



Montefiore

From the OFFICE OF THE DEAN



Dear Einstein Community:

As many of you know, Dr. Harry Shamoon retired last month after decades of outstanding service to Einstein. In recent years, he served as associate dean for clinical and translational research, professor of medicine, and leader of our Harold and Muriel Block Institute for Translational and Clinical Research at Einstein and Montefiore (ICTR); the latter receives NIH funding through its Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program, administered by the National Center for Advancing Translational Science. We're grateful that Harry will serve as professor emeritus and for the invaluable leadership that he provided in guiding our ICTR since its establishment in 2007.

As director, Harry built an exceptional leadership team for the institute, which included [Dr. Marla J. Keller](#), who has served as associate director of the institute since 2016 and as co-PI of the CTSA since 2015. Today, it's my pleasure to announce Dr. Keller's promotion to director of our ICTR and principal investigator for the Einstein and Montefiore CTSA.

Marla has been an important leader within the ICTR from its beginning. She first served as director of the Clinical Investigation Services Core and Clinical Research Center, working with Harry and [Dr. Paul Marantz](#), associate dean for clinical research education and associate director of the ICTR, to advance Montefiore and Einstein's role as part of the 50+ CTSA member consortium whose aim is to advance knowledge, discovery, and innovation to improve human health for diverse populations in the Bronx and across our nation.

She has proven her leadership capabilities through a variety of roles at Einstein and Montefiore. Her most recent appointment includes serving as vice chair for research in the department of medicine, where she also is a professor in the infectious diseases division.

As vice chair for research, Marla is increasing the medicine department's clinical trial portfolio, fostering translational research in collaboration with the department's division leaders, mentoring junior faculty, assisting in the recruitment of physician scientists and clinical investigators, and developing interdepartmental research collaboration.

As a physician, Marla specializes in infectious diseases, with research interests in the prevention and treatment of HIV and herpes in adult and adolescent women. She is a leader in the design and conduct of early-phase clinical trials to assess the safety and pharmacokinetics of vaginal microbicides in development to reduce the sexual transmission of HIV and herpes.

Marla also conducts studies to examine the effects of bacterial vaginosis, herpes, and HIV on female genital tract immunity and the vaginal microbiome. She is co-investigator of the Bronx Clinical Research Site of the NIH-funded Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) and Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS) Combined Cohort Study (CCS) as well. Her work with the MACS/WIHS-CCS focuses on improving cervical cancer screening practices in women living with HIV.

Since the spring of 2020, Marla has been leading the COVID-19 Treatment Taskforce for the department of medicine to provide guidance on therapeutic management of patients with COVID-19. She is co-investigator on COVID-19 therapeutic trials and studies to understand immune responses to SARS-CoV-2 infection in adult and pediatric patients.

Marla holds numerous local and national leadership positions. She is a member and a fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America; a member of the HIV Medical Association, and a scientific member of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Panel on Antiretroviral Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents. She also serves as a scientific member on the NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel established by Dr. Anthony Fauci in the spring of 2020.

Please join me in congratulating Marla on her new appointment and her many exemplary achievements. We're excited to have her lead our ICTR and CTSA at this critically important time.

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