



Montefiore

From the OFFICE OF THE DEAN



Dear Einstein Community:

As we emerge from this phase of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, I want to thank everyone in our community for their inspiring work under exceedingly difficult circumstances. As a medical school and health system, we have a lot to be proud of, yet, in so many ways, our work remains unfinished.

As the health crisis ebbs in our community, we continue to be reminded of the turmoil around us driven by social inequities that have been made painfully obvious by those most impacted by COVID-19. The pandemic has also highlighted the growing divide in economic opportunities between those who are enfranchised and those, largely minority communities, who are not—and suffer as a result.

In the context of this global crisis, we are tragically reminded of these disturbing societal issues by the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25. His senseless death is the latest in a history of unjust acts perpetrated on African-American men, which has triggered appropriate outrage, and underscores the right of people to protest and petition the government for sorely needed change. While there have been expressions of violence, thankfully, most demonstrations have been peaceful protests by concerned citizens who are no longer willing to tolerate injustice.

I understand that virtually all of our students, faculty and staff—and especially those of color—feel the impact of these hateful acts with a great sense of fear, anxiety, and apprehension. Yet I also believe that we can all play a part in addressing, and hopefully correcting, the deep-seated problems that are impacting our country.

Much of what we are witnessing involves social issues that we *can* influence.

Therefore, I hope you'll join me in sharing your concern for and providing support to those on our campus who may feel threatened and disheartened by the seemingly endless injustices experienced in far too many minority communities. As part of this effort, I also want to remind everyone of the resources we have available for helping those in our community who are struggling to cope with this tragedy.

These recent events remind us that we each must provide a voice to the voiceless and demand respect for the rights and equitable treatment of everyone in our community. Fairness and equity in education, housing, jobs, healthcare, and respectful policing is essential for a healthy, functioning society and calls for a comprehensive approach to change that requires the involvement of each and every one of us.

Social justice has deep roots at both Einstein and Montefiore. I am proud that we as a community have been directly involved in these issues, with the goal of making our world a better, healthier place.

Above all else, we must be united in our resolve to effect change that is so desperately needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Tomaselli', with a stylized, flowing script.

Gordon F. Tomaselli, M.D.

The Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer

Montefiore Medicine