

MOTIVATIONS

The Front Line of Philanthropy at Einstein and Montefiore



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\$15M GIFT FOR NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

An anonymous donor's generosity will help Einstein attract and retain tomorrow's leaders—and has already inspired others to give

BY TERESA CARR

A lifelong dream of becoming a doctor brought Sean Sukal, M.D., Ph.D. '02, from his native Trinidad to the United States at the age of 17. After graduating from the City University of New York's Hunter College, where he met his wife, Mintra Sukal, M.D. '00, he was elated to be accepted to Einstein.

But as an international student, he wasn't eligible for government loans like the ones that financed his wife's education. Without the scholarship he received from Einstein, says Dr. Sean

Sukal, his family could not have afforded medical school.

"My dad would have had to sell our family's land in Trinidad," he says. "Thank God he didn't have to."

Now, to help other aspiring physicians realize their dreams, the couple has established the Sukal Family Endowed Scholarship Fund, which will help defray tuition costs for medical students with financial need.

Sitting side by side in their living room in Boca Raton, Fla., the Sukals, pictured on the facing page, above right, explain how they were inspired by a new

\$15 million scholarship gift to Einstein. That donation, from an anonymous benefactor, consists of two parts: a \$10 million outright gift for student support, plus another \$5 million endowment that will match other donations ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000.

The one-to-one match is “amazing,” says Dr. Mintra Sukal as her husband nods enthusiastically. “Supporting scholarships is something that we’ve always thought of doing,” he adds. “The opportunity to double our contribution convinced us to make it happen.”

Einstein sorely needs scholarship funds to compete with other medical schools in recruiting talented students, especially those from groups historically underrepresented in medicine, says Joshua Nosanchuk, M.D., senior associate dean for medical education at Einstein. “Promising students may choose to go elsewhere—or not go to medical school at all—for financial reasons.”

The Sukals credit their success to the support they received from Einstein and now want to extend a hand to others. “The idea that it takes a village to raise our young doesn’t end with elementary school,” says Dr. Sean Sukal. “It’s true of medical school, too.”

MULTIPLYING THE GOOD

The anonymous donor is strengthening the Einstein community of donors by inspiring others to establish endowed scholarships in their own names. The philosophy behind the match is that it will create a perpetual loop of generosity, inspiring alumni to support incoming Einstein medical students for generations to come.

Like the Sukals, many other

Einstein alumni seem to have been waiting for the right opportunity to donate. In a 2022 feasibility study of nearly 100 alumni, 84% reported that student support through scholarships is their top priority for philanthropic giving. And 42 Einstein alumni, including 10 of the 40 members of the alumni board of directors, have already taken advantage of the new \$5 million endowment to create their own named scholarships.

Donors to date include Sten Vermund, M.D. ’77, Ph.D., a pediatrician and infectious-disease epidemiologist who recently stepped down as dean of the Yale School of Public Health to return to teaching and research, and his wife, Pilar Vargas, M.D. ’77, Ph.D., a retired child psychiatrist. “It’s human nature to want to multiply a good,” says Dr. Vermund, co-chair of the alumni board’s development subcommittee and member of the Einstein Alumni Association’s board of governors. “The generous gift of matching funds helps us do that in a substantial way.”

Drs. Vermund and Vargas chose to double their impact with an endowed scholarship in honor of Einstein’s Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean, Gordon Tomaselli, M.D. ’82. The fund remains open to new donations.

Einstein has some catching up to do when it comes to fundraising for student support, says Dr. Vermund. In comparison, he points to the NYU Grossman School of Medicine, where tuition is free, and to other peer institutions that keep student debt more manageable. Einstein’s current leadership has done a great job of turning the ship around, says Dr. Vermund. “Now I hope that we can



“The idea that it takes a village to raise our young doesn’t end with elementary school. It’s true of medical school, too.”

— DR. SEAN SUKAL



Pilar Vargas, M.D. ’77, Ph.D., and Sten Vermund, M.D. ’77, Ph.D., have created an endowed scholarship.

MOTIVATIONS | PHILANTHROPY

sail out under full steam, bringing the alumni and friends of the institution along to support the Einstein educational mission.”

LIGHTENING THE LOAD OF STUDENT DEBT

Raja Flores, M.D. ’92, was excited to join other alumni when he established the Raja Flores, M.D., Endowed Scholarship. As chair of thoracic surgery at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, Dr. Flores treats everyone—from the wealthiest patients to those experiencing homelessness. He credits Einstein with instilling the ethos that patients from all walks of life deserve the same compassion, dignity, and respect.

