

# Discussion Forum on Approaches to the 2021 Residency Match Cycle: Program Perspective

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September 17, 2020

**aogme**

ASSEMBLY OF OSTEOPATHIC  
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATORS

# Housekeeping Notes

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- This webinar is being recorded, recording will be shared with participants and posted on the AOGME's web page shortly, [www.aacom.org/aogme](http://www.aacom.org/aogme)
- Webinar participants are in listen-only mode
- Please make sure your computer volume is turned up. The audio for today's event will be streamed through your computer speakers.
- For technical issues, please use the chat feature and raise your hand and we will assist you
- You may submit questions anytime during this live webinar using the chat feature, if time remains, questions will be addressed either during or at the end of the presentation

# Welcome

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- Moderators:
  - Thomas Mohr, DO
    - Chair, AOGME (Assembly of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Educators)
    - Dean and Chief Academic Officer, Idaho COM
  - Melva Landrum
    - Secretary, CORP (Council on Residency Placement)
    - Director, Medical Student Success, UNTHSC/TCOM
- Chat Moderator:
  - Jaishree Patel, Pharm.D
    - Member, CORP (Council on Residency Placement)
    - Director of Career Support, Alabama COM

# Session Overview

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- Session purpose
  - How did we get here?
  - What prompted this session?
- What are the goals of the session?
- What can we learn?
  - Insight into the current situation in residency application and interviewing process in the COVID-19 era

# Panelists

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- **Joanne Baker, DO**, Program Director, WMU Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Michigan
- **Jason Miller, DO**, Program Director, UIWSOM/TIGMER Psychiatry Residency, Texas
- **Sandy Snyder, DO**, Program Director, Cleveland Clinic Family Medicine Residency, Ohio
- **Taisei Suzuki, DO**, Core Osteopathic Faculty Member/OMM Curriculum Director, Wright Center, Family Medicine, Washington DC

# Question and Answer Session

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# General overview of COVID impact

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- Can you give your perspective on what you feel as a residency program director has been impacted most by COVID-19 for this application cycle?

# COVID-19 Specialty Recommendations

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- What are your expectations about students (and their medical schools) in the ability to follow the COVID-19 rotation recommendations regarding away rotations?
- Will this impact how you evaluate candidates?
  - If so, how do you feel this has impacted your evaluation of candidates?
- How will a program director determine if a student has followed the guidelines established and recommended by their specialty?



# MSPE Preparation

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- Most schools are adding a “COVID Impact Statement” to their MSPEs, can you highlight any specific information you would like to see reported on the MSPE?
- How are you planning on comparing students information on MSPEs between applicants when one applicant was a virtual vs another applicant’s was an in person rotation?
- What is your approach to reviewing and evaluating information on MSPEs? Will the importance change with the date being released the same as the ERAS application?

# Away Rotations vs Graduation Requirements

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- We are working with our students to follow guidelines for the number of sub-internships, away rotations, and auditions that they should complete in this cycle, balanced against their need to make steady progress toward graduation. We know that student schedules will not be uniform despite everyone's best effort. How are you planning to evaluate applicants who have uneven records of clerkship experience at application time in October?"

# Application Information Ranking

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- We have good data from the past Program Directors Surveys, but this year is very different. In this age of COVID-19, what elements in the residency application packet/ERAS, do you consider priority for interviewing and evaluating candidates?

# Interviews

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- How does your program plan to approach interviews this application season?
  - Virtual vs In-Person?
- If conducting virtual interviews, are you providing virtual “tours” as well?
- If conducting virtual interviews, have you considered any virtual alternatives to the “night before interviews dinner” or other similar activities to allow applicants to connect with one another and/or residents outside the formal interview?

# Interviews

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- Do you think there is anything students should be doing to prepare for virtual interviews?
- Do you anticipate virtual interviews being longer or shorter in duration than prior in-person interviews?
- What challenges do you anticipate in conducting virtual interviews?

# Board Examination Results

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- How will you assess candidates that have not had the opportunity to take their board examinations this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and prolonged shutdown of testing centers?
- Any student who attempted PE before March 7 will have scores reported through ERAS, will students who failed (with no opportunity to retake) be impacted more or less?

# Other Factors

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- Outside of COVID-19 are there other factors affecting applicants that you will take into consideration when evaluating candidates this season?
- What, if any, do you feel could be a benefit to applicants this year because of the unforeseen changes of the application, interview and match cycle caused by COVID-19?

# Advice to Applicants

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- What is one piece of advice you would provide to guide applicants this application and match cycle?



# Questions?

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# Thank You

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