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Dr. Franzblau graduated from the University of California School of Medicine in San Diego, completed residency training in Internal Medicine at the University of Washington, and had advanced training in Occupational and Environmental Medicine at The Mount Sinai Hospital in New York before joining the faculty at the University of Michigan School of Public Health in 1989. He is board certified in both Internal Medicine and Preventive/Occupational Medicine, and he is a certified B reader. His professional activities include teaching, research, and the practice of clinical occupational medicine.

Research interests include occupational and environmental chemical exposures (such as dioxins in the environment), occupational lung disease (including studies of respiratory effects of metal removal fluids), and work-related musculoskeletal disorders. He also holds academic appointments at the University of Michigan Medical School and College of Engineering.