

dear residents

Greetings from Pakistan

May 28, 2023

Dear Residents,

Happy Memorial Day Weekend. I'm spending it with family in Pakistan - I have three sisters, one niece, five aunts and three cousins who live here. Two of my sisters live in our childhood home. That this home is still here and largely unchanged is a treat in itself. It is hot and humid but easily adapted to with many ceiling fans, french windows, and an open architecture which creates a seamless indoor-outdoor environment. The grounds are very lush with tropical flowers and fruit trees (see photos below). The mosquitos seem to be hiding from the heat which has been a blessing. There are many birds, the most vocal of which is the koel (an Asian cuckoo). There are crows, house sparrows, pigeons and kites. The biodiversity is astonishing. Summer is also a time for fruits which are plentiful with mangoes, guava, watermelon and apricots dominating. The daytime torpor gives way to energetic evenings and nights. Gatherings start late and end way past midnight. I arrived at 1:30 am and the streets were buzzing with vehicles.

I expect that each one of you can identify with an ancestral home. I hope you get to visit and reabsorb the elements that shaped who you are today. Even though we belong to a collective community defined by our common goal of patient care, we all have distinct identities of origin. I am thrilled that our resident body represents people from virtually all corners of the United States and the globe. We collaborate seamlessly because we are in an environment where we are equals. The global and local is one continuum. Our individual differences are put at the service of our collaboration, as we enrich our discourse by bringing our lived experience to the conversation. We have a shared need - to learn as much as we can, and a shared goal - to be the best physicians we can possibly be. Despite some recent developments that are undermining diversity and inclusion, we remain a program and an institution that has tasted the sweet fruit of what it means to collaborate without excluding anyone.

Our identities of origin can be embraced as assets or can be subject to prejudicial categorization. Our social identity as people with common needs and goals is a much stronger force and fuels our aspirational identity - who we want to become and who we want to belong to. I know that each of you can hold the duality of your identity of origin and your aspirational identity in equipoise

Here are some photos from my trip:



The Plumeria Flower (Champa is the local name)



Custard Apple (Sharifa is the local name)



Pisonia Tree (a common leafy tree)



Hawkes Bay Beach - Arabian Sea, Karachi

See you soon!

Dino Kazi