The Residency Interview

M. Kimmelman, Ed.D.
UMDNJ - SOM
Why Interviews Fail

- Not prepared
- Applicant does not listen
- Rambling
- Blaming
- Abrasive
- Distracted
- Dull
- Inappropriate
Tips for Interviews

- Be on time (or call)
- Get names beforehand of who you are meeting
- Dress (bring a change) less jewelry
- If you go for a meal…
- Do your homework! (read the news of the day)
- Prepare 3 cases
- Practice (history, CV, qualities, personal statement)
- Handling illegal questions
Appear:

- Practiced
- Positive (no negatives)
- Interested/smile
- Make eye contact
- Motivated/energetic
- Determined/polite
- Confident/Honest
- Dedicated/analytical
- Communicative/schmooze
Bring:

- Prepare questions for them
- Extra copies of CV, personal statement (review it, know it) application, board scores, photos
- Carry: note pad
- Write: thank you’s
- Research: their priorities
- Do several interviews before the one you think is most important
Questions:

- Be honest, watch your body language, attitude
- Ques: for applicants, what to ask faculty, residents
- Investigate answers to:
  - What would you do if you were refused hospital privileges as a D.O.?
  - Describe a situation where you overcame a conflict.
  - What have you done in your life that shows you have leadership skills?
  - Where will you rank us?
QUESTIONS

- What do you think your intern year will be like?
- How do you deal with defensive or aggressive peers?
- If there are four people in your intern year, and one person gets sick/maternity leave-how do you handle the extra work load?
- To whom do you complain?
Practice

- Interviewer
- Interviewee
- Observer
- Fishbowl interview with residency director and student
- Debrief