

The Ins and Outs of the *Fellowship* Application Process

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ERAS and NMRP

- Know the difference
- Not all programs participate

ERAS

- Cardiology
- Pulmonary/Critical Care
- Endocrinology
- Infectious Diseases
- Hematology
- Heme/onc
- Oncology
- Rheumatology

NMRP

- Cardiovascular Disease
- Pulmonary/Critical Care
-
- Infectious Diseases

- Rheumatology (2005)
- Gastroenterology (1986-1999; rejoined in 2006)

NMRP Goals

- At least 75% of the programs with available positions will be registered
- Encourage programs to actively participate by submitting rank list
- Have at least 75% of the available positions within the specialty registered

	US Grad	US Foreign	Path way	Osteop	I M G	Canada	TOTAL
Total Registered		340	14	130	976	8	2544
Withdrawn		17	0	8	39	2	125
Not Certified	1076	30	1	4	93	0	160
Certified No ROL	59	2	0	0	7	0	9
Certified With ROL	985	291	13	118	837	6	2250
Matched	810	128	7	70	366	5	1386
Percent	82%	44%	54%	59%	44%	83%	62%
Unmatched	175	163	6	48	471	1	864
Percent	18%	56%	46%	41%	56%	17%	38%

Statistics by Specialty

Cardiology

Programs Statistics:	Number	Percent
Enrolled Programs	165	
Withdrawn Programs	2	
Active Programs	163	
Programs Filled	161	99%
Programs Unfilled	2	1%
Active Positions	660	
Positions Filled	657	100%
Positions Unfilled	3	0%

What's important?

- 1993 survey assessed importance of different issues used by Cardiology Fellowship Directors in choosing fellows
- All 213 Cardiology PDs listed in the "Directory of Training Programs" were mailed questionnaire
- Asked to rate the importance of 19 factors in selecting fellows
- 128 (60%) responded.

Program Director's Letter!

- Negative comments or
- Hints of a problem
- Personal Comments

What's Important

1. Negative comments or hints of underlying problems in PD's letter.
2. Personal comments by IM PD
3. The personal aspect of the interview
4. Letter of recommendation from a cardiologist known to fellowship PD
5. PD's letter in general

Letters of Recommendation

6. Performance during elective at the application site.
7. Rank order in residency class
8. Genuine interest in research
9. Being a graduate of a US medical School
10. Letter of recommendation from a nationally-known cardiologist
11. Doing a residency program at an institution with a well-known cardiology division.
12. Participation in research prior to fellowship

13. Assessment of medical knowledge during interview (see also #3)

14. Publications prior to fellowship
15. Performance on FMGEMS (for IMGs)
16. Performance on the FLEX (if taken)
17. Performance on ABIM (if available).
18. U.S. citizenship
19. Performance on NBME exam

Advice

- It's never too early to prepare ! ! !
- How you conduct yourself counts
- Get to know your program director

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FIRST M. LAST

EDUCATION

2001- 2005	Wayne State University School of Medicine <i>MD anticipated June 2007</i>	Detroit, MI
1995 – 1999	University of Somewhere <i>BS in fill in the blank</i>	City, State

HONORS/AWARDS

Medical School:

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society (elections held after residency selection)
Clerkship Honors – Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychiatry Surgery,
Obstetrics/Gynecology
Elective Honors –
Overall Honors Year I, II, and III
Other

Undergraduate:

Golden Key National Honor Society
James B. Angell Scholar
Michigan Competitive Scholarship Recipient
Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
Regents-Alumni Scholar Merit Award Recipient
Summa Cum Laude Graduate

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

USMLE (identification number 1-234-567-8)
Step 1 – list score only if impressive
Step 2 – Scheduled for Month, 2003
ACLS certified through August 2005

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/SOCIETIES

American Medical Association, Member
American Medical Student Association Member
American Medical Women's Association
Arab/Chaldean Medical Society
Asian American Medical association
Black Medical Association
Christian Medical Society

Prepare

- Getting your application ready takes longer than you think
- Identify who can help
- Avoid who cannot
- Just start

The Personal Statement

- ONE page only !
- Tell your story
- Be compelling

The Personal Statement

- Sell yourself (but be modest)
- Describe why you are the right applicant
- Be organized
- Proof read...PROOF READ...

PROOF READ

Letters of Recommendation

- Should advocate for you!
- Know your letter-writer
- Request one from your current Program Director

Dear Program Director:

It is my great pleasure to write an exceedingly strong letter in support of _____'s application for a fellowship in Cardiology. Dr. _____ is currently a _____ second year resident in the Internal Medicine residency at Wayne State University and will complete his training in June _____.

My comments are based on review of Dr. _____'s resident portfolio as well as personal observations of his clinical performance. Dr. _____ is a superlative physician. He came to our program with exceedingly strong USMLE scores having achieved 99 on both Step 1 and 2 and 3. I vividly recall his residency interview. Dr. _____ was genuine and humble. He smiled throughout his interview communicated a strong desire to help his patients. His record was impressive and we ranked him high enough to ensure he would be in our residency if he wanted to be. We did not realize just how bright he was.

Dr. _____ has proved to be an outstanding resident, however, I want to communicate to you that outstanding may not be a strong enough descriptor. Perhaps I should say he is *stupendous* resident or *marvelous* resident and, although these do not sound like the typical terms used in an academic letter of recommendation, perhaps they help to describe Dr. _____. Dr. _____ is an active participant in morning report and knows pathophysiology better than any resident I have trained in the last 15 years! He uses pathophysiology as the basis for initial analysis of clinical dilemmas. He aggressively reads and sites *current* literature. And he is always pleasant.

I had the pleasure of attending on the general ward Medicine last spring and was equally impressed with his patient care skills. His examinations were thorough and he has excellent clinical acumen. I was also impressed with his work ethic and level of personal commitment to his patients. If someone in my family was to become ill I would be comforted to know Dr. _____ is on call. He goes the extra mile to do everything necessary to provide excellent care.

Dr. _____ is committed to a career in Cardiology and has declined an invitation to apply for the chief medical residency although he would be a fantastic chief. He is interested in an academic fellowship and plans to do research. He has real potential to be a physician scientist or research clinician. I am confident he will be an exceptional cardiologist. I give him my strongest recommendation.

Presentations

Research