Dr. Flores himself almost chose a more affordable medical school. But then he read an inscription on the wall of Einstein’s Belfer Building: *There is no greater privilege than to be entrusted with another person’s mind, body, and spirit.* “I fell in love with the place,” he says. “I decided to take out loans and whatever else it took to go here.”

Today, many Einstein students take on significant debt to follow their hearts. As of 2020 nearly half of Einstein students graduated with \$200,000 or more of debt, compared to an average of only 17% of students at other local medical schools.

Beginning their careers with so much debt takes a toll on new physicians—as well as on the field of medicine itself. A 2019 review of 52 studies published in the *British Medical Journal* found that high medical debt negatively affects students’ mental health and lowers academic performance.

Typically, residents and interns make very little money, says Dr. Nosanchuk. “Having that large debt looming over them when they’re working

really hard and trying to make ends meet is disheartening,” he says. “Graduating with low or no debt increases people’s wellness not just while they’re students, but also throughout their residencies and training.”

The *British Medical Journal* analysis found that the fear of burdensome debt discourages students from pursuing lower-paying specialties such as infectious disease. Last year only 56% of training programs for infectious-disease physicians in the United States filled their trainee slots, compared with 90% of most other specialties. The chief barrier: high prior debt combined with low compensation, according to the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

SUPPORTING GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS

Coming from a low-income family shouldn’t dictate a student’s choice of a medical school or specialty, says the anonymous benefactor. That’s why the focus of the donation is on students with financial need, with an emphasis on supporting those students who are least able to afford tuition at Einstein.

That’s what motivates Dr. Flores, too. “I see others like me out there,” he says, “and I want to help them realize their dreams.”

The Sukals’ story is a testament to the tremendous dividends that an investment in an Einstein education can yield. Dr. Sean Sukal blazed a trail for physicians of color in dermatology, a field in which only about 7% of U.S. practitioners are Black or Hispanic.

“We are so grateful for the education, training, and life experience we received at Einstein,” says Dr. Mintra Sukal, a radiologist. “We’re just so happy to be able to give back.” **E**



“I see others like me out there, and I want to help them realize their dreams.”

— DR. RAJA FLORES



TO DONATE

To contribute to the Dean Tomaselli Scholarship—or create your own—contact Min Um-Mandhyan, senior director of alumni relations and development, at: min.um-mandhyan@einsteinmed.edu.

STANDING UP

FOR THE UNDERDOG

Suzanne (Sue) Fried, M.D. '64

Dr. Fried is an inaugural member of the Albert Einstein Legacy Society, which recognizes individuals—alumni, faculty, staff, and friends—who wish to advance Einstein's mission through a legacy gift in their estate plans, which help ensure the College of Medicine's future prosperity. If you would like to speak to someone about creating a plan that best serves your philanthropic goals, contact Michael Divers at 718.430.2685 or Einstein-MDivers@einsteinmed.edu.

Specialty: Psychiatry

Why medicine? "My father became a doctor after immigrating from Ukraine. He believed in helping the underdog. He died when I was 12, and I wanted to carry on his work."

What I love about Einstein: The sense of community. "I'm not surprised it has become such a socially conscious institution."

Biggest Einstein influence: Joe Hirsh, the first assistant dean for student affairs. "He encouraged me to join a public health program in El Salvador and Guatemala, where I worked with severely malnourished children. I loved it."

Proudest accomplishment: "Thought disorder is fascinating to me, particularly the inability to articulate thoughts logically. My life's work has been about understanding mentally ill patients and helping them to understand themselves."

Why I established the Suzanne R. Fried, M.D., Fund: "People were good to me, and I benefited from a scholarship myself. Without it, I would have had a hard time paying tuition. I feel obligated to give back as much as I can."

Honor the past and support our future by joining the Albert Einstein Legacy Society
einsteinmed.edu/giving/legacysociety



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MOTIVATIONS | CAREERS IN BASIC SCIENCE

A JUMP START ON THE ROAD TO BIOTECH SUCCESS

In the race to bring promising scientific ideas to market, Ph.D. programs like Einstein's may be the ultimate asset

BY JOE LEVINE

As a doctoral student at Einstein, Sabriya Stukes, Ph.D. '14, worked in the lab of Arturo Casadevall, M.D., Ph.D., then chair of the department of microbiology & immunology. Dr. Casadevall, now at Johns Hopkins, was doing basic research on a fungal pathogen called *Cryptococcus neoformans*, and “he really stressed the importance of creating a diverse laboratory environment and sharing your scientific work with as many people as possible,” Dr. Stukes recalls. “And that was true of Einstein generally. Going to grad school in the Bronx gave me a unique perspective on scientific collaborations and how science coming out of an academic institution could affect people’s lives.”

