



Montefiore

*From the* OFFICE OF THE DEAN



**Dear Einstein Community:**

Each spring holds the promise of new beginnings. At Einstein, this is most notably and poignantly experienced during commencement, which celebrates the moment when our graduating class successfully launches their careers as physicians and scientists. Thus, we look forward to toasting the Class of 2021, when we hold our graduation ceremony on May 27.

Under normal circumstances, we would gather at David Geffen Hall, a venue befitting this milestone event. But for the second consecutive year, COVID-19 has upended our plans.

While our ceremony this year will still be commemorated virtually for members of our campus community, we have planned for our graduates and a small number of their loved ones to participate in person if they wish. Those who attend will be hosted in an intimate yet safe environment on the Einstein campus—where my own class celebrated its commencement in 1982. The students' invited guests will be seated in the inner courtyard, and our graduates and dignitaries will be on the Price Center lawn; social distance guidelines will be in effect and all participants will be wearing masks.

The event will include a virtual commencement keynote address from David A. Kessler, M.D., our former colleague here at Einstein and Montefiore, who previously led the Food and Drug Administration and currently serves as the chief science officer for the White House COVID-19 Response Team.

As with last year, there is a silver lining to holding a virtual event—all staff, students, alumni, postdocs, and volunteers can take part, making this year's graduation both inclusive and meaningful.

**I invite you to join our commencement virtually at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 27, by live streaming the ceremony on Facebook, YouTube, and our Commencement page.** (A link will be provided in my next commencement notice, closer to the event.)

In the meantime, if you wish to show your support for these remarkable women and men as they embark on the next phase of their professional journeys, **you can submit a special message to our [Dropbox](#) by Friday, May 14.** There are a number of ways you can do so. These include:

- Recording a brief video message (MP4 file)
- Taking a selfie of yourself or a group holding a congratulatory message (jpg file)
- Sending a jpg or PDF file of a sign with your best wishes

On Thursday, May 27, you'll also be able to share celebratory words in real-time during the virtual commencement ceremony, via Facebook or YouTube comments.

I hope you can join us and help make the 2021 commencement a most memorable occasion.

**All the best,**

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*