

Dear Einstein Montefiore Community:

After a two-year, pandemic-induced hiatus, we are happy to invite you to attend this year's [Einstein-Montefiore Presidential Lecture](#) on **Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.**, in Robbins Auditorium.

The lecture, which was established in 2017, hosts presentations by two faculty members who together represent outstanding examples of the full spectrum of research at Einstein and Montefiore, highlighting its excellence.

This year's lecturers will be Ulrich "Uli" Steidl, M.D., Ph.D., and Amit Verma, M.B.B.S. Over the past decade, these longtime colleagues have coauthored several dozen peer-reviewed papers published in high-quality journals, adding immensely to the understanding of two closely intertwined diseases: myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) and acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

The duo was among the first researchers to demonstrate that MDS, a common precursor of AML, arises from wayward bone-marrow stem cells, raising hopes for treating or preventing both diseases. An article, "[Collaborating to Cure Cancers](#)" in the Summer/Fall 2019 issue of Einstein magazine, details their complementary skills and collaborative efforts.

Dr. Steidl will present "Understanding the Molecular and Cellular Pathogenesis of Myeloid Malignancies at the Stem Cell Level," and Dr. Verma will present "Therapeutic Targeting of MDS and AML."

Dr. Steidl is professor of cell biology and of medicine, deputy director of the Montefiore Einstein Cancer Center (MECC), and interim director of the Ruth L. and David S. Gottesman Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine. His research has focused on the earliest origins of myeloid malignancies, and he has made fundamental discoveries, particularly in the areas of pre-cancerous stem cells and transcriptional dysregulation. In close collaboration with Dr. Verma's laboratory, Dr. Steidl's group identified novel targets and drugs directed against pre-cancerous and cancer stem cells in

myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) and acute myeloid leukemia (AML), many of which have been translated into the clinic, with the ultimate goal of “precision prevention” of these deadly diseases. His work has been recognized by numerous awards including an Outstanding Investigator Award from the National Cancer Institute. He is also current president-elect of the International Society of Experimental Hematology (ISEH) and will assume the ISEH presidency later this year.

Dr. Verma is professor of medicine and of developmental and molecular biology, associate director of translational science at MECC, as well as director of the division of hemato-oncology at Montefiore and Einstein. His lab has been involved in studying the pathogenesis of myeloid malignancies such as MDS and AML. Research from his lab has elucidated the critical role of various signaling pathways (p38 MAP kinase, TGF-beta, smad2/3, IRAK, and others) in MDS and this work has directly led to the therapeutic targeting of these pathways in clinical trials in MDS/AML. In close collaboration with Dr. Steidl, Dr. Verma has defined stem cell alterations in MDS/AML and translated these findings to the clinic. He has also conducted clinical studies in hematologic malignancies that have examined the effects of COVID-19 and environmental exposures on outcomes and pathogenesis of blood cancers.

Please mark your calendar and be sure to [attend this special event](#) celebrating Montefiore-Einstein research excellence. A reception will follow in Max and Sadie Friedman Lounge, adjacent to the auditorium.

Philip O. Ozuah, M.D., Ph.D.  
President and CEO, Montefiore Medicine

Gordon F. Tomaselli M.D.  
The Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean, Einstein  
Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, Montefiore