



Montefiore

From the OFFICE OF THE DEAN



Dear Einstein Colleague/Community:

March is a time of rebirth. First, we moved our clocks forward as Earth wakes up from its winter slumber, and now we are into spring, shaking off the cobwebs and appreciating the warmer weather. It's also a good time to share good news involving members of our Einstein community and to remind you of some important events that you won't want to miss.

Here are some examples:

- Match Day for the class of 2022 was Friday, March 18. You can view [the story and a photo gallery](#) as well as [a video](#) of this most momentous event in a medical student's life on our homepage. Our next celebration of these students and our Ph.D. and M.D./Ph.D. candidates for 2022 will be at commencement, on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at Carnegie Hall, where Dr. Mary Bassett, Commissioner of Health for New York State, will be our commencement speaker.
- In a demonstration of research excellence and entrepreneurial vision, Einstein faculty members have secured two of the five [2022 XSeed Awards](#), which provide \$100,000 in funding for each winning team to advance promising basic science findings that have startup potential. Please join me in congratulating our two teams— headed by Drs. Arne Gennerich and Hernando Sosa, and Drs. Nicholas Sibinga and Sayan Nandi.
- Later this year, we anticipate the opening of our new BSL3 laboratory. Philanthropic contributions to a dedicated COVID-19 relief fund, spearheaded by a donation from our late benefactor [Michael F. Price](#) and augmented by the generosity of other donors, allowed for renovations and creation of the space. The total cost to complete the

renovations was over \$800,000. Drs. Kartik Chandran and Jonathan Lai, whose COVID-19 research has been highlighted on our website, will take the lead on investigations conducted in the new lab. In addition to SARS-CoV2, researchers using the facility will study novel vaccines and immunotherapies targeting insect-borne viruses, such as Chikungunya virus and Powassan virus, and other emerging viruses, including yellow fever and hantaviruses.

- Third-year medical student Nicholas Forelli was selected to be a 2022-23 Sarnoff Fellow by the Sarnoff Cardiovascular Research Foundation. The honor includes a \$35,000 stipend and affords Nicholas the opportunity to conduct studies exploring cardiovascular disease over the next year under a mentor at an institution outside of Einstein or Montefiore.
- On March 14, we hosted our annual [Pi Day/Giving Day](#), held each year on Albert Einstein's birthday by our office of development and alumni relations in conjunction with student life, student affairs, the graduate division, and human resources. This year, we raised more than \$150,000 to support various student programs and scholarships. The festivities featured memorable performances by Einstein medical students Christine Yoon (class of 2025), who recited pi to the 102nd numeral past the decimal point, and our new pi recitation champion Albert Wang (an M.D./Ph.D. candidate), who beat the reigning champ's achievement by 99 numerals—recalling 224!
- Please also be sure to mark Tuesday, April 26, Thursday, May 26, Thursday, June 2, and Wednesday, June 15 on your calendars. Those dates correspond with our annual Employee Appreciation Awards ceremony, inaugural PRIME Research Day, inaugural Paul S. Frenette Memorial Symposium, and fourth Presidential Lecture, respectively. You've seen e-blasts announcing two of these events and will soon see notices about the others. A call for abstracts to present work relevant to mental illness, addiction, or behavioral science at the PRIME poster session is open through April 15.
- I recently shared that we've teamed with Montefiore and Afya International through our [Global Response Fund](#) to provide [relief for Ukraine](#). To date, we've raised thousands of dollars as well as provided

medical equipment to those on the ground seeking to help the wounded and treat the ill.

And the last bit of good news I'd like to acknowledge is the return of students, faculty, and staff to our bustling campus. After two years of remote work and staggered lab schedules, it's a pleasure to see so many faces enjoying the spring weather in the courtyard, conferring in the halls, and gathering in labs and conference rooms. While we certainly must remain vigilant and flexible in the face of this still-evolving pandemic, I am enjoying this reprieve and the renewed feeling of community blooming across campus.

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