

# MOTIVATIONS

The Front Line of Philanthropy at Einstein and Montefiore



## IN THIS ISSUE

- 56 Women Funding Science
- 60 Bridging a Gap in Healthcare (pictured)
- 64 Class Notes
- 67 In Memoriam

To learn more, please visit: [montefiore.org/giving](https://montefiore.org/giving) and [einsteinmed.edu/giving](https://einsteinmed.edu/giving)

For web-exclusive content, visit: [magazine.einsteinmed.edu/motivations2023](https://magazine.einsteinmed.edu/motivations2023)



# Women FUNDING SCIENCE

**Spirit of Achievement  
Luncheon breaks records  
for supporting research**

BY JOE LEVINE



**W**omen are leading a change in philanthropy. According to recent research from the Women's Philanthropy Institute at Indiana University, they are harnessing their growing wealth and influence to create a more just, equitable, and healthy society. Women are giving to more philanthropies led by women, and they are treating recipient organizations as partners rather than as a means to an end.

"Now more than ever, women are influencing why and how research is funded," says Trudy Schlachter, co-president of Einstein's Women's Division. "We're marshaling our resources to create a community that reflects our unique perspectives and values."

A tradition of women funding science has deep roots at Einstein thanks to its Women's Division, which was founded before the first class enrolled in 1955. It brought together a group of influential New Yorkers who were inspired to help create a new medical school that would eliminate quotas for Jewish students and welcome all students regardless of race, religion, gender, or creed.

The Women's Division spearheaded an initial fundraising campaign for the school. Since then, under the banner of "women funding science," the group has raised more than \$100 million for Einstein—benefiting patients in virtually every major area of medicine, from prenatal studies to treatments for women's cancers to diabetes research.

"The Women's Division has supported Einstein since those earliest days, and has, quite literally, been foundational to the success of the college," said Gordon F. Tomaselli, M.D., the College of Medicine's outgoing Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean, in May at the 68th Spirit of Achievement Luncheon. The luncheon is the signature fundraiser in the Women's Division's yearlong calendar of events, and this year it raised more than \$700,000—a record amount.

"We continue to support Einstein because we believe in its unique ability to translate discoveries in the lab into practice-changing treatments in the clinic," said Women's Division co-president Terri Goldberg at the event. "Today we are proud to stand with the

Einstein's Women's Division hosts the 68th Spirit of Achievement Luncheon in May at the Rainbow Room in Manhattan's Rockefeller Center.

faculty, researchers, and students who work together to advance equitable access to healthcare, education, and research."

## PROMOTING NOVEL IDEAS

The Spirit of Achievement Luncheon has honored the groundbreaking work of women in various fields, from science to the silver screen to sports. Past honorees include Marlene Dietrich, Eleanor Roosevelt, Meryl Streep, Billie Jean King, Shirley Chisholm, Gloria Steinem, Diane von Furstenberg, and Leontyne Price.

This year's honorees included Einstein trustee and Women's Division board member Karen Mandelbaum and Marla Keller, M.D., professor of medicine and of obstetrics & gynecology and women's health, vice chair for research in the department of medicine, and director of the Harold and Muriel Block Institute for Clinical and Translational Research at Einstein and Montefiore. (See next page for more on the other 2023 honorees.)

Mrs. Mandelbaum was recognized for what Ruth L. Gottesman, Ed.D., chair of Einstein's Board of Trustees, termed "the remarkable breadth of [her] leadership in nurturing Einstein for more than 40 years." The honoree and her husband, real estate developer David Mandelbaum, have generously funded research at Einstein and Einstein-Montefiore's Center for Experimental Therapeutics. Mrs. Mandelbaum was the creator of and initial host for the Women's Division's Scientific Salon Series, at which leading Einstein and Montefiore researchers and clinicians discuss their work.

"I find it so special to be in the Women's Division," Mrs. Mandelbaum



Clockwise from top left: Einstein professor and Changemaker awardee Marla Keller, M.D.; Spirit honoree Karen Mandelbaum and her husband, David; and Women's Division leaders, from left, luncheon co-chairs Andrea Stark and Betty Schwartz, co-president Trudy Schlachter, luncheon co-chair Carol Roman, and co-president Terri Goldberg.

said. "I was there from the beginning and felt proud to be part of it. I love that we are women funding science."

## RESEARCHER RECOGNIZED

Dr. Keller received the Women's Division's prestigious Changemaker Award, given annually to a scientist.

