

February 25, 2022

Residents. We definitely miss them when we don't have them. Today is a day to reflect on the many ways that residents contribute, and to show our appreciation for these contributions. As apprentices to the practice of medicine, residents take on the bulk of the day-to-day tasks associated with patient care. They collect the important data—vital signs, fluid balances, history, physical findings, and results of investigations – and deliver this information to the attending physician in a neat package. As their skills, knowledge, and judgement develop, they are increasingly able to also provide their own informed opinions on diagnosis and management plan, and to put those plans into action independently. The ideas, opinions, and questions of residents are hugely important to providing excellent patient care. One of the most important roles of the residents is to continuously question the decisions of the attending physicians. By doing this, they force the faculty to deeply understand pathophysiology, to weigh existing evidence, and to stay abreast of new knowledge.

As the inaugural cohort following competency-based medical education, the current generation of residents also serve as important role models for the faculty in embracing a growth mindset. Today's residents are constantly seeking feedback with the goal of improving their skills. This is not easy. They are to be commended for their open attitudes and willingness to listen and adjust. We would all do well to follow their lead in this regard.

One of the main reasons that we have chosen to work in an academic environment is the satisfaction we derive from working with students, residents, and fellows. Medical education takes time and effort, but the pay-off is large. They lift us up. They also push for important improvements to the working and learning environment, ultimately leading to a more respectful and pleasant workplace for all.

Please join me in thanking our residents and fellows for their hard work, tough questions, constructive criticism, and dedication to continuous improvement. The future is in good hands.

Have a good weekend.

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