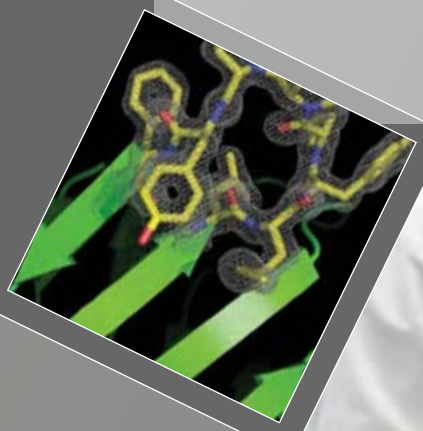


MOTIVATIONS

The Front Line of Philanthropy at Einstein Montefiore

IN THIS ISSUE

To learn more, please visit montefiore.org/fundforME and einstein.yu.edu/donors/fundforME

A Message from the President of the Alumni Association Board of Governors:

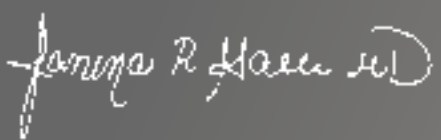
JANINA R. GALLER, M.D. '72

One of the greatest joys of my position as president of the Alumni Association Board of Governors is helping foster remarkable partnerships among alumni, current students, donors, physician-researchers, volunteers, staff and our community. *Motivations* is a fitting venue to showcase some of these inspiring partnerships and how they ultimately affect social change, scientific investigation, medical education and clinical care. In the pages that follow, we introduce you to Dr. Jose Ortiz, '92, an alumnus who exemplifies a commitment to student success (*Continued Connection*, p. 51); the Ronald M. Burde, M.D., Surgical Simulation Laboratory's philanthropy-fueled, innovative approach to state-of-the-art teaching and care (*Spotlight*, p. 54); and the Center for Immunotherapeutics' pioneering progress in cancer research (*Your Impact*, p. 58).

Whatever the level of your own involvement, we value and rely on your input. *Motivations* debuted in our last issue to great success. Fundraising and volunteerism rose, alumni felt more engaged with the institution and our community experienced continued growth. But we know we can always improve. What do you enjoy about *Motivations*? What would you like to see featured in these pages? How can we serve you best? My goal is for you to donate, to volunteer, to feel more engaged and to continue developing and connecting.

A new academic year allows me to reflect on my time at Einstein as a student more than 40 years ago. I was drawn here for the academic rigor, a commitment to compassionate medicine, outstanding teaching faculty and a strong focus on social justice. The moment I stepped on campus, one thing was clear: I knew I was in the right place. Reading through *Motivations*, I know I still am. And I'm glad you're here with me.

With warm wishes,



CONTINUED CONNECTION:

JOSE ORTIZ JR. M.D. '92

Jose Ortiz Jr., M.D. '92, reflects on his time at Einstein, his path to professional success and how to increase diversity in medicine

After moving to Eau Claire, WI, to join the Mayo Clinic, Dr. Jose Ortiz Jr. went on a hunting trip with his new colleagues. Later that day, he called a friend, a fellow Hispanic, back home in New York to tell him about his outing. "Hey, I shot this turkey," Dr. Ortiz told his friend. "And he replied, in all seriousness, 'Oh no! What did the guy do?'"

Dr. Ortiz got a good laugh out of that, but it was a sharp reminder that he was the odd man out. Hispanics like him were a rarity in rural Eau Claire County, where people of German and Norwegian descent predominate. Rather than withdraw, Dr. Ortiz reached out by befriending his coworkers, soaking in the culture and visiting with locals to understand his new patients better.

The desire to make connections where none exist is a recurring motif in his 20-plus-year career, and the secret to his success. Today, he is an accomplished hand surgeon and chief of staff at Mayo's branch in Eau Claire. Early on, however, one might have bet that he'd never even earn a medical degree.

Jose Ortiz Jr., M.D., mentors a student in the Medical Experience Program at the Mayo Clinic Health System in Wisconsin.

DROPPING OUT—AND GETTING BACK IN

Dr. Ortiz dropped out of college after his third year because he needed money more than he needed a diploma. Five years working at Yale University Hospital kindled his interest in orthopedics and provided the income he needed to resume his studies. In 1988, he was accepted to Einstein, a triumph for a student of any background. But he recalls feeling out of place, academically and culturally. "That first year, I kept waiting for someone to come into class and tell me, 'We made a mistake; you're not supposed to be here,'" he says.

Determined to fit in and prove his worth, Dr. Ortiz won election as co–class president in each of his four years at Einstein. He sat on a search committee for an office of diversity dean, championed Shabbat elevators, established study groups and launched a student newspaper—efforts that exemplified Einstein's commitment to social justice and service to community. By the time he graduated in 1992, he was among the select group of students elected to Alpha Omega Alpha, one of medicine's foremost honor societies.

Not surprisingly, Dr. Ortiz chose to do his residency at New York University, which includes rotations through

At left: Class of 1992 Einstein friends enjoy a barbecue at the Falk Recreation Center in the early '90s. From left are Dr. Ortiz, Raja M. Flores, William Alago Jr. and Sandy Ganea-Alago.

