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A New Christmas Eve: Match Day Eve

Gehan A. Pendlebury

Nova Southeastern University, gp855@mynsu.nova.edu

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Cover Page Footnote

The author warmly acknowledges Mr. Joshua Pendlebury, CTRS, for his decorated combat military service in the U.S. Marine Corps. His sacrifices ultimately inspired an unwavering commitment to provide excellent medical care to service members. Additional gratitude is expressed to Mr. Pendlebury for his hard work at home, behind-the-scenes. His steadfast efforts and enthusiastic sacrifices made the military match conceivable and achievable.

The transition of medical student to resident physician represents the student becoming the teacher -- a teacher that will continue to evolve over time. Residents teach medical students, yet residents are taught by their attending physicians. In many ways, Match Day is a milestone marking the beginning of that incremental learning process. The word "doctor" derives from the Latin word "docere" meaning "to teach" as doctors should be teaching their patients good health in their practice of medicine. Likewise, it is an inherent responsibility of all physicians to pass on their knowledge and skills for the betterment of the next generation of doctors. The residency match is a foundational milestone and special rite of passage where the medical student transitions to becoming a lifelong teacher in the field of medicine.

POET: GEHAN PENDLEBURY

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, set against a blue background.

A New Christmas Eve: Match Day Eve

Match Day Eve: a Christmas Eve of sorts
But this special eve has been long-awaited, long-coming, long-overdue.

Match Day: a dramatic, climatic build-up ----- the curtain is unveiled.

Match Day: a linear space where dreams and struggles collide in the same place.

Match Day: the discovery of God's promises.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. - Jeremiah 29:11

Time is activated – Class of 2023.

The student becomes the lifelong teacher.

Doctor: (noun): derived from the Latin word “docēre” meaning “to teach”.

Match Day marks the beginning of a total metamorphosis: former self → future self.

Student Doctor Pendlebury becomes Doctor Pendlebury.

Ensign Pendlebury promotes to Lieutenant Pendlebury.

The finality of this transient season paves the way for many new beginnings.

It is full of hellos, and sadly, too many goodbyes.

I've arrived at a place that I cannot stay – as much I'd like to stay and linger,

It is time to walk with steadfast faith in good things to come.

Match Day Eve – it's not quite like MCAT Day Eve ↓

▶ → Where so much is still uncertain
▶ Will I become a doctor?

Match Day Eve-it's already earned and received.

What type of doctor will I be? Where will I practice medicine?

Graduation is coming,

but Match Day is here and is here to stay.