



Montefiore



From the OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Dear Einstein Community:

This week, the seasons transition from summer to autumn, ushering in a variety of celebrations that occur during the fall. First and foremost, it is Postdoc Appreciation Week, which allows us to let our postdoctoral research fellows know how grateful we are for all the many important ways that they contribute to our investigative enterprise—from training more junior members of the lab and making sure experiments run smoothly to coordinating with PIs and department administrators on important research details.

While offering our appreciation is something we can put into practice year-round, having a special week to recognize the vital work of these young scientists affords an excellent opportunity to say: “Thank you!” As part of Postdoc Appreciation Week at Einstein, our Belfer Institute for Advanced Biomedical Studies and office of career and professional development for graduate students and postdocs (CPD) are hosting a variety of events and educational offerings, noted on [the CPD website calendar](#), aimed at sharing our gratitude and providing avenues for professional growth.

Other Seasonal Celebrations

Throughout the year, we seek to honor the diversity that enriches our campus. Following are some events and holidays that offer opportunities to learn about other cultures and cherish the contributions that each and every member of our Einstein community makes to advance our goals and achieve our

objectives.

Hispanic Heritage Month began September 15 and continues through October 15. Our offices of diversity enhancement and diversity & inclusion (D&I) are supporting our student chapter of the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) in offering a variety of educational activities celebrating Hispanic heritage. Please [view the calendar on the D&I website](#) for further details on events as well as an e-blast sent earlier this week.

Sunday, September 25 is Research Administrators Day. While the date falls on the weekend this year, we are appreciative every day for the vital contributions these members of our campus community make toward accomplishing what we do.

The eve of Sunday, September 25, kicks off observance of several Jewish holidays, for which our administrative offices will be closed. These include Rosh Hashanah on Monday, September 26 and Tuesday, September 27; Yom Kippur on Wednesday, October 5; Sukkot on Monday, October 10 and Tuesday, October 11; Simchat Torah on Monday, October 17 and Shemini Atzeret on Tuesday, October 18.

On September 26, our Hindi community members also will mark Maharaja Agrasen Jayanti, honoring their respected king who believed in nondiscrimination and equality, and the more religious holidays Mysore Dasara and Navaratri. Throughout October, there are numerous other celebrations, including the more well-known Diwali, or festival of lights, on October 24.

On October 8, our Muslim colleagues, classmates, and friends observe Mawlid, which marks the birth of the Islamic prophet Muhammad. Observed as a national holiday in most Muslim-majority countries of the world, the date is also recognized in some non-Muslim majority countries with large Muslim populations, such as India, where it is a public holiday.

Global Outreach

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the destruction wrought by monsoon season in

Southeast Asia. This year has been an especially catastrophic one, particularly in Pakistan where more than half that nation has been underwater due to monumental flash flooding, which has washed away homes and businesses. In a nation of 220 million, more than 33 million have been displaced and another 1,500 have died, and standing water and improper drainage vastly raise the risk of serious disease.

Closer to home and more recently, Hurricane Fiona has caused devastating flooding in Puerto Rico, which is still recovering from Hurricane Maria and other storms in recent years. With widespread rainfall amounts of up to two feet and 100-mile-an-hour wind gusts, bridges have been swept away, homes and roads destroyed, and the island is without power.

As we have done to aid others in need following major natural disasters, Einstein and Montefiore will be supporting relief efforts; you can read about those on behalf of Pakistan in [this intranet story](#). You'll find links to reputable charities where donations can be made and contacts for those of you who may wish to volunteer abroad.

For Puerto Rico, you can link to current relief efforts referenced in these stories from [NPR](#) and [PBS](#). Please watch for further information, including how our LMSA is teaming with our Student National Medical Association to raise funds to purchase solar lamps, water filters, and tarps for community members in need. I invite you to consider how we each can help those in such grave humanitarian need in the wake of these devastating disasters.

While I've said it before, it bears repeating: Thank you for all that you do and for the care that you show for one another and others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Tomaselli', written in a cursive style.

Gordon F. Tomaselli, M.D.
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