As head of the Block Institute, Dr. Keller—a renowned infectious-disease specialist—helps accelerate scientific discoveries from the lab and the clinic so that they become effective new treatments. The Block Institute supports projects to combat opioid-use disorder, HIV, obesity, asthma, rare diseases, and more. Dr. Keller has also created strategies to protect women from sexually transmitted diseases and served as a member of the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) COVID-19 Treatment

Guidelines Panel. Under her leadership, the Block Institute was recently awarded a seven-year, \$30 million renewal of its NIH funding (see page 11).

Dr. Keller recalled attending the 54th Spirit of Achievement Luncheon in 2008, not long after she first arrived at Einstein. "Donny Deutsch was the host and Whoopi Goldberg was an honoree. But what I was truly most impressed with was the commitment by the Women's Division to fund and inspire support for research that improves human health," she said. "This dynamic group of women funding science has a goal similar to that of the Block Institute—to shorten the time it takes for scientific findings to improve and save lives." She noted that the late Muriel Block, who, with her husband, Herbert, funded the creation of the



Block Institute, was a member of the Women's Division.

Dr. Keller said that only 5% of some 10,000 known human diseases have a treatment or cure, while nine out of 10 drugs in clinical trials fail. The successes, she said, take from 10 to 15 years to reach the bedside, at an average cost of more than \$2 billion—numbers that underscore the continuing need for private philanthropy.

“What makes Einstein truly unique is its cutting-edge research, led by world-class investigators in an incredibly collaborative environment with supporters who believe in its mission to improve health in the Bronx and beyond,” Dr. Keller said. “With continued grant funding and philanthropic support, I’m confident Einstein researchers will be at the forefront of translating discoveries in the laboratory to clinical trials and approval of new drugs.”

**SINGER-SONGWRITER, PRODUCERS HONORED**

Additional 2023 Spirit of Achievement honorees were singer-songwriter Judy Collins and Broadway producers Fran and Barry Weissler.

Ms. Collins came to prominence in the early 1960s Greenwich Village folk scene along with Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and Tom Paxton. A longtime activist, she credited her social-justice roots to her father, a radio host who “advocated for the life one can have under all circumstances. Whether you’re a singer, a poet, or a scientist, if you pick a problem and do what you can do, you do achieve something,” Ms. Collins said at the luncheon, adding that “the role of women in research is very important because women actually know how to do things.” She closed with an a cappella



Spirit of Achievement honorees and Broadway producers Fran Weissler, left, and Barry Weissler with singer-songwriter Judy Collins.

rendition of her signature song “Both Sides Now.”

The Weisslers recounted their path in founding the National Artists Management Company and earning a reputation as visionaries for producing 34 Broadway hits, including *Waitress*, *Finding Neverland*, *Pippin*, *Chicago*, *Gypsy*, *My Fair Lady*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Seussical*.

“It’s hard work and commitment, and that’s what you get at Einstein,” Barry Weissler said. “We have such respect for Einstein scientists and the women who support them,” Fran Weissler added, noting that the couple’s own success “pales in comparison to work being done at Einstein, where research is saving lives—the lives of our performers and the lives of our audience. Yours is really the true visionary work.” **E**



**TO DONATE**  
✉ [einsteinmed.edu/giving](mailto:einsteinmed.edu/giving)  
✉ [development@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:development@einsteinmed.edu)  
☎ 718.430.2411

Women's Philanthropy



**WOMEN'S WEALTH IS RISING**  
Women's share of wealth has risen considerably over the past 50 years, and today they hold about 40% of global wealth.



**WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO GIVE**  
Across income levels and generations, women also give more than their male counterparts.



**WOMEN GIVE DIFFERENTLY**  
From motivations to causes to behavior, women and men demonstrate different giving patterns.

Source: Indiana University Women's Philanthropy Institute, 2019

FAMILY MATTERS

GIVING TO  
CANCER RESEARCH

Janet and Marty Spatz

Since 2003, the Helen and Irving Spatz Foundation has provided funding for cancer research at Einstein. Now the foundation's directors, Janet and Marty Spatz, have decided to build on that legacy—and support the borough where they began their life together—with an estate gift to the College of Medicine. They are inaugural members of the Albert Einstein Legacy Society, which recognizes individuals who choose to advance Einstein's mission through gifts in their estate plans. To create a plan that best serves your philanthropic goals, contact Michael Divers, planned giving officer, at 718.430.2685 or [Einstein-MDivers@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:Einstein-MDivers@einsteinmed.edu).

**Why give to Einstein?** “We wanted to give something for cancer research. I Googled—to be honest—‘cancer research.’ Various things popped up and one was Einstein. And I said ‘Oh boy, I know Einstein in the Bronx. They have a great reputation, with cutting-edge scientists.’”

