## Celebrating Our Donors

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## PHILANTHROPY AT EINSTEIN

Since it opened nearly 60 years ago, Albert Einstein College of Medicine has been a leader in innovative medical research, clinical investigation and medical education. Philanthropy has been vital in advancing the efforts of Einstein scientists and clinicians to improve health and quality of life for people everywhere. This report provides a snapshot of philanthropic giving at the College of Medicine over an 18-month period, from July 1, 2012, through December 31, 2013. The College of Medicine gratefully acknowledges the many philanthropic partners whose generosity helps Einstein conduct cutting-edge biomedical, translational and clinical research and train the most highly skilled and compassionate physicians and scientists.





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## Thank You from the Dean



Allen M. Spiegel, M.D. The Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean



#### Dear Friends,

Last summer, I wrote a blog post with Montefiore Medical Center president and CEO Steven M. Safyer, M.D. '82, titled "Angelina Jolie, the Sequester and Health in America." We noted that federal budget cuts have severely affected National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding, placing Einstein and many other medical schools under intense economic pressure as we strive to sustain robust research enterprises.

However, there is reason for optimism.

Our partnership with Montefiore, the University Hospital and academic medical center for Einstein, has never been stronger. Recent strategic investments in building Einstein's research capacity have benefited both institutions.

Our Cancer Center and Institute for Clinical and Translational Research received outstanding scores in competitive renewal applications and were re-funded by the NIH. Overall, Einstein ranked #25 in the nation in NIH funding to medical schools in FY13—an impressive vote of confidence given our relatively small size and the lack of clinical revenue to subsidize our research efforts. And Einstein scientists continue to do outstanding work: one received the award for best paper in the prestigious journal Science this year, and several were elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

Much of the good news can be attributed to the many individuals, families and foundations whose philanthropic partnership is critical to this institution. In these pages you will read about their support for a wide range of important research and education programs at Einstein.

The impact of a landmark gift to the College of Medicine in 2013 the \$160 million bequest from our dear friend and Benefactor Muriel Block—is already evident in the expanded resources and facilities at the Block Institute for Clinical and Translational Research at Einstein and Montefiore and the progress of senior investigators who hold endowed positions as Block Scholars. The generosity and vision of our donors over the past 18 months have enabled us to pursue two major projects key to our mission to improve human health: our Center for Experimental Therapeutics and a state-of-theart education center. The former will allow Einstein to continue its record of innovation in drug discovery. The latter will help ensure that Einstein continues to train leaders in cutting-edge scientific investigation and clinical care for generations to come.

Support from our donors also allows us to conduct preliminary research and early studies that will later attract national funding.

The passion and commitment of one person in particular have been crucial to our success: Dr. Ruth L. Gottesman, chair of the Board of Overseers. Since my arrival as dean in 2006, I have had the good fortune to call Ruth my colleague and friend. As these pages attest, Einstein has flourished under her watch. Ruth is stepping down as Board chair in June after seven years in that role. I hope and have reason to believe that her commitment to, and involvement with. Einstein will continue undiminished in future years.

I look forward to working closely with her and the rest of the Einstein Board to ensure that the momentum continues.





Ruth L. Gottesman, Ed.D. Chair, Einstein Board of Overseers

Ruth L Jo Hernan

#### Dear Friends,

Philanthropic partnership plays a major and vital role in making Einstein thrive and flourish. We toast you, our Einstein philanthropic family, for your generous support for the College of Medicine.

It has been a great privilege for me to serve as chair of the Einstein Board of Overseers for the past seven years. I can hardly believe all the amazing accomplishments that have occurred here during this time: important scientific discoveries, innovations in medical education and new collaborations with Montefiore that expand and enhance translational research and clinical care.

In addition, our campus has been transformed into one of the most beautiful in New York City. The Michael F. Price Center for Genetic and Translational Medicine/ Harold and Muriel Block Research Pavilion is magnificent, and thousands of square feet of building space are being strategically and cost-effectively repurposed to meet the changing needs of 21st-century research and education.

In these pages of *Philanthropy at Einstein* we gratefully acknowledge our many partners, whose generosity has advanced the research of specific faculty members and encouraged new discoveries in diabetes, heart disease, cancer and many more areas. We are grateful to many others who are supporting Einstein's Master Plan to renovate and beautify the campus. All these philanthropic investments have great impact and enable Einstein to continue to be a world-class medical school and reach new heights of excellence.

I want to acknowledge with special gratitude our Board of Overseers—people who share a passion to make Einstein's research, education and clinical programs the best they can be. They have been leaders as well as partners in our philanthropic efforts. Our dean, Allen M. Spiegel, M.D., has inspired and energized us all to attain goals that seemed impossible in these challenging times.

As my tenure as Board chair comes to a close, I want to express my deep appreciation to all Einstein supporters. I am proud and delighted to see Einstein Emerging Leaders—dynamic young professionals who have embraced Einstein's mission as their own pursue their desire to make a difference. It is gratifying to know that as technology continues to transform the future of medicine, a new generation of philanthropists is stepping up to ensure that Einstein will play a leading role.

On behalf of the Board and personally, I thank our faculty, students, alumni, administrators and staff—and our dedicated friends and supporters—for all they do to make Einstein a very special medical school.





## **Research Highlights**

Philanthropy plays a vital role in advancing medical research at Einstein. Here is a sampling of recent research accomplishments in several key areas.



The immune regulatory molecule B7x inhibits the immune response—bad for cancer patients, since suppressed immunity is associated with poor clinical outcomes and death. Using a mouse model of metastatic breast cancer, Einstein researchers found that dampening B7x signaling revved up the immune system's response against tumors, leading to fewer tumors and enhanced survival. The findings suggest that blocking B7x could harness the power of the immune response to treat metastatic cancers.

Another Einstein research team showed that just being overweight increases the risk of breast cancer recurrence. They also found that the type of treatment women received had no effect on this link between obesity and cancer risk. The good news: losing weight may reduce the risk of recurrence.

### DIABETES

Brown fat is "good" body fat that actually burns itself and other fats along with calories-to produce heat. Einstein researchers found evidence that the same gut-tobrain nerve pathways that tell us to stop eating make brown fat burn. Working with rats, the researchers administered dietary fat into the upper part of the small intestine (where nutrient absorption begins). They then observed that the brown fat's temperature had risen, meaning it was being consumed. The investigators are seeking ways to manipulate the gut-brain pathways to burn brown fat. Doing so could help prevent the obesity that can lead to type 2 diabetes and other metabolic diseases.

Rubina A. Heptulla, M.D., chief of pediatric endocrinology at Einstein and Montefiore, is working to develop an artificial pancreas that would reduce the need for insulin injections in children with type 1 diabetes.



### **HEART DISEASE**

HIV antiretroviral therapy has lengthened the lives of people infected with HIV. But survivors often develop cardiovascular disease (CVD), setting the stage for heart attack and stroke. Using ultrasound scans, Einstein scientists found that elevated cholesterol levels were strongly associated with severity of atherosclerosis among HIV-positive women taking antiretroviral therapy. This link was less clear for HIV-positive women not receiving such therapy. These results suggest that standard blood cholesterol levels may not be an adequate indicator of CVD risk in untreated HIV-infected women.

## AUTISM

A study by Einstein scientists has shown that high-functioning autism spectrum disorder (ASD) children appear to outgrow a critical social communication disability.

Compared with normally developing children, younger ASD children have trouble combining the auditory and visual cues associated with speech—an ability crucial for effective communication.

The new study, involving children ages 5 to 17, looked at whether ASD children eventually become better at integrating audio and visual speech signals. As expected, younger children with ASD, ages 6 to 12, performed much worse than typically developing children the same age. The good news was that ASD children "caught up" with their normally developing peers: Among the older children, there was no difference between typically developing children and those with ASD.

### **INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

Einstein researchers have found that vitamin C can kill not only drug-susceptible TB bacteria but also the most dangerous TB strains that are extensively drug-resistant. The finding suggests that vitamin C added to existing TB drugs could shorten TB therapy, and highlights a new area for drug design. In 2011, TB sickened some 8.7 million people and took about 1.4 million lives, according to the World Health Organization.

In addition, researchers at Einstein found that members of an antibiotic family called immucillins may prove effective in treating malaria. This disease, caused by a single-celled parasite, causes some 660,000 deaths per year. The immucillins killed *Plasmodium falciparum*—the most dangerous malaria parasites—by blocking an enzyme that the parasites need to make DNA.



## HEMATOLOGY

Macrophages are crucially important immune cells. Researchers at Einstein and Mount Sinai have recently found that macrophages also help produce, as well as eliminate, the body's red blood cells (RBCs). Macrophages in the bone marrow and the spleen nurture new RBCs at the same time that they clear aging RBCs from the circulation. This understanding may ultimately contribute to new therapies for conditions that lead to abnormal RBC counts, such as hemolytic anemia, polycythemia vera and acute blood loss, and may also help people recover from chemotherapy and bone-marrow transplantation.

## SLEEP

A recent Einstein study found that many children with sleep-related breathing problems such as snoring or apnea also have behavioral sleep problems such as waking repeatedly. Unfortunately, say the researchers, children with one type of sleep problem are not routinely evaluated and treated for the other kind. In a related study, the Einstein team found that children with disrupted sleep patterns through age 5 were more likely to have special education needs at age 8. The findings suggest that pediatricians, respiratory specialists and sleep medicine specialists should work together when a sleep problem—which is usually treatable—is suspected.

## STEM CELLS

Einstein researchers have found a chemical pattern in stem cells that predicts whether patients with acute myeloid leukemia will respond to chemotherapy.

The study focused on epigenetic "marks"—chemical changes in DNA that turn genes on or off. The researchers analyzed the pattern of marks on hematopoietic, or bloodforming, stem cells (HSCs) of healthy individuals. They hypothesized that patients with patterns resembling healthy people's HSCs would likely live longer—and therefore benefit more from chemotherapy—than patients with abnormal patterns. Testing showed that patients with a marking pattern resembling that of healthy HSCs had twice the median survival time of patients with a pattern resembling that on cancerous white cells-a result clearly superior to those achieved with other tests.

## Ira L. and Ingeborg Rennert ADVANCING RESEARCH ON THE BIOLOGY AND GENETICS OF AGING

he potential of biomedical research to extend the human life span is a subject of great interest to Ira and Ingeborg Rennert. Longtime supporters and Benefactors of biomedical research at the College of Medicine, the Rennerts have renewed their investment in Einstein with a commitment of \$2 million to help support research into the biology and genetics of aging being conducted by Nir Barzilai, M.D.

"The findings of Dr. Barzilai and his colleagues raise exciting possibilities for the future of human aging," says Dean Allen M. Spiegel, M.D. "We are extremely grateful to our good friends Ira and Ingeborg Rennert for their visionary support. Their investment has been vital in advancing this work and in helping our researchers to make significant strides in their research to determine the mechanisms that are responsible for both healthy aging and age-related diseases."

The Rennerts are widely known for their philanthropic endeavors in the United States and Israel. Mr. Rennert is chairman of The Renco Group, Inc., a private family-owned holding company that invests in companies across a range of industries. Mrs. Rennert is a noted philanthropist and a leading member of Einstein's Women's Division. Dr. Barzilai, an internationally known expert in aging research, is a professor of medicine (endocrinology) and of molecular genetics at Einstein, director of the College of Medicine's Institute for Aging Research and the inaugural holder of the Ingeborg and Ira Leon Rennert Chair in Aging Research, one of two endowed professorships established by the Rennerts.

The Rennerts have also endowed the Ingeborg and Ira Leon Rennert Chair in Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine, held by Eric E. Bouhassira, Ph.D., a leader in this emerging field and a professor of cell biology and of medicine (hematology) at Einstein. His work focuses on prompting human embryonic stem cells to develop into bloodforming stem cells. He also studies the mechanisms that regulate DNA replication when stem cells divide. This research could ultimately allow scientists to reprogram stem cells so that they produce cells customized for transplantation into specific patients.

In 2010, Einstein's Institute for Aging Research was named by the National Institutes of Health as a Nathan Shock Center of Excellence in the Basic Biology of Aging—one of only five such designated centers in the nation.



The Rennerts have renewed their investment in Einstein with a commitment of \$2 million to help support research into the biology and genetics of aging.

Several common health problems -cancer, diabetes, heart disease and Alzheimer's disease—affect mainly middle-aged and elderly people, Dr. Barzilai notes. The role of aging in these adult-onset diseases is rarely examined, he says, even though aging is the major risk factor for developing all of them. "We want to find ways to slow the rate of aging and thereby prevent most of these age-related diseases," says Dr. Barzilai. "A side effect of this work might be that people would live longer, but that's not really our goal. Our goal is healthy aging, which means growing old without being burdened by the diseases of aging."

