2021 Advice for the Ophthalmology Residency Match
Purpose of this Webinar

• In this 90-minute webinar with Q&A, department chairs, medical student and resident educators in ophthalmology, as well as those who also hold roles in the dean’s office will share guidance about applying for this year’s ophthalmology residency match. Our goal is to provide the most up-to-date information from a group of dedicated educators who have diverse roles and geographic perspectives to our applicants and faculty that mentor students applying to the Ophthalmology match.

• Attendees will receive a handout with links to useful resources.

• This webinar and associated handout will be posted on both the AUPO and AAO websites.
Overview of the topics

• SF Match Timeline and What’s New? - Rukhsana Mirza, MD

• Ophthalmology Residency Process The Personal Statement / Defining your Journey - Keith D. Carter, MD

• Application Revisions: Moving Beyond the Personal Statement - David Quillen, MD

• The Ophthalmology Away Elective - Lisa Kelly, MD

• Identifying Mentors for LORs / What’s a Good Letter? - Janice C. Law, MD

• Advice from the Dean’s Office - Chris Alabiad, MD

• Assessment of a Program - Jeff Pettay, MD, MBA

• SF Match Interviews: Central Scheduling - Misha Syed, MD, MEHP

• Advice for the 2021 Match Cycle - R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA

• Open Q/A

Speakers have no conflicts to disclose
POLL
Why Ophthalmology?
What should I be doing right now?
SF Match Timeline and What’s New?

Rukhsana G. Mirza, MD, MS
Ryan-Pusateri Professor of Ophthalmology
Professor of Ophthalmology and Medical Education
Northwestern University/ Feinberg School of Medicine
July 7, 2021
Ophthalmology Residency Match Timeline for 2021–2022*

- **July 1**: Application portal opens. Program interview dates posted on SF Match website.
- **September 1**: Completed applications are released to programs. Applicants may upload supplemental documents and additional applications as available. Portal will remain open through Feb 1.
- **October 18**: First date that interview invitations may be extended.
- **November 1**: Interviews begin. All interviews must be conducted virtually.
- **January 7**: Interviews conclude by end of business on this date.
- **January 12**: Program rank lists due.
- **January 13**: Optional visits to programs may begin.
- **January 25**: Optional visits to programs conclude by the end of this date.
- **February 1**: Applicant rank lists due.
- **February 8**: Match results emailed to applicants and programs, and posted on SF Match website.

*Subject to change if circumstances dictate
July 1: Applicant registration portal opens.
Sept 1: Completed applications are released to programs. Applications will continue to be sent to programs on a rolling basis as they are completed. SF Match does not have a firm deadline to submit applications, although individual programs may have one.
Applicants are responsible for contacting programs for their individual deadlines.
October 18: Programs begin to extend invitations to interview to applicants. Interview invitations will continue to be sent on a rolling basis at the discretion of individual programs. Individuals will be able to accept a maximum of 18 interviews.
Nov 1: Interviews begin. All interviews will be virtual this year.
Jan 7: Final day of interviews.
Jan 12: Program deadline to submit rank lists.
Jan 13: Optional live program visits begin.
Jan 25: Last day for live program visits.
Feb 1: Applicant deadline to submit rank lists.
Feb 8: Match results made available to applicants, residency programs, and medical schools.
• Personal statement.
  o In order to increase diversity within the profession and to obtain a more holistic review of applicants, the former one-page personal statement has been replaced.
  o 500 word autobiographical sketch.
  o The application will contain a list of several short essay questions, and applicants will be asked to choose two of them to answer. (250 words each)
• Please be aware that some Ophthalmology residency programs may be evaluating holistic assessment tools as part of a voluntary pilot for the upcoming application cycle and that, at this time, these tools are not endorsed, approved, or required by AUPO, the AAO, or the SF Match.

• If you choose to apply to a program that is participating in the pilot, you will receive further instructions at the time of your application by the participating program.
The demographic portion of the portal will now include a query regarding gender identification in order to understand diversity in our profession. This question is completely optional, and answers will not be provided to programs, but will be used by the SF Match for demographic purposes only.
Ophthalmology Residency Process
The Personal Statement/ Defining your Journey

Keith D. Carter, MD
Professor and Chair
Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences
University of Iowa
Developing your Personal Statement

- Most important message is “Why you will be an excellent resident and physician”
- Opportunity to tell YOUR story - YOUR JOURNEY
- Life event, experiences in school, research, clinical care, community service
Don’ts:

• Don’t describe why the field you are applying to is interesting – the interview committee already knows this, as this is their field.

• Don’t use cliché phrases that are likely overused

• Don’t highlight qualities which may have the committee question your suitability as a resident (i.e., amblyopia when applying to ophthalmology) – this issue is tricky as it can be considered a disability, so I recommend speaking with a trusted advisor about nuances of this.
Consider:

• If there is a noticeable gap in your application – time off for medical or academic reasons, academic probation, a low step 1 score – this could be addressed in the personal statement. This is a personal decision.

• Revise your statement frequently and ask mentors to review.

• Don’t misspell O-p-h-t-h-a-l-m-o-l-o-g-y
• AUPO is changing the personal statement format
• Short autobiographic statement
• Short answer questions
• Details will follow this presentation
• These guidelines should still be relevant- as you prepare for the match and defining your story is critical for the interview as well
Application Revisions: Moving Beyond the Personal Statement

David Quillen, MD
Penn State Eye Center
Hershey, Pennsylvania
“I received my first pair of eyeglasses in the 3rd grade. With each lens click, I gained more clarity in my vision and my life’s purpose: I knew I wanted to be an ophthalmologist.”

