

dear residents

Oases in the Desert

August 9, 2026

Dear Residents,

There are a few things that seem indispensable to modern society. Two of them are energy and healthcare. Both are essential. And for both, the greatest challenge is often not production, but equitable distribution.

Karachi, a bustling city of more than 20 million people, struggles with the procurement and delivery of electricity, particularly during the hot summer months when demand peaks. Pakistan now generates roughly a quarter of its electricity from solar power, yet significant gaps remain in both capacity and distribution. Producing energy is only part of the challenge. Delivering it equitably is another.

The same could be said of healthcare in the **United States**. We possess extraordinary medical resources, yet they are unevenly distributed. Rural communities face persistent physician shortages, while many urban neighborhoods remain healthcare deserts despite being surrounded by world-class medical centers.

Sometimes I think the distribution of **Starbucks** stores tells part of this story. It is difficult to find a Starbucks in South Dallas. The company is not creating inequality, of course, but its locations often reflect where economic investment has occurred. Others have made a similar observation about broadband access, describing patterns of digital “redlining” in which internet connectivity follows many of the same socioeconomic boundaries.

Whenever I visited **Hatcher Station** before it became one of our continuity clinic sites, I was struck by the same feeling. It felt like an oasis in the middle of a desert. High-quality primary care existed there not because market forces naturally brought it, but because **Parkland Health** made a deliberate commitment to serve a community that otherwise might have had limited access to comprehensive healthcare.

That commitment is one of the greatest strengths of our residency, although I sometimes wonder whether we fully appreciate it ourselves. After **Doximity** released its residency rankings, there was a brief internal discussion about how a ranking system might capture the unique educational value of training within a health system like Parkland. It reminded me that the greatest differentiator of this residency has never been prestige or rankings. It has always been our mission.

I struggle to think of another residency that offers the same combination of clinical complexity, social mission, and unwavering commitment to caring for every patient regardless of circumstance. It almost feels like a secret that only we know.

Every day you train in an environment where medicine is practiced at the highest level while simultaneously addressing some of the deepest inequities in our healthcare system. **Parkland is far more than a hospital where residents learn medicine. It is a place where you learn what medicine is for.** Prestige follows many things in medicine. Mission is rarer. Long after rankings are forgotten, I hope what you remember most is that you trained in a place whose defining characteristic was not its reputation, but its unwavering commitment to serving those who needed it most.

Best regards,

Dino Kazi