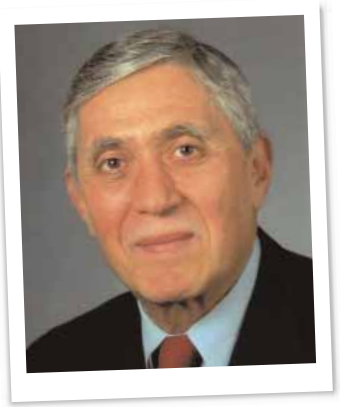
Allen M. Spiegel, MD

Dr. Spiegel has been named dean of Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University.



1. When is this new role effective?

Allen M. Spiegel, MD, the internationally recognized researcher and endocrinologist serving as director of the National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive Diseases & Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has been appointed dean of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University. He will become the Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz dean of the medical school, as well as vice president for medical affairs of Yeshiva University, effective June 1.

The appointment is the result of an extensive national search and on the recommendation of a 30-member committee of faculty, board members, leaders of Einstein's affiliated hospitals, alumni and students. In fact, Dr. Spiegel's appointment positions the medical school to go forward boldly at a time when it is expanding to meet the tremendous challenges and advancements of 21st century medicine, technology and research.

2. What qualities were discussed by the search committee in regard to Dr. Spiegel?

Matthew D. Scharff, MD, professor of cell biology at Einstein and chair of the dean search committee, said that members of the committee were "enormously impressed with Dr. Spiegel as a person, with his intellect, and with his scientific creativity and accomplishments. He has deep insight into how 21st century science can lead to an unprecedented understanding of the prevention and treatment of disease and he has an abiding belief in biomedical research as a force for good in the world."

3. What was Dr. Spiegel's role at the NIH?

For nearly 30 years, Dr. Spiegel has had a nationally regarded and highly distinguished career at the NIH, where he has been director of the NIDDK since 1999. He began his career at the NIH in 1973 as a clinical associate in its endocrinology training program. He then served as a senior investigator in the metabolic disease branch from 1977 to 1984. In 1985 he was appointed chief of molecular pathophysiology, and then chief of the metabolic diseases branch. In addition, he was simultaneously appointed director of the NIDDK's Division of Intramural Research. He served in these various capacities until his appointment as director of the NIDDK.

Dr. Spiegel has responsibility for a staff of 625 full-time employees and a $1.7 billion budget. The institute conducts research on some of the most serious and chronic diseases affecting the nation's health. It also supports the work of approximately 3,300 investigators in medical centers, universities, and laboratories throughout the United States.

4. What experience does Dr. Spiegel have with research?

Dr. Spiegel is an internationally renowned physician-scientist and endocrinologist with experience in translational research programs. His research has centered on G-protein-regulated signaling dysfunction in human disease, and his work on signal transduction helped to clarify the genetic basis of several endocrine diseases. His research also demonstrated that defects in G proteins — receptor related proteins — have significance in the function of cells and could cause inherited disease. He has published widely, with some 250 peer-reviewed papers and 100 reviews and book chapters, as well as two books on G proteins.

"I am tremendously excited and gratified that President Richard Joel has given me the opportunity to lead one of the nation's finest medical schools," said Dr. Spiegel. "I hope to use all the experience and knowledge acquired during nearly 33 years as a physician-scientist and science administrator at the [NIH] to make the Albert Einstein College of Medicine an even stronger biomedical research and educational institution."

5. Where was Dr. Spiegel educated?

A member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Spiegel earned his bachelor's degree summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Columbia University in 1967. He received his doctorate degree cum laude from Harvard Medical School in 1971 and completed his clinical training at Massachusetts General Hospital. ■