Electives and Career Planning

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Disclosure

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IRB

• This study was reviewed by the IRB at Midwestern University, Downers Grove IL.
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Introduction

• Osteopathic medical students face decisions such as “should they enter primary care or a specialty field?”
• Factors that ultimately influence an individual medical student’s specialty choice are also varied. ¹,²
• What is less well described are the rotation elective choices students make based on entering these specialties.
• The objective for this study is to compare the elective choices that students make.
Background

• Medical school curricula, generally consist of earlier years of foundational teachings in the science-based disciplines or systems and during the later years more clinically focused rotation-based bedside patient encounters with physician preceptors.\textsuperscript{6,7}

• Every year thousands of osteopathic medical students throughout the country make the transition from these pre-clinical classroom years to the rotation-based clinical experiences.\textsuperscript{8,9}
Background

- Each student may have limited number of electives
- Perceived lifestyle of that career choice is cited as one factor that influences students’ decisions to match in a particular area such as EM.\textsuperscript{13}
- Earlier exposure to a specific specialty may in fact make a student’s choice of matching in that specialty more desirable.\textsuperscript{4,14,15}
Background

- Clinical rotation requirements are generally include several electives available at the student’s discretion.\(^{20}\)
- Students may seek the advice of faculty and staff as to which rotation electives to choose.\(^{21}\) These decisions are sometimes based on an individual student’s general interest in the specific elective rotation or
- they may be based on the specialty being sought for residency training and the students need to audition for their desired career choice.\(^{22-24}\)
Methods

• A retrospective records review of students who attended Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine from 2008 through 2012. Approval from the IRB at Midwestern University was attained. Data was obtained through the office of Clinical Education and entered into spreadsheet.

• Analysis of data findings was conducted by separate individuals after specific identifying information had been removed from the spreadsheet data.
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746 records were reviewed

- Retrospective Review
- Class of 2008, 09, 10, 11, 12
- After all NMS, NRMP, secondary match, scramble and SOAP
Top Choices for Careers

• Family 27%
• Internal 22%
• Emergency 11%
• Pediatrics 7%
• Radiology 3%
• Surgery 3%
Definitions

• Auditions or Sub-I (in the same specialty)

• Other electives as follows....
Family - 201 Students

- Radiology: 80
- Hospice: 49
- PM&R: 30
Internal Medicine - 167 Students

- Radiology: 78 students
- Nephrology: 63 students
- Cardiology: 57 students
Emergency - 81 Students

- Radiology: 39
- Family: 31
- Anesthesiology: 19
Pediatrics - 49 Students

- Neonatology: 21 students
- Radiology: 19 students
- Ped/GI: 15 students
Radiology - 24 Students

- Family: 7 students
- Pathology: 5 students
- Internal Medicine: 5 students

Kansas City University
Of Medicine and Biosciences
General Surgery - 23 Students

- Radiology: 11 students
- Plastics: 11 students
- Ortho: 7 students
PSYCH - 22 Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radiology</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neurology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Orthopedics - 19 Students

- Family: 7 students
- Radiology: 6 students
- Emergency Medicine: 5 students

Kansas City University
Of Medicine and Biosciences
PM&R - 19 Students

Radiology: 8
Family: 8
Neurology: 5
Anesthesiology - 18 Students

- PM&R: 15
- Radiology: 9
- Ortho: 3
- Critical Care: 3
Maternal Fetal: 10
Radiology: 6
Research: 4

OB/GYN - 17 Students
Neurology - 11 Students

- Radiology: 6
- Family: 4
- Psych: 3
- Critical Care: 3
- Neuro Surg: 3
Clinical Rotations

• Conclusions
References


References

• 21. Miller JB, Koehn NN, Schaad DC, Crittenden RA, Oriol NE. The departmental advisor's effect on medical students' confidence when the advisor evaluates or recruits for their own program during the match. Teach Learn Med. 2004;16(3):290-295.
Thanks
Alternative Specialty Choices

- What is my Back Up Plan?
Alternative Specialty Choices

What is my Back Up Plan?
Alternative Specialty Choices

What if specialty X didn’t exist?
What would you suggest your classmate do?
Ophthalmology

47

ENT
Pathology

80

Radiology
Sports Medicine

Orthopedics

24
Thanks