Hi Everyone,

Forgot to remind you on our class Zoom meeting yesterday that this email was about to be launched! Although we are all in the process of navigating challenging times during the COVID-19 pandemic, I wanted to be sure we all continue to look forward to our tasks related to the residency application process as we outlined during our large/small group meetings in Intersessions.

Disclaimer: I realize that this email is lengthy and detailed but I assure you that it contains vital information as we begin the MSPE/residency application process that will help ensure your success in the Match. Please be sure to read it carefully and save it for future reference. I promise future emails throughout this process will be shorter and contain only essential information as you navigate ERAS and NRMP!

**Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) Meetings**

As we discussed during Intersessions, on approximately May 1st (a few appointments may be available in April), we will begin officially meeting with you individually (virtually via Zoom, converting to in-person when we are all able to return safely to campus) to prepare MSPEs. The MSPE is the final, summative evaluation of your medical school experience. It is neither a self-evaluation nor a letter of recommendation. The format is very structured and consistent across medical schools around the country. Your third and fourth year rotation evaluation comments are a large part of the document and are included verbatim with some editing for grammar.

**You must schedule an MSPE appointment for April, May or June to meet with your House Student Affairs Dean (Tortolita – Dr. Fantry, Rincon – Dr. Siwik, Santa Rita – Dr. Amini, Catalina – Dr. Smith).** All initial MSPE meetings will take place during this timeframe. The meeting will serve not only to gather information to include in your MSPE but also as a counseling and guidance session regarding T2R/4th year and personalized application strategies. If you have not yet decided on a specialty, we strongly encourage you to schedule early to discuss your current thinking with one of the deans. You should be prepared to discuss transcript/grades, USMLE step 1 score, gaps/extensions, T2R schedule, CV, noteworthy characteristics and a draft of your personal statement if you have begun working on it. We will discuss an optimal strategy for your residency application as well as appropriate contingency plans. Additionally, we encourage you to meet with a specialty advisor and program director to assist you with choosing residency programs appropriate for your needs and academic portfolio.

**Preferentially by May 1 and no later than a couple of days prior to your scheduled MSPE meeting (particularly for April meetings), you need to have completed the 3 tasks listed below (as discussed in our Intersessions class presentation).** If you have not done so, the meeting will not be
productive and will be rescheduled.

**Complete the Qualtrics survey** regarding important information/data to be discussed [Click Here to Access the Survey](https://mk0nrmp3oyqui6wqfm.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Charting-Outcomes-in-the-Match-2018_Seniors-1.pdf) (Resources: NRMP Surveys listed below and included in the survey)


**Submit your CV to Student Affairs.** This will be reviewed with your House Dean to be certain it is optimized as you will be using its content to populate your ERAS application.

Tortolita and Rincon CVs can be emailed to barbaramoore@medadmin.arizona.edu
Santa Rita and Catalina CVs can be emailed to jbee@medadmin.arizona.edu

**Submit your MSPE Noteworthy Characteristics** in MedLearn. Samples can be found in our Intersessions class presentation (see MedLearn- [https://medlearn.medicine.arizona.edu/courses?id=160](https://medlearn.medicine.arizona.edu/courses?id=160)). These will be reviewed and revised with your House Dean. To do so, log in to [https://medlearn.medicine.arizona.edu/](https://medlearn.medicine.arizona.edu/) and go to My MedLearn, My MSPE. The process is very easy. You can access an instructional video on the step-by-step process for entering noteworthy characteristics in MedLearn at [https://arizona.app.box.com/v/noteworthycharacteristics](https://arizona.app.box.com/v/noteworthycharacteristics).

**Schedule an MSPE Meeting**

Please use the links below to make an MSPE appointment with your House Dean. All the times for April, May and June are currently posted and available. If you are unable to meet any of the designated times due to clinical responsibilities, please contact your House Dean directly to schedule an appointment. Please ensure you are using your official Catmail address when scheduling an appointment (email shows up in top right corner of the screen) as appointments made with other email addresses will be cancelled, and the time will be forfeited. While all MSPEs are written by your House Dean that does not mean that you cannot confer with other deans during the MSPE/residency application process. However, this should be done via a separate appointment (as opposed to using the posted MSPE appointments). Additionally, please note that I read and sign off on all the MSPEs regardless of the primary author.

