



Montefiore

From the OFFICE OF THE DEAN



Dear Einstein Community:

As we are now several weeks into the academic year, I wanted to provide some important updates that will impact everyone in our community. Many of the issues were discussed during Wednesday's faculty senate meeting, but I thought it would be useful to share them with those of you who could not attend via Zoom.

COVID-19—I'll begin by applauding the efforts of many at Einstein—faculty, students, postdocs, and staff—for their combined efforts to keep our campus safe during the pandemic. Yvonne Ramirez reported this week that while more people are returning to work on campus (65% of the workforce today versus 57% in June), the number of documented cases of COVID-19 reported to Einstein since March has remained low—44 cases among our students, faculty, and employees; the last such case was reported more than a month ago and that was at an off-campus location. Although these numbers are encouraging, we must remain vigilant. Therefore, I encourage everyone to review our COVID-19 guidelines and procedures in the [Everyday Essentials](#) and [Campus Safety](#) sections of our internal COVID-19 site and to read a reminder of Einstein's COVID-19 compliance efforts that was sent in [an e-blast](#) to our community yesterday afternoon. We each are obligated to stay home from work when not feeling well and to report any COVID-19 symptoms to our occupational health service at 718-430-3141.

Diversity and Inclusion—During this week's senate meeting, Dr. Nerys Benfield provided a number of important updates, including the fact that her office will be issuing the first of what will be a continuing series of newsletters reporting on the progress Einstein is making in diversity and inclusion, with specific focus on achievements, opportunities, and teachings from our diverse and inspiring Einstein community. Dr. Benfield's office will also soon release a summary of the Town Hall meetings that were held in June, following the murder of George Floyd and the subsequent national protests. I encourage each of you to [review the videos and transcripts](#) of these sessions.

Additionally, Dr. Benfield reported on the launch of a significant new initiative called *Use Your Voice*, which aims to promote effective advocacy of diversity and inclusion issues. The first event will take the form of a virtual telethon/hackathon, scheduled for October 28, from noon to 6 p.m., and will involve advocates from both inside and outside Einstein, including local political leaders. Details of the event will be provided shortly. I also want to note that the diversity and inclusion lounge, located on the fifth floor of Belfer, near the office of diversity enhancement, is now open, and I hope many of you will take advantage of this wonderful new public space.

Strategic Management Review—For much of the past year, Einstein and Montefiore have been conducting a strategic management review during which we have gathered valuable information about our research operations and educational enterprise. This endeavor will have important implications for our future. While I don't have specific details to share at this time, we will soon be communicating about this initiative and the impact it will have on our community.

Middle States Commission on Higher Education Visit—Middle States will be visiting our campus later this month to review the self-assessment that Einstein has been conducting for much of the past year. The visit, by the chair of the site visit team, will be followed by the final review by the full team this coming March. These represent the final steps to Einstein receiving full accreditation as an independent, degree-granting medical school from Middle States. This has been an extremely valuable effort, as well as a demanding and time-consuming one, and I want to give special thanks to Drs. Ed Burns, Penny Grossman, and Ariel Fishman, who have led Einstein's team.

Welcome Dr. Chu—Last week, [Dr. Ed Chu](#) assumed his position as director of our NCI-designated Albert Einstein Cancer Center and vice president of cancer medicine at Montefiore, and I want to offer him a warm welcome. He will lead one of our most important centers, which will play a vital role in the future of both Einstein and Montefiore in the years ahead.

Finally, as the November election draws near, I want to strongly encourage everyone to vote. Regardless of how you cast your ballot, everyone should have a voice in this election—and make sure that their voice is heard.

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