**Why cancer research?** “My mother died of stomach cancer. My father had a cancer-related blood disease. Marty's mother died of lung cancer. Marty's sister had breast cancer. She eventually died of bladder cancer. I had breast cancer 25 years ago, and now I have it again.”

**What makes Einstein special?** “One, it's in the Bronx, the place where we started our life together, and two, it has world-class researchers. I think the work they're doing is just wonderful, and that's what attracted me.”

**What donating does:** “It makes me feel wonderful doing it. It really does. It gives me a lot of pleasure to know that I've given back.”

Honor the past and support our future by joining the Albert Einstein Legacy Society  
[einsteinmed.edu/giving/legacysociety](http://einsteinmed.edu/giving/legacysociety)



THE ALBERT EINSTEIN  
**LEGACY**  
SOCIETY



# BRIDGING A GAP IN HEALTHCARE

Montefiore's new Community Health Worker Institute is training Bronx residents to help local patients gain access to vital resources

BY TERESA CARR

**D**amaris Flores, a community health worker (CHW) at Montefiore, is at the forefront of innovation in primary healthcare.

Some days she might help young Bronx families register for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Plan), a federal program that helps low-income Americans pay for groceries. Other days she might help a senior citizen find transportation to medical appointments or show a single mother how to use NYC Child Care Connect—a website that helps people access childcare resources in New York City. “It’s a little bit of everything,” says Ms. Flores. “That’s what I love. You just never know what you’re going to get.”

Ms. Flores, who was born at Montefiore and lives in the Bronx, was among the first people to become part of the Community Health Worker Institute (CHWI) at Montefiore.

Montefiore community health worker Damaris Flores meets with a Bronx resident to go over transportation options for medical appointments.

Established in 2021, CHWI recruits and trains local residents to connect with patients and help them access a wide range of available resources. It’s a relatively new role in this country—the national census listed CHW as an occupation for the first time in 2010—but for more than a century, people like Ms. Flores have been a vital part of health systems in other nations.

“At the institute we’re focusing on community health workers as a way to bridge the huge gap in our health system between clinical care and social services,” says CHWI’s director, Kevin Fiori, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., associate professor of pediatrics and of family and social medicine at Einstein and director of social determinants of health in the office of community and population health at Montefiore. “They bring a tremendous amount of local expertise that we don’t always have on the clinical team.”

## NARROWING DISPARITIES

In the United States, health outcomes vary dramatically depending on where you live. For example, people in the

South Bronx—the poorest urban congressional district in the United States—have some of the country’s highest rates of diabetes, heart disease, asthma, HIV/AIDS, and maternal and infant mortality. Lack of healthcare is just part of the problem.

“Research shows that access to quality healthcare explains only about 20% of health disparities,” says CHWI’s associate director, Renee Whiskey-LaLanne, M.P.H., who is a master certified health education specialist. “More than 50% of the difference stems from social determinants of health—non-medical factors that shape daily life, such as your built environment, your behaviors, your age, and your socioeconomic status,” she says.

In 2017, Dr. Fiori helped develop a 10-question screening tool to quickly assess patients’ unmet social needs. Screens of more than 150,000 patients between April 2018 and December 2022 revealed that nearly one in five had pressing concerns about housing, food, transportation, medical bills, or other factors that directly affected their health.

Photo by Jason Torres



When Dr. Fiori introduced the screening tool, Montefiore had just a few CHWs dedicated to addressing patients' social needs—not nearly enough to help the 360,000 patients in its primary-care network. “Then COVID-19 hit,” he says. “And we went into emergency mode trying to figure out a better way to deal with the devastating clinical and economic consequences for the Bronx.”

That's when Dr. Fiori and his team reached out to Andrew Racine, M.D., Ph.D., system senior vice president and chief medical officer for Montefiore, executive director of Montefiore Medical Group, and professor of pediatrics at Einstein, to pitch an idea.

“Dr. Racine was immediately

receptive. We clearly needed to reimagine a workforce to provide the very best care for our Bronx families and more systematically address their social needs,” says Dr. Fiori. “And that's how the Community Health Worker Institute came to be.”

The initiative drew on Dr. Fiori's many years of developing CHW programs in West Africa. That experience allowed him to envision a program that not only optimizes patient care but also benefits the CHWs themselves through skills training and exposure to the medical system.

“It was a very different model from how we have traditionally thought about community health workers,” Dr. Racine says. “It was revolutionary.”

**“We clearly needed to reimagine a workforce to provide the very best care for our Bronx families and more systematically address their social needs.”**

— DR. KEVIN FIORI

Kevin Fiori, M.D., and Montefiore community health workers meet up outside a neighborhood clinic before beginning their appointments with Bronx patients.