In 1998, Dr. Barzilai and his team began studying a group of more than 500 Ashkenazi Jews over the age of 95. The researchers' aim: to identify the genetic influences that have delayed aging and kept these centenarians healthy while most of their peers long ago succumbed to age-related diseases. The team selected Ashkenazi Jews because they are genetically homogenous, making it easier to spot genetic differences within the study population.

The study, known as the Longevity Genes Project, also recruited 700 of the subjects' offspring between 60 and 85 years old and a control group of unrelated



Our goal is healthy aging, which means growing old without being burdened by the diseases of aging.

Ashkenazi subjects between ages 60 and 95. By analyzing blood samples from the participants, the researchers have begun uncovering the genetic influences on longevity.

Dr. Barzilai and his team so far have identified at least three genes thought to promote longevity. Centenarians and their children were much more likely than other people to possess particular variants (rare forms) of these "longevity genes." Ideally, such discoveries can be translated into drugs that mimic the benefits of the longevity genes.

Based on the Einstein findings, Merck is developing a drug that imitates the activity of one such longevity gene variant, CETP VV, a form of the cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP) gene. CETP VV is now in phase 3 clinical trials for boosting HDL cholesterol and decreasing LDL levels. In light of CETP VV's favorable influence on cognitive ability, Dr. Barzilai believes that this drug should also be tested to see if it can help against Alzheimer's disease.



Founded by Eugene A. Czap in memory of his wife, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease, the Carolyne E. Czap and Eugene A. Czap Charitable Foundation supports innovative research into the onset of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

The foundation has already funded a total of \$205,000 toward the Einstein Aging Study, a long-term research project aimed at identifying factors such as biological traits that promote brain health and protect some people from developing Alzheimer's and related disorders.

The researchers are also examining risk factors and biological pathways that cause cognitive and functional decline and may help trigger the initial phase of dementia. Findings from the study may lead to innovative approaches to treating and preventing Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative disorders.

"We are very grateful to the Czap Foundation and to its directors, Mark Ettinger and Jeffrey Zell, for their support, which has played and continues to play a vital role in helping us investigate the causes of Alzheimer's disease," says Richard B. Lipton, M.D., the Edwin S. Lowe Chair in Neurology at Einstein, and the director and lead investigator for the Einstein Aging Study.

#### **S & L MARX FOUNDATION**

A commitment of \$400,000 from the S & L Marx Foundation will help support research on cognitive impairment associated with the earliest stages of Alzheimer's disease. The investigators will assess how pain, stress and vascular disease affect cognitive decline in older adults, and how sleep influences cognition. The research is part of the Einstein Aging Study, directed by Richard B. Lipton, M.D., the Edwin S. Lowe Chair in Neurology and professor and vice chair in the Saul R. Korey Department of Neurology.

The research findings could potentially lead to new interventions for preventing Alzheimer's disease or forestalling its onset.

"Alzheimer's disease is devastating to the families affected by this disorder. We are pleased to invest in the important work done by Dr. Lipton and his team," says Nancy Better, director of the S & L Marx Foundation.

This new commitment represents the second gift from the S & L Marx Foundation for the Einstein Aging Study.

## THE BEATRICE AND ROY BACKUS FOUNDATION, INC.

The Beatrice and Roy Backus Foundation, Inc., has made a new commitment of \$165,000 to support research by Ana Maria Cuervo, M.D., Ph.D., into Parkinson's disease. These funds will be used to advance Dr. Cuervo's work aimed at discovering new approaches to treating and preventing the disease.

Dr. Cuervo is a leading expert in autophagy (a normal process by which cells break down and recycle their worn-out components) and in the molecular biology of aging. She and her colleagues are investigating defects in autophagy that may lead to Parkinson's and other neurodegenerative diseases and age-related disorders.

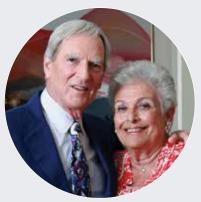
A professor of developmental and molecular biology, of anatomy and structural biology and of medicine (gastroenterology & liver diseases) at Einstein, Dr. Cuervo holds the Robert and Renée Belfer Chair for the Study of Neurodegenerative Diseases. She also directs the Cellular and Tissue Aging Core at Einstein's NIH-designated Nathan Shock Center of Excellence in the Basic Biology of Aging. Donors advance research aimed at new ways to treat and prevent Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative disorders.

#### MARILYN AND STANLEY M. KATZ

Overseers Marilyn Katz and Stanley M. Katz, leading supporters of cancer research at Einstein, made a new commitment of \$500,000 to support the Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Comprehensive Cancer Prevention and Control Program, which they helped establish in 2009.

Directed by Bruce D. Rapkin, Ph.D., professor of epidemiology & population health and of family and social medicine, the program partners with community-based organizations to make cancer prevention, screening and treatment services of the Albert Einstein Cancer Center accessible to medically underserved Bronx residents. Its research team also conducts studies to test innovative approaches to preventing major cancers and improve quality of life for cancer patients.

In 2013, Dr. Rapkin received a major grant from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to develop a new quality-of-life assessment instrument aimed at eliciting information from patients with a higher degree of accuracy than data yielded by previous assessment tools, and help pave the way for bettertargeted treatment strategies, patient education and supportive care. The Katzes' support helped fund the pilot research that led to the PCORI grant. Mrs. Katz, whose sister, Susan Resnick Fisher, died of brain cancer at age 50, is the founding chair of the Cancer Center's Cancer Research Advisory Board. She and Mr. Katz have hosted many programs for Einstein supporters



and friends, in New York and Palm Beach, featuring discussions with leading Cancer Center researchers.

"The Katzes' far-sighted investments in cancer research and Marilyn's outstanding leadership of our advisory board reflect their deep commitment to partnering with our investigators to find better treatment and prevention approaches," notes I. David Goldman, M.D., the Susan Resnick Fisher Professor and director of the Albert Einstein Cancer Center.

The Katzes are longtime Einstein Benefactors. A prior major gift established the Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz deanship at the College of Medicine.



#### **BETTY FEINBERG**

Overseer Betty Feinberg has made a commitment to Albert Einstein College of Medicine of \$500,000 to support research on Lynch syndrome. The M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX, also received a \$500,000 commitment from the Feinberg family toward this research, to be conducted in collaboration with Einstein's Winfried Edelmann, Ph.D.

Lynch syndrome is a genetic disease that predisposes individuals to colon, ovarian, uterine and possibly breast and other cancers. Dr. Edelmann, a leading expert on the disorder, holds the Joseph and Gertrud Buchler Chair in Transgenic Medicine at Einstein and directs the Albert Einstein Cancer Center's genetargeting and transgenic mouse facilities.

The project's long-term goal is to discover new drugs to reduce colon and rectal cancer in patients with Lynch syndrome. The Einstein researchers plan to test the drugs in a mouse model of Lynch syndrome that Dr. Edelmann has developed, to determine the underlying molecular mechanisms and to translate the results into treatment protocols for humans with this disorder. This research has the potential to provide new approaches to preventing all the cancers associated with Lynch syndrome.



"Einstein's excellent cancer research programs inspired me to get involved with the medical school 30 years ago," says Mrs. Feinberg. "Most people do not know about Lynch syndrome or its connection with breast cancer and other cancers that primarily affect women. My family and I are pleased to support Dr. Edelmann's important work in this area."

#### SYLVIA OLNICK

Overseer Sylvia Olnick made a commitment of \$200,000 to support biomedical research at the College of Medicine.

A longtime Einstein Benefactor, Mrs. Olnick previously established the Sylvia and Robert S. Olnick Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research, an endowed academic position held by Ekaterina Dadachova, Ph.D., professor of nuclear medicine and of microbiology & immunology. Dr. Dadachova is a pioneer in the use of radioimmunotherapy as a potential treatment for certain cancers and infectious diseases, including metastatic melanoma and cervical and liver cancers.

Mrs. Olnick and her husband, Robert, who died of melanoma in 1986, also established a professorial chair in neuroscience at Einstein.

"I am very proud to support Einstein," says Mrs. Olnick. "Robert and I shared a strong belief that it is our responsibility to help make the world a better place. He believed, as I do, in the mission of the College of Medicine and the excellence of its faculty. I am delighted to do whatever I can to help them succeed in finding better ways to treat and, eventually, cure cancer and other serious illnesses that cause human suffering."

"Sylvia Olnick has been a steadfast friend to this institution," says Dean Allen M. Spiegel, M.D. "We are



extremely grateful for her confidence in our research enterprise and for her investment, which will help accelerate the discovery of potential new therapies for cancer and other life-threatening diseases."

## 60th Anniversary Celebration \$1.3 MILLION RAISED TO BENEFIT CANCER RESEARCH

he Grand Ballroom of New York's Plaza Hotel was the setting on November 11, 2013, for a dinner marking the 60th anniversary of the College of Medicine's founding and 60 years of philanthropic leadership by the Einstein Women's Division to help advance the medical school's mission to improve human health.

The evening's honorees— Broadway producer Daryl Roth, a longtime Women's Division board member, and Einstein Overseer Benjamin J. Winter, who together with his wife, Susan, is a leading supporter of biomedical research received the Albert Einstein Humanitarian Award for their dedicated service to the College of Medicine.

Proceeds from the event totaled \$1,350,000. The funds will help support vital research into men's and women's cancers, including ovarian, cervical, uterine, breast, prostate, lung, colon and pancreatic cancers and leukemia. The funds will help support vital research into men's and women's cancers, including ovarian, cervical, uterine, breast, prostate, lung, colon and pancreatic cancers and leukemia.

Carol Roaman, the Women's Division president, chaired the event; dinner co-chairs were Linda and Earle Altman, Judy and Ronald S. Baron, Renée E. and Robert A. Belfer, Carol and Roger W. Einiger, Ruth L. and David S. Gottesman, Janet and Arthur Hershaft, Ronnie Heyman, Karen and David Mandelbaum, Pamela and Edward S. Pantzer, and Kathy and Samuel G. Weinberg. Burton P. Resnick served as journal chair.



**Daryl and Steven Roth** 



**Benjamin and Susan Winter** 

#### THE BREAST CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) funds novel clinical and translational research at leading medical centers worldwide. BCRF has generously supported the work of Einstein researchers since 2006. The foundation renewed its commitment this year with three grants totaling \$720,000.

The grants continue BCRF's support for studies by Susan Band Horwitz, Ph.D., the Rose C. Falkenstein Chair in Cancer Research and a distinguished professor and co-chair, department of molecular pharmacology, with Hayley M. McDaid, Ph.D., an assistant professor of medicine (oncology) and instructor in molecular pharmacology; by Rachel Hazan, Ph.D., a professor of pathology; and by Thomas E. Rohan, M.D., Ph.D., a professor and chair, department of epidemiology & population health, and the Harold and Muriel Block Chair in Epidemiology & Population Health.

"Einstein is honored to partner with the Breast Cancer Research Foundation," says Dean Allen M. Spiegel, M.D. "The foundation's generosity and vision are critical to enhancing our investigators' ongoing efforts to discover new and improved breast cancer treatments."

#### NCI RENEWAL GRANT

Renewal of the Albert Einstein Cancer Center's \$16.7 million grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) allows Cancer Center members to continue their research on the underlying causes of cancer and new approaches to preventing, diagnosing and treating cancer. The director of the Cancer Center is I. David Goldman, M.D., a professor of medicine (oncology) and of molecular pharmacology and the Susan Resnick Fisher Professor.





#### PRICE FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Price Family Foundation has made a commitment of \$2.5 million to help establish the Center for Experimental Therapeutics at Einstein. Overseer Michael F. Price (pictured above), a renowned investment fund manager and philanthropist, and his family are leading Einstein Benefactors and supporters of translational research and clinical programs.

In 2001, the Price Family Foundation made what was at the time the largest commitment in Einstein's history: \$25 million to help establish a state-of-the-art center for genetic and translational research. The Michael F. Price Center for Genetic and Translational Medicine/Harold and Muriel Block Research Pavilion opened in 2008.

The foundation has generously provided continuous support for Einstein's Healthy Steps Program and its Infant-Parent Court Affiliated Intervention Project, which help young children and their families in underserved Bronx communities obtain critical health services.

In 2011, the foundation made a significant contribution toward consolidating the Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center's clinical and research units within newly renovated quarters in the Van Etten Building.

