

# dear residents

**Grateful for You**

**December 24, 2023**

**Dear Residents,**

Thank you for covering for each other and for your willingness to substitute in a few days here and there. I know that it is tough to pick up new services – but it is this flexibility on your part that has permitted everyone to have some time off this holiday season. The holiday season is a time to reconnect with those we love and cherish, but sometimes we have to navigate people we know less well. The festive season in my childhood did involve some relatives we only visited that one time of the year. As children, it was tough to sit still and be on best behavior. Sometimes, we got lucky – we would show up and miss those we intended to visit. My father would leave his visiting card on the door. As we skipped back to the car, my sister and I would silently mouth the words “successful visit.”

I’ve never really liked small talk – wedged in conversations about weather, traffic, and travel plans, when I would rather be talking about some of the matters that are on my mind. Yet, I’ve come to appreciate the value of unproductive banter. It’s how we test each other’s climate and determine if it’s safe to talk about something more dignified like the future of humanity. I push just that little bit to test the waters. Or sometimes, I get the opening from others, the “where are you from” or “where did you grow up” question. I do get the customary stern look from my spouse who soon regrets bringing me along. As physicians, we are free to embark on intimate conversations with our patients – nothing seems off limits as we probe our way through their social history. Imagine a holiday party where you lovingly inquire about such items – “have you ever been incarcerated?” I think it might just be fun if we had permission to engage in a social review of systems with each other – a very lively party would ensue!

The last time I recall that we had snow in December in Dallas was 2012 – I don’t think it will be the case this year. Next week promises to be crisp but sunny. Whether you are working or enjoying some time off, know that I am grateful for you. I’ve been on Parkland wards this week – I have noted your excellence and your unwavering commitment to your craft.



Photo by [Ekaterina Shevchenko](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Best wishes for a joyful week,

Dino Kazi