Dear Einstein Community:

The coming holiday offers us a time to reflect on what we are grateful for in our lives.

While we continue to face challenges from COVID-19, we’ve come a long way from where we were at this time last year. I am immensely thankful for all the scientific discoveries—made here at Einstein and elsewhere—that have helped us battle this disease, and for the many caring, compassionate individuals who make up our campus community.

I also am thankful that we can again gather with our loved ones over the holiday weekend. While we may still need to take certain precautions, we can be together. The limitations imposed by COVID-19 last year helps us appreciate these opportunities to take comfort in being with our friends and family.

As we celebrate, we also do well to remember that November is Native American Heritage Month. For individuals who identify as Indigenous Peoples in our nation, the Thanksgiving holiday is a reminder of what they and their ancestors have lost over the past four centuries.

Therefore, I suggest that you take a moment during your holiday reflections to remember the people who were on this land long before European colonization. While our nation has been a beacon for many oppressed people seeking a better life, it has been to the detriment of the Indigenous Peoples already living and thriving here. We must consider where and how we—as individuals and as concerned citizens—can do better, both for ourselves and for others.

With that in mind, I’d like to share Einstein’s new land acknowledgment, which honors those who were the original stewards of the land where our institution resides. Let us be thankful to those who preceded us here and be mindful of the
hardships and sacrifices they endured.

In closing, I thank each of you for the community that you offer to me and to one another, and I wish you a most enjoyable holiday weekend. May you celebrate safely and with true joy at being together with those you love.

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