Mr. Price joined the Einstein Board of Overseers in 2001 and is the former chair of its executive committee.

#### **A New Collaboration**

The Price Family Foundation also recently made a commitment of \$1.7 million to help support an innovative research collaboration between Einstein's Vern L. Schramm, Ph.D., and Steven C. Almo, Ph.D., and investigators at the University of Oklahoma.

The research consortium will tackle an important but largely unexplored area: the structural biology of anaerobic microorganisms (those that don't use oxygen). The researchers will focus on *Clostridium difficile*, a bacterial species that infects the intestinal tract.

Toxins produced by *C. difficile* can damage the lining of the colon, causing colitis. Each year in the United States, infections with this microbe sicken at least 250,000 people and cause at least 14,000 deaths. The joint research project is aimed at better treatments for *C. difficile* infections. It will capitalize on Einstein's automated largescale, high-throughput capabilities and Oklahoma's expertise in anaerobic microbiology and chemistry.

Dr. Schramm is a professor and chair of biochemistry and the Ruth Merns Chair in Biochemistry; Dr. Almo is a professor of biochemistry and of physiology & biophysics and the Wollowick Family Foundation Chair.





### The Center for Experimental Therapeutics: A Progress Report

The Center for Experimental Therapeutics was formed last year to help Einstein investigators overcome drug-discovery challenges. The goal: "to attract partners such as the NIH or biotech companies," says a center leader, Steven Almo, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry and of physiology & biophysics and the Wollowick Family Foundation Chair. The center:

- has upgraded its capabilities in nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, which reveals the structure of biomolecules that are potential drug targets;
- is acquiring robotics technology and chemical "libraries" for highthroughput screening to find chemicals that can hit a target; and
- is expanding its expertise in computational biology, which uses powerful software to match molecules with targets. Evripidis Gavathiotis, Ph.D., an assistant professor of biochemistry and of medicine (cardiology), uses this approach to build molecules that target a protein involved in cell death.

Finally, the center's chemical biology core facility can synthesize, purify and characterize compounds. The facility's scientific director, Peng Wu, Ph.D., associate professor of biochemistry, reports that the core has a new state-of-the-art organic chemistry laboratory.

#### FRANCES SCHAMAROCK

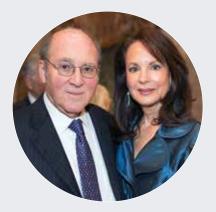
Frances Schamarock (pictured here with Dean Spiegel) is a longtime devoted friend of the College of Medicine. She has been a steady presence for many years at educational programs held annually in Florida for friends and supporters, at which leading Einstein faculty members present the latest developments in biomedical research and education. Her husband, Daniel, actively participated with her in these programs until shortly before his passing in 2012.



To honor Mr. Schamarock's memory, and to help advance biomedical research initiatives at Einstein that will improve human health, Mrs. Schamarock has made a generous gift toward the new Center for Experimental Therapeutics.

"Frances and her beloved Daniel have been great friends to this institution over the years," says Dean Spiegel. "We have been extremely grateful to have them as partners as we pursue the vital work of finding novel therapies that will lead to a healthier future for all."

In recognition of the Schamarocks' deep commitment to advancing biomedical research at Einstein, the College of Medicine has named a major research laboratory in their honor.



#### KAREN AND DAVID MANDELBAUM

Overseer Karen Mandelbaum and her husband, David, believe in the lifesaving potential of biomedical research. Mrs. Mandelbaum, an active member of Einstein's Women's Division, was elected to the Einstein Board of Overseers in 2011. The couple has graciously hosted annual receptions in Florida, giving other Einstein friends and supporters the opportunity to meet and talk informally with Dean Spiegel and leading Einstein faculty members about a wide range of major health issues and the latest research advances at Einstein. Most recently, the Mandelbaums made a generous commitment to support cardiovascular research within the Center for Experimental Therapeutics. Their investment in the new center is a testament to their deep interest in advancing the College of Medicine's mission to improve human health through cutting-edge scientific and clinical investigation.



EDWARD S. AND PAMELA PANTZER

Overseer Edward S. Pantzer and his wife, Pamela, made a generous commitment to support research at the College of Medicine's new Center for Experimental Therapeutics. The couple's support will focus on two vital areas of investigation: cardiovascular disease and autoimmune disorders.

Mr. Pantzer is the chairman and CEO of Pantzer Properties, a real estate investment and management firm based in New York City and New Jersey. He was elected to the Einstein Board of Overseers in 2011 and serves as a member of its nominating committee. Mrs. Pantzer is a board member of the Einstein Women's Division.



ERNEST AND JOAN KALMAN

Overseer Ernest Kalman and his wife, Joan, have made a commitment of \$250,000 toward the Center for Experimental Therapeutics.

"We're delighted to make this investment in the new experimental therapeutics center," says Mr. Kalman, who has served on the Board of Overseers since 2001 and is a member of its student and educational affairs committee.

"Developing new and better therapies for devastating diseases is a national priority," says Mr. Kalman, "and Joan and I are pleased to join this effort."





Donors Advance Research: DIABETES

#### LEON LOWENSTEIN FOUNDATION, INC.

The Leon Lowenstein Foundation, Inc., awarded \$100,000 to Einstein in the form of two \$50,000 grants for diabetes prevention research. One grant was directed toward the work of Alison Karasz, Ph.D., associate professor of family and social medicine; the other will help support the research of Elizabeth A. Walker, Ph.D., R.N., professor of medicine (endocrinology) and of epidemiology & population health and director of Einstein's Diabetes Research Center's Prevention and Control Core.

The funds will enable Dr. Karasz to expand APPLE (Activating People to Pursue Lifestyle Change Through Empowerment), a communitybased project aimed at preventing diabetes among women in New York City's South Asian immigrant community.

Dr. Walker, working with three community partners—the South Bronx-based Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center, the Committee of Interns and Residents and the Bronx Borough Initiative BronxCAN—will build upon the Family Health Challenge, a program launched in 2009 by the Mitchell Center to prevent and control obesity in children ages 7–12. The Lowenstein Foundation previously funded Dr. Walker's work targeting adult Bronx residents.

#### INVESTING IN EINSTEIN'S GLOBAL DIABETES INSTITUTE

An anonymous donor made a generous gift to Einstein's Global Diabetes Institute (GDI). The institute's director is Meredith A. Hawkins, M.D., professor of medicine (endocrinology) and the Harold and Muriel Block Chair in Medicine at Einstein.

A major focus of Dr. Hawkins' GDI research is malnutrition diabetes, which affects millions of children and young adults. By building strategic partnerships abroad and employing Einstein's unique strengths in medical research and education, the GDI is helping address this critical facet of the global diabetes epidemic.

#### THE STEVEN AND BEVERLY RUBENSTEIN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Steven and Beverly Rubenstein Charitable Foundation made a commitment of \$250,000 to support research into autism spectrum disorders (ASD) led by John J. Foxe, Ph.D. '99, and Sophie Molholm, Ph.D.

To develop better ways of diagnosing and treating people with autism spectrum disorder, researchers need to understand the underlying brain abnormalities that cause it. Drs. Foxe and Molholm will use advanced neuroimaging and mathematical techniques to obtain the first complete picture of the connections among different regions of the brain in people with ASD. The study aims to identify brain-structure abnormalities that may be associated with functional problems that affect people with ASD-in particular, problems with executive function

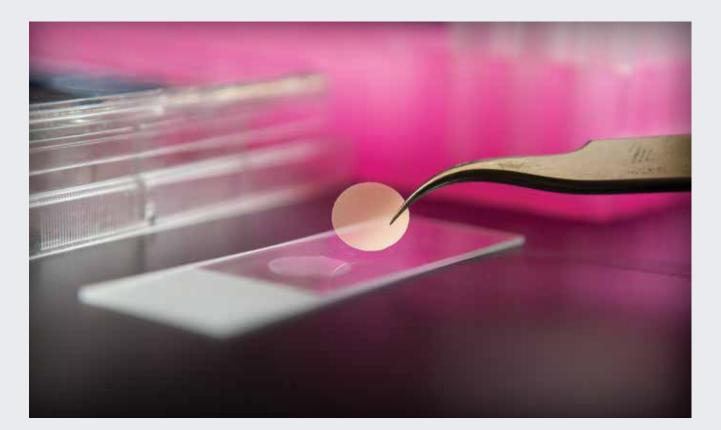
(the ability to guide actions to reach a future goal) and with interpersonal communication and use of language.

The knowledge gained may allow Einstein researchers to divide people with ASD into diagnostic categories that more accurately reflect their particular disorders, leading to interventions that are better targeted and more effective.

Dr. Foxe is a professor in the department of pediatrics and in the Dominick P. Purpura Department of Neuroscience, director of research at Einstein's Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC) and associate director of the Rose F. Kennedy Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center; Dr. Molholm is an associate professor of pediatrics and of neuroscience, the Muriel and Harold Block Faculty Scholar in Mental Illness and associate director of research at CERC.

"We are grateful to the Steven and Beverly Rubenstein Charitable Foundation and to Beverly Rubenstein, Andrew Rubenstein and Barry Mandelbaum for their generosity. Their investment will help outstanding investigators who are leaders in their field to better understand the complex neurobiology of these disorders, with the goal of translating this knowledge into new treatments and intervention strategies," says Allen M. Spiegel, M.D., the Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean.

Mr. Mandelbaum, Beverly Rubenstein and her son, Andrew, are trustees of the Rubenstein Foundation and first-time donors to the College of Medicine.



#### F. M. KIRBY FOUNDATION

The F. M. Kirby Foundation, a longtime, generous supporter of neurological research at Einstein, renewed its commitment with a grant of \$350,000. The funds were used to purchase the Prairie in vivo two-photon microscopy system for research scientists in the F. M. Kirby Program in Neural Repair and Protection who are studying stroke and other major neurodegenerative disorders. This state-of-the-art system illuminates living cells in unprecedented detail and will advance the work of Einstein senior investigators in the program, which was established by the Kirby Foundation in 2001.

Founded in 1931, the foundation has been stewarded by five generations of the Kirby family. It is known for its visionary support of promising medical research.

"The Kirby Foundation has been an exceptional partner to Einstein," says Dean Allen M. Spiegel, M.D. "The foundation's steadfast support continues to enhance the ability of our investigators to contribute to our understanding of the biological mechanisms at work in stroke."

Over the past 15 years, the F. M. Kirby Foundation has provided major funding to the College of Medicine, including the establishment of the F. M. Kirby Chair in Neural Repair and Protection. R. Suzanne Zukin, Ph.D., a professor in the Dominick P. Purpura Department of Neuroscience and the director of Einstein's Neuropsychopharmacology Center, became the chair's first occupant in 2009.

#### THE G. HAROLD AND LEILA Y. MATHERS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The G. Harold and Leila Y. Mathers Charitable Foundation supports basic research in the life sciences at leading American universities and independent research institutions and has been a generous supporter of fundamental biomedical research at Einstein. This past year, the foundation made a multiyear commitment of \$1,019,363 for "Connectomics of the Nematode Nervous System," a research project directed by Scott W. Emmons, Ph.D., Einstein's Siegfried Ullmann Chair in Molecular Genetics.

Support from the Mathers Foundation has played a critical role in helping Dr. Emmons and his colleagues investigate the neural connections formed in the brain and learn whether new memories increase or alter these connections—a major question in the field of connectomics, which aims to map the myriad neural connections in organisms to find the ones responsible for particular behaviors.

In 2012, the Emmons laboratory published the complete wiring diagram for the part of the nervous system controlling mating in the male roundworm *C. elegans* in *Science*, the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The study was chosen as the most outstanding paper published in *Science* in the year from June 2012 to May 2013. The researchers' findings continue to shed new light on the nervous system's function and development.

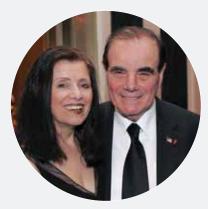
#### **ARNOLD S. AND MADALEINE PENNER**

Overseer Arnold S. Penner and his wife, Madaleine, have made a \$300,000 commitment to help support orthopaedic research at Einstein and a symposium on musculoskeletal repair and regeneration.

Musculoskeletal disorders (injuries or illnesses that damage the body's connective tissues) cause significant pain for millions of Americans and can increase the risk of death for some. These problems account for about 17 percent of all healthcare expenditures, mainly for drug or surgical therapies that are not always effective. Stem cell and regenerative medicine research could lead to innovative and effective treatments.

