



Montefiore

*From the* OFFICE OF THE DEAN



## Dear Einstein Community:

We've now been living with COVID-19 for a year, and I want to take a moment to say how proud I am of our success in keeping our campus community safe and strong. It has been a true team effort.

If you've viewed [our COVID-19 dashboard](#) recently, the numbers tell the story. While we experienced the same increase in cases as the general population following the major holidays in November and December, the situation changed dramatically in February and, so far, in March. New cases are very low—in fact, we have had no new cases reported during the past week. Our dashboard numbers reflect all members of our campus community, both those coming to Einstein and those working and learning remotely.

We were successful, despite corona “fatigue,” because virtually all of you made the effort to wear masks around others, safely distance when coming together, keep group interactions small, and put other recommended precautions into practice.

## **Recognizing Student Contributions and Other Community Member Excellence**

As [reported on our website](#), nearly 100 Einstein medical students have logged many hundreds of hours as volunteer vaccinators and vaccine coordinators in the Bronx, helping to meet the demand for shots. I want to personally thank these students for stepping up during this time of extreme need. You are fulfilling a critical role, providing a most-important public health service.

I am also pleased to share with you that fourth-year M.D. student Kristin Williams has been awarded the 2021 Excellence in Public Health Award from the U.S. Public Health Service. This is a huge honor and one that is richly deserved. Kristin has been a student leader at Einstein and beyond, including serving as Region IX

Director of the SNMA this past year, something we [highlighted in a web story](#) about Kristin that was published in early 2020.

Also noteworthy was the honoring of four members of the Einstein community by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. in celebration of Black History Month. Mr. Diaz surprised these honorees at a pop-up ceremony in Lubin Dining Hall on Wednesday, February 17. He recognized each with a citation of merit for their contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The honorees were Dr. Deborah White, associate professor and vice chair of emergency medicine in Montefiore's Weiler Division, and three officers on the Einstein security team: Sadie Young, Richard Assam, and Virgil Robinson. Please join me in congratulating these honorees and in thanking them for their dedicated service.

### **Einstein's Continuing Excellence**

Other positive news is reflected in a recent analysis by the [Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research](#), which reported that Einstein is among the top performers in the country in total NIH funding and in strategic areas of research.

Each year, Blue Ridge releases its analysis of NIH funding, ranking medical schools and individual departments by total award dollars. Based on 2020 NIH funding, Einstein ranked #30 in the nation in total funding. Despite our relatively modest faculty size, this places Einstein firmly among nationally elite institutions, such as Harvard Medical School (#38), Weill Cornell Medical College (#27), the University of Southern California (#32), the University of Chicago (#31), and University of Miami School of Medicine (#40).

Blue Ridge also ranked departments by total funding, and several of our basic science and clinical departments at Einstein and Montefiore placed in the top 15 nationally, which you can review by reading our [recent press release](#). In another ranking, published by *U.S. News & World Report* in fall 2020, Einstein ranked #12 in NIH funding dollars per principal investigator, demonstrating the high productivity of our research faculty. All the data reflects the outstanding work of those involved in conducting research at Einstein.

### **National Women's Day & Women's History Month**

In closing, I want to remind everyone that our nation celebrated National Women's Day earlier this week and that March is Women's History Month. Since our founding, women have played an integral and vital role in Einstein's

success. Recent examples include those mentioned in this letter, those highlighted on our diversity & inclusion website in a [story on Einstein's Black women scientists](#), and numerous others. And our Women in Science Day, which took place last month, celebrated the many accomplishments of women who have made major contributions to the excellence of our research and educational programs. (Watch for a story posting on our intranet soon.)

Both Einstein and Montefiore have benefited greatly from the roles that women have played in leadership and in shaping our institutions—whether faculty, staff, students, alumni, or donors. Their contributions have been tremendous, as has their passion and dedication to the College of Medicine.

Of course, we still have much work to do to ensure equality and representation for women in the fields of science and medicine. That effort will continue at Einstein, as it is vital to our continued success.

**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*