



Dear Einstein Community:

I am pleased to announce three exciting and critical appointments to the office of medical education and the office of continuous quality improvement that will advance our ongoing work to address our status with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) while enhancing student education and faculty and student experiences.

Melissa A. Laudano, M.D., an associate professor of urology and of obstetrics & gynecology and women’s health (female pelvic medicine & reconstructive surgery) at Einstein and an attending urology physician at Montefiore Medical Center, has been appointed **assistant dean for clinical sciences education**.



In her new role, Dr. Laudano will focus on increasing the integration of basic sciences across the clinical curricular phase, collaborating in the oversight of the learning environment in our clinical affiliates, and assisting in developing the teaching skills of our clinical faculty and trainees. Her work will also promote students’ professional development in the clinical phase of the curriculum.

Dr. Laudano is a committed educator of Einstein medical students where her educational roles have included teaching in the Introduction to Clinical Medicine course, serving as the urology clerkship director and urology specialty advisor, acting as course director for the Patients, Doctors, and Communities course, and being the assistant director of the longitudinal integration course.

She received her M.D. degree from Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, followed by a urology residency at New York Presbyterian – Weill Cornell University and a fellowship in urogynecology and reconstructive pelvic surgery at Montefiore Einstein. She Laudano joined the faculty at Montefiore Einstein in 2017 and has built an active practice in urogynecology and served as the fellowship director for the urogynecology and reconstructive pelvic surgery program.

Robert B. Shochet, M.D., a professor of medicine (general internal medicine) and of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Einstein, is joining the M.D. program as **senior advisor for M.D. education and student affairs**.



As senior advisor, Dr. Shochet will work closely with our M.D. educational community, most notably Dr. Sandra Oza, assistant dean for learning communities, to launch Einstein's Learning Communities program. He will coordinate faculty development efforts to ensure that our educators will effectively meet the challenges of the enhanced doctoring curriculum and mentoring students across the four-year M.D. program. Dr. Shochet will also collaborate on work to improve and monitor the student learning environment across the M.D. educational experience.

Dr. Shochet received his M.D. degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine, where he participated in the four-year Combined Accelerated Program in Psychiatry. He completed his internal medicine residency at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester, MA, followed by a fellowship in consultation psychiatry and psychosomatics at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

As a clinician-educator, Dr. Shochet practiced primary care and led educational programs at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Bayview Hospital, and the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine (JHSOM). In 2005, he was appointed inaugural director of the JHSOM colleges advisory program, a student-faculty learning community focusing on clinical skills training, advising, and professionalism. In 2020, Dr. Shochet was recruited to serve as the senior director for patient experience in the Montefiore Health System where he established a relationship-centered communication course for healthcare professionals and launched several initiatives to engage hospital-based physicians, nurses, and advance practice providers in enhancing compassion and a sense of trust in their interactions with patients and families.

Dr. Shochet is a senior Academy on Communication in Healthcare faculty member and healthcare communications consultant for U.S. health systems. He also served as founding chair of the Learning Communities Institute, Inc. (LCI) to support the growth of learning communities at U.S. medical schools. He received the LCI's Arky Award for contributions to medical school learning communities, the American Board of Internal Medicine's Physicians Foundation Award for Trust Practices in Healthcare, and the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Professor's Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching.

Jacob Shreffler, Ph.D., has been appointed Einstein's inaugural **director of accreditation** in the office of continuing quality improvement (CQI). He is currently an assistant professor in the department of emergency medicine at the University of Louisville and will join Einstein on April 15.



In his new role, Dr. Shreffler will coordinate Einstein's ongoing accreditation of the medical education program by the LCME. As a leader in the CQI office, he will proactively oversee the execution of CQI efforts related to LCME standards, directing the organization, assessment, and synthesis of pertinent data.

Dr. Shreffler served as chair of the Evaluation and Assessment Committee in the School of Medicine at the University of Louisville, which reviewed courses and clerkships annually. He managed accreditation efforts for the LCME visit and served on the CQI committee. He has additional experience as an assessment reviewer in educator preparation and has served on national review accreditation site visits for the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

Dr. Shreffler received his Ph.D. in educational leadership and organization development from the University of Louisville and has wide-ranging research expertise in substance use disorders, wellness, emergency medicine, impostor phenomenon, burnout, COVID-19 impact, creativity in research, self-compassion, statistical methods, and stoicism.

Please join me in congratulating Drs. Laudano, Shochet, and Shreffler on their important appointments.

Warm Regards,



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The Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean
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