Above: Dr. Ortiz, center, holds his baby son, Jose A. Ortiz III, who was the mascot for the Class of 1992 softball team. Standing, from left, are Sam Bakshian, Stewart Weinzimer, Maseith Moghaddasi, Samuel Abramovitz, Dov Linzer and Allen Chernoff. Kneeling is William Alago Jr.; sitting is Raja Flores.

Bellevue Hospital, where patient diversity is the stuff of legend. "When I was chief resident, I remember getting a call about an emergency room patient complaining that air was causing her knee to hurt. 'She's crazy,' the on-call resident told me. 'I'll notify psychiatry.' I asked if she was from Puerto Rico, and when he said 'Yes' it all started to make sense. Some Puerto Ricans believe that when you give birth, air can get inside you and cause all sorts of health problems. Had I not known that, she would have been sent to the wrong physician—and who knows what would have happened to her. Too often, things get lost in translation."

INCREASING DIVERSITY

For Dr. Ortiz, this was a clear lesson that medicine needs more people of color. "One way to increase diversity is to get kids interested in healthcare as early as kindergarten, and to show it's possible for them to become doctors," he says.

"Another issue is that some minority college students aren't ready for medical school," Dr. Ortiz adds. "But it's not enough for medical schools to say, 'We can't accept students who aren't qualified.' They must find ways to make those students ready." To this end, he helped create the Medical Experience Program, a Mayo Clinic initiative that provides high school and college students with opportunities to shadow hospital physicians in a range of specialties. "You need to see it, touch it and feel it to understand that you can have it," he says.

The cost of higher education is still another barrier to diversity, he says. "That's a big stumbling block for a lot of us. Just weeks ago I paid off my last student loan—after more than 20 years in practice."

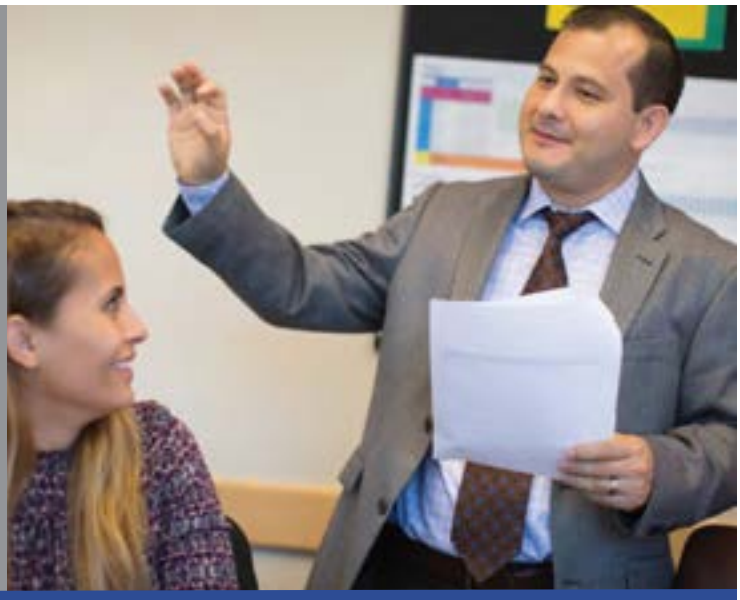
ADVICE FOR FLEDGLING DOCTORS

Dr. Ortiz was fortunate to have a mentor in Pablo Vazquez-Seoane, M.D. (now at the South Texas Spinal Clinic), who encouraged him while at Einstein to establish himself as a leader, conduct research and strive to close any gaps in skills between himself and others vying for a competitive residency such as orthopedics. "That ethic—to reach out and work hard—became my road map to success," he says.

He has advice for today's Einstein students: "A while ago, when I was visiting Puerto Rico, I heard a physician say, 'What you are, I once was; what I am, you will become.' He meant that even if things are tough, you aren't facing anything different from those who came before you. Don't be discouraged. Have faith in yourself. The hardest thing about medical school is getting in. Once you're here, all you have to do is apply yourself. You've already shown you have the aptitude to realize your dream to become a physician. That's why they let you in." E

"Young people from underrepresented and disadvantaged populations who are drawn to the healthcare field face great obstacles along the path to matriculation. Changing that fact is my goal—and my dream."

—Dr. Juan Robles '11
Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Social Medicine



The Fund for Montefiore Einstein

By giving today, you power a better tomorrow.

Dr. Juan Robles left Honduras when he was 12 to join his mother, who had settled in the Bronx. One of Dr. Robles' most powerful memories of his first year in the United States centers on the treatment he received from Dr. Alan Shapiro, a pediatrician at the South Bronx Health Center for Children and Families at Montefiore.

"I will never forget the humanity and sensitivity Alan showed my family as we tried to navigate the health system in a strange new country," Dr. Robles recalls.

He also saw that the excellent care he was receiving wasn't the norm. "I quickly became aware of the disparities that made it harder for my neighbors to receive the quality care I was getting," he says. "Many of the kids I knew did not have access to clinicians like Alan. It was this major gap in patient opportunity and medicine that inspired my passion to become a doctor." Dr. Robles has since dedicated his life to giving his fellow immigrants access to the guidance, tools and role models that enabled his success.

Your contribution to The Fund for Montefiore Einstein plays an essential role in helping us embody excellence, serve our community and foster the thousands of human connections that students, faculty and staff members like Dr. Robles make with patients and caregivers each day.

Who in your life has powered you?

