



Dear Einstein Community:

Congratulations to everyone on a successful first week of the academic year. To continue the well wishes, I'd like to share some recent good news with you.

Leading with Philanthropy

Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz, who endow Einstein's deanship, have long supported the College of Medicine. Their most recent contribution, totaling \$5 million, will have a significant and lasting impact on cancer research and student life on campus. Their generosity has enabled us to launch a new center of excellence: The Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Institute for Immunotherapy for Cancer and Inflammatory Disorders. It will be led by its inaugural director, Xingxing Zang, Ph.D., and focus on advancing basic, translational, and clinical research in this flourishing field. The Katzes' gift will also allow us to improve the patio outside of Albert's Den, creating another welcoming outdoor space for our students and postdocs. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the Katzes for their ongoing dedication to our institution, our research mission, and the wellbeing of our community.

Promising Growth of Postbaccalaureate Program

For more than three decades, Einstein has participated in the state-funded Diversity in Medicine post-baccalaureate program. It offers applicants from groups historically underrepresented in medicine the opportunity to participate in a paid, one-year science education and mentoring program at the University at Buffalo that prepares them to succeed in medical school. Upon completion of the program, they have guaranteed admission to Einstein. Einstein is committed to the growth of this program, and I am proud to share that this fall we have a record total of 13 participants. If they all enroll in the fall, they will make up nearly 9% of our incoming M.D. class of 2029. It's a wonderful initiative that meaningfully improves the accessibility and diversity of medical school and the medical field. This program was recently highlighted with [an event at Einstein with the New York State Health Commissioner](#).

Research Acceleration Fund

In January 2023, Einstein received a \$100 million anonymous gift, which supports a range of research and education programs and facilities that helps keep Einstein at the cutting-edge of biomedical research and education. This includes the new 2030 Acceleration Fund that provides financial resources to researchers as they move their discoveries from the lab into the clinic. I'd like to congratulate the first recipients of the Acceleration Fund Awards: Eviropidis Gavathiotis, Ph.D.,

Seiya Kitamura, Ph.D., Sridhar Mani, M.D., Vern Schramm, Ph.D., Victor L. Schuster, M.D., and Amit Verma, M.B.B.S. It says a lot about Einstein that we had so many outstanding applications to choose from and we hope many more submit their proposals early next year. Please contact the [office of biotechnology and business development](#) for more information.

Getting into the Spirit

Every spring, Einstein's Women's Division hosts the Spirit of Achievement Luncheon. One of the first such fundraising events of its kind, Spirit celebrated its 70th anniversary this year. The 2024 honorees included Board Chair Ruth Gottesman, Ed.D., Board Member Carol Einiger, Montefiore Einstein physician-scientist Betsy Herold, M.D., and artist Deborah Kass. The Women's Division has raised over \$100 million for Einstein over its six decades, and I'm excited to share that this year's event raised the most funds of any Spirit Luncheon since its founding. This is a testament to our dedicated and generous donor community, the leadership of our Board, and the inspiring work of our faculty.

Promoting Pathway Programs

Hal Strelnick, M.D., has been a key figure in the development of Einstein's pathway programs and diversity initiatives. Nearly two decades ago, he established BronxHOPE, a consortium of programs and initiatives at Einstein and partner institutions that provide learning opportunities for students from groups historically underrepresented in science and medicine. His contributions were honored last week when BronxHOPE celebrated the inaugural Dr. Hal Strelnick Day: A Celebration of Learning, when 130 summer students, from high schoolers to post-bacs, presented their posters at Einstein. It was also a way to thank Dr. Strelnick and his wife, Deb, for their recent donation of \$500,000 to the program. His dedication to the College of Medicine, serving our community, and lifting up our youth speaks volumes to his sincere and deep commitment to social justice; he truly embodies the Einstein spirit.

Library Renovation

Yesterday evening, I was joined by dozens of students and library staff for a ribbon-cutting for our newly renovated D. Samuel Gottesman Library, located on the first floor of Forchheimer. While the library has undergone many changes over the years, evolving to meet the changing digital landscape, this recent project was suggested by our students and reflects their input. A committee of students worked with the architect and our design and construction team to ensure the new space meets their needs. The reimagined layout allows for plenty of quiet rooms and group study spaces, all within a welcoming, open, and modern environment. I want to thank everyone involved for their outstanding work, both in maintaining library operations during this time and in the final renovation. I encourage everyone to stop by when they have an opportunity.

Please join me in toasting our colleagues' achievements, thanking our generous supporters, and celebrating Einstein's continued success.

Warm Regards,



Yaron Tomer, M.D.

The Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Chief Academic Officer
Montefiore Medicine