



From the OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Dear Einstein Community:

As we approach the start of a new year, I want to extend my best wishes to our Einstein community during this holiday season. May the new year bring happiness and success to all of you.

In 2023, Einstein—and indeed the world—faced daunting challenges that required unwavering resilience and commitment to our mission. This past year, we achieved enormous success on many fronts, involving both research and education, and I believe we should celebrate these accomplishments, as well as all of you for your hard work and dedication.

While this message can't list all that was achieved this year by members of our community, I will highlight a few major accomplishments. First, our NIH funding continues to be spectacular and, in 2023, [we received \\$192 million in NIH funding](#). Our board of trustees recognized the enormous accomplishments and brilliant work of our faculty, and recently approved the following endowed chair and faculty scholar appointments:

- **Carlos J. Rodriguez, M.D., M.P.H.**, a global expert on health disparities in cardiovascular disease among Hispanic/Latinx populations, was named holder of the **Eleazar and Feige Reicher Chair in Translational Medicine**. Dr. Rodriguez is professor of medicine and of epidemiology & population health at Einstein and director of clinical cardiology research and of cardiovascular epidemiology at Montefiore.
- **Marla J. Keller, M.D.**, a world-renowned expert in the study of HIV and herpes in women, and on the treatment of COVID-19, was named holder of the **Jacob A. and Jeanne E. Barkey Chair in Medicine**. Dr. Keller is professor of medicine and of obstetrics & gynecology and women's health, interim senior associate dean for clinical & translational research, and director of our Harold and Muriel Block Institute for Clinical and Translational Research.
- **Kira Gritsman, M.D., Ph.D.**, a leading expert researching stem cells in leukemia, has been named the **Betty & Sheldon Feinberg Senior Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research**. Dr. Gritsman also was recently elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation, one of the highest honors bestowed on physician-scientists. She will be officially inducted into the society at the ASCI Dinner and New Member Induction Ceremony, to be held in Chicago on April 5, 2024. Dr. Gritsman is associate professor of oncology, of medicine, and of cell

biology, as well as co-leader of the Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center Stem Cell & Cancer Biology Program.

- **Marina Konopleva, M.D., Ph.D.**, a highly regarded leukemia expert, has been named the **Miriam Mandel Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research**. Dr. Konopleva is professor of oncology and of molecular pharmacology.
- **Nicholas Sibinga, M.D.**, a leader in the study of the biology of blood vessels and vascular diseases, has been named the **Charles & Tamara Krasne Faculty Scholar in Cardiovascular Research**. Dr. Sibinga is professor of medicine and of developmental and molecular biology.

Please join me in congratulating these outstanding members of our faculty on receiving these high honors.

I wish all of you peace and joy during the holidays. May we continue to inspire and support one another, fostering community, collaboration, and empathy. Let us strive for excellence in research, education, and patient care, making a positive impact on the world.

Sincerely,



Yaron Tomer, M.D.
The Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Chief Academic Officer
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