

Following Your Bliss... Life Advice from Dr. Kieran Moore



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Alexa Caturay (R-2 Queens)

In a short few minutes post rounds, Dr. Kieran Moore agreed to answer a few questions about life, the universe, and everything. This is not unlike any other Friday afternoon when he often finds himself sacrificing his own time to facilitate questions and concerns from the Queen's residents. Quite often those residents are me, and more often than not I have a laundry list of questions. This particular week, I invested my questions wisely.

Below is some of our conversation, along with my extended musings.

Alexa Caturay (AC): Dr. Moore, how did you decide to leave clinical medicine in favour of Public Health?

Kieran Moore (KM): It's a bit of a long story.

Dr. Moore goes on to explain that during the anthrax-by-mail scare of the early 2000s, he was fascinated with how the health care system might better prepare for disasters caused by bioterrorism. As he made his way down this particular rabbit hole, he found an interest in emergency preparedness in general and surveillance for emergency departments in particular. This led to several partnerships with public health locally and beyond in order to improve the surveillance systems. This is, as Dr. Moore puts it, "the start of the Odyssey".

AC: What comes next for surveillance?

KM: We are going to need systems for environmental monitoring. The combination of environmental and human health systems goes hand in hand.

We have this conversation after a discussion during rounds of environmental monitoring. Dr. Moore makes several lists during this meeting - he is forever scribbling on at least five pieces of paper at a time. His passion is palpable and he speaks with enthusiasm about geo-spatial information systems, real time monitoring, and creating a system that is useful and meaningful. He embraces partnerships with various organizations and makes what could be a dry topic (though perhaps not to this audience) just as interesting as any clinical scenario. Dr. Moore also impresses the need for systems such as this to provide real-time data to the front lines. He envisions public health as a partner in the system both at the front lines and behind the scenes.

AC: What part of your day-to-day work is most interesting for you?

KM: Interacting with staff and residents is by far the most interesting part of my day. They are always asking questions and... I learn a lot from that.

Dr. Moore has a tangible love of learning and teaching. His hands wave excitedly when he learns a new thing. They wave even more frenetically when he has an interesting thing to share with the group. Sometimes (possibly more often than not) this leads to several tangential learning points, all of which come together as a mnemonic or a list of letters or on very special occasions an artistic rendering of a memory aid.

AC: What advice do you have for residents in Public Health and Preventative Medicine

KM: Follow your bliss...

Dr. Moore laughs as he says this, but it is abundantly clear that this is how he got to now. This seems like sound advice, and a good way to close the day.

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