The third annual Arnold and Madaleine Penner Musculoskeletal Repair and Regeneration Symposium is slated for the fall of 2014. The symposium—the only meeting of its kind in the tristate area—brings together basic scientists, bioengineers, clinical investigators and clinicians to discuss recent advances in musculoskeletal science and research, exchange ideas and form new collaborations. It is organized by Hui (Herb) Sun, Ph.D., associate professor of radiation oncology and orthopaedic surgery at Einstein, and Neil J. Cobelli, M.D., professor and chair of orthopaedic surgery at Einstein and Montefiore, the University Hospital and academic medical center for the College of Medicine.

The Penners are longtime supporters of biomedical



research and education programs at Einstein. They became interested in orthopaedic medicine after learning from David M. Hirsh, M.D. '63, a professor of clinical orthopaedic surgery at Einstein and director of the joint replacement service at Montefiore, about cutting-edge research being conducted at the College of Medicine. Mr. Penner serves on Einstein's Board of Overseers and on its Professional & Leadership Division's executive board. In 2011, the College of Medicine recognized his outstanding service with its Lifetime Leadership Award.

A

## Donors Advance Research: INFECTIOUS DISEASE

#### **BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION**

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded two grants to the College of Medicine. Ekaterina Dadachova, Ph.D., received a \$363,200 Global Health grant for her research using radioimmunotherapy (involving radioisotopes attached to antibodies) to treat and possibly cure HIV/ AIDS. Dr. Dadachova is collaborating on the project with Joan W. Berman, Ph.D. The grant represents the Gates Foundation's renewed investment in this project, for which Dr. Dadachova and Arturo Casadevall, M.D., Ph.D., received a \$100,000 grant from its Grand Challenges Explorations Initiative in 2011. The World Health Organization estimates there are more than 33 million adults and children living with HIV/AIDS worldwide.

Dr. Casadevall received a \$100,000 Grand Challenges Explorations grant for his work on a new tuberculosis (TB) vaccine. In 2011, TB sickened some 8.7 million people and killed about 1.4 million, making it a leading cause of death worldwide.

"We are deeply grateful for the Gates Foundation's continued partnership," says Dean Allen M. Spiegel, M.D. "Its support for the pioneering work of our investigators will help advance their efforts to halt the spread of these life-threatening diseases."

Dr. Casadevall is the Leo and Julia Forchheimer Chair in Microbiology & Immunology and professor and chair of the department, a professor of medicine (infectious diseases), director of the Center for Immunological Sciences at Einstein and an attending physician in medicine (infectious diseases) at Montefiore. Dr. Dadachova is the Sylvia and Robert S. Olnick Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research and a professor of radiology (nuclear medicine) and of microbiology & immunology at Einstein. Dr. Berman is a professor of pathology and of microbiology & immunology at Einstein.

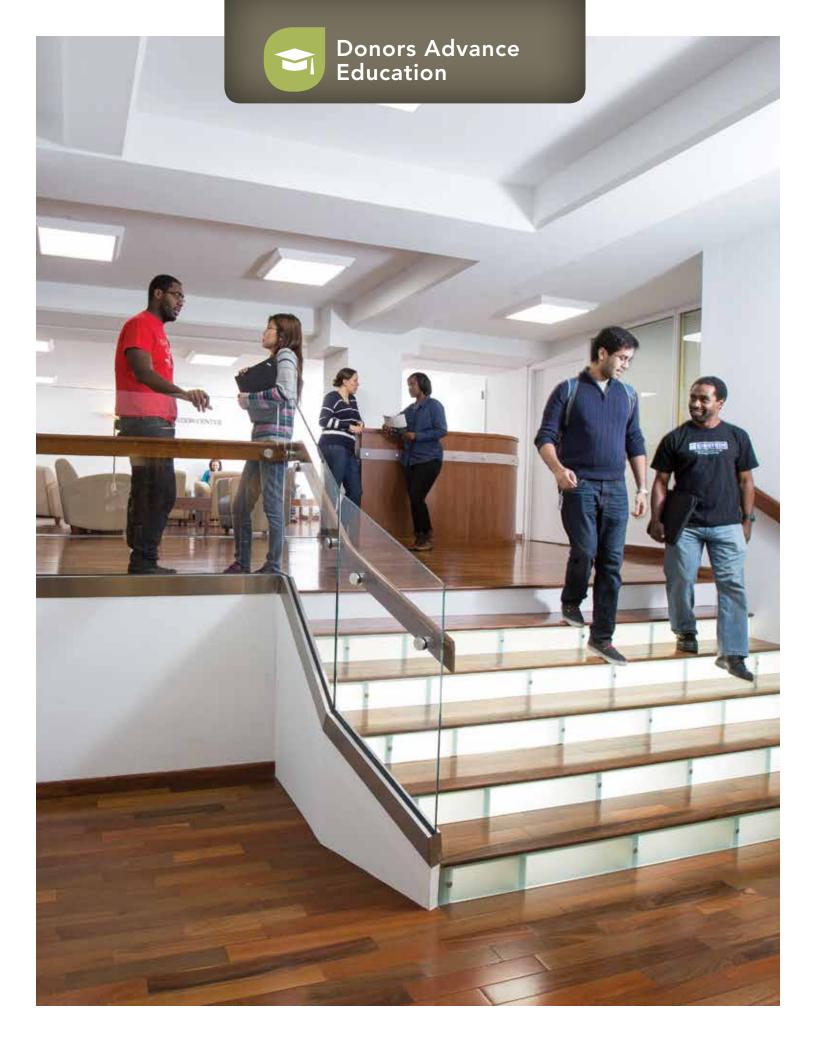
#### **ROBIN HOOD**

Robin Hood identifies, funds and provides technical assistance to programs it considers most effective in attacking the root causes of poverty in New York City– programs such as Einstein's Center for Babies, Toddlers and Families (CBTF). In 2013, Robin Hood renewed its support for the CBTF with a generous new commitment of \$545,000.

A division of the Early Childhood Center at Einstein's Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center, the CBTF treats the causes of emotional distress in young children and their parents from underserved communities in the Bronx. The program is directed by Susan Chinitz, Psy.D., a professor of clinical pediatrics and the Patricia T. and Charles S. Raizen Distinguished Scholar in Pediatrics.

Robin Hood previously awarded the CBTF renewal grants of \$525,000 and \$500,000 in 2012 and 2011 respectively. In 2010, Robin Hood attained Benefactor status, an honored designation given to Einstein donors whose cumulative support has reached \$1 million. Robin Hood deems Einstein's Center for Babies, Toddlers and Families among the most effective programs in attacking the root causes of poverty in New York City.





# A Conversation with Einstein's Chair RUTH L. GOTTESMAN, Ed.D.

Dr. Ruth Gottesman recently sat down with Gordon Earle, associate dean for communications and public affairs, to reflect on changes in medical and graduate education at Einstein since 2007, when she began her tenure as chair of Einstein's Board of Overseers. Dr. Gottesman will step down from the position in June.

#### Gordon Earle: What drew your attention to medical and graduate education at Einstein?

Dr. Gottesman: When I initially joined the Board of Overseers in 2002, Robert Belfer, then chair of the Board, asked me to be the chairperson of a newly conceived student affairs committee. In my first five years on the Board, I witnessed a great emphasis on support for research and wanted to put an equally strong emphasis on upgrading our educational programs and infrastructure. The student affairs committee met on a regular basis with a representative group of students, and we were able to convince the Board and administration to upgrade the library and other educational facilities. Over the past seven years, under the able leadership of Board member Nathan Kahn, the committee has expanded to include the associate deans of the M.D. and Ph.D. programs, and has been highly effective in improving the quality of life for all students at the medical school.



## Our donors have contributed greatly to upgrading Einstein's educational programs and infrastructure.

## GE: As chair, what else did you want to accomplish?

RLG: I wanted greater Board involvement, and I wanted to highlight the needs of the medical education program. So we started an annual half-day Board retreat called Mini Med School. We bring Board members to campus and introduce them to our faculty and students. They participate in special seminars and get to ask guestions—so they can experience firsthand what makes an Einstein education unique. Also, the interest and support from members of our Board of Overseers, and from many friends and benefactors, have contributed greatly to the further renovation and expansion of library space for multiple uses;

a state-of-the-art clinical skills center; greatly increased student recreation and study spaces; and, in the near future, a technologically sophisticated education center.

#### GE: Since you came on as Board chair, what other changes have you seen in the education here?

**RLG:** Educational topics and practices have changed greatly in all medical schools because of the numerous and continuing medical discoveries taking place, new teaching theories and techniques and the enormous advances in information technology. Einstein has been at the forefront, with innovative programs such as the Introduction to Clinical Medicine course, bioethics and global health and education. We have developed an unparalleled comprehensive, effective website that gives students and anyone else who is interested a wealth of information about Einstein's educational programs. It's been great to see the students and faculty taking advantage of it all, and to know that Einstein offers a first-rate learning environment we are all proud of.

#### GE: What hasn't changed?

RLG: Turning out truly outstanding, knowledgeable and compassionate physicians and remarkably able, creative and innovative medical researchers.





A new learning studio in the Leo Forchheimer Medical Science Building provides students with a spacious, attractive study environment. Equipped with the latest technology, the room is also designed for small-group and distance (online) learning.

Students learn best when they're solving problems and exchanging ideas in an intimate setting.

# Einstein's New EDUCATION CENTER

n the past few years, Einstein's Jack and Pearl Resnick Campus has seen exciting changes reflecting modern education theory: that students learn best when they're solving problems and exchanging ideas in an intimate setting rather than sitting in a large lecture hall listening (or sleeping).

Introducing...Einstein's Education Center, located in facilities stretching from the Leo Forchheimer Medical Science Building through the Michael F. Price Center for Genetic and Translational Medicine/Harold and Muriel Block Research Pavilion and on into the Van Etten Building. "Our new Education Center is the most important development in medical education at Einstein in its nearly 60-year history," says Allen M. Spiegel, M.D., Einstein's Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean.

The Education Center's key facilities are:

The Large-Group Active Learning Studio. It replaces the lower stacks of the library in Forchheimer. This space accommodates an entire medical school class and up to 20 faculty members doing interactive, large-group exercises. Pulling out soundproof partitions divides the studio into rooms in which small groups of students sit at tables to solve problems.

(continued on page 28)



# STUDENT PROFILE

In high school, Leah Taffel enjoyed biology and solving problems, and she knew she wanted to help people. All her interests came together when she chose medicine, which offers a steady stream of challenging and complex human scenarios.

Einstein's mission of improving health locally, nationally and globally appealed to Leah. During her first two years of medical school, she volunteered at the College of Medicine's student-run Einstein Community Health Outreach (ECHO) clinic as a health educator, a mentor for first-year medical students and a lecturer on women's health. Her passion for community medicine took Leah to Cusco, Peru, as an Einstein global health fellow in the summer of 2011. There she volunteered in a medical clinic and studied medical Spanish.

Now a fourth-year student and Rudin Scholar, Leah hopes for a career in academic medicine with a clinical focus on internal medicine. "I love working with patients and being invited into their lives," says Leah, the daughter of a pediatric social worker and a psychologist. "As physicians, we have a responsibility to listen to our patients and the ability to help them in their most desperate moments—such as the end of life—or when they face difficult life decisions."



THE RUDIN FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

The Rudin family is known for its visionary philanthropy. The Louis and Rachel Rudin Foundation and the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation have supported the education and training of Einstein students for 40 years. Jack Rudin (pictured above), chair of the Rudin Family Foundations and of Rudin Management, Inc., a leading New York real estate firm, views his family's support for the College of Medicine as an investment in the future.

This past year, the Louis and Rachel Rudin Foundation provided scholarships for medical students and M.D./Ph.D. candidates as well as support for Einstein's Hispanic Center of Excellence and training programs in AIDS research and integrative medicine.

The Louis and Rachel Rudin Foundation also renewed its support for genetics research conducted by Harry Ostrer, M.D., professor of pathology and of pediatrics at Einstein and director of genetic and genomic testing in clinical pathology at Montefiore. Dr. Ostrer's research may lead to a better understanding of the genetic risk factors for heart disease, cancer and other medical conditions in Jewish populations and help usher in a new era of personalized medicine.

#### Small-Group Active Learning

**Studios.** These more intimate spaces feature interactive learning and have been created where the library's upper stacks used to be. They're designed to foster collaborative, project-based activities. Furniture in these smaller rooms is movable, in the interest of offering students a dynamic learning experience.