Photo by Jason Torres



### IMPROVING OUTCOMES, SAVING ON COSTS

Seed funding for the institute has come from community groups, private donations, and nonprofit entities, including the Robin Hood Foundation, New York City's largest poverty-fighting organization, which has awarded grants to CHWI totaling \$3 million to date. Adena Hernandez, a senior program officer at Robin Hood, says that its partnership with CHWI is meant to improve people's health and break the cycle of poverty. “It's a community-centered, community-informed approach to supporting families at pivotal moments in their lives.”

Current donor support will finance up to 28 CHWs through 2024. However, a team of 32 is required to cover Montefiore's primary-care network, obstetrics practices, HealthySteps program (for parents of infants and toddlers), and select pediatric services at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore. The goal is to make these roles reimbursable by health insurers. But first, Dr. Fiori and his colleagues must demonstrate the health impact and financial benefit of CHWs.

Studies involving small numbers of patients have shown that using CHWs results in better outcomes and reduces health costs. “Now the challenge is demonstrating those benefits in real-world settings involving hundreds of thousands of patients,” says Dr. Fiori. To that end, he leads the Community Health Systems Lab at Einstein, whose interdisciplinary team of researchers, clinicians, and community partners supports and enhances CHWI operations by analyzing the data collected through the program. Their research will assess whether CHWs improve access to care

and health outcomes in the Bronx and reduce healthcare costs.

The goal is to expand the program over the next five years to cover most of Montefiore's patients, fully funded through federal and private entities. “It's just a good business decision,” says Dr. Fiori. “For a small investment, we can bring down healthcare costs and improve health outcomes.”

### INVESTING IN PEOPLE

As part of Montefiore's CHWI initiative, new hires spend a month in preservice training to learn how to interact with patients, the clinical team, and computer systems, as well as how to navigate social services. “It was the most intense training that I've ever had in preparation for employment,” says Ms. Flores. “But we were all excited about our new roles.”

The education goes both ways, says Ms. Whiskey-LaLanne. “What I love about that training period is that we often learn about changes to social services and benefits from the candidates themselves, who bring their lived experience to the job.”

In addition to training, the institute is committed to advancing the careers of the CHWs. It provides paid time for them to earn up to nine hours of college credit at Hostos Community College. And once they complete 2,000 hours of on-the-job training and mentorship, CHWs receive apprenticeship certificates from the New York State Department of Labor.

In this way, CHWI helps build a sustainable workforce in the Bronx. “The institute not only creates jobs in the Bronx with good pay and benefits,” says Marcos Crespo, senior



**“It was a very different model from how we have traditionally thought about community health workers. It was revolutionary.”**

— DR. ANDREW RACINE

vice president of community affairs at Montefiore. “It's also making sure that professionals who come through the institute are trained and certified in this work, which expands and elevates their ability to grow economically.”

Ms. Flores looks forward to developing professionally along with CHWI. She recently completed the requirements for her CHW apprenticeship certificate and has her sights set on a master's degree in public health.

She acknowledges that helping people with social needs can be emotionally draining, but she always takes a moment to reflect on the positives: “Every day I get to see firsthand the way this program has helped a family or individuals grow and get the supportive services that they need,” she says. “It's amazing to contribute to that.” **E**



#### TO DONATE

📧 [einsteinmed.edu/giving](https://einsteinmed.edu/giving)

✉ [development@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:development@einsteinmed.edu)

📞 718.430.2411



# CLASS NOTES

## 1960s

**Linn Turner, M.D. '61**, reports that she is thriving in sunny California, where she has a small practice and is enjoying life with her four children and five grandchildren. She swims at least a half a mile most days and keeps as active as she can.

**Mervyn Stein, M.D. '63**, retired in 2008 after practicing general ophthalmology for 38 years in Marin County, Calif. For the past 15 years, he has been engaged in golf, gardening, do-it-yourself home projects, travel (until COVID-19), drawing, and playing piano with several like-minded musicians. His daughter is a

lawyer living in Sacramento, Calif., and his son is an airplane investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board, living in Gig Harbor, Wash. Dr. Stein has two grandchildren.

**Sally E. Shaywitz, M.D. '66**, is the Audrey G. Ratner Professor in Learning Development at Yale University and co-founder and co-director of the Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity. She is the author of a bestselling book on dyslexia, *Overcoming Dyslexia* (Knopf, 2020). Dr. Shaywitz is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and the principal investigator of the Connecticut Longitudinal Study, continuously funded and now active in its 40th year. Most recently she presented to the U.S. Congressional Dyslexia Roundtable. Her goal is to help ensure that parents, educators, and physicians know about and use the tremendous scientific progress in dyslexia for the benefit of dyslexic children and their families. Her three sons are all physicians, and the eldest of

her six grandchildren is starting college in the fall.