Make a donation in that person's honor by returning the enclosed envelope or donating online at **montefiore.org/fundforME** or **einstein.yu.edu/donors/fundforME** and we'll let him or her know about your generosity.

For more information, contact the office of development at 718.920.6656.

THE FUND FOR
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SPOTLIGHT:

SIMULATED EYE SURGERY EQUALS REAL LEARNING

BY GARY GOLDENBERG

Donors and alumni turn a vision into reality with a state-of-the-art surgical simulation center for ophthalmology residents

Anurag Shrivastava, M.D., an associate professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences and the assistant dean for Montefiore Medical Center, winces when he recalls the first time he operated on a living human eye. He was a junior resident, and although he had observed cases and received a modicum of hands-on classroom training with rudimentary instruments and animal eyes, that preparation hadn't given him much confidence. Having an experienced surgeon at his side, talking and assisting with each step, kept the patient safe—ultimately allowing Dr. Shrivastava to learn these skills over the course of his training.

"My heart was beating out of my chest," he remembers. "I was excited, because this was something I'd been waiting to do for years. But it was very stressful—and potentially very dangerous for the patient."

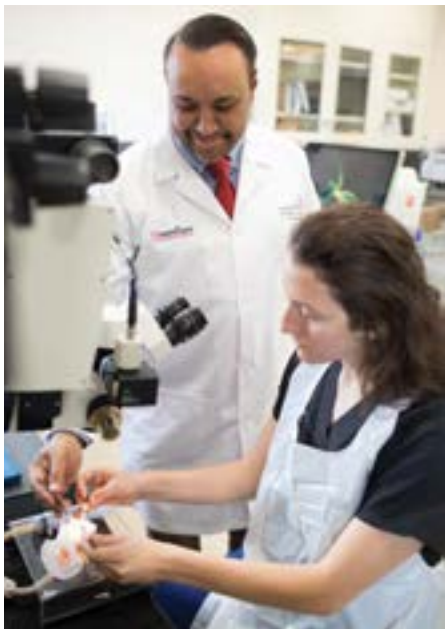
That first patient did just fine. Years later, however, when Dr. Shrivastava became director of the ophthalmology residency program at Montefiore, he vowed to modernize the way fledgling eye surgeons master their art and craft.

"The conventional approach to learning skills during residency was 'see one, do one, teach one,' as the old saying goes," he says. "That's an exaggeration, but we did dive right into the operating room with almost no formal training or preparation with simulators. That wasn't a good approach in ophthalmology because of the complexity of the microscopic surgeries, combined with the extremely small margins of error."

Even cataract removal—the most commonly performed eye operation—is dauntingly complex. The surgeon must coordinate four different controls (two for the hands and two for the feet) while peering through a microscope and operating on a delicate organ that can't be completely immobilized. Further complicating the issue, patients, although sedated, are awake during surgery so that they can respond to the surgeon during portions of the procedure. It's no wonder that Dr. Shrivastava's first day in surgery was terrifying.

SIMULATED SURGERY

Today, before ever wielding a scalpel in the operating room, junior ophthalmology residents at Montefiore spend months cutting, repairing and suturing in the laboratory. This is no ordinary lab; it is a state-of-the-art digital classroom.



Ana Rubin Panvini, M.D., resident '19, practices cataract extraction on an artificial eye with Anurag Shrivastava, M.D.

Officially known as the Ronald M. Burde, M.D., Surgical Simulation Laboratory, it features real operating microscopes and artificial eyes with remarkably lifelike movements and anatomical structures, which, when used along with animal eyes, allow simulation of almost any ophthalmic procedure. The new laboratory is located in the Moses Research Tower on the Montefiore campus and named in honor

At left: The Ronald M. Burde, M.D., Surgical Simulation Laboratory helps doctors gain confidence as they practice operating on artificial eyes. From left are Jimmy K. Lee, M.D., Erin Walsh, M.D., Roy Chuck, M.D., Ph.D., and Rob Fargione, M.D., resident '17.

of the late Dr. Burde, who chaired the ophthalmology department from 1988 to 2000.

"In ophthalmology, you have to perform a particular operation 150 to 200 times before you can master it," says Roy Chuck, M.D., Ph.D., the Paul Henkind Chair in Ophthalmology, a professor and the chair of ophthalmology and visual sciences and a professor of genetics. "The learning curve in the first 20 or 30 cases is very steep. Having residents do surgical simulations in the Burde Laboratory helps flatten that learning curve by quite a bit."

Studies show that ophthalmology residents who train on simulators can reduce their real-life surgical complication rates by as much as 50 percent—to the great relief of patients and trainees alike. "In the past, we usually couldn't identify residents who were having problems until they went to the operating room," Dr. Shrivastava says. "Now we can spot their weaknesses early and give them one-on-one training in the lab. They don't move on to patients until they're as ready as possible."

As they progress through their three-year residencies, trainees graduate from simple eyelid procedures to more-complex intraocular operations, such as cataract extraction, corneal transplantation, glaucoma surgery and strabismus repair—each of which they can simulate in the Burde Laboratory.

The Burde Laboratory also features a newly constructed multipurpose computer library and a teleconferencing facility, which allows Montefiore trainees to attend remote lectures and surgical demonstrations by leading surgeons from around the country. And Einstein faculty members in turn can share their expertise with the rest of the world. Combining these resources with a lecture portal that Dr. Shrivastava has under active development will put Montefiore ophthalmology at the absolute forefront of residency education, using technology that extends its reach beyond borders.

