

**Dear Einstein Community:**

Today is a truly special day for our Class of 2021—we are celebrating commencement, which represents the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and accomplishment by our medical and graduate students, who now head to their residencies, postdoctoral fellowships, or wherever their professional lives lead them.

First, I'd like to offer congratulations to each of the exemplary women and men who will receive their Einstein degrees this afternoon. We are so proud of you and your indomitable spirit, enduring perhaps the toughest final year of any of Einstein's 62 previous graduating classes, due to COVID-19. You've demonstrated that you're prepared for any challenges that may come your way, capable and ready to put your creative and critical thinking to good use.

I know everyone in the Einstein community joins me in offering our graduates best wishes for the future. You can follow in the proceedings by visiting [our commencement website](#). You can also leave your congratulatory messages to individual graduates through links in [Einstein Celebrates Its Class of 2021](#) on our intranet.

Additionally, you can view a variety of commencement-related items now on our website, intranet, and *The Doctor's Tablet* blog. These include:

- A [web story on David Kessler, M.D.](#), our esteemed commencement speaker
- Our [commencement news release](#)
- Our [Ph.D. convocation video](#)
- A [web profile of M.D./Ph.D. student Natalie Ramsey](#) (also accessible from [our intranet](#)), and
- A [blog post by M.D./Ph.D. student Elise Mike](#) on *The Doctor's Tablet*

I hope you take time to peruse these items—which capture the essence of what commencement is all about.

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