**Richard Halford, M.D. '67**, has been working in Minneapolis doing hair transplants for Bosley. His daughter writes for the American Chemical Society, and his son is an anesthesiologist.

**Philip Herschenfeld, M.D. '68**, is still working as a psychoanalyst half-time and enjoys it very much. He says he and his wife love New York City. They have three children. One is a dermatologist in Boston, one is a builder in Brooklyn, and one is a stand-up comedian and actor. (You can see his album, *Thug Thug Jew*, on YouTube.) Dr. Herschenfeld has six grandkids ranging in age from 17 to 26.

## 1970s

**Harold Jawetz, M.D. '71**, is in remission from Hodgkin disease and doing well; he completed chemotherapy one year ago. He is looking forward to finally enjoying retirement (which he started just before his diagnosis was made). Dr. Jawetz says it has been three years since he has had the pleasure of going to Yankee Stadium.

**Miriam Tasini, M.D. '71**, has been retired for the past four years but continues to be active. She recently made a film about child survival during the Holocaust that was widely shown in the Northern California Jewish community. She has been widowed twice and has four granddaughters, one of whom has just graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Tasini sends love to all.

**Walter Orenstein, M.D. '72**, retired from Emory University, where he was

a professor of medicine, pediatrics, epidemiology, and global health, on Sept. 1, 2023. He has been an editor of *Plotkin's Vaccines*, the standard textbook in vaccinology, for the last six editions. The eighth edition was published in April 2023. Previously, he was the director of the national immunization program for 16 years at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Steven Kussin, M.D. '74**, retired 30 years after founding his practice and then writing two books (Rowman & Littlefield) directed toward promoting patient education. He says he is now busy doing nothing; he is currently looking after too many homes and too few grandchildren (zero). Dr. Kussin reports that he and his sweetheart, Annie, have been together for 30 years now. He is looking forward to his 50th Einstein reunion.

**Maja Nowakowski, Ph.D. '74**, retired in 2022 after 44 years on the faculty at SUNY Downstate College of Medicine and School of Graduate Studies. Her research interests are lymphocyte-virus interactions, macrophage activation, and functions. She has twin sons (1973) and a daughter (1989), all born at Einstein. She also has six grandchildren, with a seventh on the way. Her mentors at Einstein, she notes, were Barry R. Bloom and Donald F. Summers.

**Richard W. Walker Jr., M.D. '74, M.B.A.**, is the chief executive officer and founder of Walker Health Care Holdings, Inc., and its four subsidiaries, which are healthcare companies focused on value-based care. The plan is for the firm to become national, serving the most-vulnerable patients, with the goal of achieving health equity through

community empowerment and value-based in-home healthcare. Dr. Walker has published three books, the most acclaimed being *Black Health Matters* (2021); his most recent is *What to Do About Your Troubled Child* (2022). Formerly an obstetrician and gynecologist in Houston, he retired from clinical practice in 2015.

**Robert Katz, M.D. '75**, retired from the practice of pathology and remains connected to medicine as president of the Morris Township (N.J.) board of health and as a member of the credentials committee at Morristown Medical Center. He maintains his longtime interest in Sherlock Holmes and has co-edited two books on medical aspects of the Sherlock Holmes stories.

**Neil White, M.D. '75**, is a professor of pediatrics and of medicine in the division of pediatric endocrinology and diabetes at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He is the former director of the division and the pediatric clinical research unit and the associate director of the Center for Diabetes Translation Research at Washington University. Dr. White has worked on numerous National Institutes of Health-sponsored multicenter clinical trials related to type 1 and type 2 diabetes over the past 40 years. He and his wife, Ann, have two sons and four grandchildren.

**Kenneth Blank, Ph.D. '76**, was elected as a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors in 2015 and was recently appointed to the academy's board of directors.

**Andrew Dutka, M.D. '76**, retired from the full-time practice of neurology in

December 2021, after 21 years with the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group and, before that, 24 years in the Navy, and now enjoys two pensions. He says he completed the three-year accelerated medical school program available at Einstein at the time, and he has never regretted it. Dr. Dutka says that he is particularly interested in the whereabouts of classmates **Dave Carmichael, M.D. '76**, and **Ed Sausville, M.D., Ph.D. '79**.

**David Feldshon, M.D. '76**, has been a partner in MNGI Digestive Health in Minneapolis for 25 years. He and his wife just bought an apartment in New York, so they will be moving back after a lifetime of training and practicing—first in California, then Arizona, then California again, and then Minnesota. They have three daughters and three granddaughters. Dr. Feldshon's major interests are in liver disease and obesity medicine. He says he would love to hear from his classmates.