The Burde Laboratory will serve as the testing ground for the department's Center for Ophthalmic Innovation, a novel effort to encourage advances in eye care. "When our faculty has ideas for developing new techniques and technologies or improving old ones, they'll be able to test those ideas in the laboratory, apply them in clinical practice and then refine them as needed back in the lab," Dr. Chuck says. "No other ophthalmic microsurgery lab in the country is based on that concept."

SUPPORT FROM ALUMNI AND DONORS

Dr. Burde's widow, Sharon, a longtime friend and supporter of the ophthalmology department, has been instrumental in developing the Burde Laboratory, attracting contributions from her husband's colleagues and from former trainees all over the United States. Says

Lectures and group-learning sessions take place in the Ronald M. Burde, M.D., Surgical Simulation Laboratory. At right is Arthur N. Hershaft, member of Albert Einstein College of Medicine's Board of Trustees and supporter of the ophthalmology department.

Members of the Class of 2018 practice intraocular implants. From left are Rachel Shah, M.D., Poonam Misra, M.D., Ryan Gise, M.D., and Isaac Chocron, M.D.

Dr. Chuck: "They look back and realize that it would have been so much better if they didn't have to learn on patients at the very beginning. Their support is a wonderful gift to the next generation of ophthalmologists, and a fitting legacy to a former department chair."

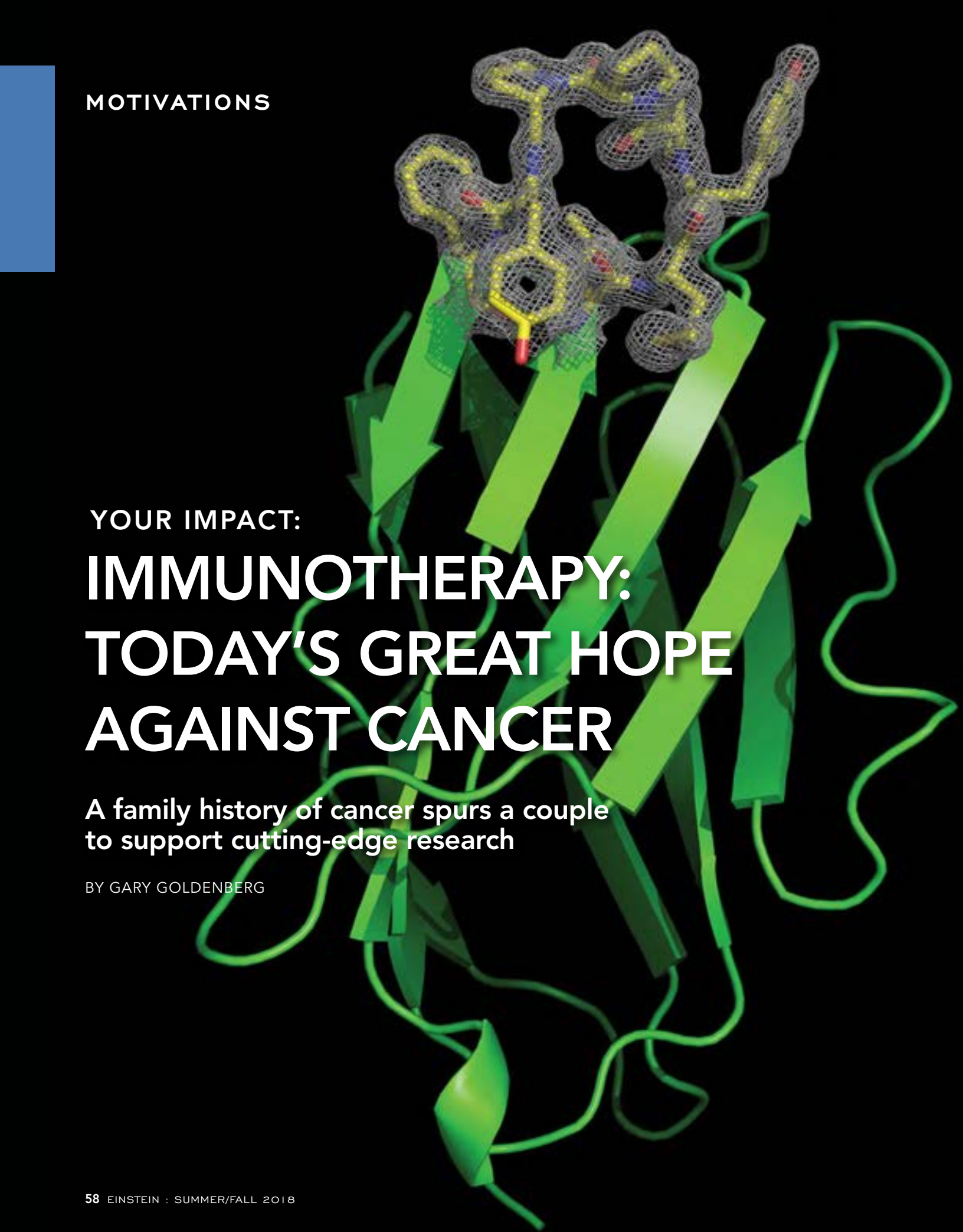
Support for the Burde Laboratory has also come from business executive Arthur N. Hershaft. Some 50 years ago, he began experiencing vision loss because of central serous retinopathy, a condition in which fluids collect under the retina. Experimental laser treatments stabilized his eyesight, transforming him into an avid supporter of biomedical research and innovation. A Bronx native now living in Manhattan, Mr. Hershaft has a particular fondness for Einstein, where he has served on the Board of Trustees for more than a decade.