Dr. Stukes did not become a basic-science researcher. After Einstein she held a series of different jobs, including helping build a national platform to accelerate scientific collaborations, designing a new master’s degree program in translational medicine for the City College of New York, and directing operations for a small biotech company. Today she serves as chief scientific officer for IndieBio NY, a start-up development program that supports early-stage founders who want to turn their scientific ideas into successful biotech companies.

Still, the outlook that Dr. Casadevall and Einstein imparted remains central to her work.

“People bringing new scientific ideas to market tend not to realize that interesting laboratory data don’t always translate into a sustainable business idea,” she says. “So it’s really important that scientists and engineers ask the right questions when thinking about bringing their technologies to market. Are they

truly meeting an unmet need? Can they make a compelling case for funding?”

AN IDEAL TRAINING GROUND

Amid a global pandemic, climate change, and other challenges to human and planetary health, the skills required to bring new solutions to market have never been more important. But the United States, while remaining the world leader in basic research, is slipping when it comes to application.

Currently 90% of biotech start-ups fail, and an even higher percentage of new medicines in development never make it to market, with many falling victim to the “Valley of Death”—the developmental phase between lab work and clinical trials, where funding is scarce.

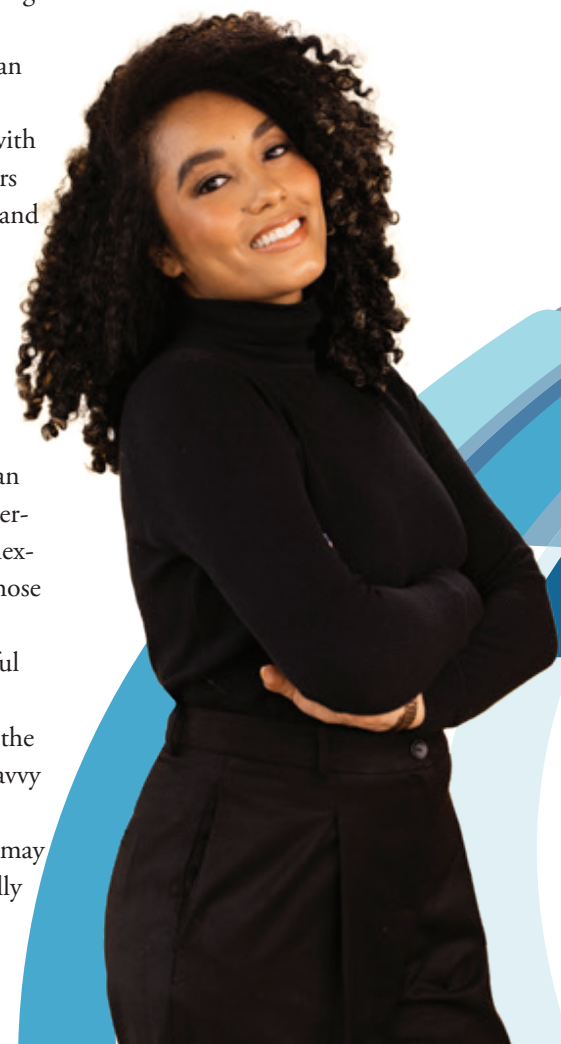
Dr. Stukes believes that the key to improving that track record is recruiting and developing the right people, and that Ph.D. programs like Einstein’s can be ideal training grounds.

“There’s a stereotype that people with Ph.D.s don’t make good entrepreneurs because we don’t know how to pivot and adjust in the real world,” she says. “I think the opposite is true. We’re trained to solve problems, create original bodies of work, and become experts in our disciplines, and we often lead our own research efforts. Plus, we know more about failure than most people because most of our experiments don’t work, or they give us unexpected results. It’s what we do with those results that makes all the difference.”

The latter attribute is key. Successful start-ups are often those that modify their original concepts in response to the feedback that Ph.D. programs with savvy tech-transfer offices can provide. And although most scientific experiments may fail, Einstein has developed a nationally

“We’re trained to solve problems, create original bodies of work, and become experts in our disciplines.”

— DR. SABRIYA STUKES



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recognized career and professional development program to help its graduates bring those experiments that *are* successful to fruition.

EXPANDING CAREER POSSIBILITIES

The office of biotechnology and business development, led by Janis Paradiso, M.B.A., and the career and professional development for graduate students and postdocs program, directed by Diane Safer, Ph.D., offer practical learning opportunities.

