Residency Planning

Class of 2011
Getting Started

- The MS 4 year is stressful in a different way than MS 1-3.
- You are searching for your first job (finally, an income!)
- There are life decisions to make, and the year goes by so quickly (it does, believe us)
What if you’re undecided?

- Not too late
- Don’t Panic!
- Read Taylor or Iserson
- Try Careers in Medicine
- You can apply to more than one specialty
What if you’re undecided?

- Check out subspecialty lists… a general specialty like Internal Medicine may not interest you, but Cardiology might..
- Do electives in fields you are considering
- Read journal articles
- Remember that your choice is long-term
  - not just the residency
Where are YOU in the decision making process?

A. Have decided what specialty you will be applying to
B. Are debating between 2 specialties
C. Love everything and can’t decide
D. Feeling totally lost

Go see your clinical dean or Christoforou
What is a residency application?

- Similar to AMCAS but... you need to convince them you can do the job!
- Be organized
- Application completeness and accuracy counts
- Interviewing skills
- Interaction with program - other than interview day
You should pay close attention to timelines.
Check individual program websites for deadlines.
Create an excel spreadsheet to track application, interviews, letter requirements etc..
Use email address you check regularly.
Help is Here

- NRMP website (www.nrmp.org)
- AAMC On-line Publication:
  - Roadmap to Residency
- ERAS website www.aamc.org/eras
- Consult with specialty advisor and your clinical assistant dean
Out of state program advice
- List of Downstate alumni who hold faculty positions at other out of state schools are available on the web.

A list of specialty advisors is on-line.
- You may consult with more than one specialty advisor.

Mentors who are not specialty advisors

Residency placement lists
- Check out where our graduates have matched as you decide where to apply
You’ve made a choice, now what?

- Specific information about residency programs - [AMA-FREIDA](#) online
- Check individual program websites
- Think about geographic location
- Talk to faculty and alums
Developing a list of programs

- The inverted triangle approach
  - Applications
    - Cast wide net
  - Interviews
  - Rank
Pitfalls & Going “Unmatched”

- Not applying to **enough programs**
- Not applying to a **mix of programs** (high end, middle range, safety)
- Not taking **geographic restrictions** into consideration (e.g. California, Boston, must be in a particular city)
- Only applying to PGY-2 programs and **not** enough PGY-1’s
- Applying to a very competitive specialty and **not having a back-up plan**.
Residency Program Selection

• What do I look for in a program?
  • Program Quality
  • Program Size
  • Program type: academic or community
  • Opportunities for teaching and research
  • Educational structure and support systems
  • Fellowship opportunities
  • Morale of Residents
  • Accreditation status
Residency Program Selection

• Personal Issues
  • Location
  • Cost of living
  • Proximity to family/support system
  • Housing
  • Spousal/Partner opportunities
Some fields recommend one elective at the home school (for strong dept. letter of recommendation) plus another at the program you desire the most = away elective (a letter from away elective can also be used for other places)

- Audition electives can be a double edged sword - you must work very hard and do a good job. You can weaken an impression or strengthen a positive one.
Medical Student Performance Evaluation

- **A.K.A. MSPE or Dean’s Letter - SENT NOV 1**
  - Evaluative letter drafted by clinical asst dean
  - Summary of your academic performance for yrs 1-3 + evaluations rec’d by early October of your senior yr
  - Majority of information is from clerkships
  - Includes positive & negative comments
  - You will be able to read a draft of the letter during October, 2010
  - Not critical to include electives - use LORs
The Application
Residency Process

- Two parts of the residency process
  - The Application and The Match
- THE APPLICATION:
  - Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) - the application for regular match specialties and Urology
  - Central Application Service (CAS) - application process for Early Match
    - Pediatric Neurology and Ophthalmology
Residency Process

THE MATCH

- The process by which applicants and hospitals rank their preferences and obtain “a match”.
- National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) - the Match process for the “regular match”
- SFMatch - early specialty matching process
- AUA - match process for Urology
Registration should be going on now