**Jerry Stern, M.D. '77**, says that after 20 years in academic/private practice at NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue, he has transitioned to industry, serving as the global head of medicine (virology and liver diseases) at the pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim. He “retired” from full-time work in 2016 and was a consultant for many early-stage biotech companies. Dr. Stern is currently the chief medical officer for Ischemix, leading research on cytoprotective drugs for various medical conditions whose needs remain unmet. He has been married to his wife, Robina, since his first day at Einstein. Dr. Stern's oldest granddaughter is now applying for medical school. His newest hobby is golf, and he says it's never too late to start.



### Irwin R. Merkatz Women's Health Faculty Scholar Named

**Nadine T. Katz, M.D. '87**, professor of obstetrics & gynecology and women's health at Einstein, medical director of the Einstein campus, and vice president of Montefiore Medical Center, has been named the inaugural Irwin R. Merkatz, M.D., Women's Health Faculty Scholar at Einstein.

Dr. Katz, whose mentor is Dr. Merkatz, was recognized for her excellence as an educator and clinician at a May 17 ceremony. Dr. Merkatz is professor and chair emeritus of the department of obstetrics & gynecology and women's health and professor of pediatrics at Einstein.



READ MORE  
[magazine.einsteinmed.edu/merkatz23](https://magazine.einsteinmed.edu/merkatz23)

**Jay B. Dobkin, M.D. '79**, associate professor of medicine in the pulmonary division at Einstein and a pulmonologist at Montefiore. was selected by Einstein faculty this year to receive the 2023 life-time achievement award for excellence in teaching at the College of Medicine.

**Warren Heymann, M.D. '79**, was granted honorary membership for life-time achievement in dermatology by the American Academy of Dermatology.

1980s

**Kenneth Davis, M.D. '80**, says that for the past two and a half years he has been working in the Edison, N.J., office of Plainfield Pediatrics, still doing what he loves—general pediatrics three and a half days a week, with no nights, weekends, or hospital rounds. He is still married to Ellen Radin, Barnard '78, Cardozo '82, and is a proud grandfather of “two perfect grandchildren.”

**Filippo Di Carmine, M.D. '83**, retired in December 2022 and has been traveling, but took time off from retirement to work in Guam for three months. He will celebrate his 40th wedding anniversary by spending time in Hawaii, and then return to New York to wait for the arrival of his first grandchild.

**Stuart L. Marcus, M.D., Ph.D. '83**, founded SonALAsense, Inc., in 2019 to develop a noninvasive, nontoxic, tumor-specific combination drug-device therapy for the treatment of glioblastoma and diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma. The Ivy Brain Tumor Center at the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix ran the first clinical trial of sonodynamic therapy

in patients with recurrent glioblastomas. The first preliminary clinical report was published online in the *Journal of Neuro-Oncology* in April 2023. Go to [www.sonalasense.com](http://www.sonalasense.com) for more information.

**Dana Zweig, M.D. '83**, is starting her 21st year of solo private practice in family medicine on Cape Cod in Massachusetts. She is an assistant professor of family medicine at the Tufts University School of Medicine. She and her husband, Charlie, are celebrating 25 years of marriage. Their son graduated from high school in June and will be going to the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston in the fall.

**Ron Alterman, M.D. '86**, is a professor of neurosurgery at Harvard Medical School and the chief of the division of neurosurgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. He and his family live in Cambridge, Mass. Dr. Alterman and his wife, Jackie, are proud to announce that their daughter had a bat mitzvah in May, and that their son is engaged to be married next January. Despite having lived in the Boston area for more than a decade, Dr. Alterman remains a die-hard Yankee fan.

**Felise Milan, M.D. '88**, and her husband, **Mark Polisar, M.D. '88**, live in Irvington, N.Y. Dr. Milan is the director of the Ruth L. Gottesman Clinical Skills Center at Einstein and the director of the introduction to clinical medicine program for preclerkship medical students. She also sees patients at an internal-medicine residency clinic once a week. Dr. Polisar sees family medicine patients at Montefiore Medical Group's Williamsbridge site. Their oldest child is an assistant rabbi for a reform

congregation in Cherry Hill, N.J. Their middle child is a computer engineer and data analyst for the dating app Hinge. Their youngest is a working actor/dancer/singer.

