



Montefiore

From the OFFICE OF THE DEAN



Dear Einstein Community:

Our campus community recently lost another cherished member, Frances Cerullo, a psychoeducation specialist in our Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC) for 45 years. You may have seen the "[in memoriam](#)" on our intranet detailing some of Fran's many contributions to the field of special education. Her influence was extensive, including introducing an innovative reading program and developing the Einstein Evaluation of School-Related Skills with Ruth Gottesman, Ed.D., current chair of Einstein's Board of Trustees. The assessment tool is used nationwide in hospital clinics and private pediatric practices to determine whether a child's academic skills are at grade level and to identify which areas are in need of more evaluation.

Although 87 years old and "retired" since 2019, Fran had continued to offer her assistance at CERC, including just two days before her passing; her death was unexpected by those in our community who knew and loved her. Those recalling her influence frequently mentioned her masterful mentorship, her openness and loving approach to all interactions, and her skills as a top-level professional.

While the loss of Fran is devastating, it also reminds us of the influence we can have on others. Fran had a positive impact on the lives of so many, both those with whom she worked and those who benefitted from her life's work.

She is a shining example of what it means to offer excellence while being compassionate and humane. Her presence enriched those fortunate to know her, to work with her, and to learn with or from her.

Einstein once said, "Our death is not an end if we can live on in our children and the younger generation. For they are us; our bodies are only wilted leaves on the tree of life." While we are not Fran's children, we can honor her memory by carrying forward her examples and honoring her legacy.

CERC is planning a memorial and, when details are forthcoming, we will share them. In the meantime, we invite you to read the "[in memoriam](#)" currently posted about Fran on our intranet. You can leave a memory or condolence

message on the [remembrance page](#) for Fran, using the link noted or the one at the end of her “in memoriam” story.

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

Ruth L. Gottesman, Ed.D.
Chair, Einstein Board of Trustees

Edward R. Burns, M.D.
Executive Dean and Professor