When Mr. Hershaft turned 80, friends asked him where they could make a donation in his honor. "I consulted [then-dean] Allen Spiegel for guidance, and he mentioned the department of ophthalmology," he says. "I didn't even know Einstein had such a department. I later learned it conducts a wide range of research and handles 150,000 patient visits a year—one of the largest caseloads in the nation. Few people know what the department is doing and its value to the community. It's the biggest secret here."

Mr. Hershaft's philanthropy and that of his friends and family have helped the Burde Laboratory become an important innovation in medical education. They and their fellow donors have enabled the laboratory to train, teach and prepare residents for careers in ophthalmology today and far into the future.

"When people ask me why I support Einstein," Mr. Hershaft says, "I tell them that you can make a real difference here. You can get involved in any number of ways, and the decisions and contributions you make can directly shape the school. There aren't too many medical institutions where you can have that kind of role." E

WATCH THE VIDEO
Meet a glassblower who underwent life-changing eye surgery:
magazine.einstein.yu.edu/eyes18



YOUR IMPACT:

IMMUNOTHERAPY: TODAY'S GREAT HOPE AGAINST CANCER

A family history of cancer spurs a couple to support cutting-edge research

BY GARY GOLDENBERG

Janet and Marty Spatz are all too familiar with cancer. Janet is a breast cancer survivor; her mother died of stomach cancer, her brother of Hodgkin's lymphoma. And Marty's mother succumbed to lung cancer. "It seems like everyone we know has been touched by it," Janet says.

Determined to do something, the Spatzes went online to look for "cancer research funding opportunities,"and one of the first listings was Albert Einstein College of Medicine. "As longtime Bronx residents, Marty and I were quite familiar with Einstein and its reputation," Janet says.

The Spatzes decided to support Einstein's growing efforts in immunotherapy—arguably the most promising cancer-treatment advance of the past decade. "I know what chemotherapy does to your body, killing the good cells along with the bad," Janet says. "Harnessing your immune system to fight cancer sounded like a wonderful idea."

Donations from Marty and Janet Spatz have enabled scientists, researchers and doctors at Einstein and Montefiore to make great strides against a variety of cancers.

WHAT IS OLD IS NEW

Immunotherapy dates back to a late-19th-century surgeon named William B. Coley. He'd found dozens of cases in the literature in which a bacterial infection appeared to cause remission of an otherwise incurable cancer. The far-thinking physician designed a bacteria cocktail aimed at stimulating an immune response to soft-tissue sarcomas. Dr. Coley's "toxins" cured a few patients but killed others, and his treatment fell out of favor. It would take scientists more than a century to grasp why Dr. Coley's immunotherapy worked and to try to improve on it.

One such scientist is Steven C. Almo, Ph.D., the Wollowick Family Foundation Chair in Multiple Sclerosis and Immunology, a professor and the chair of biochemistry and a professor of physiology & biophysics at Einstein. Dr. Almo is spearheading Einstein's new Center for Immunotherapeutics, aimed at developing novel treatments for cancer and other diseases.

Dr. Almo's own research focuses on T cells—immune cells that recognize and destroy cells infected by pathogens or that have turned cancerous. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the marketing of several immunotherapies that fight cancers by revving up T cells to attack them.

Immunotherapy drugs can be quite effective but often cause harmful side effects. "The problem is that these drugs tend to affect all T cells," Dr. Almo says. "Selectively activating only those T cells relevant to a particular disease should help reduce off-target effects."

Dr. Almo begins his quest for better immunotherapies by looking for molecules called receptors bristling from the surface of T cells he's interested in, such as those that respond to melanoma or to lung cancer. Receptors on T cells serve as sentries: they recognize telltale proteins, known as ligands, present on certain cells. The ligands engage with and turn on T-cell receptors, much as a key fits into and opens a lock. The

> "I know what chemotherapy does to your body, killing the good cells along with the bad. Harnessing your immune system to fight cancer sounded like a wonderful idea."

Opposite page graphic courtesy of Steven C. Almo, Ph.D.

