



Montefiore

From the OFFICE OF THE DEAN



Dear Einstein Community:

Last night kicked off the first night of celebrating Chanukah, (also spelled Hanukkah), which is known as the "festival of lights." The Hebrew word "Chanukah" translates to "dedication," denoting the rededication of the Holy Temple that the Jews, led by Judah the Maccabee, performed following their defeat of the mighty Greek army that had sought to deny them their religious freedom. In recalling the feat of the much smaller Maccabee army, it is said that "a miracle happened there."

This year, "light," "dedication," and miracles are especially poignant for all of us. The year 2020 has been particularly unsettling as the novel coronavirus produced a global pandemic that has been life-changing for everyone. As of this writing, we are nearing 16 million COVID-19 cases in our nation alone and 70 million worldwide, with more than 290,000 American lives lost and nearly 1.6 million deaths globally. So, to have light at a time like this is important. It offers hope for a better future and helps us to see things more clearly. It makes what's dark less daunting.

Shedding light on hope, recent news of vaccines that may soon be available in the coming year offer us the promise of a future less encumbered by COVID-19 concerns. It also reminds us of the great potential that scientific inquiry offers society, as these protective treatments are developed thanks to the many advances in technology that made quicker discovery and trial studies possible. Some might even call it miraculous.

The news also reminds us that until such time that we can get the vaccine, we must remain dedicated in our ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of the virus. To borrow from the notion of the Jews rededicating their Holy Temple to the

service of God, we must rededicate ourselves to persevering the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, particularly overcoming our fatigue in doing the simple, practical things that can keep us all safe.

So, in the spirit of Chanukah (or Hanukkah), please join me in wishing our Einstein community members who mark this holiday commemorating miracles a most joyous celebration. May it be filled with light and hope, endless potato latkes, jelly donuts, and dreidel playing, and may each of you find safe ways for connecting with your loved ones at this time that requires caution. To add to the festivities, I offer this [festive video](#) and [this Chanukah hit](#) paying tribute to the Broadway show Hamilton (both recorded pre-pandemic).

With best wishes,

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

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