July Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

I believe we are truly fortunate to live our particular lives. Specifically, we have been given the means and ability to help our fellow women and men through the delivery of healthcare, and this ability has provided us with a means for sustaining ourselves. Can there be a greater gift than this? And in these activities and efforts, we have perhaps the greatest blessing of working shoulder to shoulder across a remarkably rich spectrum of careers and abilities. All of us, with each other.

Within this unified team, every single one of us provides equally in the delivery of healthcare, as part of a remarkable team that delivers miracles. We discover and share remarkable science, provide reliable and exceptional compassionate care to our community, perform sophisticated operations through long and thin plastic tubes, and time after time discover the cause of discomfort and disease from head to toe by peering inside the living human body.

And we are able to do all of the above no matter what seismic changes take place around us. I sit here in wonder on our UCSD day 153 of the COVID pandemic, in a world that in many ways has been upended. My February problems now seem microscopic. Despite all of the historic changes in the world around us including a financial crisis, an unemployment crisis, and the painful crashing realization of our utter failure to effectively address racism through our lifelong dialogues; we listen to the news, go to sleep worrying about what the next day holds, then pick ourselves up every morning and come together to perform miracles.

We energize and motivate each other, and we are in turn enriched through our camaraderie and fellowship. Perhaps we should take the opportunity to briefly pause in our daily work-focus and to thank each other. Perhaps we should more often and intentionally express our true appreciation to each other. To that end, I sincerely thank each and every one of you for the privilege of working with you, and for allowing me to be consistently inspired by the example you set. I am indebted.

We have a marathon to run whether we are discussing a vaccine, the financial crisis, the unemployment crisis, or eradicating racism. Nevertheless, marathons end. Someday, in the figurative day after tomorrow, we will someday look back at the long and winding road behind us, and we will feel a remarkable sense of gratitude at having weathered these historic storms and having lived to turn our faces forward with the certainty of accomplishment and optimism........

P.S.: Please wear your masks at all times except mealtimes. Please maintain six feet or more of separation if you are keeping each other company during your meals. Please take care of yourselves. We, and our collective patients, need you.

Truly,

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