“Not only have things changed at Einstein; they’ve also changed in the biomedical workforce environment,” notes Victoria Freedman, Ph.D., associate dean for graduate programs in biomedical sciences. “The expectation now—and this is coming from the National Institutes of Health [NIH] and the National Science Foundation—is that Ph.D. programs will also be opportunities for career exploration and advancement.

“We encourage our Ph.Ds. to learn about the wide range of careers available to them and to take advantage of all the opportunities out there,” Dr. Freedman continues. “We bring a lot of people in to discuss all aspects of business development, intellectual property, and even venture capital. We also have a business and technology internship to give students experience in the business transfer process.”

That’s the role that Einstein has played for Adam Kramer, Ph.D. ’19, a senior scientist at MicroCures, a New York City biotech firm that is developing a new therapy that can recruit cells to damaged tissue in order to accelerate healing—or, conversely, help prevent cancer by stopping cell migration.

Dr. Kramer came to Einstein knowing that he wanted to work in biotech. His father ran Africa’s largest science museum, and his family had a history of cancer. Here on a Fulbright scholarship, he chose Einstein because several of its labs were doing work with an applied focus. Through the Biotechnology Club at the College of Medicine, he attended a talk by David Sharp, Ph.D., professor of molecular pharmacology, of ophthalmology & visual sciences, and in the Dominick P. Purpura Department of Neuroscience, who was then in the process of founding MicroCures. Soon afterward he joined Dr. Sharp’s lab, where students were studying different applications for Dr. Sharp’s work, ranging from treatments for skin wounds to cancer and erectile dysfunction.

“The only people in the world who understand the biology we’re working on and have the skills to translate it come from Dave’s academic lab—so his lab is effectively the training station for the company,” Dr. Kramer says. “Einstein also has given us lab and office space on campus, as it has for several other companies, and I still work with Dave’s students. From my perspective, Einstein has a great culture in biotech.”

Although MicroCures does not yet have a marketed product, it seems clear that Dr. Sharp and his team are making the right moves. The new therapy has worked in animal models, and the company is now raising funds for its first human trials. “Dave understands that scientists are very good at the research in their fields, but he also knows that business acumen is just as important,” says Dr. Kramer, whose job focuses on obtaining small-business innovation grants

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— DR. ADAM KRAMER



from the NIH. “Collaboration has been huge for us.”

Chair and chief executive officer of MicroCures is Derek Proudian, a Silicon Valley investor. Dr. Sharp has brought in Einstein specialists for each of the indications the company is pursuing—Kelvin Davies, Ph.D., Einstein professor of urology and of molecular pharmacology, for erectile dysfunction; Joshua Nosanchuk, M.D., professor of medicine and of microbiology & immunology and the senior associate dean for medical education at Einstein, and an infectious-disease clinician at Montefiore, for wound healing; and Roy Chuck, M.D., Ph.D., professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences and of genetics and the Paul Henkind Chair in Ophthalmology at Einstein, and the chair of ophthalmology and visual sciences at Montefiore, for ophthalmology—as well as business-development people and an intellectual-property team. “Often, the founders try to do everything themselves,” Dr. Kramer notes, “and that’s one reason so many fail.”

Like most scientists, he would like to see increased funding for basic research, more public/private partnerships (particularly between pharmaceutical companies and academic labs), and a streamlining of regulatory hurdles, “not making them less stringent,” he says, “but perhaps taking a page from COVID-19 vaccine development, where everyone was able to move very quickly.”

A CATALYTIC ROLE FOR PHILANTHROPY

Outside funding for research-intensive centers such as Einstein can make a big difference.

“If you have a new idea or something that’s unproven or very innovative, you won’t be able to get funding

from established agencies,” notes Dr. Freedman. “And I think that’s where philanthropy could have a tremendous, catalytic role. Donors can step in and provide the funds to try these exciting ideas, which often lead to more grants or even new businesses.”

For Einstein graduate Dr. Stukes, again, it all comes back to investing in people.

“Medical and research institutions need to understand that just because you’re getting a Ph.D., it doesn’t necessarily mean you want to start your own lab,” Dr. Stukes says. “People get Ph.D.s for a variety of reasons and want different careers, and it’s important for institutions to support those careers, whether through the career-development office or through student-association offices. It can’t just be on the students to form specialized clubs and cobble the information together for themselves.”

Perhaps most of all, programs need to recognize that entrepreneurs like Dr. Stukes herself may wander a bit before they understand where they’re headed—and that their openness is part of what makes them good experimenters and pivoters.

“All of life is an experiment and, in a sense, there are no failures,” she says. “You always get data that are useful in making your next move, and ultimately it’s the sum of all of your experiences that helps you in whatever role you’re in.” **E**



“Donors can step in and provide the funds to try these exciting ideas, which often lead to more grants or even new businesses.”