1990s

**Marc Levitt, M.D. '93**, is the chief of the division of colorectal and pelvic reconstruction at Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C., a program that integrates surgery, urology, gynecology, and gastroenterology in the care of children with complex colorectal and pelvic disorders. He is a professor of surgery and pediatrics at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Dr. Levitt lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife, Shary, whom he married during his fourth year at Einstein; they have three grown children.

**Peter Shaw, M.D. '94**, moved to Milwaukee, Wis., in 2022 to become the medical director of pediatric hematology/oncology/blood and marrow transplant at Children's Wisconsin/Medical College of Wisconsin. He has two sons in college, and a daughter in high school who aspires to become a doctor. Dr. Shaw says that his wife, Randi, is “amazing” and remains supportive and patient.


2000s


**Saryna P. Young, M.D. '03**, has started an independent dermatology practice in Stamford, Conn., called Young Skin. She says she enjoys seeing all generations of a family, and the experience is bringing back the joy of practicing medicine.

**Gary Schwartz, M.D. '06**, was named

Stay in Touch

Keep your classmates up to date by submitting your news to *Einstein* magazine. We look forward to including you.

 [einsteinalumni@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:einsteinalumni@einsteinmed.edu)

 **Albert Einstein College of Medicine Alumni Association**

 **EinsteinAlumni**

the chief of thoracic surgery at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. He serves as the surgical director of lung transplantation and the director of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation. Dr. Schwartz is a clinical associate professor of surgery at Texas A&M School of Medicine.

**Noe D. Romo, M.D. '08**, M.Sc., assistant professor of pediatrics at Einstein

and medical director of the pediatrics inpatient service at NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi, was selected by Einstein medical students to receive the 2023 Samuel M. Rosen Award for Outstanding Clinical Teaching.

2010s

**Caitlin McMullen, M.D. '10**, has been at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Fla., as a head-and-neck surgical oncologist/reconstructive surgeon since 2017. She has two children, ages 4 and 1. Dr. McMullen encourages her classmates to reach out to her if they're visiting Tampa.

**Leon Siegel, M.D. '17**, completed his general-surgery training at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in June. He is now pursuing further specialization as the bariatric surgery fellow at the University of Iowa, which is the home of Edward Mason, M.D., the father of the

gastric bypass and of vertical banded gastropasty. Dr. Siegel and his wife, Shayna, have one son.

**Samima Habbsa, M.D. '18**, completed an endocrinology fellowship at the University of Maryland and is returning to New York to work at Mount Sinai South Nassau in endocrinology.

**Dayle Hodge, M.D., Ph.D. '19**, and his wife, **Chelsea McGuire, M.D. '15**, are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Amari, in October 2022.

**Heidy Wang, M.D. '19**, married fellow Einstein classmate **Henry Yang, M.D. '19**, in 2022. She is currently a pediatric infectious-diseases fellow at NYU Langone Health, and he is finishing his neurology residency at Montefiore Medical Center. He will then go on to an epilepsy fellowship at the same institution.

IN MEMORIAM

**Frederic Joshua Barnett, M.D. '61**, age 88, U.S. Army physician, graduate of Harvard Law School, partner in F. Lee Bailey's Boston law firm, who returned to medicine, trained in neuroradiology, and finished his medical career of more than 35 years at the University of Pennsylvania's Presbyterian Hospital, March 23, 2023, Philadelphia.

**Lawrence Blacher, M.D. '78**, age 70, cardiologist in Miami, Fla., for more than 40 years, March 8, 2023, Miami.

**Eugene Paul Fazzini, M.D. '61**, age 84, chief of surgical pathology at Bellevue/ NYU for many years and director of the laboratory and of pathology at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville, N.J., July 13, 2023, Morristown, N.J.

**Paul E. Gorrin, M.D. '68**, age 80, internist and medical director at the Stockley Center in Georgetown, Del., until his retirement in 2012, May 27, 2023, Milford, Del.

**Margaret Anne Keller, M.D. '72**, age 75, retired professor of pediatrics and former chief of the divisions of pediatric infectious diseases and immunology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Los Angeles, known internationally for her contributions to the understanding of pediatric HIV infection, May 17, 2023, Los Angeles, Calif.

**Stephen H. Lewis Jr., M.D. '64**, age 86, pediatrician at Greenwich Pediatrics in Greenwich, Conn., for 41 years, June 27, 2023, Rye, N.Y.

**Jeffrey Pollard, Ph.D.**, age 73, professor emeritus of developmental and molecular biology at Einstein, whose career will leave a lasting impact in the field of women's reproductive health

and cancer immunology, May 1, 2023, Edinburgh, Scotland.

