



Montefiore

*From the* OFFICE OF THE DEAN



## Dear Einstein Community:

As I enter my final month as dean, I want to reflect on two important issues that I have commented on throughout my five-year tenure—and which remain very much on my mind. They impact not only our lives in the Bronx, but the lives of those who live throughout the U.S. and, indeed, the world.

### Curbing Gun Violence

Reports of mass shootings and other gun violence continue to dominate the news, while our legislators in Washington who wish to enact stronger regulations are stymied by those who oppose virtually any form of gun control legislation. Therefore, it seems appropriate to remind our community that National Gun Violence Awareness Day will take place tomorrow.

The annual day is actually part of a three-day period—over the weekend of June 2 through June 4—when we are encouraged to wear orange to offer a visual statement that supports responsible, safe gun regulations, which protect the health and lives of us all. It also affords the opportunity to take part in other activities offered throughout the weekend, which you can learn about [here](#).

While most occurrences involving gun violence take place far from our Bronx neighborhood, there are reminders that it can happen here, too. We were recently reminded of this when, during the evening of May 5, we all received several emergency notifications about a man brandishing a gun in a

threatening manner outside of Weiler Hospital. Fortunately, there was no violence.

In addition, I have previously written about an incident that occurred in February 2022, in which a man in Jacobi's adult emergency room waiting area was shot, leading to a temporary lockdown of our campus. And in 2017, a doctor formerly employed at Bronx Lebanon Hospital shot another doctor and wounded six others before taking his own life.

These incidents underscore the fact that we must remain aware and prepared, so we know what to do in the event any of us faces a similar situation. Much of [this valuable information](#) has already been posted by our security team on the [Einstein website](#).

Beyond preparedness, there are other actions that we can take to encourage our elected representatives at the city, state, and/or federal levels to enact sensible laws that better protect us from gun violence. Additionally, we can support policies that address the public health crisis represented by such violence and take part in activities that raise awareness and advocate for positive change.

During this coming weekend, we can all reflect on the issue of gun violence and, just as important, consider how we can help curb its devastating impact on our community and beyond.

### **Celebrating PRIDE**

The threat of violence from guns or other means is a particular concern for the LGBTQ+ community. Among the many mass shootings in the news have been attacks on two bars seen as havens for LGBTQ+ members in Orlando, Florida (Pulse) and in Colorado Springs, Colorado (Club Q).

June is PRIDE Month and a reminder that throughout the year we stand with and support those in our campus community who identify as LGBTQ+. These individuals, who are our fellow students, colleagues, friends, and family members, should feel safe and able to be their best selves without worrying

about the judgment of others, harassment, or physical violence. There is a need, instead, to celebrate members of this community through Einstein's diversity and inclusion programs, as well as numerous other events and initiatives.

Our [office of diversity and inclusion website](#) will soon be providing details about activities taking place during PRIDE Month. I encourage you to visit the site to learn more and to take part in events. In addition, on the first Friday of each month, the Bronx Community Health Network, Montefiore Medical Group, and the Trans Wellness Centers at Montefiore offer a lecture series through the Sexual and Gender Minority Grand Rounds. Information on the series can be found [on our intranet](#); the next lecture is this Friday, June 2.

To conclude—and with my thoughts focused on a more positive future—I hope all of you enjoy the last few weeks of spring and the beginning of summer. Our 65th commencement, which we celebrated last week in grand fashion, represented yet another wonderful conclusion to an exciting and rewarding academic year.

**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*

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