

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



**I. DAVID GOLDMAN, M.D.**

Director, Albert Einstein Cancer Center  
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**T**his year, 2009, marks the 37th year in which the Albert Einstein Cancer Center has been a National Cancer Institute–designated center. In fact, we were among the first cancer centers in the country to receive this designation.

Recently, we celebrated the NCI’s renewal of our major grant. It provides nearly \$20 million to support the Cancer Center’s research programs over the next five years.

Since the Center’s creation in 1972, we’ve made basic-science discoveries that have revealed fundamental abnormalities leading to the formation of cancers. In addition, we’ve seen notable examples over the past decade in which these basic findings have been translated into novel therapeutic approaches.

Several such therapeutic agents are now being evaluated in clinical trials, and we fully expect that some will be approved and made available to patients in the near future. This is an accomplishment that few other cancer centers can match.

Six months ago, our Center announced a very important addition: a cancer prevention and control program for the Bronx community. This program aims at identifying behavioral factors that increase cancer risk in the Bronx population (cigarette smoking and overeating, for example) and on launching efforts to nullify and reverse such factors.

We owe this program to Einstein Benefactors Marilyn and Stanley Katz. Their very generous gift allowed us to recruit a team of scientists led by Bruce Rapkin, Ph.D., whose vision for this program is described in this issue of the Cancer Center newsletter.

Laboratory research occurs in a highly structured environment under tightly controlled conditions. In many ways, the Comprehensive Cancer Prevention and Control Program’s Bronx “laboratory” is more challenging. The Bronx is home to people from many different countries, and each group has its own language and cultural, religious and racial backgrounds. All these factors interact to influence people’s access to health-care resources and their ability and willingness to use those resources. Yet this is the real world, where cancer either occurs or is prevented.

Our new cancer-prevention team brings tremendous expertise in identifying and targeting the unique health needs within these diverse communities. We look forward to reporting on the progress of this exciting and important new program in future issues of this newsletter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I. David Goldman", written in a cursive style.