**Arnold Ratner, M.D. '59**, age 89, dermatologist, May 20, 2023, Vienna, Va.

**Klaus Schreiber, M.D.**, age 85, professor emeritus of pathology at Einstein, who trained countless cytology fellows and pathology residents over several decades at Montefiore, April 28, 2023, Tuxedo Park, N.Y.

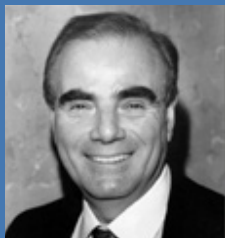
**Charles Smith**, age 64, retired chief of the genetics department kitchen and Einstein employee for more than 40 years, June 10, 2023, Bronx, N.Y.

**Myles G. Turtz, M.D. '61**, age 93, otolaryngologist and former president and chief executive officer of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, who helped establish its pediatric liver and heart transplant program and burn center, April 7, 2023, Cherry Hill, N.J.



## MOTIVATIONS | IN MEMORIAM

### Einstein Trustee Arnold S. Penner



**Arnold S. Penner,** longtime Einstein Board of Trustees member and great friend to the College of

Medicine, died July 25, 2023, at age 87.

Mr. Penner joined the Einstein Board in 1998. He served on the Board's executive committee as well as on the executive board of Einstein's Men's Division, now known as the Professional & Leadership Division. Together with his wife, Madaleine Berley, he established the Arnold S. Penner & Madaleine Berley Scholarship in honor of Stephen Lazar, Ed.D.; the Arnold S. Penner and Madaleine Berley Endowed Scholarship in honor of Arthur

W. Menken, M.D. '69; and the Arnold Penner & Madaleine Berley International Health Fellowship in honor of David Hirsh, M.D.

They also instituted the Arnold and Madaleine Penner Annual Musculoskeletal Repair and Regeneration Symposium, endowed the Arnold S. and Madaleine Penner Professorship within the department of orthopaedic surgery, supported the work of the Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center, and were leading donors to the renovation of the Van Etten Building.

Mr. Penner's dedicated commitment to Einstein and his leadership were recognized with the Albert Einstein Humanitarian Award in 1992. Yeshiva University bestowed on him an honorary

doctorate of humane letters in 2006, and in 2011 he was honored alongside fellow trustee Linda Altman as an inaugural recipient of the Einstein Lifetime Leadership Award for his extraordinary contributions to Einstein's mission. Upon receiving the Lifetime Leadership Award, he commented, "If you are not philanthropic, you are not fulfilled."

Mr. Penner grew up in the Bronx, the son of a welder and a milliner. He began his lifelong career in real estate as a leasing broker in 1962. In 1980, he began investing in real estate independently, soon amassing a diverse portfolio of properties. He was also a part owner of longtime Manhattan landmark P. J. Clarke's. He is survived by his wife, Madaleine, and their children.

### Pioneering Scientist Fernando Macian-Juan



**Fernando Macian-Juan, M.D., Ph.D.,** age 56, professor of pathology and member of the Institute for Aging Research at Einstein and of

the Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center, died May 22, 2023, after battling a long illness.

During his 22 years at the College of Medicine, Dr. Macian-Juan was also the associate director of the Medical Scientist Training Program and a pioneering scientist in the fields of immunology, cancer, and aging research. A beloved mentor and colleague known for his warmth, collegiality, and commitment to training future physician-scientists and researchers, he

was selected in 2008 by Einstein Ph.D. students to receive the LaDonne H. Schulman Teaching Award.

He was elected to Einstein's Leo M. Davidoff Society, which recognizes excellence in teaching medical students. He and his lab team sought to understand the immune dysfunction that occurs with aging, particularly in cancer, with the goal of identifying drug therapies.

Active in many societies, Dr. Macian-Juan was an elected member of the American Association of Immunologists, the American Association of University Pathologists, the American Aging Association, and the American Society for Microbiology.

Born in Valencia, Spain, he received his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Valencia, where he and Ana Maria Cuervo met when they were

17 years old, during their first year of medical school. The couple, who later married, conducted research in collaborative laboratories. After earning their M.D./Ph.D.s, Drs. Macian-Juan and Cuervo moved to Boston to complete their postdoctoral work. Dr. Macian-Juan continued at Harvard Medical School but then joined the Einstein faculty in 2003, two years after Dr. Cuervo had done so.

Dr. Macian-Juan is survived by his wife, Dr. Cuervo, professor of developmental and molecular biology and of medicine and co-director of the Institute for Aging Research at Einstein.



#### TO DONATE

The Fernando Macian-Juan Memorial Fund supports excellence in graduate-student mentoring. To contribute, go to: [einsteinmed.edu/giving/fernando-macian-juan](https://einsteinmed.edu/giving/fernando-macian-juan)