

# dear residents

**A Wish List for 2024**

**December 31, 2023**

**Dear Residents,**

It's a treat for me that a weekly update will fall on the last day of the year. A neat wrapping up of a year that will be in the history books shortly. 2023 marked our emergence from 3 years of COVID – we had a full year to think about what we lost and what we gained as well as the space to plot out the future. I have a 2024 wish list of sorts for the residency program:

1. That we will have a smooth transition to a night float system – my main worry is that your work hours will increase even as you sleep in your own bed more often.
2. The wish that the CUH notewriter will continue to improve and ease your documentation chores and that Parkland will adopt it sooner rather than later.
3. That GME will streamline all your required training and various compliance deadlines, so you don't have to play Whac-A-Mole with Parkland Pathways, VA TMS, and TaleoLearn (poor moles by the way).
4. The expectation that QGenda will be an upgrade from Amion and make the schedule easier to design, and swaps and trades simpler to request, track and execute.
5. Optimism that the planned expansion of primary care training sites to community-based clinics will provide options for those seeking such experiences.
6. Enthusiasm that the Health Equity Track will usher in meaningful knowledge and advances in how we learn about and address social determinants of health.
7. That we can restart our dormant Global Health rotations and possibly expand to new sites.
8. The anticipation that the planned transition to co-location of teams and patients (geographic rounding) will improve efficiency and coordination of care.
9. That we will finally get POCUS off the ground and that Parkland will procure the much-needed US machines.
10. My final wish for 2024 is that you will continue to feel safe no matter who you are and where you are headed – I will always have your back.

In 2023, I travelled a bit, read as much as I could, watched a few things, and listened to music.

Notable Books – The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese, Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver, and Hidden Potential by Adam Grant.

Favorite Movie – Past Lives (Apple TV).

Best Short Series – The Railway Men: The Untold Story of Bhopal 1984 (Netflix) and Jury Duty (Amazon).

Favorite Song – Everybody Wants to Rule the World – a 1985 release that rang true in 2023.

I actually listened to a lot of music this year. Spotify helped me find many that are still stuck on vinyls in Karachi or in lost mix tapes I made over the years. Here is my [2023 Playlist](#) – a musical social history of sorts – I bet AI already knows where I lived, who I met and where I hung out. I curated songs from the time growing up in Karachi and from the residency and fellowship years in Houston. Some are more recent. Entry criteria: had to have an accompanying memory.

Many have very precise associations. One song always brings back this memory. On a cold and misty night, in the car at 2 am outside Hermann Hospital – as the rheum fellow on call – listening to FM 104.1 KRBE waiting for the song to finish before I dragged myself in to the ED to see a patient with a lupus flare – that heady mix of fatigue, the emotional resonance of the song, the pride in being the one they called for help.

May 2024 be your best year yet. Wishing you everything I can possibly dream of.



Photo by [Kelly Sikkema](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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