



Montefiore

*From the* OFFICE OF THE DEAN



## Dear Einstein Community:

Each year during February, we mark Black History Month. While we can and should appreciate the myriad ways in which Black people and Black culture influence our nation throughout the year, having a period of time to focus on these important contributions offers opportunities for learning, growth, and broadening our awareness and allyship. Since before our nation was formed, Black individuals have made foundational contributions to this country – including to scientific and medical advances that drive our work here at Einstein today.

At Einstein, one way that we commemorate Black History Month is by highlighting exemplary individuals or groups on campus whose actions and achievements inspire us and demonstrate what Black excellence is. I invite you to view our [Einstein Celebrates Black History Month](#) poster, where you can learn about the impressive work of select students, faculty, and staff. However, this is only a sampling of the wealth of individuals on our campus who enhance the College of Medicine with their admirable leadership, compassion, and accomplishments. So, I also encourage you to look around you and appreciate the excellence among your peers and colleagues.

## Notable Events

The month of February also offers some noteworthy events that acknowledge individuals from our campus community. These include our **ninth annual Marie M. Daly, Ph.D., Memorial Lecture**, which will take place on **Tuesday, February 21** and features [Selma Masri, Ph.D.](#), from the University of California/Irvine. Dr. Daly was the first Black woman in the U.S. to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry and was on the Einstein faculty from 1960 to 1986; throughout her career she sought to inspire more Blacks to enter the fields of science and medicine.

Keep an eye out on the [D&I Calendar](#) for details on other Black History Month events.

### **Perseverance and Persistence**

While we aim to recognize and celebrate Black excellence during Black History Month, we must also acknowledge our nation's history—one frequently defined by the acceptance of white supremacy that kept a people enslaved for nearly 250 years and continuing with the adoption of social systems that prevent full equity to this day. Even as we attempt to redress these lasting errors, there are those who deny the very issues at hand or suggest that teaching such history will be harmful.

It is essential that we seek to learn and grow wherever opportunities present themselves, and our observation of Black History Month is an appropriate time to gain insights and understanding that can help us to live up to our institutions founding ideals. Doing so can help our nation to heal.

It is important that we not simply observe Black History Month, we must be the arbiters of change for a more just and equitable nation and world all year round.

**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*