Team-based learning is emphasized in both the large-group and small-group active learning studios. "Medical education is increasingly moving toward team-based learning —it's the most important educational method that our renovations have made possible," says Martha S. Grayson, M.D., senior associate dean for medical education. "Team-based learning can work with a group of six or a classroom of 200, and every student is actively engaged." Victoria H. Freedman, Ph.D., associate dean for graduate programs in biomedical sciences, notes that grad students also use the large-group and small-group active learning studios, since many courses in the new graduate curriculum emphasize team-based learning.

#### The Theater-Based Learning

**Studio.** "This was a unique idea," says Dr. Grayson. The new Van Etten facility arose from an old, longunused 90-seat auditorium in need of extensive renovation. She and Salvatore P. Ciampo, senior director of facilities management, made a plan to install swiveling chairs in the auditorium, allowing medical students to face forward for a large-group lecture, and then rotate to form groups of six for problemsolving in smaller groups, says Dr. Grayson. The innovative architecture is ideal for the team-based learning exercises that are an integral part of the new graduate curriculum, and it's just the right size for some of the larger groups, says Dr. Freedman. The auditorium will also serve as a site for online testing and facultydevelopment programs.

The Simulation Center. Students entering the Simulation Center, located in Van Etten, will be greeted by their professors and by computerized mannequins that can blink, sweat, breathe and more—giving the students a way to work with almost-real patients. Studies show that practicing high-risk skills on mannequins translates into better performance when doing procedures such endoscopic surgery and in team-based emergency situations such as acute cardiac and respiratory resuscitation.

> Movable furniture makes it easy for students to gather in small groups for team problem solving.





## STUDENT PROFILE Mathew Birnbaum

Mathew Birnbaum, one of Einstein's first Fruhman Scholars, graduated from Cornell University summa cum laude with a degree in communications and business. But after a year in the business world, he realized that a career helping others would be more fulfilling.

Mathew had always enjoyed learning about human biology. And after shadowing several physicians, he knew he wanted to become a doctor. So he completed a two-year postbaccalaureate program to fulfill premedical course requirements.

He chose Einstein because "after speaking with friends who are alumni as well as to current students, I was confident that Einstein would help me become the dedicated physician I aspire to be."

Before starting medical school, Mathew worked on a retinal imaging research project, which piqued his interest in retinal surgery. But as a first-year medical student, he's being exposed to many intriguing medical areas and remains undecided about a specialty. "My immediate goal is to do well in anatomy lab," he confides.

Dr. Fruhman would be proud.

#### THE FRUHMAN SCHOLARS: A FACULTY MEMBER'S ENDURING LEGACY

George Fruhman, Ph.D., a founding Einstein faculty member, served as an associate professor of anatomy and structural biology for 50 years. He devoted his life to teaching and mentoring, and was beloved by generations of students and by his many colleagues and friends.

Dr. Fruhman was the only child of parents who fled the Holocaust for a new life in America. He never married and, after his parents died, the Einstein community became, in a very real sense, his family. Before his passing in 2010 at age 86, Dr. Fruhman created an extraordinary bequest to Einstein, in excess of \$8 million, to establish a series of fully endowed four-year scholarships for medical students of intellectual merit. The first beneficiaries are in the Class of 2017:

Erica Bishop attended an urban high school, where she came to appreciate the connections among health literacy, education and socioeconomic status. She decided to pursue a career in medicine to address health disparities. Erica graduated from Oberlin College with high honors in biology and chose Einstein "because of its community involvement and humanism." This year, she volunteered in the community as a women's health advocate and helped with HIV testing and sex education. She's especially interested in family planning and reproductive health.

Mathew Birnbaum is profiled at left.

#### The Anatomic and Surgical Skills

Learning Center. Finally, Einstein's anatomy laboratory will move from Forchheimer to Van Etten to be closer to the Gottesman Clinical Skills Center and the Simulation Center. The new, expanded Anatomic and Surgical Skills Learning Center will allow for a mix of anatomy, histology, pathology and radiology training. "We wanted our space to allow students to integrate what they are learning in anatomy, histology and pathology with their roles as future physicians," says Dr. Grayson. The center will be set up so that a student can work on a cadaver, correlate findings with relevant histology and pathology slides and then view relevant radiologic images, such as MRIs and CT scans.

#### **Medical Education Reform**

In 2010, a Carnegie Foundation report urged medical schools to shift medical education from its traditional emphasis on required courses to mastering competencies—abilities that students gain over time through education and experience. "The Carnegie Report told us that we needed to promote clinical reasoning, problem-solving and on-yourfeet thinking among our students," says Dr. Grayson.

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the organization that accredits medical schools, now requires that all medical education programs encourage active learning and independent study. The campus' newly designed learning spaces allow Einstein professors to do that and more.

Architect's rendering of the new anatomy laboratory planned for the Van Etten Building. The state-of-the-art facility will replace the nearly 60-year-old anatomy lab currently housed in Forchheimer.



#### THE SCHLEIFER ESTATES: HELPING STUDENTS IN NEED

Lawrence Schleifer and Friedericka Steinbach Schleifer, M.D., believed strongly in education and in helping people.

Friedericka Steinbach graduated from medical school in Vienna in 1937 and did her residency in Nazi-occupied Austria. She managed to obtain a visa to the United States and, prohibited from bringing money, arrived in New York with just her furniture and her microscope. After the war, she learned that her parents perished in an extermination camp.

Lawrence Schleifer began his career as a pharmacist, then worked for a pharmaceutical company. He later earned a master's degree in history and taught high school and college students. Until well into his 90s, he shared his vast knowledge of Jewish and comparative culture with students in his adult education classes.

Before Dr. Schleifer's death in 1999, the couple decided to leave their joint estates to Albert Einstein College of Medicine to support scholarships for needy medical students. Mr. Schleifer made an "advance" on their legacy by giving \$100,000 to Einstein and \$1 million to an Einstein charitable remainder trust. The College of Medicine was also the primary beneficiary in Mr. Schleifer's will.

After he died in 2011, Einstein received more than \$3.7 million, bringing the total amount of the Schleifers' generous planned gift to more than \$4.8 million.



## STUDENT PROFILE Brett Wolfson-Stofko

Brett Wolfson-Stofko, a fifth-year Ph.D. candidate in the biochemistry lab of John S. Blanchard, Ph.D., researches the kinetic and mechanistic characterization of enzymes from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacterium that causes tuberculosis. His work could lead to the design of tuberculosis drugs that are more potent with fewer adverse effects. In September, he was one of five Einstein graduate students who presented their research at the Bronx Science Consortium's first interactive poster session. "We had about 50 visitors, and many showed interest in my work," he says. "I also did my best to encourage the undergraduate presenters to pursue research in the sciences"—especially at Einstein.

Another of Brett's interests has more personal—and in some cases tragic—origins. "Multiple friends, acquaintances and relatives have overdosed on either heroin or prescription opioids," he says. "Some survived, some did not." Brett hopes to set up and operate the first Supervised Injection Facility (SIF) in the United States. SIFs are legally sanctioned, controlled healthcare settings where people can inject drugs under clinical supervision and receive healthcare, counseling and referrals to health and social services, including drug treatment. There are currently 92 SIFs in eight countries.

Brett is a community advocate and has led the student-run Social Medicine course for the past three years.

#### **Jubilation and Celebration**

In October 2012, Einstein's graduate division held its first-ever Qualification Jubilation. It was a great hit with the students, who conceived the idea of celebrating their success on the qualifying exam and their hardearned master's degrees. The event was held again in 2013 and will likely occur annually from now on.

The Qualification Jubilation is the second new graduate-program ceremony to take root in recent years. The Declaration Celebration, first held in June 2011 and now yearly, marks the end of laboratory rotations and the start of a years-long relationship with the laboratory where the students will do their thesis research.

The Graduate Division, the Alumni Association and the Einstein Board of Overseers—particularly Board chair Ruth L. Gottesman, Ed.D., and Overseer Nathan Kahn, who share a special interest in the graduate division—lent their enthusiastic support to both events.

The Qualification Jubilation is the second new graduate-program ceremony to take root in recent years.



## Extra-Educational EINSTEIN ENHANCEMENTS

f you haven't walked the Forchheimer lobby hallway for a while, you're in for a surprise. A two-month renovation effort carried out last summer by Einstein's engineering and facilities staff has yielded changes so striking that it has a new name: Main Street.

The hallway's long interior wall has been knocked down, along with the shorter perpendicular walls that had delineated the coffee shop, the Board of Overseers' room, the student lounge and the lactation room. Out with walls and rooms, in with open space bathed in sunlight.

The light pours in through the floor-to-ceiling windows that have always lined the hallway's exterior wall. But the windows' lower panels had been hidden by extra-high radiator covers and were glazed with opaque glass. Einstein renovators maximized the sunlight by removing the obstructing covers and replacing opaque glass with the clear variety. And instead of shining on linoleum tiles, the sun burnishes a 185-foot-long expanse of dark Brazilian walnut flooring three times harder than cedar.

Gracing this long and sunny open space are 36 leather lounge chairs, six round wooden tables with four wooden chairs each, 18 square marble-topped coffee tables and three wooden magazine racks displaying Einstein publications. Students, faculty and staff have found that WiFi-enabled Main Street is a great place for going online, chatting, sipping, eating, reading or relaxing.

The hallway's familiar anchor the coffee shop—has become Main Street's "open air" Einstein Café.

The wall flanking the hallway adjacent to the lounge area has traditionally displayed artwork, photographs and posters highlighting Einstein research and educational programs. It continues to serve this purpose, but now, with its expanded floor area, the lounge can accommodate gatherings for exhibit launch events.

To find the student lounge's





A two-month renovation effort carried out last summer by Einstein's engineering and facilities staff has yielded changes so striking that the hallway has a new name: Main Street.

Located at the heart of the campus, Einstein's new wide-open space on the ground floor of Forchheimer provides students with a place to congregate.

future home, continue along Main Street and turn right into the Max L. and Sadie Friedman Lounge. This two-floor space was originally intended as a student lounge, and after expansion and renovations that's what it will finally become.

Main Street and Einstein's exciting new Education Center are among many attractive naming opportunities available to generous supporters. For more information on how you can support the center and nearby spaces, please contact Ira Lipson in the department of institutional advancement at 718.430.2371.





# THE HAROLD and MURIEL BLOCK INSTITUTE for CLINICAL and TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH at Einstein and Montefiore

ears of painstaking work are typically required for basic researchers to make discoveries and publish their findings in peer-reviewed journals. So imagine the frustration of making a discovery with major therapeutic potential—then watching as it sits on the shelf for lack of a clinical research partner, a clinical trials designer or a biostatistician.

Such dead ends occur all too often, depriving patients of potentially useful therapies. Einstein and Montefiore addressed this problem in 2007 by creating the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR).

The work of the ICTR has been helped by a generous bequest from the estate of Muriel Block in support of medical research at Einstein. In 2013, in honor of Mrs. Block and her husband, the ICTR was renamed the Harold and Muriel Block Institute for Clinical and Translational Research at Einstein and Montefiore. Another financial boost came from the NIH, which recently renewed the Clinical and Translational Science Award, a \$25 million, five-year grant to Einstein that provides part of the Block ICTR's funding. The Block ICTR supports investigators by providing critical infrastructure for carrying out their research—biorepositories for patient specimens, facilities for developing biomarkers, clinical research support staff, experts in clinical trial protocols, specialists in recruiting patients and more. The Block ICTR also helps the careers of junior scientists through novel educational programs and career development.

"These core resources enable researchers to perform clinical and translational research more easily and efficiently and without needing to 'reinvent the wheel' for every project," says Block ICTR co-director Harry Shamoon, M.D., associate dean for clinical and translational research and a professor of medicine (endocrinology) at Einstein and attending physician in medicine at Montefiore.

Some of the key Block ICTR components are:

- the Clinical Research Training Program, which is training the next generation of bench-tobedside investigators;
- the Therapeutics Sciences Bridge, which aids translational programs in chemical biology, genomics and drug design in collaboration with Einstein's Center for Experimental Therapeutics (see page 17); and

 the Outcomes Research Collaborative, which works with the Center for Comparative Effectiveness Research on patient-centered and populationcentered outcomes research.

Last year, more than 300 Einstein and Montefiore investigators, with a total of \$90 million in NIH research grants, made use of Block ICTR resources.

One of those investigators is Bernice E. Morrow, Ph.D., a professor of genetics, of obstetrics & gynecology and women's health and of pediatrics (cardiology) and the Sidney L. and Miriam K. Olson Chair in Cardiology.

She studies two rare genetic disorders: velo-cardio-facial syndrome/ DiGeorge syndrome and X-linked deafness type 3, each of which can cause hearing loss. Her focus is on two genes that appear to cause these syndromes due to mutations.

