November 5, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

Montefiore and Einstein’s deep commitment to social justice distinguishes us amongst our peers. Our collective values from the beginning have defined who we are and what we stand for. They have characterized us as unique healers and moral leaders in academic medicine.

The increased turmoil and divisive rhetoric in our country risks destabilizing us. Respect and tolerance for different points of view represent who we are as a people. They are written in our Constitution and have guided us for centuries. They have provided the foundation for our welcoming immigrants who have strengthened our economy and our country. Who amongst us did not descend from elsewhere? New York State has for centuries been a home for new immigrants and represents the best of who we are and where we are going as a nation.

Recently the tone amongst our public officials has deteriorated, and we have witnessed unthinkable acts of violence and hatred. Guns in the hands of those who hate have taken the lives of worshipers in synagogues, churches and mosques, and students from elementary schools to high schools to universities. They have wounded elected officials and killed those enjoying some of life’s most simple pleasures and doing some of life’s most basic things. In the communities of Montefiore and Einstein, guns take the lives of our youth too early and too often. We are at the cusp of a moral and humanitarian crisis.

Tomorrow is election day. The most important expression of support for the democratic principles of government we can make is to vote. I am encouraging you to do so no matter what your political beliefs are. Whatever your role at Montefiore and Einstein, please exercise your right to vote. Vote with your conscience and your heart. Encourage your family and friends to vote. Hatred is a disease. Let us be a strong voice for healing our country and finding our moral compass.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Safyer, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer
Montefiore Medicine