Dear Einstein Community:

This notice shares recent good news at Einstein and I’m pleased to start off with the honor that reflects on all of you and the tremendous efforts we’ve made working together. For the third year in a row, Einstein was named among “Best in State” Employers for New York, as published in a recent *Forbes* magazine survey. We were #73 overall among all companies and #7 among all universities in the state. I want to thank everyone for the many ways in which you help make Einstein a wonderful place to work and learn.

I’m also excited to announce some notable honors and awards for our faculty members. Please join me in applauding your colleagues.

- The National Association of M.D.-Ph.D. Programs will present Myles Akabas, M.D., Ph.D., with its 2021 Bert Shapiro Award, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to physician-scientist training on the national level. It is the highest honor afforded by the association. Myles is director of our Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) and also is an alumnus—class of 1983—of our MSTP.

- Susan Band Horwitz, Ph.D., distinguished professor emerita of molecular pharmacology and the Rose C. Falkenstein Chair in Cancer Research, was recently honored by the Hope Funds for Cancer Research. The recognition acknowledges Susan’s many outstanding contributions studying the mechanism of action of chemotherapeutic drugs—most notably her pioneering work with Taxol—and evaluating drug resistance.

- Carlos Rodriguez, M.D., M.P.H., was among several outstanding professionals honored during the Scholarships Gala, held as part of the 2021 Dominican Day Parade celebrations. Carlos marched in the in-person
parade along Sixth Avenue, which also was held virtually, while Montefiore-Einstein served as an event sponsor as we celebrated our vibrant Dominican community in New York. He is professor of medicine and of epidemiology and population health, as well as director of cardiovascular epidemiology and of clinical cardiology research.

- Robert Singer, Ph. D., was elected the Section 22 chair of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) for which he will oversee the election of new NAS members within cellular and developmental biology. He was elected to this prestigious society of distinguished scholars in 2013, in recognition of his exceptional accomplishments in cell biology—in particular his work with mRNA molecules and approaches to imaging RNA. Rob is professor and co-chair of anatomy & structural biology, professor in the departments of neuroscience and cell biology, and co-director of the Gruss-Lipper Biophotonics Center.

While I frequently highlight grants that we’ve received amounting to $1 million or more, sometimes good things come in smaller packages, as the funding awards below demonstrate. Supplemental grants and foundation awards can augment other funding, injecting new energy into a project, or they can help launch a junior-level investigator’s work through both support and recognition.

- As with other NIH centers, a major benefit of being a federally funded Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) is having the opportunity to apply for supplemental grants that the CFAR program allocates following an in-house review by the NIH CFAR Program group. Harris Goldstein, M.D., director of the Einstein-Rockefeller-CUNY CFAR, announced that three faculty applications will receive supplemental funding amounting to approximately $1 million overall. These grants are a testament to our talented faculty and Harris’ leadership. Researchers receiving grants are Matthew Akiyama, M.D., Laurie Bauman, Ph.D., and Jonathan Ross, M.D., M.S.

- The Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS) Foundation has selected Aditi Shastri, M.B.B.S., assistant professor of medicine and of developmental and molecular biology, to receive one of just two of its Gilbert Bruce Smith Young Investigator Grants awarded biennially. The $100,000 in funding offered through this highly competitive grant will support her efforts in
evaluating novel STAT3 degraders that are a factor in treatment-resistant MDS.

- **Luke Sjulson, M.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and of neuroscience, is exploring a novel, gene-based treatment strategy aimed at curtailing the euphoria experienced from the release of the neurotransmitter dopamine associated with misuse of opiates. This creative approach has earned Luke an $80,000 Feldstein Medical Foundation Award. The grant will support his further work on this strategy, which has already produced encouraging preliminary data in mice.

These honors and awards are a testament to Einstein’s continuing excellence as a workplace and in many important areas of biomedical research. I offer my congratulations to everyone who has been involved in these recent efforts.

Sincerely,

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*