To further her research, Dr. Morrow is using the Block ICTR's Clinical Investigational Services Core to obtain DNA and clinical data from patients with genetic hearing disorders. Her work has already helped identify several novel mutations that cause hearing loss. Dr. Morrow also directs the department of genetics' division of translational genetics.

The Biomarker Analytic Research Core—the ICTR's central laboratory provides uniform, accurate and costeffective specimen collection and biomarker analyses for Einstein and Montefiore investigators.





Another investigator is Eric Hollander, M.D., clinical professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and director of the Autism and Obsessive-Compulsive Spectrum Program at Einstein and Montefiore. He is using the Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design Core to help with a clinical study assessing whether a novel drug, R05028442, can help high-functioning autistic adults.

The Block ICTR also supports the development of new research networks and clinical trials. Einstein recently obtained NIH grants to create a regional stroke research center (Mark F. Mehler, M.D., professor in the Saul R. Korey Department of Neurology) and a nationwide comparative effectiveness study evaluating treatments for type 2 diabetes (Jill P. Crandall, M.D., professor of clinical medicine, and Diane McKee, M.D., associate professor of family and social medicine).

#### THE BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund has awarded Einstein \$2.5 million over six and a half years to provide 11 Ph.D. students with training opportunities in population sciences. The gift helps support eCLIPSE (Education Connecting Laboratory Investigation and Population Science at Einstein), which is also funded by the Block ICTR. Each trainee will have two faculty mentors, one from laboratory science and one from population science.

# The Harold and Muriel Block Scholars

The late Muriel Block was a passionate supporter of medical research. Her gift last year of more than \$160 million is the largest in the College of Medicine's nearly 60-year history, and part of it will support 11 faculty members. The holders of Einstein's new Harold and Muriel Block chairs and faculty scholar position will use the funds for a wide range of research projects.





## MICHAEL ASCHNER, PH.D. HAROLD AND MURIEL BLOCK CHAIR IN MOLECULAR PHARMACOLOGY

Dr. Aschner came to Einstein in 2013 from Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN. For the last 25 years, his laboratory has studied how heavy metals are taken up and distributed in the brains of newborns and how those metals induce neurodegeneration. His research may lead to new drugs that can help treat neurodegenerative disorders and provide better research models for human diseases. Funds from the Block endowment "are enabling our laboratory to join in international collaborations, buy new technological platforms, gather preliminary results for future grant submissions and help translate the research from bench to bedside," he says.

Dr. Aschner is principal investigator on several research grants from the NIH and has served on numerous national and international toxicology panels. He is a professor in the departments of molecular pharmacology and of pediatrics and in the Dominick P. Purpura Department of Neuroscience. He is also the director of the Einstein Center of Toxicology.

## AVIV BERGMAN, PH.D. HAROLD AND MURIEL BLOCK CHAIR IN SYSTEMS & COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

Dr. Bergman uses data from basic and clinical research to create computer models of aging, cancer, neurodegenerative diseases and other complex biological systems. His research areas include the causes and effects of "robustness" (the ability to withstand stresses, pressures or changes in environment); the evolution of gene networks; and genes involved in human longevity and cancer.

These models may predict a person's medical outcome and guide individualized treatment for patients based on their genetic makeup. Dr. Bergman's Block Chair allows him to delve more deeply into the evolution of complex traits and diseases by combining math, physics and experimental biology.

Dr. Bergman is a professor and chair of systems & computational biology, and a professor in the department of pathology and the Dominick P. Purpura Department of Neuroscience.





## PABLO E. CASTILLO, M.D., PH.D. HAROLD AND MURIEL BLOCK CHAIR IN NEUROSCIENCE

How we think, feel, act and learn depends to a large extent on neurotransmitters-chemicals that travel across the gaps, or synapses, between nerve cells. Dr. Castillo's research is aimed at understanding how neural activity controls the strength of synaptic connections in the brain and how dysregulated neural communication contributes to neuropsychiatric problems such as schizophrenia, autism spectrum disorders, epilepsy and Alzheimer's disease. Thanks to the Harold and Muriel Block Chair. Dr. Castillo is now studying the actions of synaptic proteins whose alterations have been linked to familial forms of autism. He is also developing new imaging technologies that reveal synaptic function under normal and pathological conditions.

Dr. Castillo is a professor in the Dominick P. Purpura Department of Neuroscience.





## KARTIK CHANDRAN, PH.D. HAROLD AND MURIEL BLOCK FACULTY SCHOLAR IN VIROLOGY

Dr. Chandran is known for his pioneering research on the Ebola virus and similar viruses. Ebola is one of the world's deadliest viruses, with a mortality rate of up to 90 percent among those infected, and there is no known cure. Dr. Chandran's laboratory helped identify the role of a protein receptor that Ebola "unlocks" to invade and infect cells. This finding suggests a possible strategy for blocking Ebola infections. Last year, Dr. Chandran's work earned him a five-year, \$4.8 million grant from the NIH to study the molecular mechanism that allows the Ebola virus to infect animals. The Block support is helping Dr. Chandran's research team explore whether the newly identified Ebola receptor determines which animals the virus can infect.

Dr. Chandran is an associate professor of microbiology & immunology.

## MEREDITH A. HAWKINS, M.D. HAROLD AND MURIEL BLOCK CHAIR IN MEDICINE

Dr. Hawkins travels the globe investigating diabetes-the reasons for its dramatic rise and what can be done about it. She studies the role of nutrients and inflammation in causing diabetes, and vitamin D's effect on diabetes management and treatment. Her team provided the first evidence indicating that the brain regulates glucose metabolism in humans. Dr. Hawkins is the founding director of the Global Diabetes Institute at Einstein, which conducts diabetes research and training for healthcare workers in Africa and Asia. Collaborating with researchers in India, Dr. Hawkins is investigating malnutrition diabetes, a little-understood form of the disease that particularly affects people in the developing world. The Harold and Muriel Block Chair is allowing Dr. Hawkins to expand her research efforts at home and abroad.

Dr. Hawkins is a professor of medicine (endocrinology) at Einstein and an attending physician in medicine (endocrinology) at Montefiore.





## BETSY HEROLD, M.D. HAROLD AND MURIEL BLOCK CHAIR IN PEDIATRICS

Dr. Herold is developing new strategies to protect women from being infected by HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) and by herpes simplex viruses (HSV), which cause genital herpes. Her team is developing an intravaginal ring that releases protective concentrations of a drug that inhibits both types of viruses. In preclinical studies, the ring protected macaques from infection. With support from the Harold and Muriel Block Chair, Dr. Herold hopes to discover why people co-infected with HIV and HSV have trouble controlling their HIV infections-knowledge that might greatly help HIV treatment efforts; worldwide, more than 50 percent of people infected with HIV are co-infected with HSV.

Dr. Herold is a professor in the departments of pediatrics (infectious disease), of microbiology & immunology and of obstetrics & gynecology and women's health, director of the "Empower" Translational Prevention Research Center at Einstein and an attending physician in pediatrics at The Children's Hospital at Montefiore.

### KAMRAN KHODAKHAH, PH.D. HAROLD AND MURIEL BLOCK CHAIR IN NEUROSCIENCE

Dr. Khodakhah studies the role of two brain regions, the cerebellum and basal ganglia, in motor coordination and movement disorders such as ataxia (uncoordinated movement) and dystonia (involuntary muscle contraction). He and his colleagues combine basic science and clinical approaches, including behavioral studies, electrophysiology, genetics and optogenetics.

Dr. Khodakhah's team recently identified an interaction between the two brain regions that contributes to hereditary dystonias. The Block funds will allow him to continue his search for dystonia treatments. "The endowment from the Block family is a humbling reminder of the generosity of mankind," he says.

Dr. Khodakhah is a professor in the Dominick P. Purpura Department of Neuroscience and interim chair of the department.





## MIMI KIM, SC.D. HAROLD AND MURIEL BLOCK CHAIR IN EPIDEMIOLOGY & POPULATION HEALTH

Dr. Kim uses statistical methods to design and analyze clinical trials and epidemiologic studies (looking for factors that affect the health of populations). She collaborates on studies involving cancer, rheumatology and HIV/AIDS. Dr. Kim has headed the division of biostatistics since 2003 and also directs the biostatistics shared resource in the Albert Einstein Cancer Center and the biostatistics, epidemiology and research design core of the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research.

Thanks to her new chair, says Dr. Kim, she can "work on developing statistical prediction models for disease and pregnancy outcomes in women who suffer from autoimmune disorders such as lupus and conduct research into innovative clinical trial designs that will allow for more efficient evaluation of new treatments."

Dr. Kim is a professor of epidemiology & population health and the director of Einstein's new Quantitative Sciences in Biomedical Research Center.





THOMAS E. ROHAN, M.D., PH.D. HAROLD AND MURIEL BLOCK CHAIR IN EPIDEMIOLOGY & POPULATION HEALTH

Dr. Rohan looks for nutritional, hormonal and genetic factors that cause cancer and worsen its prognosis. His recent work has involved identifying molecular changes in benign breast disease tissue that predispose women to develop breast cancer. Other studies have involved large groups of people, mostly within the Women's Health Initiative cohorts, the Canadian National Breast Screening Study dietary cohort and the Canadian Study of Diet, Lifestyle and Health. He also studies the microenvironment of breast tumors to see if the presence of certain cells can predict whether a tumor is likely to metastasize.

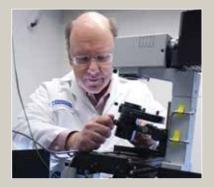
Holding the Harold and Muriel Block Chair "has emboldened me to undertake more high-risk, highgain research," says Dr. Rohan.

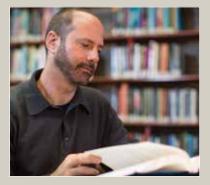
Dr. Rohan is a professor and chair of epidemiology & population health at Einstein and Montefiore.

## ROBERT H. SINGER, PH.D. HAROLD AND MURIEL BLOCK CHAIR IN ANATOMY AND STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY

Dr. Singer develops new ways to visualize basic processes in living cells. His research has helped illuminate gene expression, in which a gene's DNA is transcribed into messenger RNA molecules that serve as blueprints for protein synthesis. He was the first scientist to visualize single molecules of messenger RNA being transcribed in living mammalian cells. His work has also revealed the molecular interactions that allow messenger RNA molecules to travel from the nucleus and into the cytoplasm, where protein synthesis occurs. The Harold and Muriel Block Chair permits Dr. Singer "to pursue innovative avenues that would be considered risky without the support of the endowment," he says.

Dr. Singer is a professor and cochair of anatomy and structural biology, a professor of cell biology, a professor in the Dominick P. Purpura Department of Neuroscience and co-director of the Gruss Lipper Biophotonics Center and of the EGLCF Integrated Imaging Program.

