



Montefiore

*From the* OFFICE OF THE DEAN



## Dear Einstein Community:

Our community, and indeed the world, has been watching the tragedy in India unfold as COVID-19 ravages the country. The statistics are staggering: more than 400,000 cases and 3,000 deaths each day. Hospitals are overwhelmed and there are critical shortages of treatments, oxygen, and vaccines.

### Coordinating Help for India

As we experienced when New York was the epicenter of the pandemic a year ago, this disease can quickly overpower local resources. At this time, we must once again come together to help those in crisis care for their patients. Consistent with our longstanding commitment to serving those in need and to engaging with our global community, Dr. Ozuah recently announced that we have launched a coordinated institutional effort to offer direct assistance, as well as working with nonprofit organizations, to provide aid to India. This effort is being led by Dr. Priya Nori on the Moses campus and Dr. Sanjeev Gupta is taking a leadership role on the Einstein campus.

If you wish to provide personal support to the medical response in India, Drs. Nori and Shitij Arora have identified three well-established organizations to which you can donate: [SWASTH](#), the [American India Foundation](#), and [Sewa International](#). Each has infrastructure on the ground and know-how to get the supplies to where they are needed most and accept monetary donations that will be used for oxygen concentrators and other desperately needed essential supplies. (Thanks to Dr. Yaron Tomer for sharing this information earlier this week.)

While it has been hard for all of us to witness this latest wave of loss, it has been particularly difficult for those in our community with family and loved ones in India. We offer you our support and I encourage you to take advantage of the wellness services we offer if you feel you need additional assistance.

## **A Day of Remembrance**

While the world is still battling this pandemic, we are lucky that our initial “surge” is more than a year behind us. To mark the anniversary, the Block Institute for Clinical and Translational Research at Einstein and Montefiore, in partnership with Montefiore’s office of government and community relations, is hosting a [COVID Day of Remembrance](#). The virtual event, which takes place May 13 at 5:30 p.m., will feature a keynote address by Dr. Earle Chambers and a panel discussion with several of our noted physician-researchers: Drs. Michelle Gong, Barry Zingman, Carlos Rodriguez, Matthew Akiyama, Carmen Isasi, and Anne Ambrose.

This event is an opportunity for our Bronx community members to come together and learn about our COVID-related research studies and clinical trials, the importance of vaccination, and the clinical services we provide for COVID “long haulers.” I encourage everyone to attend, to support our colleagues and hear more about how Einstein and Montefiore continually strive to improve the health of those who live in our home borough.

As our namesake famously said, “It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer.” While we might have different views on the nature of genius, it's hard to argue with the sentiment. We will persist working away at the problems presented by COVID-19—the scientific, medical, and personal challenges—and together, I know that we will mend and grow stronger.

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Tomaselli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**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*