Tortolita House - Dr. Fantry

Rincon House - Dr. Siwik

Santa Rita House - Dr. Amini

Catalina House - Dr. Smith
Finally, I have attached a few documents for your review and remember that the individual specialty advisory documents are available to you as well in Box (https://arizona.box.com/v/Residency-Application):

1. A list of graduation requirements which you must complete before your graduation date.
2. A document to help you think through application strategy and contingency plans (a normal part of the process for everyone) which is very important as there are very few residencies to SOAP into, primarily medicine and surgery preliminary positions.

**NOTE:** If you plan to participate in an early Match (SF, military, urology), please familiarize yourself with their unique deadlines and timelines as they are earlier:
https://www.sfmatch.org/
http://www.auanet.org/education/urology-and-specialty-matches.cfm

All of us in Student Affairs look forward to working with you on your journey to secure a great residency position. Student Affairs is very well-equipped with the resources and expertise to assist each and every student with the process and we hope that you take the opportunity to work closely with us throughout the process. Please feel free to contact any of us for additional guidance at any time.

Stay safe and well.

Dr. Fantry

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Application Strategy and Contingency Plans

Student Affairs will work closely with each of you to try to achieve your professional goals. However, we will be clear with you regarding your likelihood of matching based upon your academic record and extracurricular activities, your competitiveness for your chosen specialty and the specific programs to which you have applied and ranked.

For everyone:
- Apply to a range of programs in terms of competitiveness
- Plan to interview at 12-15 programs (discuss with the your House Dean, specialty advisor and department how many places you should apply to receive this many interview offers)
- Plan to rank at least 12 programs (students with a very strong academic portfolio applying to less competitive specialties may be able to rank fewer)
- **Ranking fewer than 11-12 programs statistically increases your chance of not matching**
- Be proactive in contacting Student Affairs and your specialty advisors if you are not receiving an adequate number of invitations for interviews to allow for some intervention and modification of plans before the end of the application process

For students applying to specialties a little beyond their academic reach:
- Consider applying to a second, less competitive specialty **concurrently**
- Consider applying to a preliminary program in internal medicine or surgery **concurrently**
- If you would rather improve your credentials and apply again if unmatched
  1. Be clear on what you can do to improve your credentials
  2. If research experience is important, consider applying **concurrently** to research programs so that you have that as an option if you do not match
  3. If additional clinical work is important, consider applying to a preliminary program
  4. Consider earning an additional degree (MPH, JD, MBA) to either improve your credentials or as an alternate career option
  5. Understand that it can take **2 years** to really improve your application…1 year to do something and then the application year

There are **very few** desirable unfilled programs available for students to secure positions and they are largely preliminary surgery, preliminary IM and FM programs. **Entering the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP) for a position should be the last resort and not the first contingency plan.**
Graduation Requirements – Must be Completed by May 7, 2021

- Pass transitions, intersessions I and II, and all third year clerkships
- Pass 44 units in UACOM-T Transition to Residency phase (traditional 4th year)
  - Graduation requirements (16 Units):
    - 4 weeks Core Sub-Internship rotation
    - 4 weeks Integrated EM/CC rotation
    - 4 weeks Surgery Specialty Selective
    - 4 weeks Applications of Basic Science to Clinical Medicine course
  - Elective courses/rotations (28 Units, less if other units/credits accumulated such as preclinical/longitudinal equivalents – Distinction tracks)
- Pass Step 1, Pass Step 2 CK, Pass OSCE
- Take Step 2 CS

Important Reminders

- GPAs are calculated in mid-August using grades through third year to determine 4th year AOA eligibility
- AOA membership will be noted in the last bullet of the MSPE’s Noteworthy Characteristics
- GHHS membership will be noted in the MSPE’s final paragraph
- Ensure your social media profiles are professional and clean