November 21, 2018

Dear Einstein Community:

As we enter a new holiday season, it’s an appropriate time to reflect on the many things for which we should be thankful.

Among them, I believe, is working for a medical school, and being part of a health system, whose joint missions are focused on serving our community, our nation and the world. Virtually everyone, it seems, is searching for meaning in their lives. I’m thankful, and find it extremely satisfying, to work for institutions that seek new treatments and cures for disease, educate young doctors and researchers, and serve patients in desperate need of medical care, regardless of who they are or their ability to pay. It’s the science, medicine and healing that matters. Our mission, in other words.

There is a famous story along these lines that Dr. Safyer likes to share, which I find illuminating. During a visit to the NASA space center in 1962, the president noticed a man carrying a broom. He interrupted his tour, walked over to the individual and said, "Hi, I'm Jack Kennedy. What are you doing?" "Well, Mr. President," the man responded, "I'm helping put a man on the moon." While Einstein might not be sending men and women into space, I believe that everyone at the College of Medicine, regardless of their role, is contributing to fulfilling our mission and contributing to our success. That mission is expanding in new and exciting ways thanks to our partnership with Montefiore and the large number of patients it serves.

Our impact is felt in so many ways. The wonderful cover story and video in the recent issue of Einstein magazine profiles a patient whose life was saved as a result of basic research conducted at the medical school. We are currently highlighting stories and news that describes advances at Einstein in treating diseases ranging from autism, to diabetes, to infectious diseases, as well as the latest developments in stem cell research, research training and education. During the first week of December, we’re hosting a global health conference, which demonstrates how Einstein’s impact is felt in virtually every corner of the world. And in case we need reminding, Dr. Safyer’s recent President’s letter, emphasizes perhaps our most important mission—a deep commitment to social justice.

In sum, we can all be proud of Einstein and Montefiore’s success because everyone has helped make it possible. And for that I want to thank each and every one of you—while also wishing you all a happy Thanksgiving and a joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,

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