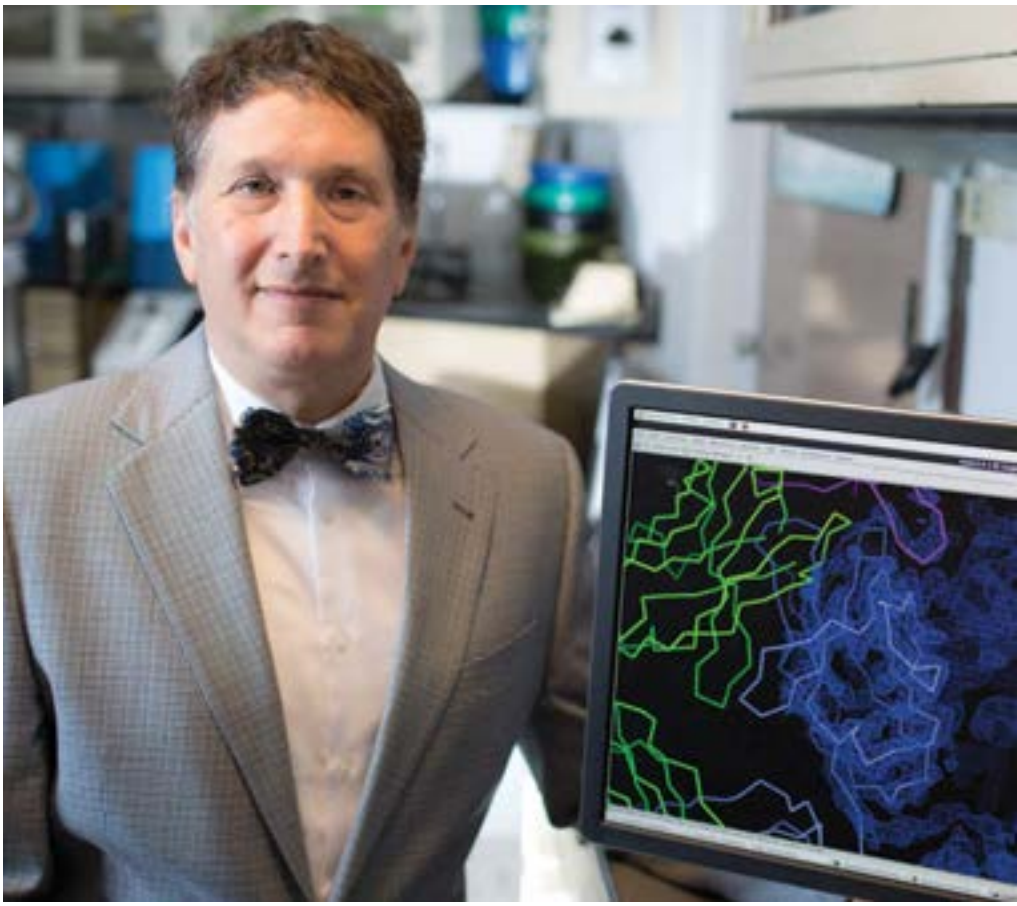
"Selectively activating only those T cells relevant to a particular disease should help reduce off-target effects."

stimulated receptors determine how their T cells behave—spurring them to attack or (in the case of certain receptors) putting the brakes on T-cell action.

After identifying the receptors on a particular type of T cell, Dr. Almo uses advanced techniques such as X-ray crystallography and computational biology to determine the receptors' precise molecular structure. This information helps him determine the structure of the ligand that uniquely fits into that receptor. Scientists can develop the ligand into an immunotherapy drug to turn specific T cells on or off as desired.

RADIATION TO THE RESCUE

Focused radiation is another promising therapy for boosting the immune response to cancer. "Tumor cells contain a lot of defective mutated proteins," explains Chandan Guha, M.B.B.S., Ph.D., a professor of radiation oncology, of pathology and of urology at Einstein and vice chair of radiation oncology at Montefiore. "When we use radiation to kill tumor cells, those abnormal proteins are released, along with 'danger' signals that alert the immune system to detect the mutated proteins. The immune cells can then target living tumor cells that contain those same proteins and kill them."



Above: Steven C. Almo, Ph.D., displays an X-ray crystallographic image that his lab created.

At right: He looks for crystals suitable for analyzing.

Dr. Guha has shown that focused delivery of radiation makes tumor cells more vulnerable to immune attack, while also training the body's own immune defense to more strongly attack the tumor cells.

"Instead of delivering standard cancer radiation therapy in frequent low doses over several weeks, delivering large radiation doses in just a few sessions causes more-extensive DNA damage that tumor cells can't repair so well," Dr. Guha says. "That means more tumor cells die, releasing large amounts

Dr. Guha is using low-intensity focused ultrasound (LOFU) to bolster the immune system's response to tumors.

of tumor-specific proteins that create a stronger 'danger' signal for arousing the immune system."

In another study, Dr. Guha is using low-intensity focused ultrasound (LOFU) to bolster the immune system's response to tumors. LOFU produces thermal and mechanical stress inside the tumor cells, causing some of their proteins to unfold and break down into peptides. When the stressed cells are killed by chemotherapy or radiation therapy, the release of those peptides triggers an immune response to the cancer. In animal models of lung and prostate cancer and melanoma, LOFU plus radiation shrank tumors, reduced the risk of tumor recurrence and decreased the spread of tumor cells.

IMMUNOLOGY WITHOUT BORDERS

Thanks to philanthropists such as the Spatzes, researchers in the Center for Immunotherapeutics can evaluate the use of immunotherapy against numerous health problems, one of which is HIV infection. "Although today's therapies for HIV can reduce viral loads to undetectable levels, some HIV still lurks within infected cells and can reactivate once treatment stops," Dr. Almo says. "We're working with members of the Einstein-Rockefeller-CUNY Center for AIDS Research to find ways to amplify and activate T cells to eliminate those HIV reservoirs."

Dr. Almo is also pursuing immunotherapies that selectively suppress T-cell activity rather than activating it. Such drugs would combat autoimmune diseases that occur when the body mounts an overzealous immune response against its own tissues.

