



Montefiore

From the OFFICE OF THE DEAN



Dear Einstein Community:

November is Native American Heritage Month, so it's appropriate that we applaud the declaration made on October 8—the first by a United States president—recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day. Such a pronouncement is critical to truly healing our nation by recognizing its original inhabitants, their cultures, and their many contributions to society.

Our Constitution incorporates lessons learned from the Iroquois Confederacy, or Six Nations, who occupied lands in the northeast part of our nation, including what is now upstate New York. Our own institution was founded with a declaration that welcomed all races, religions, and creeds, and Einstein continues to make strides in ensuring we live up to our longstanding ideals of equity and social justice.

As an acknowledgement of those efforts, the College of Medicine was one of 51 U.S. institutions of higher education recognized with *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine's 2021 Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award. This is a national honor for medical, dental, pharmacy, osteopathic, nursing, veterinary, allied health, and other health schools and centers that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion across their campuses. While this is indeed affirming, we will not rest on our laurels, as there is still much to accomplish.

Encouraging Progress and Rewarding News

In addition to the HEED Award, there is other good news I'd like to share. These accolades spotlight excellence among our faculty and alumni, and I invite you to join me in congratulating these individuals for their well-deserved honors.

- At the recent Einstein Board of Trustees meeting, we approved **Jelena Radulovic, M.D., Ph.D.**, as the Sylva and Robert S. Olnick Chair of

Neuroscience and **Ulrich G. Steidl, M.D., Ph.D.**, as the Rose C. Falkenstein Chair of Cancer Research.

- During the same Board meeting, we also confirmed tenure appointments for three faculty members who have demonstrated their longstanding excellence in research and education at Einstein: **Sridhar Mani, M.D., Elyse S. Sussman, Ph.D.**, and **Alberto Pereda, M.D., Ph.D.**
- On November 1, **Robert Singer, Ph.D.**, received the 51st Lewis S. Rosenstiel Award for Distinguished Work in Basic Medical Research from Brandeis University, which recognized his key role in revealing the dynamics of gene expression using high-resolution imaging. Throughout his career, Rob has developed highly sensitive and quantitative methods aimed at exploring the regulation of gene expression. His work has permitted investigators to visualize and characterize gene expression, and to observe the subcellular progression of diverse messenger RNAs from transcription, to translation, to degradation.
- On November 15, **John Condeelis, Ph.D.**, will receive the I.J. "Josh" Fidler Innovation in Metastasis Research Award from the Metastasis Research Society, for his significant contributions to metastasis research. Since 2012, this biennial award has gone to an investigator whose work has substantially influenced the field and, through his decades of contributions concerning biophotonics, tumor cell motility and invasion, and metastasis, John has been a tremendously influential, pioneering investigator.

Timely Acknowledgments

It is also fitting to wish those in our community who observe Diwali a most joyous holiday. Diwali is a festival of lights and symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. The holiday is particularly meaningful this year, given recent developments concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, with vaccines now available to children as young as age 5 and a marked decrease in cases and deaths. Diwali began on November 4 and concludes today; it is among the major holidays celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists.

Also noteworthy is the national effort led by Research!America to recognize our public health workforce on the Monday before Thanksgiving, thanking these

dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to keep us healthy and safe. From researchers to educators, to health inspectors, first responders, nutritionists, and more, they protect us from viruses like the flu and SARS-CoV-2, ensure our food and water are safe, assist us following natural disasters, and educate us about how to live more healthfully. Let's be sure to thank these employees of Einstein and Montefiore and elsewhere for their many contributions to our lives.

In closing, I applaud all of you—not just our recent award winners and our public health workforce—for all you do for our institution. Together, we continue to achieve great things, a testament to your dedication to excellence and to continuously striving to improve our community and the world.

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