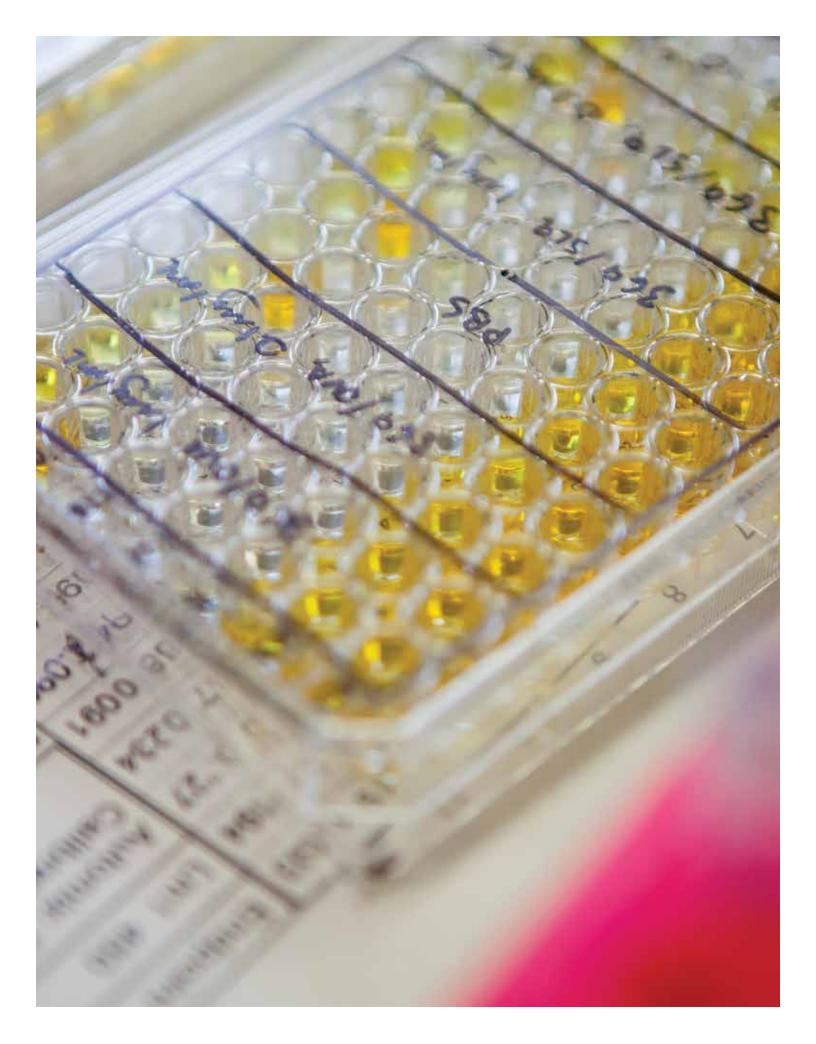




## HOWARD D. STRICKLER, M.D., M.P.H. HAROLD AND MURIEL BLOCK CHAIR IN EPIDEMIOLOGY & POPULATION HEALTH

Dr. Strickler is a molecular epidemiologist whose work has provided important new insights into how obesity is linked to cancer, with implications to cancer screening, prevention and treatment, as well as to the pathways that may lead to type 2 diabetes. He recently showed that optimal levels of certain blood proteins are associated with a five-fold reduction in risk for developing type 2 diabetes a decade or more later. The presence of these same proteins may also explain the elevated cancer risk faced by obese women and men. Dr. Strickler explains that his Harold and Muriel Block Chair "allows me to carry out in-depth research into the molecular interconnections among obesity, diabetes and cancer-which I might not otherwise be able to pursue."

Dr. Strickler is a professor of epidemiology & population health, head of the division of epidemiology and co-leader of the Cancer Epidemiology Program.





Institutional Advancement

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# Board of Overseers

As it strives to improve human health, Albert Einstein College of Medicine has the benefit of an invaluable resource: its Board of Overseers.

Led by Ruth L. Gottesman, Ed.D., the Board has spearheaded "The Campaign to Transform Einstein," the College of Medicine's \$500 million capital campaign. With the guidance and full support of the Board, the College of Medicine has spent the last seven years implementing key initiatives from its Campus Master Plan and Strategic Research Plan.

Board members have generously supported Einstein's Center for Experimental Therapeutics, the continuing renovation of the Van Etten and Forchheimer Buildings, and other major projects designed to enrich the learning and research environment for students and faculty.

Overseers host receptions and seminars bringing supporters and friends together with leading Einstein researchers. They participate in a host of special events and educational programs both on and off campus.

The Einstein community gratefully acknowledges this exceptional group of individuals, whose contributions of wisdom, expertise and philanthropic leadership play a vital role in ensuring a bright future for the College of Medicine.

#### TRIBUTE

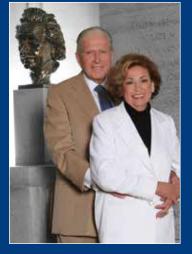
Two esteemed members of the Board of Overseers, Philip and Rita Rosen, passed away in early 2014. The Rosens were Einstein Benefactors and supporters of the College of Medicine for more than 50 years.

Mr. Rosen, a past chair and founding member of the Einstein Men's Division, joined the Board in 1977 and served as vice chair from 1994 to 2007; he was honored with the title of Life Overseer. Mrs. Rosen was a past president and dynamic leader of the Einstein Women's Division for many years. She joined the Board of Overseers in 1984 and was a vibrant and active member. "Philip and Rita were tireless advocates for Einstein," says Dr. Gottesman. "Their friendship, wisdom, passion and creativity will be sorely missed."

Ensuring a bright future for the College of Medicine.



2013 Board of Overseers Retreat



**Overseers Philip and Rita Rosen** 

# Einstein in Florida 2013

Each year, Einstein friends and supporters in the Palm Beach and Jupiter areas are invited to meet with leading Einstein faculty members to discuss timely medical issues and new developments in key research areas. The 2013 programs focused on recent Einstein advances in drug discovery, toxicology, pediatrics and stem cell research.

Overseers Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz hosted two 2013 luncheon seminars at the Palm Beach Country Club. At the first event, Vern L. Schramm, Ph.D., and Victor L. Schuster, M.D., presented an overview of Einstein's new Center for Experimental Therapeutics. (For details about the center, please see page 17.) Dr. Schramm is professor and chair of biochemistry and the Ruth Merns Chair in Biochemistry; Dr. Schuster is professor of physiology & biophysics, chair and professor of medicine (nephrology) and the Ted and Florence Baumritter Chair in Medicine.

Guests at the second luncheon heard about several topics, including research that targets diseases of the heart and lungs in high-risk preterm infants and how heavy metals affect the brain. The speakers were Allen M. Spiegel, M.D., the Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean, and two new faculty members: Judy L. Aschner, M.D., the Michael I. Cohen, M.D., University Chair and professor of pediatrics (neonatology) and of obstetrics & gynecology and women's health, and physician-inchief and chair of pediatrics, The Children's Hospital at Montefiore; and Michael Aschner, Ph.D.,

professor of molecular pharmacology and of pediatrics and in the Dominick P. Purpura Department of Neuroscience, and the Harold and Muriel Block Chair in Molecular Pharmacology.

Overseer Karen Mandelbaum and her husband, David, hosted a reception at the Club at Admiral's Cove, in Jupiter. Dean Spiegel and Drs. Judy Aschner and Michael Aschner led a discussion covering a wide range of topics: the role of research in improving pregnancy outcomes and child health; the possible link between heavy metals and neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's; stem cell research and regenerative medicine; and personalizedmedicine approaches to cancer and other diseases.



Bringing friends and supporters in the Palm Beach community together with leading Einstein researchers.

- 1. Overseer Karen Mandelbaum, second from right, and her husband, David Mandelbaum, far left, with Judy Aschner, M.D., and Michael Aschner, Ph.D.
- 2. Overseer Ronald J. Ross, M.D. '60, and Helen Ross.
- Overseers Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz, left, with Victor L. Schuster, M.D.
- 4. Janet and Martin Spatz, right, with Vern L. Schramm, Ph.D.

# **Einstein Emerging Leaders**

Einstein Emerging Leaders (EEL) are philanthropic New York City professionals committed to advancing the College of Medicine's mission to improve human health. Fueled by their desire to make a difference, EEL members are mobilizing a new generation of Einstein supporters.

The group held its second annual gala on June 6, 2013, at the Dream Downtown Hotel in Chelsea. Proceeds benefited Einstein's Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC).

A short video introduced guests to My Einstein, a new EEL initiative that educates prospective donors about medical research at Einstein, how to support it and how they can use social media to communicate their reasons for becoming involved with Einstein. Author and trendsetter Leandra Medine was the evening's special guest host and also appeared in the video.

"The goal of My Einstein is to focus our efforts and raise awareness among a new generation of supporters," explains Danielle Cohen Segal, EEL executive co-chair. "It offers a personal philanthropic connection, allowing donors to designate their gifts for one of five key research areas at Einstein."

In May, 30 EEL volunteers spent a Sunday afternoon with more than 100 children and family members who receive services at CERC. They were joined by CERC staff members. Hosted jointly by EEL and CERC in the lobby of the Van Etten Building, the get-together featured a fun tasting of "delicious and nutritious snacks to feed the brain." Other events during the year included a Scotch tasting at the Ohm Lounge in Chelsea and an interactive power breakfast for EEL board members and friends, who discussed the health benefits of superfoods with a panel of Einstein experts.

"EEL is attracting a rapidly growing number of diverse and influential young New Yorkers," says EEL board member Matt Makovsky, who serves as communications chair. "We were thrilled to have 500 people attend our gala this past year. The programs we offer throughout the year allow us to highlight the transformative research at Einstein and meet potential leaders, donors and volunteers."

To learn more about EEL, contact Katy Boyask at eel@einstein.yu.edu or 718.430.4178.

## Mobilizing a new generation of Einstein supporters.



Special guest host Leandra Medine, second from right, with EEL board members Joanna Steinberg, Matt Makovsky and Danielle Cohen Segal.



EEL hosted "Superfoods Are Fun!"—a program for children and families served by CERC—in the Van Etten lobby.

# Einstein Women's Division and the Einstein Professional & Leadership Division

The Einstein Women's Division and the Einstein Professional & Leadership Division (formerly known as the Men's Division) have provided philanthropic support for biomedical and translational research at Einstein since the College of Medicine's earliest days. Here are highlights of their recent activities:

The Women's Division hosted its 59th annual Spirit of Achievement Luncheon on April 30, 2013, at New York's Plaza Hotel. The honorees were fashion designer and entrepreneur Liz Lange; Anne Wojcicki, cofounder of the personal genetics and biotech company 23andMe; and Francine H. Einstein, M.D., an associate professor of obstetrics & gynecology and women's health and of medicine at Einstein. Proceeds from the event benefited research on breast and gynecologic cancers at the Albert Einstein Cancer Center and allowed the division to reach its three-year, \$3 million fundraising goal.

Women's Division members and other Einstein friends and supporters turned out at the Plaza on November 11 for the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Women's Division and Albert Einstein College of Medicine. The Women's Division was formed in 1953—the same year Albert Einstein agreed to lend his name to a new medical school that would welcome students regardless of religion, race, gender or creed. For more about the event, please see page 14.

On June 3, the Professional & Leadership Division held its annual Golf & Tennis Tournament and Dinner at Scarsdale Golf Club in Hartsdale, NY. Robert A. Knakal, chair of Massey Knakal Realty Services, received the Albert Einstein Humanitarian Award. He was honored for his support of the division and his philanthropic leadership in promoting health and education for inner-city youth.

Proceeds from the event enabled the division to complete its \$3 million project, the Men's Division Research Scholars Program, which supports the training of Einstein physician-scientists in translational research.

Last fall, members of the division's executive board visited Einstein's Jack and Pearl Resnick Campus. They met with Dean









Spiegel and senior researchers and learned about Einstein's Center for Experimental Therapeuticsthe focus of the division's current fundraising initiative. In January 2014, the executive board voted to rename the division the Professional & Leadership Division of Albert Einstein College of Medicine. The name change recognizes the variety of professionals and business associates who participate in division programs and events and is intended to encourage their continued interest in helping advance the division's philanthropic efforts on behalf of Einstein and its mission to improve human health.

- 1. 2013 Spirit Luncheon co-chairs, from left: Andrea Stark, vice president, New York chapter, Einstein Women's Division; Janet Hershaft, past president, New York chapter; Alison Brettschneider, New York chapter executive board member; and Tara Mark Rosenblum.
- Carol Roaman, president, Einstein Women's Division, right, with vice president Renée E. Belfer and executive vice president Janet Hershaft.
- 3. Mara Sandler and Mindy Feinberg, co-presidents, New York chapter, Einstein Women's Division.
- Linda Altman, past president, and Kathy Weinberg, immediate past president, Einstein Women's Division.

- Andrew M. Weinberg and Peter E. Zinman, Professional & Leadership Division executive board members and 2013 golf chairs.
- 6. Professional & Leadership Division chair Mitchel A. Maidman, left, with Robert A. Knakal, recipient, 2013 Albert Einstein Humanitarian Award.
- 7. Stephen R. Karafiol, Professional & Leadership Division executive board member and past chair, and Greg Gonzalez, vice chair of the division.
- Professional & Leadership Division executive board members and past chairs Philip S. Altheim and Stanley M. Katz, second and third from right, with their sons, Neil Katz and Marc Altheim, tennis chair.





Partnering with Einstein to find better ways to treat and prevent cancer and other devastating medical conditions.

# Einstein Alumni 2013

In March 2013, the Einstein Alumni Association board of governors voted unanimously to endorse Einstein's new Education Center project as the focus of alumni support for "The Campaign to Transform Einstein," the College of Medicine's current capital campaign. Ronald J. Ross, M.D. '60, who serves on both the Einstein Board of Overseers and the Alumni Association Board of Governors, is chairing the Alumni Campaign to Transform Einstein.

Einstein alumni continue to enthusiastically support and participate in all facets of alumni relations. Alumni Association events and programs on campus and across the country have accomplished a number of important goals: marking significant rites of passage in the education of current Einstein students; deepening connections between alumni and their alma mater; giving accepted applicants and their families a chance to meet Einstein alumni, faculty and students; and providing prospective applicants with information about how to get into medical school.