As for the Spatzes, Janet and Marty retired to Florida several years ago, but from afar they root for Einstein's specialists in immunotherapy—and for their beloved New York Yankee baseball team. "Put that in the article," Janet insists. "Once a Yankee fan, always a Yankee fan." E

Chandan Guha, M.B.B.S., Ph.D., pictured at top right, works in his lab with Ph.D. student Justin Vercellino.

Above: They examine colonies of tumor cells that were treated with low-intensity focused ultrasound.

CLASS NOTES

1960s

Melvin Schapiro, M.D. '60, and his wife, Barbara, recently reunited with Helen and Ron Ross; Marne and Jerry Ruskin; and Annette and Aaron Satloff—graduates of Einstein's class of 1960 and their wives—on Catalina Island. This trip served as their first gathering since their graduation.

Howard Schwartz, M.D. '60, was selected as "Man of the Year" by the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona at the annual Jewish Community Awards Celebration.

Edward M. Stim, M.D. '60, celebrated his 85th birthday this year. He writes two personal blogs: "Physician's Notebooks" and "Adventures of Kimi, Woman of Japan."

Henry H. Wortis, M.D. '60, is still active in research and teaching at Tufts University School of Medicine. His current interest is developing vaccines that protect against chronic inflammatory diseases. He directs an immunology training program and a postbaccalaureate biomedical diversity training program at Tufts. Dr. Wortis and his wife, Sheli, are involved in politics and spend time with their grandchildren in western Massachusetts.

Steven L. Jaffe, M.D. '65, is the author of a recently released book, *Sacred Connections: Studies of Spirituality in Recovering Adolescent and Young Adult Substance Abusers*.

Robert S. Hoffman, M.D. '69, F.A.C.P.S., delivered two lectures at the annual Southern Headache Society meeting in Asheville, NC, last September. His eldest grandson, a junior in Carnegie Mellon University's acting program, has a brother who hopes to join him in the same program this fall. Dr. Hoffman's twin granddaughters study at Washington University and Brandeis University. The rest of his grandchildren range in age from 8 months to 17 years. He is expecting his 12th grandchild.

1970s

Sterling J. Jaidt, M.D. '70, retired in 2015 and now resides in California, focusing on digital art and design.

Jacob Ackerman, M.D. '71, just welcomed a second great-grandson. This past summer, Dr. Ackerman won first place in a pingpong fundraising tournament, which raised money to help battered wives. Since there were 40 entrants under the age of 45, it was a thrilling win. He believes his practice in Einstein dorms from 1967 to 1971 set him up for success.

Norman Luban, M.D. '71, has retired from his neurology private practice. He now evaluates neurologically disabled members of the military and teaches science at a local high school. He and his family spend their summers on Cape Cod.

Toby Tucker Hecht, Ph.D. '73, is excited to be a part of the National Cancer Institute's Canine Immunotherapy Trials Network, composed of scientists and veterinary oncologists who study dogs with spontaneous tumors. Their findings could help researchers better use and combine immunotherapy agents in humans.

Arthur Pickoff, M.D. '75, retired as chair of pediatrics and of community health and as assistant dean for clinical research at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. Today, he is happily continuing a different kind of education at the Cincinnati School of Bartending.

Samuel M. Salamon, M.D. '77, and his wife, Ruthie, have lived in Cleveland since 1985, where he has built his ophthalmology private practice. Their proudest "achievements" are their dozen grandchildren, half of whom live two blocks away from them; the other half live in Israel.

Steven Wolinksy, M.D. '79, has treated patients at Orange Dermatology Associates PC in New York since 1984. He and his wife, Vita, have five children and 11 grandchildren. He has kept active by running nine marathons in the United States and seven in Israel.

STAY IN TOUCH

Keep your classmates up-to-date by submitting your news to *Einstein* magazine. We look forward to including you in our next issue. E-mail us at alumni@einstein.yu.edu.

1980s

Barbara Bartlik, M.D. '81, has published a new book, *Integrative Sexual Health*, a volume in the Dr. Andrew Weil Integrative Medicine Library. The book is a comprehensive, evidence-based academic text on healing sexual dysfunction; it combines recent ideas and practices from conventional and alternative medicine.

Pesach Lichtenberg, M.D. '84, has established a nongovernmental organization. It has built two homes in Jerusalem that serve as humane alternatives to psychiatric inpatient units for people in acute emotional distress, including severe psychotic and affective states. More homes are planned.

Marjorie Merod, M.D. '84, has welcomed her first grandchild, Emily Louisa Stevens.

Max Shapiro, M.D. '84, lives in Beverly Hills, CA, and has three children currently enrolled in medical school.

Sharon Jaffe, M.D. '85, was named *Orlando Style* magazine's 2018 "Woman of the Year" in recognition of her community involvement and her compassion, knowledge and expertise in helping couples conceive.

Harry J. Sacks, M.D. '86, F.A.A.P., is now vice president of medical affairs and corporate medical officer at OptiNose, Inc., a pharmaceutical company focused on developing new products for patients with diseases treated by otolaryngologists and allergists.

Joan Bregstein, M.D. '87, has been an attending physician in the NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital pediatric emergency department for the past 23 years. She is also an associate professor of pediatrics at Columbia University. She is happy to report that her daughter, Shana Burstein, is currently enrolled as a medical student at Einstein in the Class of 2021.

