November 2020

We are approaching interview season in the Main Residency Match, and ranking is open in our two largest fellowship Matches - the Medical Specialties Match and the Pediatric Specialties Match. No doubt this issue of The Match Illuminator reaches you at a very busy time of the fall season.

Have a healthy and happy Thanksgiving!

NRMP Staff

Main Residency Match:
Virtual Interview Best Practices

The benefits that in-person interviews afford applicants and programs alike are undisputed, but the persistence of COVID-19 has largely replaced in-person interactions this year with virtual interviews. The unavoidable reliance on technology and need to maintain physical distance has likely exacerbated an already anxious time for Match participants.

There are several resources available on this topic. For example, the recent article "Zooming In Versus Flying Out: Virtual Residency Interviews in the Era of COVID-19," in the journal of the Society for
Academic Emergency Medicine, offers practical tips for this unusual recruitment season. The authors, physicians at major university medical centers, offer recommendations on interviewing applicants virtually. They compare the advantages and disadvantages of virtual interviews and highlight best practices. We hope you find that with a systematic approach, interviews can adequately assess applicants’ capabilities and alignment with program needs.

NRMP Board of Directors Call for Nominations; Deadline December 1

The NRMP Board of Directors is seeking nominations for four Directors. In an effort to ensure representation of the osteopathic profession, one position must be filled by an osteopathic physician. Another position must be filled by a Designated Institutional Official. Nominees holding positions that overlap with the needs of the Board may be selected for one open position (e.g. osteopathic physician who is also a DIO). The remaining two Director positions will be filled with one osteopathic resident or fellow, and one medical student (MD or DO).

The terms of service for Directors is four years, with a maximum of two terms. Resident/fellow and student Directors serve two-year terms. The Board meets three times a year, usually in October, January, and May. Additional day-long meetings and conference calls may be required for Board committee work.

Review Director qualifications and access the separate applications here. Nominations are due December 1, 2020.

Virtual 2020 Transition to Residency Stakeholder Conference A Success

On October 16-17, NRMP hosted its Transition to Residency conference virtually for a record 767 registrants. The online format and the first-time inclusion of learners (398 registered) increased
participation and enhanced the range and depth of perspectives shared. The 369 registered faculty/staff broke last year's record of 365 in-person in Chicago.

The program featured a range of topics, including solutions to challenges brought to bear on the transition to residency by COVID-19. However, some of the most highly attended breakout session presentations were on non-pandemic "hot button" medical education issues:

- "Data-driven UME to GME recruitment: Myths and facts for optimizing candidate selection"
- "Preference signaling mechanism in the 2020-2021 residency application cycle"
- "The impact of COVID-19 on residency interviews: Improving medical students' readiness for residency applications with virtual practice interviews"
- "In a pass/fail world: Application of lessons learned from programs blinded to Step 1 in residency recruitment"

Our plenary speakers -- Dr. Alvin Roth, Dr. Vivek Murthy, and Mr. Shankar Vedantam -- shared personal experiences and generated thought-provoking questions from attendees. We thank them for sharing their insights.

Please plan to join us at next year's conference, October 15-17 on Coronado Island, near San Diego!
Upcoming Dates for November

Sports Medicine, Psychiatry
November 4, 12:00 p.m. ET: Ranking Opens

Adolescent Medicine, Emergency Medicine
November 4, 9:00 p.m. ET: Ranking Closes
November 18, 12:00 p.m. ET: Match Day

Medical Specialties Matching Program
November 4, 11:59 p.m. ET: Quota Change Deadline
November 18, 9:00 p.m. ET: Ranking Closes

Pediatric Specialties, Rehabilitation Medicine
November 18, 11:59 p.m. ET: Quota Change Deadline

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