

# dear residents

Happy New Year

January 1, 2023

**Dear Residents,**

As we turn the page to a new year, let's take a moment to reflect on 2022. There were significant international, national, and local events which shaped our lives in one way or another. A war started in Ukraine, the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* US Supreme Court decision profoundly impacted the reproductive rights of women, mid-term elections were held, there were extreme weather events, Southwest Airlines had a meltdown, and inflation impacted many lives.

At a **local residency training level**, some happenings stand out more than others:

1. **Epic Chat** was a topic of frequent discussion – it's convenient, perhaps too convenient, impossible to ignore and a source of distraction. Because the urgent/time-sensitive is entwined with the routine/mundane, one can't help but check and respond to messages in real time. Like any new technology, the technical merges with the social resulting in [unintended consequences](#).
2. **Parking remained a problem**, but there was some progress – parking fees were eliminated, and the Moody Garage was made available.
3. **Technology transitions occurred** – some Twitter users moved to Mastodon, TikTok was banned on government devices and networks and an artificial intelligence bot, ChatGBT became available – answering questions and writing essays – could this be the future of personal statements?!
4. **The fellowship match was 100%** - this is remarkable given how competitive the Big Three (cardiology, gastroenterology, and hematology/oncology) have become.
5. **Inflation** affected you in a big way as rents went up. Many of you had to find roommates and struggled with everyday costs of living. Parkland and UTSW did raise salaries modestly and a cheaper health insurance plan became available.
6. **Influenza vaccination** became an administrative headache for everyone involved as a gap emerged between vaccination and the documentation of that vaccination.
7. **A return to in-person learning** occurred and was sustained, restoring some of the lost opportunities to learn and socialize, but Zoom is here to stay.
8. **Interviews stayed virtual** and are expected to be virtual in perpetuity. Combined with application inflation and USMLE Step 1 becoming pass/fail, recruiting became even more challenging. We have planned "second-look" days in February to help show off our program, our facilities, and our city.

9. **The cardiology inpatient rotation at CUH** was redesigned and after some initial teething problems, it seems to have settled down.

10. **Redfield Tavern**, a resident favorite, closed permanently on December 23. Here's to hoping it reopens in the future.

I look forward to 2023, to cement some of the gains we have made and to explore new ways of learning and thriving. I think we will see some improvements in documentation tools, new mentorship pathways, a possible increase in the size of the residency program, more interest in research gap years, continued redesign of rotations, and augmented efforts to promote wellbeing. The program remains strong in every way imaginable and is poised to make further gains. You remain its #1 asset. Thank you for being here ♡



Photo by [Ian Schneider](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Happy New Year!

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