

Dear AESC Family-

The last two weeks have been beyond anything I could have imagined. We began 2025 with so much excitement — I took on a leadership role in the hospital that's nourished my career from the beginning— taking over from Tom. My first day as Chief was January 6. On January 7, as many had lost power, I cancelled my first faculty meeting as chief. I agonized over canceling as it seemed only Altadena was without power — the palisades fire was far away and not affecting us. And then within hours, the flames started. We were so close and it moved so fast — we fled. Later that evening, our beloved home burned to the ground. It burned before we ever received an evacuation notice. Our whole neighborhood, our daughters' school. 9400 structures lost in Altadena that night — the destruction is astounding. There's not much left.



My husband and I are safe. Our girls are safe. We have been amazed and humbled by the care and support we have received from friends and colleagues in recent days; it is what keeps us moving as we try to rethink and reframe and, eventually, when are able, rebuild our lives. We miss our house so very much, but are reminded daily, home is the 4 of us.

Thank you for caring and for loving our family —

Jess, Paul, Daphne & Lillian

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