

**Dear Einstein Community:**

Research is the lifeblood of Einstein. Through our faculty's scientific investigations, we improve the understanding of basic human biology, advance discoveries to the clinic, and elevate the training of our medical and graduate students. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to share some good news about major federal grants we've received, as well as other research-related updates.

National Institutes of Health Grants

Our faculty have recently received significant grants that, taken together, reflect the extraordinary breadth and depth of our research enterprise. You can learn more about these and other grants through news releases and research briefs posted on our website. (Links to existing web content are below; others will be posted in the coming weeks.)

- A team of researchers at [Montefiore Einstein Cancer Center](#) led by [Jonathan Backer, M.D.](#), has received a \$10 million, five-year program grant from the National Cancer Institute to [investigate the mechanisms regulating breast cancer cells that seed metastatic tumors in the lungs](#).
- [Joe Verghese, M.B.B.S., M.S.](#), and colleagues at Indiana University School of Medicine have received a five-year, \$10.4 million grant to conduct a clinical trial on the cognitive assessment tool that Dr. Verghese developed for use in primary care settings.

- Thanks to the leadership of Brian Pelowski, associate dean for research operations, Einstein has received a five-year, \$7 million grant to support the expansion of our Biosafety Level 3 (BSL3) lab to conduct studies of infectious diseases for the current and subsequent pandemics. [Kartik Chandran, Ph.D.](#), will serve as principal investigator, advising on renovation needs and leading studies in the lab.
- Faculty at four New York City medical schools led by Einstein's [Michal Melamed, M.D., M.S.](#), [Kelvin Davies, Ph.D.](#), and [Frederick Kaskel, M.D.](#), have received two grants totaling \$6.5 million to support a new multi-institutional training program called the New York Consortium for Interdisciplinary Training in Kidney, Urological and Hematological Research.
- [Carlos Rodriguez, M.D., M.P.H.](#), has received a four-year, \$5.2 million grant to investigate the role of heart-vascular interactions on heart failure among participants in the Study of Latinos/Hispanic Community Health Study.
- [Uriel Felsen, M.D., M.S.](#), and [Viraj Patel, M.D., M.P.H.](#), have received a five-year, \$4.2 million grant to compare two strategies for [improving access to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\)](#) medications among those at high risk for HIV in Bronx emergency departments.
- [Robert Burk, M.D.](#), has received a five-year, \$4.1 million grant to study the natural history of oral HPV in people living with HIV and to [assess how oral bacteria and fungi influence HPV persistence](#) in this population, which may reveal strategies to reduce the risks for HPV-associated head and neck cancers.
- [Vilma Gabbay, M.D.](#), [Joan Berman, Ph.D.](#), and [Anjali Sharma, M.D., M.D.](#), have received a five-year, \$3.8 million grant to study inflammation, brain-body barrier disruption, and reward function in the pathogenesis of

depression among people who live with HIV.

- [Michael Lipton, M.D., Ph.D.](#), received a five-year, \$3.4 million grant to [assess the tradeoffs between soccer's aerobic brain benefits and the adverse effects from heading](#). Their study will utilize neuroimaging, exercise testing, and cognitive testing.
- [Mark F. Mehler, M.D.](#), and colleagues have received a five-year, \$3.4 million grant [to assess the role of interneuron deficits in the progression of Huntington's disease](#).

Royal Opportunity

Last month, faculty member [Esperanza Arias-Perez, Ph.D.](#), who is a native of Spain, was an invitee of Queen Letizia Ortiz Rocasolano at a reception held as part of the queen of Spain's official visit to New York City during the United Nations General Assembly. Dr. Arias joined a small group of cancer researchers of Spanish origin who are currently working in the United States, to discuss how to facilitate collaborations during commemoration of World Cancer Research Day on September 24, 2022. She served as a discussion leader along with three colleagues from Mount Sinai. You can see Dr. Arias pictured with the queen and her colleagues in [this informal photo](#) taken during a break in discussions. (From left: Dr. Arias, Queen Letizia of Spain, Amaia Lujambio, Ph.D., José Javier Bravo-Cordero, Ph.D., and Valentín Fuster, M.D., Ph.D.)

Saluting Our Research Administrators and Multimedia Communications Team

In a recent e-blast, I mentioned that Sunday, September 25 was Research Administrators Day and that we would be planning an event on campus to celebrate. Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, October 25, 2022, when we will publicly salute our research administrators and highlight the integral role that they and their staff play in ensuring that all aspects of grant applications and research funding run smoothly. We could not achieve the funding support we do without the efforts of these talented and dedicated members of our research teams.

Finally, I want to salute our multimedia communications team, which during Saturday night's 65th annual New York Emmy® Awards Gala in New York City, was recognized with two Emmy awards. One—[*Lifeline: A Doctor's Commitment to 9/11 First Responders*](#)—profiles [David Prezant, M.D.](#), and the first responders who he has cared for over many years following the 9/11 tragedy. The other—[*Pressure Creates Diamonds: NYC Medical Residents Respond to the First COVID-19 Surge*](#)—focuses on our residents who took care of patients during the height of the pandemic.

Kudos go to Sunita Reed, director of multimedia communications, who directed and produced both films, along with her outstanding production team—Jorge Garcia-Spitz, Peter Logue, and Erin Collett—for their exceptional work and well-deserved recognition in highlighting the excellence of our personnel and programs.

Also, many thanks to Gordon Earle, associate dean for communications and public affairs, who served as executive producer for both films; Dr. Prezant, who gave his time and energy to the 9/11 film; and to the members of our department of medicine who worked with Sunita and her team on *Pressure Creates Diamonds*. These include [Lauren Shapiro, M.D.](#), and [Grace Kajita, M.D.](#), as well as [Yaron Tomer, M.D.](#), professor and chair of medicine, and the internal medicine residents.

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

recipient.