Ophthalmology, Pediatric Neurology

www.sfmatch.org

Download materials for Central Application Service

Rank lists get submitted to SFMatch

Ranking and Results in January 2011!
Central Application Service

• Partially on-line, but only one set of materials needs to be sent to CAS
• CAS will distribute your application and supporting documents to your list of programs.
• Check individual program deadlines
Urology Match

Urology www.auanet.org
- Application is done through ERAS
- Check individual program deadlines
- Ranking is done on-line through auanet.
- Ranking and results in January 2011!
All Other Specialties

- Application is through ERAS - Electronic Residency Application Service.
- The Match process is through the National Residency Matching Program.
National Resident Matching Program (NRMP)

Most students obtain a residency position through this process.

It is the mechanism by which you enter the programs (in preference order) you wish to consider for residency.

The programs also submit lists of students they wish to have in their programs in rank order.

And then A MATCH IS MADE!
August 2010 - you will need to register online to be in the NRMP [www.nrmp.org](http://www.nrmp.org)

R3 System - Registration, Ranking and Results

System in which students and hospitals rank their selections.

Fee is $55

ALL students applying for residency—including those applying to Early Match specialties - must register.
Other Types of Matches

- Other Matches
  - Armed Services Residency
  - Canadian Match
  - Couples Match (part of NRMP)
    - See Christoforou

- Outside the Match?
  - Not permitted by the NRMP
  - Penalties involved
  - Check w/ Christoforou or Terracina
Program Terminology

- **“C” - Categorical Program**
  - Program that you go directly into to complete a residency (e.g. Internal Medicine, General Surgery, Pediatrics)

- **“A” - Advanced Program**
  - Program that generally requires one general year prior to starting (e.g. Radiology, Dermatology etc.)

- **“P” - Preliminary Program**
  - One-year program - generally in preparation for an advanced program; includes Transitional Year
Some specialties have both Categorical and Advanced Programs - be aware of what type you are applying to (e.g. Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine)

Meeting in August for students applying to both Advanced and Preliminary programs.
On-line application - MyERAS
Student creates application and selects programs
Medical school transmits MSPE, letters of recommendation, transcript, photo (provided by applicant)
National Board transmits USMLE transcript
MyERAS transmits application and all supporting documents to all programs participating in ERAS that student selects
Early July - Each student will be issued a “token” or password to access MyERAS. Look for notice on E-mail.

MyERAS available July 1st

Residency Programs access on September 1

Concerns or confusion about how to answer certain questions - e-mail Christoforou.
Get YOUR part of the application in - the earlier the better - aim for Sept 10th
No later than Sept 15
More flexibility with interview schedule
Supporting documents (i.e. LORs) - see individual program deadlines
Most regular match program deadlines are in Nov or Dec
Updating parts of ERAS after it is sent is possible, but you should not transmit the application until you feel it is as complete and accurate as possible.

- Updating could include - adding the name of a letter writer, AOA election, change of home or e-mail address etc...

- Keep in mind, in most cases, the application will have been downloaded the first time ERAS is transmitted.

- MyERAS can be transmitted without personal statement … statement can be sent later.
ERAS

- You **must** select programs you’ve chosen to apply to in order for the application to be transmitted!
- Transcript and MSPE go to every program
- All other documents must be **assigned** to each program
- Could assign different LORs or personal statements to different programs
  - max 4 letters to an individual program
ADTS - Applicant Document Tracking System

- See what letters of recommendation have come in (only if you have assigned the letter to programs)
- Was your transcript scanned?
- Did the program download your application?
- Were your board scores downloaded?
Non-ERAS Programs

- Very few programs at this point are Non-ERAS
- You can tell on MyERAS when selecting programs if they are Non-ERAS
- Most of the application is done through snail-mail.
Who is it best to get a letter of recommendation from?

