



Montefiore

*From the* OFFICE OF THE DEAN



**Dear Einstein Community:**

The 2020 election was a bruising, tumultuous, often unseemly affair. But there now seems to be general agreement and growing recognition that Joe Biden is our president-elect—and that we can finally move on. Of course, very little in our world of late has followed normal, historical patterns and that's the case with this election. The results, as we all know, are being contested. While it's impossible to predict the outcome of these efforts, it is obvious that a large segment of our nation questions the legitimacy of this election. Our nation, as a result, remains divided.

I was, nonetheless, reassured by President-Elect Biden's prime time speech to the nation on Saturday night and by the historic and moving remarks by Kamala Harris, the vice president-elect. Their tone was one that seemed right for the occasion—stressing unity over division, reconciliation over lingering bitterness and, above all, hope over fear. And Vice President-Elect Harris' presence—as our first woman and first person of color to hold that position—spoke volumes about the changes that need to take place in our society at large.

I'll also confess to being an optimist: believing that our country, taken as a whole, will follow the better angels of our nature. In doing so, I envision us gradually coming together as a nation and beginning to heal.

As I look to the future, it is my most fervent hope that we can rebuild respect for science and all the wonderful things that it produces for our society. One of the most important and immediate tasks of the scientific community is producing a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine that will help control the current pandemic. On that positive note, media outlets today reported that Pfizer is producing a

vaccine that is 90% effective in clinical trials. If this news, in fact, becomes reality, then it represents an astounding scientific achievement in record time.

As far as Einstein and Montefiore are concerned, I envision a world where there will be additional resources available for biomedical science that will allow our investigators and graduate students to pursue their necessary and important research. I am also hopeful that we will have principled debate over healthcare policy and the full, unqualified realization that healthcare is the right of every American. This has important implications for our students as we want them to practice medicine in an environment where everyone has access to the best possible care, including our Bronx community, which is burdened by significant health disparities.

One of the objectives of our medical training is to ensure our students develop the confidence and ability to act as advocates for their patients, including promoting societal and policy changes that impact health. I know that many of our students served in this role during this past election, as did countless faculty and staff. That is part of our mission at Einstein and Montefiore: to fight for what is right for those we serve and pursue our goal of social justice for everyone in our society.

In closing, I have reflected on how our institution has been shaped by the values of Albert Einstein, who in a gesture of great generosity gave his name to the College of Medicine. While arguably the most famous and revolutionary scientist of his or any other generation, he was a great humanist as well. He fought for human and civil rights, for a peaceful and non-violent world, and for social justice in all its manifestations.

I am extremely proud that the College of Medicine is named after him, just as I am extremely proud of all of you who advocated for positive change over the past several months and of a world that will allow Einstein and Montefiore to do our best work in the years ahead. Just as important, we must all remain deeply committed at an institutional and personal level to eliminate the systemic racism and health inequities that persist in our society—both major issues in the 2020 campaign. Because, in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, *"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."*

**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*