Dear Einstein Community:

On January 25, 2022, moments after 1 p.m., members of our campus community received the first of several emergency notifications regarding a shooting that had occurred in the adult emergency department waiting room at Jacobi Medical Center. Among the unsettling factors of this incident was its proximity to our campus and that our students and faculty members may have been injured. Thankfully, no one was and the individual targeted by the gunman survived his wounds, while police identified and apprehended the person who committed the shooting the next day.

Having gun violence strike so close to home is certainly upsetting. So are recent crime statistics for New York City that show a 2.4% increase in shooting incidents between 2020 and 2021. Sadly, this is a nationwide problem, with more than 88,000 deaths and 173,000 injuries resulting from gun violence in our country.

A Public Health Concern
As an institution of medical education and research, we can and must do our part to address this public health crisis in a meaningful way. At Jacobi, alumnus Noe Romo, M.D., is already doing so, as medical director of a hospital-based intervention program called Stand Up to Violence, or SUV, which the hospital established in 2014.

On February 2, 2022, SUV held a community shooting response at Jacobi typical of what they do in local Bronx neighborhoods following a shooting incident. These events aim to offer a time for healing and to say “no” to violence. Through their program, Jacobi has been able to connect with those who have been victims of gun violence and other brutal attacks, as well as to work with the communities where these incidents have occurred, in an effort to prevent retaliatory events and offer other outlets for settling disputes.
The SUV program and Jacobi’s trauma center are featured in a forthcoming film, called GSW (the term used in hospitals to indicate gunshot wound). You can hear Dr. Romo’s interview with NPR’s Brian Lehrer, about SUV and the film, here.

Steps You Can Take to Keep Safe and Ease Stress
I also want to remind you—as Neil Kaplan, our security chief, and our education deans did in the day following the incident at Jacobi—that we have systems in place to alert you of emergency situations and to help you heighten your awareness and preparedness. These include:

- Everbridge, our emergency notification system. Make sure you’ve registered, your contact information is up to date, and you respond to test messaging so that you know what to do when notices concerning a real emergency are sent. That includes making “893-61” part of your contacts, so you recognize emergency messages in an instant.
- Our mandatory active shooter training, which you must complete and can access from our intranet.
- An active shooter preparedness video, which details the steps to take in the event of an active shooter situation.
- Our Security-Situational Awareness website, which offers additional information and tips on how to keep safe on campus and elsewhere.

We also have resources for support and counseling available if you are feeling uneasy, depressed, or stressed. These include:

- Einstein Mental Health Center
- Academic Support and Counseling
- Carebridge (Employee Assistance Program)

I also thank members of our psychiatry and behavioral sciences faculty, who identified the following resources that can be helpful to members of our community. The links below offer information about local and national programs aimed at addressing the issue of gun violence and programs at the city and state levels.
• **B.R.A.G (Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence)** – promoting safe streets and new community norms where violence is not accepted
• **Save Our Streets (S.O.S.)** – seeking to end gun violence at the neighborhood level
• **Everytown Survivor Network** – resources for victims and survivors of gun violence
• **Sandy Hook Promise** – help for victims and survivors of gun violence
• **NYC Office to Prevent Gun Violence**
• **GIVE and SNUG** – state programs aimed at reducing gun violence

In closing, I want to remind you that our greatest avenue for keeping each other and our campus community members safe is our awareness of our surroundings and preparedness, and reaching out for help when we feel vulnerable or in need of support. Please make sure to review the resources noted above and use them, if needed.

**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*