



Montefiore

From the OFFICE OF THE DEAN



Dear Einstein Community:

This year marks Einstein's 65th graduation ceremony, taking place Wednesday, May 24, 2023. We'll be returning to David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center, which has been renovated and modernized, offering a wonderful setting for our graduates to celebrate the culmination of their hard work, dedication, and accomplishments.

Our Commencement Speaker

I'm pleased to share that our commencement speaker will be one of our own — [Robert W. Marion, M.D.](#) Bob is a member of the class of 1979 and a distinguished university professor emeritus of pediatrics and of obstetrics & gynecology and women's health, and a clinical geneticist at Montefiore.

During his nearly 50 years at Einstein, Bob dedicated his professional life to diagnosing and caring for young children with rare genetic disorders, as well as those with serious developmental disabilities such as autism, spina bifida, and Down syndrome. As a pioneer in pediatric genetics, his research and clinical work have focused on the natural history, genetic basis, and medical management of multiple malformation syndromes.

A beloved faculty educator, Bob's interviews with individuals who have genetic disorders are among the most memorable and impactful of the lectures held during the Molecular and Cellular Foundations of Medicine course for our first-

year students.

Bob also played a key role in establishing the Montefiore Einstein CardioGenetics Center, which provides care for families of individuals who have suffered sudden unexpected cardiac death. He is the founder of the Williams Syndrome Center and the Dermato-Genetics Clinic at Montefiore and served as director of our Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center. In addition, he is the author of seven fiction and non-fiction books, including *The Intern Blues*, *The Boy Who Felt No Pain* (winner of a Christopher Award), and *Genetic Rounds* (Honorable Mention in the 2010 AMWA Medical Book Awards).

For a more in-depth understanding of what makes Bob a truly special member of our Einstein community, [read this online profile](#). He will no doubt impart insightful advice to our 2023 graduates while sharing the benefits of his experiences since his own graduation from Einstein.

Recognizing a Change Maker

One week before commencement, on Tuesday, May 16, [Marla Keller, M.D.](#), will be among the honorees receiving a Spirit of Achievement award presented by the Women's Division, an affinity group of Einstein that has raised more than \$100 million to support research and educational endeavors at the College of Medicine.

Marla will be recognized with the Change Maker Award for her exemplary work in translational medicine and as director of our Block Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR). She is also vice chair for research in the department of medicine and a professor of medicine and of obstetrics & gynecology and women's health at Einstein, and an infectious disease specialist at Montefiore.

The annual Spirit awards luncheon, now in its 68th year, applauds the outstanding contributions of individuals in business, the arts, education, and philanthropy. Additionally, an Einstein researcher is recognized, and this year's selection of Marla acknowledges her leadership of the ICTR, which recently received a \$30 million Clinical and Translational Science Award from the NIH.

The funding represents a glowing testament to her direction and vision to reduce the barriers researchers face in translating discoveries into effective and equitable treatments.

The honor also attests to Marla's many contributions as a leader in the department of medicine, the Einstein Montefiore community, and nationally, which includes leading the COVID-19 Treatment Taskforce for the department of medicine and her participation as an appointed member of the NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel. She is also widely recognized as a physician-investigator whose research is focused on HIV and herpes prevention in women, immune responses to SARS-CoV-2, and COVID-19 clinical trials.

Please join me in congratulating Marla on her many important accomplishments, culminating in this well-deserved honor. And let's also congratulate Bob for his latest contribution to our Einstein students—among the many he has made throughout his illustrious career.

An Eventful Month

Finally, Commencement and the Spirit Luncheon are among a variety of events held each May, which you might consider attending:

- Thursday, May 11, 2023 – PRIME Research Day (celebrating research at Einstein and Montefiore relevant to mental illness, addiction, and behavioral health)
- Friday, May 12, 2023 – Paul Henkind Day (highlighting vision advances at Einstein and Montefiore)
- Thursday, May 18, 2023 – Leo Davidoff Society Education Awards (honoring teachers at Einstein who have made significant contributions to the education of our medical students)
- Tuesday, May 23, 2023 – Ph.D. Convocation (celebrating the achievements of Einstein graduating Ph.D. students and their mentors)
- Tuesday, May 23, 2023 – Einstein Alumni Reunion (bringing together our alumni who are marking milestone anniversaries)

Some of these events require registration to attend. All are associated with

excellence at Einstein and Montefiore and tout the many accomplishments of our entire campus community.

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