

Friday, June 17, 2016

Efrain D. Salgado, M.D.  
Program Director – Neurology Residency  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation – Florida Division  
2950 Cleveland Clinic Blvd.  
Weston, **FLORIDA** 33331

Dear Dr. Salgado,

It is with both great joy and great sadness that I write this letter today. The joy I feel relates to the triumphant accomplishment of completing a very challenging U.S. physician residency training program. I will soon realize the rewards for persevering in the venture, as if being awarded the spoils of war. Each day was a battle in the war at large, and living by that mentality, slow and steady, one day at a time, helped to ensure the courage to see it through to completion. This program's regimen molded me like pliable clay, to shape me into one of the elite caretakers of the most prized possession of the human body. That would be, of course, referring to the nervous system! After all, the brain is what truly makes us wonderful sentient beings capable of love, invention, exploration, and even the ability to question our own existence. A competent neurologist I have most certainly strived to become, and with the great help of the program under your expert tutelage I feel that dream has indeed come to fruition.

The sadness I mentioned, relates to the fact that it is now time for me to move on with my career, and also with my life. A lot of changes occurred in both my life and my career during my four years with the Cleveland Clinic family. The people I worked with at the Cleveland Clinic, both in Ohio and in Florida, were of the high quality variety, making it easy to work with and for them. I will dearly miss everyone at the clinic, as each person there always had something to offer, whether it was a janitor, an attending physician, a nurse, or even a patient, I came to understand it was important to learn something from everyone, and always be there to lend a helping hand in return.

I must also admit that I already fondly recall stopping by your office in the late evenings, catching you before you made your way home, to absorb just a little more of that great fund of medical knowledge that just seemed to float around you as constant as the moon's orbit about the earth. You could not be stumped! If given a quality patient history, the exam findings, and

any other pertinent details, you could rattle off a differential diagnosis better than anyone I've ever met; including anything from the common "horse" to the rare "zebra." It is this passion, this love of what you do, those many years of experience, which we residents so deeply respect in you. I could go on and on of my exciting memories of learning from your expertise, as you guided us residents through the shadows of the unknown, to help us shine light where we may otherwise not see, so as to create the tools necessary to help our fellow man.

I leave it here with one final parting note. It is critically important for the excellent physician to have hobbies and interests outside of medicine. I believe that if we understand and practice in things outside of medicine, we actually come to know our career passion with even more understanding. One of these passions that we both share is the beauty of college football. It's those battling warriors pounding the gridiron with pure passion, glistening armor, and multiple thousands of crazy and screaming fans lifting them up with their ossicle-crushing loudness, which really gets us excited on game day. Although I bleed RED & WHITE and you bleed ORANGE & BLUE, we share common ground in our passion for this most excellent hobby outside of medicine. And for that, I had to leave something for you before I left. It sure turned out amazing, and I know that you'll love it! *[see attachment...]*

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alex J. Linn, M.D." The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Alex J. Linn, M.D.

Neurology PGY-4 Chief Resident

**ATTACHMENT: A beautiful piece of glistening college football armor awaits you at your desk.  
Enjoy!**