

Supplemental Digital Appendix 1

Survey Administered to Fourth-Year Medical Students From 20 U.S. Medical Schools, Spring 2014

Eligibility

1. Did you apply for a residency position this academic year (e.g., apply to the NRMP for a position in July 2014)?
 - Yes
 - No

Demographic Information

2. What is your age?
3. What is your gender?
 - Male
 - Female
 - Other
4. What medical school do you attend?
 - Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
 - Creighton University School of Medicine
 - Loma Linda University School of Medicine
 - Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans
 - Mayo Medical School
 - Medical College of Georgia at Georgia Regents University
 - Morehouse School of Medicine
 - New York Medical College
 - New York University School of Medicine
 - Northeast Ohio Medical University
 - Northwestern University The Feinberg School of Medicine
 - Stony Brook University School of Medicine
 - University of Arizona College of Medicine
 - University of Louisville School of Medicine
 - University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine
 - University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences
 - University of South Carolina School of Medicine
 - University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
 - University of Vermont College of Medicine
 - University of Washington School of Medicine
 - Other
5. Were you considered an in-state student when you entered medical school?
 - Yes
 - No
6. When did you begin your fourth year of medical school?

- January 2012 – March 2014

7. What is the primary specialty that you applied for in the Match?

- Anesthesiology
- Child Neurology (Neurology)
- Dermatology
- Diagnostic Radiology / Nuclear Medicine
- Emergency Medicine
- Emergency Medicine / Family Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Family Medicine / Preventive Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Internal Medicine / Anesthesiology
- Internal Medicine / Dermatology
- Internal Medicine / Emergency Medicine
- Internal Medicine / Family Practice
- Internal Medicine / Medical Genetics
- Internal Medicine / Neurology
- Internal Medicine / Pediatrics
- Internal Medicine / Preventive Medicine
- Internal Medicine / Psychiatry
- Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Neurology)
- Neurological Surgery
- Neurology
- Nuclear Medicine
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Pathology – Anatomic and Clinical
- Pediatrics
- Pediatrics / Anesthesiology
- Pediatrics / Dermatology
- Pediatrics / Emergency Medicine
- Pediatrics / Medical Genetics
- Pediatrics / Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Pediatrics / Psychiatry / Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Plastic Surgery
- Plastic Surgery – Integrated
- Preventive Medicine
- Psychiatry
- Psychiatry / Family Practice
- Psychiatry / Neurology
- Radiation Oncology
- Radiology – Diagnostic

- Surgery – General
 - Thoracic Surgery – Integrated
 - Transitional Year
 - Urology
 - Vascular Surgery – Integrated
8. Did you couples match?
- Yes
 - No
9. Did you match into your specialty of choice?
- Yes
 - No
10. How many residency programs did you apply to?
11. At how many residency programs did you interview?
12. Approximately how much did you spend specifically to interview at residency programs (e.g., travel, housing)?
- < \$1,000
 - \$1,000 – \$2,000
 - \$2,001 – \$3,000
 - \$3,001 – \$4,000
 - \$4,001 – \$5,000
 - \$5,001 – \$6,000
 - \$6,001 – \$7,000
 - > \$7,000

Fourth-Year Electives

13. How many total clinical electives (including any required rotations) in your future career specialty do you anticipate completing in the fourth year before graduating from medical school?
14. How many total clinical electives (including any required rotations) in an area outside of your future career specialty do you anticipate completing in the fourth year before graduating from medical school?
15. How many nonclinical electives (such as reading, research, and teaching months, but not including vacation) do you anticipate completing in the fourth year before graduating from medical school?
16. How many weeks did you take off specifically to study for Step 2 CK of the USMLE?
17. Did you do an away elective (sometimes known as an audition elective) in your future career specialty?