— DR. VICTORIA FREEDMAN



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CLASS NOTES



1960s

Evelyn Wolf Rokito, M.D. '61, is emeritus at Nassau County Medical Center but is still working part time doing disability physical examinations for Nassau County and New York State employees. Both of her sons are orthopedic surgeons (chief of shoulder surgery at NYU Langone Health and chief of sports medicine at Long Island Jewish Medical Center/Northwell Health); her daughter is an attorney in Chicago. Dr. Rokito reports that she has seven beautiful grandchildren and is still living a fulfilling life.

Joseph Bloom, M.D. '62, reports that he has no promotions, no appointments, no career changes, no moves, no births, no marriages, and no interesting stories to share with alumni. But he is still writing about state mental hospitals and watching the cacti grow.

Paul Rochmis, M.D. '64, and his wife, Ann, are approaching their 58th year of marriage. They are both retired, she from psychiatry, he from rheumatology. They enjoy gardening, reading, and working out. The two hold videoconferences weekly with their four kids and some of their seven grandchildren. Dr. Rochmis sends out a monthly email newsletter to patients, and he lectures on gout. He stays in touch with

Artie Goldstein, M.D. '64, his longtime Princeton University and Einstein classmate. Dr. Rochmis and his wife report that they will be happy to wine and dine any former classmates who may be passing through their lovely area of Virginia.

Leslie Wolfson, M.D. '66, says that after a career in neurology that included an Einstein residency, two years in the air force, 18 years at Einstein, and 31 years at the University of Connecticut, he has morphed into an emeritus professor. His wife, Linda, who had been a counselor at Housatonic Community College, has also retired, leaving them free to enjoy their three children and nine grandchildren. They are excited about following the career of their oldest granddaughter, Emery, who is a first-year student at Einstein.

Barbara Barlow, M.D. '67, is the founder and executive director of the Injury Free Coalition for Kids, one of the country's most effective injury-prevention programs. It was started while Dr. Barlow was the chief of pediatric surgery at Harlem Hospital. The coalition helped reduce major injury to Harlem children and received a \$15 million grant so that the program could be replicated across the United States. It is now in 44 trauma centers nationwide. On Nov. 18, 2022, the coalition started National Injury

Prevention Day, which promotes community injury-prevention activities. Learn more at [Injuryfree.org](https://injuryfree.org).

David Abramson, M.D. '69, reports that his paper "Molecular Changes in Retinoblastoma Beyond RB1: Findings from Next-Generation Sequencing" was the seventh-most cited in the journal *Cancer* in 2021. He continues to run the ophthalmic oncology service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; it is now the largest such service in a U.S. cancer hospital.

Lawrence Marton, M.D. '69, serves as a consultant to industry and to nonprofit, government, and academic institutions. Dr. Marton is an emeritus member of the board of trustees of the American Association for Cancer Research Foundation and is on the board of directors of Cancer Commons. In the for-profit sector, he serves on the boards of Cellsonics, Matternet, Microsonic Systems, NaNotics, Omniox (also serving as executive chair), RenovoRx, and xCures. Previously, Dr. Marton was the dean of the University of Wisconsin Medical School and chaired the department of laboratory medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, where he was a professor of laboratory medicine and of neurological surgery.



Fifty years ago, the members of Einstein's Class of 1973 assembled on campus for this graduation photo.

1970s

Jerry Appel, M.D. '72, is still working full time as a professor of medicine in nephrology at Columbia University Medical Center. He sees patients daily, does clinical research, and teaches. He is married to **Alice Appel, Ph.D. '75**; their son Jacob is an associate professor of psychiatry at Mount Sinai, and their son Seth practices intellectual property law in Chicago. Their grandkids are starting to look at colleges.

Andrew Levitas, M.D. '72, retired in 2017 as a professor of psychiatry and the medical director of the Center for Excellence for the Mental Health Treatment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorders at the Rowan University School of Medicine. He continues to stay active as part of the volunteer faculty. Dr. Levitas is a member emeritus of the scientific and clinical advisory committee of the National Fragile X Foundation. He and Phyllis, his wife of 53 years, who worked in the field of cognitive rehabilitation, have two grown sons and recently welcomed a granddaughter. He has published his second novel, *The Third Book of Samuel*. His first novel, *Alumni Notes* (2011), was set at Einstein in 1973 (as are parts of *The Third Book of Samuel*).

dental residents, tutors his grandchildren, and is learning to play classical guitar.

