



Montefiore

*From the* OFFICE OF THE DEAN



## Dear Einstein Community:

As noted in a [recent feature story](#), our office of medical education is in the process of introducing several new elements to the M.D. program curriculum that are designed to improve and enrich our students' educational experiences. One new addition is the Impact Course, which supports students' professional growth through their completion of a project that will positively affect Einstein and/or a local, regional, national, or global community. Projects can range from developing a community program or a curricular innovation to completing a quality improvement project in our health system or conducting fundamental basic science research.

Beginning August 1, [Jessica Rieder, M.D, M.S.](#), associate professor of pediatrics and director of the [Bronx Nutrition and Fitness Initiative for Teens \(B'N Fit\)](#), became the inaugural director of the Impact Course. Jessica has mentored many Einstein medical students on projects that address structural determinants of health, such as housing or social support, to improve the lives of patients in the Bronx. She possesses the keen ability to link community alliances and research programs aimed at strengthening the health of children and adolescents in our borough.

Through the Impact Course, Jessica will identify meaningful projects where students will work collaboratively in teams alongside Einstein faculty and with various community partners to maximize our collective strengths aimed at improving health in the Bronx. It is inspiring to have such a course to channel the energy and creativity of our students, their mentors, and our community partners.

## Transitions in Student Medical Research

At the end of August, [Ellie Schoenbaum, M.D.](#), professor of epidemiology & population health, of medicine, and of obstetrics & gynecology and women's health, will transition to emerita status. I'd like to thank Ellie for her many years of service to the College of Medicine.

As the director of Einstein's [Medical Student Research Program](#), which supports student research across the M.D. curriculum, she has assisted thousands of students in their scholarly pursuits, as well as numerous other students and faculty as the second director of our [Clinical Research Training Program](#), which offers a master's in clinical research. Ellie's many contributions have enriched and expanded our students' learning opportunities and reinforced the benefits of being a lifelong learner. Please join me in wishing her a most rewarding future as she commences the next phase of her career—a fulfilling retirement.

In September, [Vagish Hemmige, M.D.](#), associate professor of medicine, will succeed Ellie as director of our Medical Student Research Program. During his career at Baylor College of Medicine and Einstein, Vagish was recognized as an outstanding educator, including receiving the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Montefiore/Einstein infectious diseases fellows in 2019. He furthered his expertise in research design and statistical analysis by completing a master's in health studies at the University of Chicago and has a strong history of guiding trainees in the use of large national databases for innovative research.

Among his goals for the program, Vagish will seek to expand opportunities for community-based participatory health research and augment medical student training in reproducible research methods—a skill that will serve our students well, whether they continue with research beyond medical school or in evaluating research as a physician.

With the introduction of the Impact Course, our medical students will benefit from the complementary synergy that course provides to medical research projects. Such opportunities are among the innovations we continually seek for improving the student experience at Einstein.

Please join me in congratulating everyone in assuming their new and important roles at Einstein as we start our new academic year.

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*