

CHRIS HALLBERG, MD



Dear Chris,

Congratulations on successfully completing your Family Practice residency! We are so proud of you for all that you have accomplished! In reflecting back over your medical school career, we have always admired how you forged your professional path. Choosing UW-Seattle led you and Jean to the bustling northwest. We remember the cozy upper flat on Spring St., the wall-to-wall white boards crammed with data to be digested, the fabulous times we shared over Thanksgivings and at your graduation. Who can forget Ivar's, Mamma Milena's happy hour, Uncle Ike's, Pike Place, the azalea botanical garden, Top Pot donut shop and the ferry excursion to Bainbridge Island? The time we spent at the Outlook Inn on Orca Island was so special for our family! How about that fresh, plank-grilled king salmon we feasted on at your medical school graduation dinner! You should graduate more often! You were very fortunate to have terrific classmates, great professors ("If there's an issue, get some tissue.") and your mentor, Dr. Alex Molnar, who was over-the top.

You loved Missoula ever since your clerkship there, so it was no surprise that you landed in the "left of Montana" on Match Day. Hopefully, the change of pace was welcome. Three years seemed to fly by for us, although maybe not so fast for you. You worked hard and learned so much! You did it all and then you did it all again! And, "in your infinite spare time" (S. Haessler), you found time to finagle some free pizzas, climb, camp, ski, hike, fly planes (By the way, instructor, how do I land this thing?), fly fish, sail, bake French bread, throw pots, bow hunt, make lovely music with your friends, grow a beard, grow a garden, raise chickens (until they died tragically), dabble in churros and enjoy the ubiquitous coffee culture. Remember the time you got your brew and headed out of town and up the mountain to relax in your hammock? That was a classic Chris get-away! We love Missoula very much, as you know. Our fondest memories include touring the city's downtown and savoring crepes at the Saturday market, our picnic and trip around Flathead Lake, hiking out of town, visiting the old Jesuit mission at St. Ignatius and driving through the Buffalo Range. Thank you and Jean for hosting us, even when you were so busy with your work.

So now, Chris, you are headed north to Nome, Alaska, a new frontier for you. It's exciting, to be sure, and, at the same time, a bit daunting, since so much is unknown at this point, especially the course of the coronavirus pandemic. You picked quite a year to begin your practice, Doc! There are, however,

at least three certainties you can count on in these uncertain times:

- 1) You are professionally very well prepared as you embark on the road ahead.
- 2) You have the love of your families to support you now and always.
- 3) You will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of many people.

With love,
Mom & Dad

Dear Chris,
Congratulations on being done with residency! I am so happy for you and I know that you have been waiting so very long for this day to finally be here. I remember when this was all just a dream... what seemed like a crazy dream then and maybe feels like even a crazier dream now, to switch majors and completely shift everything and spend the next what would be eight years working towards your dream of becoming a doctor. And now, that day is here. After years filled with sleepless nights, crazy shifts, multiple moves, intense moments, new facial hair, and of course, plenty of fun, you have arrived. And while at the end of the road what you may feel may simply be exhaustion and hate for eCW, I hope you don't lose those pieces that inspired you to become a doctor and I hope know how loved and supported you are now and always.

I am so very proud of how hard you have worked, all the sacrifices you have made, and how despite all the long hours and challenges, you have shown great resilience and grace throughout it all. I am absolutely honored to be your partner and never imagined that life would take us to Missoula and now to Alaska.

I am so incredibly proud of you and happy that you have finally arrived at this day. You are an incredible doctor and hope you always remember what a difference you make and how much healing you bring to so many. Keep on shining. I can't see where life takes us!

All my love,
Jean