Stanley Harris, M.D. '74, reports that a podcast about his book *The People Value Proposition, See One, Do One, Teach One ... LEAD* was conducted by the American Association for Physician Leadership. To listen, go to Soundpracticepodcast.com and type "Stanley Harris" in the search box.

Mitchell Geffner, M.D. '75, received the 2022 International Outstanding Clinician Award from the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology. He is the first U.S. physician to receive the honor, which was presented in September 2022 in Rome. Dr. Geffner is a pediatric endocrinologist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and the Ron Burkle Chair in the Center for Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism. He also serves as the co-director of the Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia Clinic at the hospital.

Sidney Goldfarb, M.D. '75, has been married for 50 years to a New York Medical College grad, also Class of 1975. Both retired one year ago, he from urology and she from psychiatry. Dr. Goldfarb practiced in Princeton, N.J., a former home of Albert Einstein. He reports that he patented a drug, but it never made it into production. He and his wife now live in Newtown, Penn.

Robert Katz, M.D. '75, retired from the practice of pathology, but then served as the president of the Board of Health of Morris Township, N.J., through the pandemic.

Harold Pincus, M.D. '75, reports that the John A. Hartford Foundation's board of trustees recently approved more than \$17 million in funding for seven programs, including a Health and Aging Policy Fellowship, which provides professionals in health and aging with a year of financial support, policy placements, career opportunities, and expanded networks to directly experience the policy-making process and become effective advocates for older adults. The fellowship program (healthandagingpolicy.org) is directed by Dr. Pincus, professor and vice chair of psychiatry at Columbia University and co-director of Columbia's Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research.

Sam Moskowitz, M.D. '76, is working as a gastroenterologist partner in the multispecialty Brooklyn Surgery Center, rated by *Newsweek* in 2022 as number one in Brooklyn and in the top five in New York State. He has also achieved three fellowship titles: FACP, FACG, and AGAF.

Kenneth J. Pellegrino, M.D. '78, retired in March 2020 after working for nearly four decades at the practice he started in 1981, Brookfield Family Medicine, which became Western Connecticut Health Network and is now Nuvance Health. For one year, he also helped his town vaccinate more than 10,000 residents against the COVID-19 virus. Dr. Pellegrino and his wife are now undertaking the bittersweet task of downsizing from their Connecticut home of 20 years and transitioning to a new lifestyle in San Luis Obispo, Calif., where their three married children and numerous grandchildren live.

1980s

Miriam Greenberg, Ph.D. '80, has been named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for her contributions to the field of lipid function. AAAS is the world's largest general scientific society and the publisher of the *Science* family of journals. Dr. Greenberg, professor of biological sciences at Wayne State University in Detroit, is an expert on Barth syndrome, a rare and life-threatening X-linked genetic disorder that primarily affects males. Her research aims to determine the efficacy of potent new compounds, which may offer potential treatments for the disease.

Steven Merahn, M.D. '82, is back in the Bronx as the medical director for Partnership Solutions, Inc., which manages two New York State-based nonprofit organizations dedicated to supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They are Care Design NY and Partners Health Plan.

Brian Delaney, M.D. '83, has transitioned to part-time clinical work but has been doing more teaching at Einstein as an assistant professor of family and social medicine. He reports that being around wonderful colleagues and students is exciting and keeps him motivated. He continues to be a regular "gym/pool rat" at Einstein's Falk Center. He and his wife, Muriel, welcomed their fourth grandchild, Seth Delaney Whelden, in September 2022. Seth was born to Dr. Delaney's son-in-law Caleb Whelden and daughter **Charlotte Delaney, M.D. '16**, who practices at Main Street Pediatrics in Hopkinton, Mass. Seth joins his older brother, Oliver, at home. Dr. Delaney's older daughter, Kelly, son-in-law Mark, and grandkids Naomi and Jason continue to live and work in the Washington, D.C., area.

Jeremy Nadelmann, M.D. '85, is happy to report that his youngest daughter, Julia, matriculated at Einstein as a member of the Class of 2026. His oldest daughter, **Jennifer Nadelmann, M.D. '18**, is a surgical retinal fellow at Weill Cornell Medicine. His middle daughter, **Emily Nadelmann, M.D. '21**, is a dermatology resident at Montefiore. Dr. Nadelmann is in his 32nd year of clinical practice as a non-invasive cardiologist in New Haven, Conn. He is an assistant clinical professor at the Yale School of Medicine, and for the past five years he has been working at the Yale New Haven Hospital Heart and Vascular Center.

Etta Eskridge, Ph.D. '86, M.D. '95, has been working as a specialist in palliative medicine at the Rochester Regional Health system since 2013. She has served as a board member for the Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance and has spent time volunteering in Malawi, Africa, where the alliance has rural clinics and trains nurses to support the fragile health infrastructure there. Her son Alex is finishing his first semester at New England Law in Boston. She sends greetings to all.