- Yes
 - No
18. If you did an away or audition elective, how many did you do in total?
19. Did you match at a residency program where you did an away elective or audition elective in your future career specialty?
- Yes
 - No
20. Did doing an away or audition elective in your future career specialty affect how you ranked the program?
- Yes
 - No
21. How much did you spend to participate in away or audition electives in your future career specialty (e.g., travel, housing)?
- < \$1,000
 - \$1,000 – \$2,000
 - \$2,001 – \$3,000
 - \$3,001 – \$4,000
 - \$4,001 – \$5,000
 - \$5,001 – \$6,000
 - \$6,001 – \$7,000
 - > \$7,000
22. Did financial constraints limit the number of away or audition electives that you could do during the fourth year?
- Yes
 - No
23. Did family or personal obligations limit the number of away or audition electives that you could do?
- Yes
 - No
24. Did you take out a residency relocation loan?
- Yes
 - No
25. When did you decide on your career specialty?
- Prior to entering medical school
 - During the first two years of medical school
 - During the clerkship year of medical school
 - During the fourth year of medical school

26. If you began the fourth year undecided about a career specialty, how many electives did you do to help decide which specialty to pursue?

Advising

27. Which of the following best describes your primary specialty advisor?

- Chair or Associate Chair in your future career specialty
- Program Director or Associate Program Director of the Residency in your future career specialty
- Clerkship Director or Associate Clerkship Director in your future career specialty
- Full-time faculty member in your future career specialty
- Other (please explain)

28. Other than your specialty advisor, from who else did seek advice regarding the fourth year?

- Chair or Associate Chair in your future career specialty
- Program Director or Associate Program Director in your future career specialty
- Clerkship Director or Associate Clerkship Director in your future career specialty
- Full-time faculty member in your future career specialty
- Faculty member outside your future career specialty
- Students / Peers
- Other

29. Did you get advice that you should do an away or audition elective in your future career specialty to improve your chances of matching?

- Yes
- No

30. If you received advice that you should do an away or audition elective in your future career specialty to improve your chances of matching, from whom or where did you get that advice?

- Dean or Official from Student Affairs Office
- Faculty Advisor
- Residency Program Director or Associate Program Director
- Faculty other than Program Director or advisor
- Student / Peer
- Book
- Other

Curriculum

31. – 34. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The main purpose of the					

fourth year is to maximize a student’s likelihood of matching into the residency of their choice.					
The main purpose of the fourth year is to ensure that students graduate with a broad educational experience in a variety of medical fields.					
The main purpose of the fourth year is to prepare students to be a good first year resident in their future career specialty.					
The main purpose of the fourth year is to ensure that a graduating student has the necessary skills to be a successful first year resident in any type of residency.					

Timing

35. – 38. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
During the fourth year students should take as many electives in their future career specialty as possible.					
More time is needed in the fourth year to decide which career specialty to pursue.					
More time should be built into the fourth year schedule to					

interview.					
Medical school should end once the match results are known.					

Away Rotations

39. – 43. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The primary reason to do an away or audition elective is to enhance my learning.					
The primary reason to do an away or audition elective is to evaluate the residency program.					
The primary reason to do an away or audition elective is to obtain a letter of recommendation.					
The primary reason to do an away or audition elective is to get an interview at the residency program.					
The primary reason to do an away or audition elective is to increase the likelihood of matching at that residency program.					

Electives

44. – 46. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Not

	Disagree		nor Disagree		Agree	Applicable
Based on my experiences, if possible I would do more away or audition electives.						
Based on my experiences, I would do fewer away or audition electives.						
An away or audition elective in my future career specialty increased the likelihood of me matching into that program.						

Advising

47. – 50. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Not Applicable
My specialty advisor read my personal statement and made important contributions.						
My specialty advisor reviewed my rank list for the match and made important contributions.						
My specialty advisor should contact my top program on my behalf prior to the match.						

I would have benefited from more guidance from my specialty advisor during the fourth year.						
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

Away Electives

51. For those students who did not do an away or audition elective, please indicate which of the following influenced your decision not to do an away elective:

- Unable to travel due to personal or family obligations
- Too expensive
- Schedule would not permit
- I do not believe that away electives are important for matching in my specialty
- I intended to match at my current institution
- Other

52. In the space provided, please share your thoughts about the fourth year: