



Montefiore

From the OFFICE OF THE DEAN



December 22, 2020

Dear Einstein Community:

Earlier this week, we passed from autumn to winter, the season of rest and renewal, when nature dials down its activity level so it can emerge in spring revitalized and stronger. As we prepare to navigate the upcoming holidays in new and creative ways that keep us and our loved ones safe, we would do well to take a page from Mother Nature and use this new season to recharge both our energy and our ongoing efforts to overcome “corona fatigue.”

With 2020 drawing to a close, I want to reiterate how proud I am of each of you as you’ve endured a truly grueling year of unknowns, doubts, and changing conditions. Through it all, you’ve demonstrated what is special about Einstein—its people.

Since my days as a medical student, the College of Medicine has been an institution whose values reflect its heart. Whether on campus or remotely, your dedication has kept our research and education programs humming, despite unprecedented challenges. As Einstein family, you’ve supported each other and also taken the time to care for those in our local community. Time and again, you’ve risen above the pandemonium produced by this pandemic.

But COVID-19 was just one of a multitude of stresses that 2020 offered. The need to truly acknowledge, examine, and dismantle deep-seated systemic racism was revealed as a core issue. And, of course, we all experienced a presidential election that laid bare the deep divisions that reside within our nation. These will continue to be major concerns and areas of focus at Einstein and around the nation in 2021, yet I feel confident that we will deal with them in a positive and constructive manner.

What's more, for some of us, 2020 brought the loss of loved ones, whether from COVID-19 or other causes. I offer my condolences to everyone who suffered such a painful loss during this most difficult year. May you find comfort in cherished memories and from the support of loved ones, friends, and colleagues.

Yet even during challenging times, there is much to be grateful for. As we count our blessings for this year, let's remember that we are fortunate to live at a time when scientific advances are possible in ways we never imagined. Before now, it took *years* for a vaccine to be available; in less than a year, we are on the brink of having three. That is a truly astounding accomplishment.

As we await the arrival of vaccines at Einstein, I wish peace, health, and happiness to each of you and to your families during the holiday season, as well as a new year that will hopefully offer a return to normalcy. Until then, let's remain diligent about protecting each other as we face the next chapter in this unusual period in our history.

It might help to recall that Albert Einstein once said, "I never think of the future—it comes soon enough." Soon enough will be most welcome.

With sincere 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

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer

Montefiore Medicine