Alumni from graduation years ending in 3 and 8 celebrated Reunion 2013 from May 29 through May 31. The classmates reconnected, marched at Commencement and honored the 50th Anniversary Reunion Class of 1963. Many also

- From left, Monique C. Katz, M.D. '63; Connie R. Goldstein, M.D. '63; Michael S. Goldstein, M.D. '63; and Mordecai D. Katz at the Gala Reunion Dinner.
- 2. Gerald Dorros, M.D. '68, right, accepts the 2013 Dominick P. Purpura Distinguished Alumnus Award from Dean Spiegel.
- From left, Blake Nosratian, Faranak Nosratian, D.D.S., and Farshad Nosratian, M.D. '83, recipient of the 2013 Einstein Lifetime Service Award.



Supporting a new state-of-the-art education center for Einstein students.



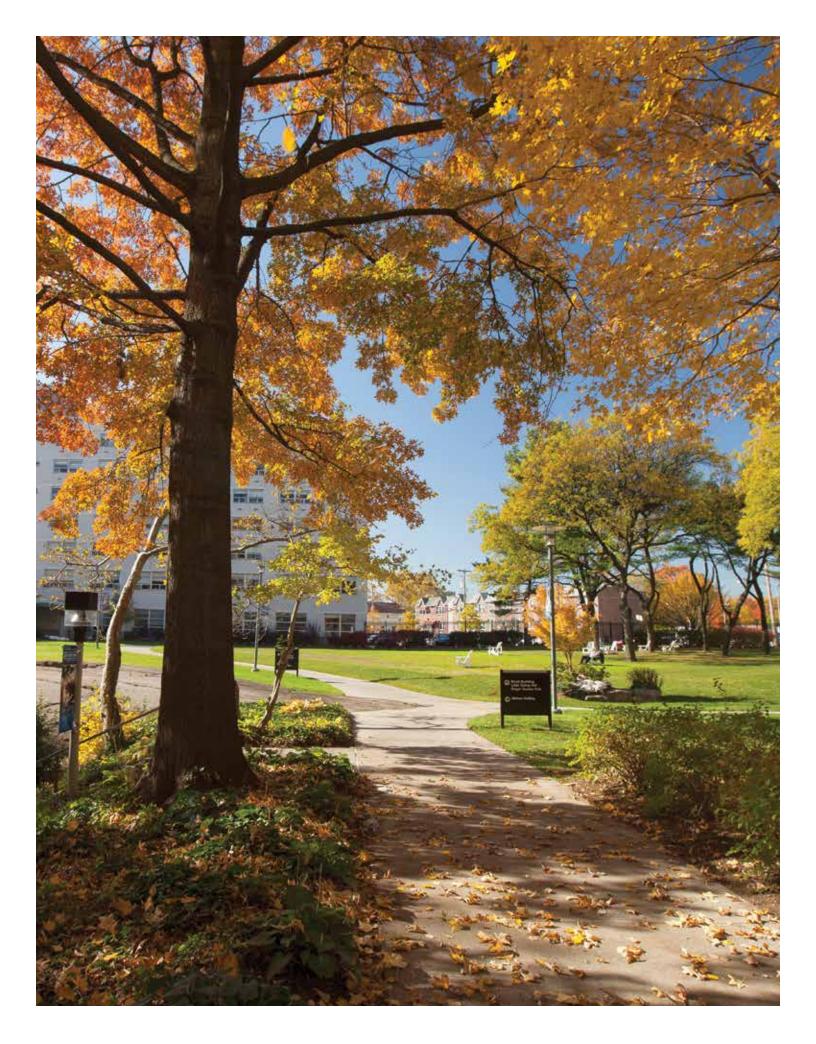
toured Einstein's Jack and Pearl Resnick Campus and admired the striking transformations that have occurred since their medical school days.

Also this year, the Alumni Association board of governors welcomed five new members to create a board whose membership now reflects the geographic diversity of Einstein's student and alumni base, with members representing each decade of Einstein history.

"We've had a terrific year," said Alumni Association president Arthur Kozin, M.D. '82. "We've continued to find meaningful ways for alumni to connect with Einstein, with our students and with one another. And by strengthening our alumni network, we've enabled alumni to share their wisdom, experience and expertise with current students. It's been gratifying for everyone on the Alumni Association board and we look forward to working together in the year ahead."

- Joel Schneider, M.D. '63; Joel Eisner, M.D. '63; and Stephen Wertheimer, M.D. '63, celebrate their 50th reunion at Commencement.
- 5. Arthur Kozin, M.D. '82, president, Einstein Alumni Association board of governors, and alumni board member Janina Galler, M.D. '72, at the 2013 Stethoscope Ceremony.
- Todd R. Olson, Ph.D., professor of anatomy and structural biology, course director for clinical and developmental anatomy and recipient, 2009 Honorary Alumnus Award, and Jack Stern, M.D. '74, Ph.D. '73, immediate past president, Einstein Alumni Association board of governors, at the 2013 Scrubs Day Ceremony for the Class of 2017.
- 7. Raja M. Flores, M.D. '92, alumni association board member, left, with students at the 2013 Scrubs Day Ceremony.





# Walking with Einstein A PATHWAY TO PLANNED GIVING

alking with Einstein, the College of Medicine's new planned giving society, recognizes alumni and friends who have informed us of their intention to include Albert Einstein College of Medicine in their estate plans. It also serves as a channel to encourage alumni and friends to remember Einstein when creating their wills, establishing a charitable trust or designating beneficiaries of IRAs, pensions and other qualified plans. And it reminds people to consider naming Einstein as a beneficiary of real estate or other valuable personal assets.

"Individuals—even loyal benefactors—often overlook charitable planned gifts when planning their estates," notes Thomas Gray, senior major gifts officer. "Through Walking with Einstein, we show donors how planned gifts can benefit them and their families while helping to advance important research and education programs at the College of Medicine."

We gratefully acknowledge the many generous estate gifts Einstein received this past fiscal year. Below are some examples.

#### Ralph L. McBean, M.D. '72

Dr. Ralph McBean, Einstein Class of 1972, was a cardiologist who lived and practiced in the Columbus, GA, area. Dr. McBean generously supported Einstein during his lifetime and was a member of the Einstein Circle of alumni donors. Before his passing at age 70 in 2009, he expressed his desire to support the College of Medicine through a significant legacy contribution. His bequest, of more than \$250,000, will help further the Alumni Association's efforts to assist current students.

#### **Ruth Brandes**

Ruth Brandes visited Einstein in 2007, where she met with senior investigators from the Albert Einstein Cancer Center, one of the first academic centers to be recognized by the National Cancer Institute. Ms. Brandes was extremely impressed with the state-of-the-art biomedical research initiatives that were under way at Einstein. A cancer survivor herself, Ms. Brandes was moved by what she saw during her visit. She decided to designate the proceeds of her IRA to come to Einstein upon her death, and also added a sizeable bequest to the College of Medicine in her last will and testament. In all, the gift from Ruth Brandes' estate totaled nearly \$1 million.

#### Lawrence Schleifer and Friedericka Steinbach Schleifer, M.D.

Lawrence Schleifer and Dr. Friedericka Steinbach Schleifer understood that a student's inability to pay tuition and related fees should not prevent him or her from earning a medical degree. The couple's commitment to Einstein combined a \$100,000 outright grant with the \$1 million remainder value from a charitable trust and \$3.7 million bequest. As the donors requested, this extraordinary \$4.8 million gift will provide scholarships for talented Einstein students with defined financial need. Read more about the Schleifers and their wonderful gift on page 30 of this report.

To learn more about Walking with Einstein and how to leave an enduring legacy that will help advance the College of Medicine's mission to improve human health, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement, at 718.430.2371.

# **Our Supporters**

#### **BENEFACTORS**

Donors who have made cumulative contributions of \$1 million or more toward the growth and development of Albert Einstein College of Medicine are gratefully acknowledged as Benefactors of the College. Their names are linked forever with the proud history of the College of Medicine and its medical education and research programs.

#### Our new Benefactors are in boldface type in the list below:

Estate of Irma Adler Dr. André Aisenstadt Bernard E., Jacob J. and Lloyd J. Alpern Barbara and Philip Altheim Linda and Earle Altman Estate of Ruth Anixter Mrs. Moses L. Annenberg The Honorable Walter H. Annenberg Leila and Joseph Applebaum Atran Foundation Joan and Lester Avnet Frederick and Eleanore Backer Charles C. Bassine Florence and Theodore Baumritter Diane and Arthur Belfer Renée E. and Robert A. Belfer Estate of Peter Benenfeld Estate of William Benenson Harry H. Beren David Berg Margaret and Sol Berger The Max and Jean Berger Trust Harold and Muriel Block The Breast Cancer Research Foundation, Inc. Carl S. Bresnick and Don A. S. Breswick Edna S. Brodie Trust The Brookdale Foundation Joseph and Gertrud Buchler **Burroughs Wellcome Fund** Sylvia and Irwin S. Chanin Rose and Wilfred P. Cohen Herman Dana Trust

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W. M. Keck Foundation The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation Lucille and Edward A. Kimmel F. M. Kirby Foundation Doris and Marc Kolber Lola and Saul Kramer Tamara and Charles A. Krasne The Joan B. Kroc Foundation **Emily Fisher Landau** Mildred and William S. Lasdon Ethel and Samuel J. LeFrak Estate of Bertram Leslie in Memory of Nathan and Julia Levy The Levitt Foundation Benjamin J. and Anna E. M. Levy Jacob P. and Estelle Lieberman Marcia and Ronald Lissak Frances and Herman Lopata Evlynne and Max M. Low Evelyn and Joseph I. Lubin H. Bert and Ruth Mack Lucille P. Markey Charitable Trust Estate of Marie Markus The G. Harold and Leila Y. Mathers Charitable Foundation Ruth Merns Sydelle and Arthur I. Meyer **Charles Michael** Diane and Ira M. Millstein Marco and Louise Mitrani Selma and Dr. Jacques Mitrani Sammy and Aviva Ofer Sylvia and Robert S. Olnick Sidney and Miriam Olson Arnold S. Penner and Madaleine Berley Pew Charitable Trusts Laura and John J. Pomerantz The Price Family Foundation Terry and Asriel Rackow Estate of Yolaine G. Randall Estates of Benjamin, Minna and Robert A. Reeves Estate of Gertrude E. Reicher in Memory of Eleazer and Feige Reicher Ingeborg and Ira Leon Rennert Jack and Pearl Resnick Judith and Burton P. Resnick

Charles H. Revson The Ritter Foundation **Robin Hood Foundation** Rita and Philip Rosen Judy R. and Alfred A. Rosenberg Hedwig and Ernst Roth Julia and Eli L. Rousso Louis E. and Dora Rousso Florence and Irving Rubinstein Estate of Lila Rudin The Rudin Family Bernice L. and Cecil Rudnick The Family of Chella and Moise Safra Edmond J. Safra / Republic National Bank of New York Anita and Jack Saltz Frances and Daniel Schamarock Sol T. and Hortense Scheinman Lawrence and Dr. Friedericka Steinbach Schleifer Helen and Irving Schneider David and Irene Schwartz The Beatrice and Samuel A. Seaver Foundation Dorothy and Marty Silverman Nina Silverman Patty and Lorin Silverman Sydel and Michael Singer Branna and Irving Sisenwein The Skirball Foundation Estate of Sidney Solid The Helen and Irving Spatz Foundation Benjamin and Frances Sperling Estate of Helen Stein Jeffrey J. Steiner Estate of Margarethe I. Stern Louise and Michael Stocker Leo and Rachel Sussman Sheryl and Daniel R. Tishman Siegfried and Irma Ullmann Jack D. and Doris Weiler Kathy and Samuel G. Weinberg Evelyne and Murray Weinstock Jacob D. and Bronka Weintraub Edna and K. B. Weissman Wilf Family Zygmunt and Audrey Wilf Susan and Benjamin Winter Elliot K. and Nancy Wolk The Wollowick Family Foundation Anonymous (4)

#### HONOR ROLL

Albert Einstein College of Medicine gratefully acknowledges all contributions to its medical education and research programs from alumni, families, individuals, corporations, foundations, trusts and estates. The following list recognizes cash gifts received from July 1, 2012, to December 31, 2013, and includes payments toward pledges made in prior years.

# Boldface type reflects an Einstein alumnus or alumna

+Deceased

## \$1,000,000 and Over

**EGL Charitable Foundation** 

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