Judy Yee, M.D. '87, was awarded the 2023 Society of Abdominal Radiology Gold Medal, the highest recognition given by the society. Dr. Yee was commended for her mentorship, clinical acumen, substantial scientific contributions, and leadership.

Hiroshi Mashimo, M.D., Ph.D. '88, established and continues to serve as the director of the Swallowing and Motility Disorder Center at VA Boston Healthcare. His translational research involves novel endoscopic imaging and therapeutics. As part of the VA Innovators Network, Dr. Mashimo is involved with wearables and nonendoscopic capsule imaging modalities for medical diagnostics. He serves as president of the world organization for specialized studies on disease

of the esophagus, OESO.org. He reports that he has three wonderful children who have grown up and left the nest but share many of his interests, including martial arts, photography, cooking, and outdoor sports.

Evan Goldstein, M.D. '89, became the president and chief of the medical staff at Boca Raton Regional Hospital in Florida, a 380-bed academic teaching hospital, on Jan. 1, 2023.

1990s

Giselle Corbie, M.D. '91, has been named the vice provost for faculty affairs at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Corbie is the Kenan Distinguished Professor of Medicine, the director of the Center for Health Equity Research, and the associate provost for rural initiatives. For more than 25 years she has developed a successful, continuously funded independent research portfolio that has garnered awards from the National Institutes of Health. She recently served as the president of the Society of General Internal Medicine and in 2018 was elected to the National Academy of Medicine.

Imran Khan, Ph.D. '93, M.B.A., announces the publication of his first novel, a geopolitical thriller, *Gambit on the Devil's Chessboard* (available on Amazon and at Barnes and Noble). Dr. Khan says Einstein is referenced in the novel. He is a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at the University of California, Davis, Health System. Researching tuberculosis has taken him worldwide, leading to trials of novel TB diagnostics in countries such as India, where it is endemic, and revealing the threat poverty poses to the planet.

Michal A. Elovitz, M.D. '94, has been named the dean for women's health research and the director of the Center for the Advancement of Female Biology at the Icahn

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 einsteinalumni@einsteinmed.edu

 **Albert Einstein College of Medicine Alumni Association**

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School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. A leader in maternal-fetal medicine and an expert in preterm birth, Dr. Elovitz joined Mount Sinai from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, where she was the Hilarie L. Morgan and Mitchell L. Morgan President's Distinguished Professor in Women's Health and a professor of microbiology, as well as the founder and director of the Maternal and Child Health Research Center, vice chair for translational research, founder and director of the Prematurity Prevention Program, director of the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship, and creator and lead mentor of the Women for Women's Health Mentoring Group.

Reena Karani, M.D. '97, M.H.P.E., has been elected chair of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), the first woman of color to serve as chair in the organization's 108-year history. She previously served as treasurer of the NBME. Dr. Karani is director of the Institute for Medical Education and a professor of medicine, medical education, and geriatrics and palliative medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City. Dr. Karani is a founding co-director of the Harvard Macy Program for Postgraduate Trainees. She served as a member of the council and chair of the Education Committee for the Society

of General Internal Medicine, and she is on the board of directors of the American Geriatrics Society.

2000s

Roger Greenberg, M.D., Ph.D. '00, is the J. Samuel Staub, M.D., Professor of Cancer Biology at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine. In addition to running his own research group, he is the director of the Penn Center for Genome Integrity and the scientific director of the Bassett Center for BRCA. This year he received the William L. Gerald Award from Memorial Sloan Kettering for research that has provided novel insights into cancer biology.

Lisa Senzel, M.D., Ph.D. '01, is a clinical pathologist at Stony Brook Medicine. She and her husband have three children.

Neeral Shah, M.D. '01, is an associate professor of gastroenterology and hepatology with tenure at the University of Virginia, where he is the GI fellowship program director and the director of the Academy for Excellence in Education at the school of medicine. He recently authored *The Infographic Guide to Medicine*, available in print or on the web (AccessMedicine.

mhmedical.com and AccessMedicine.mhmedical.com).

Dan Cousin, M.D. '05, co-founded Doctors for Providers (Doctors4Providers.com) to extend the reach of patient care through collaborative-medicine models, a new trend in healthcare. Einstein alumni interested in learning more are encouraged to go to the website. He also founded Medsurity Experts (MedsurityExperts.com) to combat problems that exist in the medicolegal field.

