profession, himself included, have been wrong about what their job is. Rather than ensuring health and survival, it is “to enable well-being.”

Dr. Gawande is without a doubt among the leading young surgeons in the country. He is also one of the most extraordinary and influential clinical health service's researchers and scholars in the United States today. He has provided a uniquely sensitive and positive voice for surgery and medicine in general.

By an unanimous vote, the Committee recommends that Dr. Atul Gawande's dossier be forwarded to the University Senate for their consideration, and recommends the title of Doctorate of Science *honoris causa*.

Respectfully submitted,

Jose O. Diaz, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Chair, Senate Honorary Degrees Committee