Ellen J. Brand, M.D. '88, practices at Danbury Hospital in Connecticut as director of obstetric anesthesia. In December 2017, she spoke at the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists' Postgraduate Assembly meeting. Her older son, Jordan, graduated from Florida State University.

1990s

Barry Kraushaar, M.D. '90, stays busy practicing at Northeast Orthopedics and Sports Medicine in Nanuet, NY. His twins have enrolled in college and one is already studying organic chemistry. He and his wife, Helene, are plotting their course for the next stage of life. They hope all their classmates are well and enjoying the fruits of their hard work.

Hugh Bases, M.D. '94, was promoted to clinical associate professor of pediatrics at New York University School of Medicine and is also the program director of the Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Fellowship. His daughter is a sophomore in college and his son is a junior in high school.

David Markenson, M.D. '94, currently serves as treasurer and board member of the Colorado Medical Society, president of the Arapahoe-Douglas-Elbert Medical Society and division vice president for graduate medical education for the continental, mid-American and mountain divisions of the Hospital Corporation of America's Physician Service Group. He oversees undergraduate and graduate medical education for more than 30 hospitals across the country and serves as the national chair of the scientific advisory council for the American Red Cross.

David Elfenbein, M.D. '95, and his wife, **Leslie Moskowitz-Elfenbein, M.D. '95**, moved in July 2016 to Crested Butte, CO, where Dr. Elfenbein opened his own practice—Pinnacle Orthopedics and Sports Medicine. Dr. Moskowitz-Elfenbein started an ophthalmology practice with the local hospital.

Efrat Meier, M.D. '95, works as a private-practice ob-gyn in Bergenfield, NJ. He recently remarried—his new spouse is Zvi Goldfischer of West Hartford, CT—and he now has four stepchildren in addition to his four children.

Brian Blaufeux, M.D. '96, was promoted to regional chief medical informatics officer for the Westchester County, NY, region of Northwell Health.

2000s

Roger Greenberg, M.D., Ph.D. '00, was elected to the American Academy of Physicians and received the V Foundation Team Science Award for research on BRCA mutated cancers in 2018.

Sandra Torres, M.D. '04, was promoted to regional chief of Urgent Care ProHEALTH Medical Management, LLC, in Roslyn, NY.

Satra Gradiska, M.D. '06, and her husband, Daniel, have welcomed their second child, Makeda.

2010s

Caitlin McMullen, M.D. '10, completed her otolaryngology residency at Montefiore, followed by a fellowship at the University of Toronto. She currently lives in Tampa, FL, and practices at the Moffitt Cancer Center as a head and neck surgical oncologist/reconstructive surgeon.

Rachel Shakked, M.D. '10, and her husband, **Michael Birns, M.D. '10**, moved to the Philadelphia area after completing their orthopedic surgery residencies and fellowships. Dr. Birns practices at Premier Orthopedics in Broomall, PA, and focuses on operative treatment of sports medicine conditions and athletes. Dr. Shakked works for the Rothman Institute with a focus on surgical care of foot and ankle conditions. They are happy to announce the birth of their first son, Ryan Archer, in July 2017. He is on his way to Einstein, Class of 2040!

Samuel Kallus, M.D. '11, completed his chief fellow year in gastroenterology at Georgetown University Hospital. He recently accepted a faculty position at George Washington University Hospital to work with medical students, residents and fellows.

Shira Koss, M.D. '12, completed her residency in otolaryngology–head and neck surgery at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai. She is currently training as a fellow in laryngology at Emory University Hospital, specializing in vocal cord and trachea surgery and airway reconstruction. Next year she will head to Stanford University for a fellowship in the Stanford Biodesign Innovation Center, where she will work on medtech and healthtech innovations.

Stephen T. Constantine, M.D. '13, completed his residency in emergency medicine at the University of Chicago in 2016. In 2017, he moved to Charlotte, NC, to complete his fellowship in emergency medical services at Carolinas Medical Center, where he will stay on as a member of the faculty in the department of emergency medicine. He is now board certified in emergency medicine and subspecialty board certified in emergency medical services.

Nadira Ramkellawan, M.D. '13, and **Udit Rawat, M.D. '13**, married in August 2017. Dr. Rawat is currently finishing his radiology residency at the University of Virginia, and Dr. Ramkellawan completed her pediatric residency at Montefiore. She is in the second year of her pediatric emergency medicine fellowship at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Virginia.

Michael Szmyga, Ph.D. '13, has worked in the medical communications field since graduating from Einstein. He is currently a senior medical director with HealthLogix, a medical education company based in New Jersey. He lives in Astoria, Queens.

Dionna Williams, Ph.D. '14, accepted a position as an assistant professor in the department of molecular and comparative pathobiology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Michael Cooper, M.D. '15, married his wife, Beth, in November 2017, and honeymooned in Paris and the South of France. Beth currently works as an editorial recruiter at Hearst and Dr. Cooper has started the final year of his psychiatry residency at New York University, where he is a chief resident. They live in Brooklyn.

Evan Kyo Tamura, M.D. '16, is engaged to Christopher Allen, whom she met during her final year at Einstein. They live in Torrance, CA, where Dr. Tamura is finishing the final year in her family medicine residency at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Aaron Weiss, M.D. '16, welcomed a daughter, Layla Elizabeth, this year.