Dear Einstein Community:

COVID-19 emerged on the global scene at the end of 2019 and arrived in the Bronx with a fury in March, 2020. Responding to the pandemic, Einstein, the Montefiore Health System, and Jacobi Medical Center emerged as leaders in research, healthcare delivery, and volunteerism. Concurrently, Einstein’s academic programs pivoted rapidly to address this unprecedented, fast-changing situation, with the goal of upholding our educational commitments to every student.

As part of this process, our M.D. program temporarily withdrew students from our health systems in mid-March in order to facilitate the efficient allocation of limited personal protective equipment to our front-line healthcare providers, free up our faculty-clinicians from direct educational oversight of our students to focus more intensely on patient care, and abide by Governor Cuomo’s charge to socially distance. Then, once it was determined students could return to clinical settings, we sought to meet new requirements that involved dramatically restructuring their clinical experiences—for reasons relating to both safety and effectiveness.

This clinical restructuring was accomplished collaboratively by two task forces comprised of students, faculty members (including course and clerkship directors), deans, and staff led by Dr. Todd Cassese, then assistant dean for clinical science education, and Dr. Josh Nosanchuk, senior associate dean for medical education. The innovations created and implemented by Einstein’s talented clerkship leaders offered an incredible opportunity to immediately craft a novel, 18-month, pre-clerkship curriculum. When this process is complete, Einstein will have fundamentally transformed its curriculum into an integrated and exciting new four-year program.
Simultaneously, the school undertook a search for an associate dean for medical education, to partner with educational leadership, faculty, and students to assist with the complex task of change management. We are now pleased to announce that, based on his outstanding performance at Einstein and his long, successful career in medical education, our search committee has unanimously selected Dr. Cassese to fill this new role.

A recognized thought leader in medical education with particular strengths in assessment, basic and clinical science integration, gender equality, and curricular innovations, Todd was recruited to Einstein in July 2018 through a highly competitive search. Among his nationally held positions, he is a returning scholar who teaches for the Harvard Macy Program, a Strategic Educator Enhancement Fellow with the National Board of Medical Examiners, a former president of the Directors of Clinical Skills Courses, and a member of the North East Group on Educational Affairs Program Steering Committee. In addition to these roles and responsibilities, Todd is associate professor of medicine, in the division of hospital medicine.

Please join us in congratulating Todd on his new appointment. We are confident that he, along with our medical educators and our inspiring students, will develop a curriculum that will simultaneously position our graduates to become sought-after physician leaders while attracting a talented and diverse student body committed to enhancing the health of our Bronx community and beyond.

Sincerely,

Gordon F. Tomaselli, M.D.
The Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean
*Albert Einstein College of Medicine*
*Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer*
*Montefiore Medicine*

Joshua Nosanchuk, M.D.
Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education