2010s

Akiva Dym, M.D. '17, has resettled in New Jersey with his wife, Stephanie, and three children. Dr. Dym is an assistant professor of emergency medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and does clinical work at University Hospital. He is also the assistant medical director for emergency department quality and observation services. Dr. Dym is completing his M.B.A. at Rutgers.

Elia Rackovsky, M.D. '18, and **Naomi Schwartz, M.D. '19,** were married on June 13, 2022. Dr. Rackovsky is completing his training as a fellow in pediatric critical care medicine at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore, and Dr. Schwartz works as a pediatrician with Optum in Mount Kisco, N.Y.

MOTIVATIONS | IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Board Member Emily Fisher Landau

Emily Fisher Landau, who served as an honorary member of Einstein's Board of Trustees and was a longtime friend and benefactor of the College of Medicine, died March 27, 2023, in Palm Beach, Fla., at age 102.

Her steadfast commitment to Einstein is reflected in her decade of service on the College of Medicine's Board of Overseers from 1999 to 2009. She was also a pioneering member of Einstein's National Women's Division, lending her time and talent as a member of its board and executive committee. In 2000, the division named her "Woman of the Millennium" for her devotion to Einstein's mission, her efforts on behalf of those in need, and her impact on cultural life.

Among her many contributions, Mrs.

Fisher Landau funded the establishment of the Fisher Landau Center for the Treatment of Learning Disabilities in 1997, with Ruth Gottesman, Ed.D., Einstein's current chair of the Board of Trustees, serving as its founding director. The center's mission is to ensure that those with learning difficulties receive support and adequate resources.

Today the center's important work continues as part of Montefiore Einstein's Children's Evaluation & Rehabilitation Center, offering educational, psychological, social, medical, and vocational assistance to those with learning disabilities of all ages, from preschool children to adults.

She is quoted as saying, "Never stop learning, never stop looking," and this is a testament to her extraordinary life. Her



generosity is also reflected in her passion and support of the arts. This included donating several hundred works to the Whitney Museum of American Art, where she served as a trustee for decades.

Mrs. Fisher Landau was the widow of Martin Fisher, a principal in the real estate firm Fisher Brothers, and of Sheldon Landau, a clothing manufacturer.

IN MEMORIAM

Morton Blum, M.D. '60, age 89, specialist in internal medicine and gastroenterology who had a private practice in Manhattan and was an attending physician at New York Hospital, Lenox Hill Hospital, and Gracie Square Hospital before retiring from medicine in 1986 and creating CBM Limited, a real estate and design investment firm, May 2, 2022, New York, N.Y.

Deryck Duncalf, M.B., Ch.B., age 96, professor emeritus of anesthesiology at Einstein and former chair of anesthesiology at Montefiore, he was instrumental in establishing the first pain treatment clinic, critical care services, and training programs at both institutions, Feb. 14, 2023, Stamford, Conn.

Shoshana Englund-Falconer, M.D. '78, retired ophthalmologist, May 20, 2022, St. Paul, Minn.

Jack Goldman, M.D. '61, age 85, retired chairman of gastroenterology and medicine at St. Joseph's Hospital in Yonkers, N.Y., May 4, 2022, Westchester County, N.Y.

Huaxi Hu, Ph.D. '93, age 58, a leader in the field of Alzheimer's disease research, founder and co-editor in chief of the neuroscience journal *Molecular Neurodegeneration*, investigator at the Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute (2003–20), professor at Xiamen University in China, and distinguished professor and director of the Institute for Brain Science and Disease at Chongqing Medical University in China, Oct. 14, 2022.

Philip F. Incao, M.D. '66, age 81, family physician, Feb. 28, 2022, Crestone, Colo.

Robert M. Lewis, M.D. '60, age 86, obstetrician and gynecologist who delivered more than 1,000 babies during his 36-year career, Dec. 7, 2022, New Rochelle, N.Y.

Veronica Jean Scott, M.D. '73, age 76, former director of the Center on Aging at Meharry Medical Center, Nashville, Tenn., where she also served as director of geriatrics in the department of medicine, June 12, 2022, Nashville, Tenn.

Adrian Spitzer, M.D., age 94, professor emeritus of pediatrics at Einstein who joined the faculty in 1968 and was the director of the division of pediatric nephrology from 1973 until 1999, former president of the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology, and a recipient of its Founder's Award, Dec. 27, 2021.

David Q. H. Wang, M.D., Ph.D., age 60, professor of medicine and of genetics, director of the molecular biology and next generation technology core of the Marion Bessin Liver Research Center at Einstein, and an internationally renowned leader in the pathophysiology and genetics underlying gallstone disease, Feb. 19, 2023, White Plains, N.Y.