

June 18, 2021

Hi Everyone!

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can"
Arthur Ashe

"It's not how you start. It's how you finish"
Anonymous

The above quotes capture the *zeitgeist* for me as I write my last Departmental Acknowledgement as Chair & Chief. I find myself in a pensive and reflective frame of mind as I consider the last decade of my own professional and academic journey, tinged as many of you know with emotion. From this vantage point there can be no doubt in my mind on the assignment of this DA on this occasion to the entire **Department of Pediatrics**.

All of the members of the Department over the past decade deserve a part of this DA. Without exception.

Why?

For contributing their skills, intelligence, passion, creativity, dedication, effort and professionalism to our community. We all have a choice about where we choose to spend our careers and each of the members of the Department have freely chosen to be a part of this special 'family'. By doing so each of you have attached yourself to an organic collective that is continually changing and adapting, but always remaining focused on resolutely delivering on the variegated academic mission of clinical service, education, research, innovation, and advocacy. Each aspect of this mission is critical for our success.



All of you contribute in your own way to the whole and all of what you do is valued and essential. What's more you are each part of a team and enable others to achieve even more.

The two things I realized almost immediately on becoming Chair-Chief was how inter-digitated each component element was and how the sum was so much greater than the individual parts. Each part needs be present and fully valued for the Department to achieve its true intrinsic full potential. It's a tapestry that is intricately inter-woven and one frayed weave can lead to unravelling.

The credibility of leadership is based on the foundation stone of trust. Through my actions I had to earn the Department's trust. However this trust is bi-directional and I trusted each of you to do what was expected, if not more. My job was really quite simple; creating as best as I could the conditions that

would enable each of you to do what was expected (and more). To me that was the only metric that really mattered.

And that is why ultimately this final DA of my mandate goes to the Department. As I look back over the decade, my trust in each of you was rewarded by each of you doing more than the expected. Not only did we survive, but we thrived. Not only did we travel the journey laid out for us, we explored new vistas and scaled new heights. Together.

And for this I will be eternally grateful.

Have a great summer everyone!

Michael

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