A. Department Chair
B. Mid-level attending you worked with on a rotation who gave you Honors and can speak to your clinical skills
C. Resident you worked with
D. Senior attending who complimented you on an excellent presentation
E. A world renowned physician who met you on your visiting elective
Letters of Recommendation

- Faculty Letters - Important part of your application
  - Most programs require 3 letters
    - You may want to ask for 4 … just in case…
  - ask if they can write you a positive letter
  - needs to be someone who has worked with you, preferably in the clinical setting
  - letters should be from faculty (not residents)
- ERAS cover sheets
  - letters should be transmitted in ERAS by program deadline.
- Department Chair’s letter
Transcripts

- Target date should be no later than Sept 15th
- Elective & Subinternship grades tend to come in faster than clerkship grades.
- Student may request transcript to be held until a certain grade is in.
- Updated Transcripts can be re-transmitted
Each student must complete a “Request for Residency Transcript” Form in Registrar at least one week prior to their requested send date.

ERAS - $5 flat fee each time transcript is requested.

Non-ERAS - $5 per transcript - program address labels needed.

All fees paid to Bursar - receipt to Registrar.
Most, if not all, programs wish to see your USMLE scores.

**ERAS** - You must assign the USMLE transcript to be sent to all programs you wish to send it to.

Information is transmitted directly from NBME to ERAS post office.

$60 flat fee each time you order transcript through ERAS.
Non-ERAS - You need to mail in your request to the NBME and give enough turn around time (usually 10 days)

Check SFMatch instructions for Ophthalmology and Pediatric Neurology

$60 for up to 5 transcripts when requested at one time. Each additional score report is $5.

Address on www.usmle.org
Curriculum Vitae

- Summary of your academic and professional activities. Helps gather info needed for ERAS.
- Most students construct their own “CV”
- Can be created by ERAS - format a little stiff
- Some faculty writing letters of recommendation may ask you for one.
- May want to send to non-ERAS programs.
- Nice to bring on interviews
Curriculum Vitae

- Primarily medical school activities
- Can include pre-medical (college) research or other experience related to the medical field.
- No need to include every job
- Honors section - do not list courses
- Include e-mail address and contact info
- Christoforou can review your CV
Most time-consuming (some say difficult) part of the application

Christoforou or your clinical dean can review your personal statement

Some faculty review personal statements

Be prepared to write several drafts.

No longer than 1 page, 12 pt font, one inch margins all around.
Personal statement is basically a summary of your reasons for going into the specialty you’ve chosen.

- Needs to be interesting but not “off the wall”
- Needs to be grammatically correct - know any English majors?
- Needs to be upbeat - remember this is the interviewers’ first impression of you.
- Do NOT write fiction!
Personal Statement

- Some intros students have used in the past…
  - Patient story (no names.. Mr. C.)
  - Biographical intro
  - Physician role model
  - Personal/Medical experience that influenced them
- You need to promote yourself without sounding full of yourself… can be tricky.
- Avoid controversial topics - could go over really well with some and not at all with others. Remember your audience.
Honesty is the best policy

- Do NOT “pad” your ERAS application or your CV.
- ERAS Integrity Promotion Program
- Be prepared to talk about any activity you list on your CV, ERAS application or personal statement.
- Have concerns about a question on ERAS/ or Interview? Ask your clinical assistant dean, Christoforou or Terracina
Post-Application
Interviewing

- Interviewing Do’s and Don’ts session with Drs. Lucchesi & Macrae in October.
- Careers in Medicine website also has sample interview questions
- Ask PGY-1 residents about the questions they were asked
Interviewing

Scheduling Issues

- Do NOT assume you will be granted time off for interviews! You must request the time and need to be reasonable. Usually one day off per week for interviewing is permissible.
- Careful with scheduling of Step 2CS!
- **NO** days off during Anesthesia clerkship or Subinternship
- Traveling far away? You may need more than one month for interviewing
How the match process works….

- NRMP website describes the algorithm is designed to give you the program that you have ranked the highest which also wants you

- Meetings in December (and January to discuss how to rank programs)
Match Day

Thursday, March 17, 2011!!

Plan to be in the NYC Metropolitan area Monday, March 14 - Thursday, March 17