“Ophthalmologists treat patients of all ages and are able to provide the full spectrum of eye care services from routine vision exams to complex ocular surgeries.”

“It is inspiring to observe the impact ophthalmologists have on the lives of their patients.”
Personal Statement: Applicant’s Perspective

• Opportunity to highlight personal attributes that may not be addressed in other sections of the application

• One of the most challenging—and dreaded—components of the application

• Ambiguous goals and objectives
  o personal accomplishments/characteristics?
  o life experiences impacting career choice?
  o desirable qualities of ophthalmology?
  o ultimate career aspirations?
Personal Statement: Reviewer’s Perspective

• Conflicting perspectives on value and importance
  - Ranked 18/25 of applicant characteristics thought to be predictive of future resident performance by program directors, chairs, or resident selection committee representatives (Nallasamy et al. *Ophthalmology*. 2010;117:1041-1047)
  - Implicit bias may contribute to gender disparities (Demzik et al. *Urology*. 2021;150:2-8)
Moving Beyond the Personal Statement

• Goals
  o To enhance diversity and inclusivity within Ophthalmology
  o To ensure a fair and equitable application process
  o To promote and facilitate a holistic review of applicants

• Based on the recommendation of the Match Oversight Committee, the AUPO Board of Trustees approved the replacement of the personal statement with:
  o Autobiographical Sketch
  o Short Essay Questions
What’s new for 2021???

• Autobiographical Sketch
  o Opportunity to share your story—your personal “elevator pitch” on who you are and why you believe you are a qualified applicant
  o Opportunity to highlight background, personal characteristics, unique or differentiating qualities and/or experiences that distinguish you as a person and as an applicant

• Short Essay Questions
  o Applicants will select two questions from a short list of standardized questions generated by the AUPO Match Oversight Committee
  o The use of standardized questions provides direction to applicants, promotes consistency and fairness, and enhances the ability of reviewers to compare responses among applicants
What’s new for 2021???

- Customization Options
  - Applicants have the ability to customize their autobiographical sketch for individual residency programs
    - Opportunity to express specific interest and/or unique qualifications to targeted programs
    - Not recommended for all programs but may be option for “preference signaling” limited number of programs
  - Applicants have ability to select different short essay questions for individual residency programs
    - Technically possible but we expect most applicants will answer only two short essay questions and submit the same answers to all of the programs
Best wishes for a successful Ophthalmology Match!!!
The Ophthalmology Away Elective

Lisa Kelly, MD
University of Cincinnati
July 7, 2021
What is an Away Elective?

An away elective is not required to match in ophthalmology

• M4 elective at a location other than your home institution
• An opportunity to broaden your experience and exposure to ophthalmology.
• Coordinated by the AAMC VSLO (Visiting student learning opportunities)
• Requires an application submitted via VSAS
• Due to COVID students are only allowed one away elective
Away Elective Timeline

Winter M3
Investigate Options

Spring M3
Submit application

Summer/Fall M4
Attend Elective
Why do an Away Elective?

Pro

• Exposure to a new ophthalmology learning environment
• Opportunity to work with a mentor
• Concentrated exposure to a particular topic of interest in ophthalmology
• Increased chance of being offered a residency interview

Con

• Financial cost
• Opportunity cost
• Schools have different academic calendars
• You may not get your first choice of program(s)
Determining Where to do an Away Elective

- Consult with your mentor(s)
- Seek advice from older students and residents
- Consider desired geographic locations
- Consider locations where you will have social support
- Consider programs with clinical strength in your area of interest
- Consult Texas Star or Doximity for program information
How to Ace the Application Process

• Study and understand the VSAS application process
• Visit individual program websites for additional information
• Start your investigation early
• Stay organized – consider creating a spreadsheet
• Know which immunizations are required
• Arrange a social support system if possible - housing, transportation and daily living.
Put your Best Foot Forward on Away Electives

- Know as much as you can about the program
- Read about the faculty that you will work with
- Review the syllabus and know what will be expected of you
- Have a support system in place for housing and transportation

- Make sure that your clinical ophthalmology skills are polished
- Practice your presentation skills
- Review your fund of knowledge
- Be pleasant to everyone that you interact with
Long-term Benefits

• Let faculty and residents know of your interest in the away residency program
• Send thank you notes/ follow-up email letting key faculty know that you appreciated the opportunity
• Stay connected via research projects or other opportunities. This is an opportunity to enhance your professional network and identify potential mentors.
Take Aways

• Consider doing an away elective early
• Study the VSAS process – know it well
• Be clear about your goals and objectives
• Optimize your application
• Be prepared to do an outstanding job during your away elective
References

• VSAS Covid updates https://www.aamc.org/what-we-do/mission-areas/medical-education/away-rotations-interviews-2020-21-residency-cycle

• VSAS application process https://students-residents.aamc.org/students/explore-urim-opportunities-visiting-students

• Texas Star https://www.utsouthwestern.edu/education/medical-school/about-the-school/student-affairs/texas-star.html

• URIM opportunities https://students-residents.aamc.org/students/explore-urim-opportunities-visiting-students
Identifying Mentors for LORs
What’s a Good Letter?

Janice C. Law, MD
Vanderbilt Eye Institute
Director of Medical Student Education
July 7, 2021
What’s in a recommendation letter?

• The context the letter writer knows you
• Review of achievements
• Specific and personal examples
  o of your performance
  o aspects that set you apart
• What qualities you will bring to the residency
• Explain any hardships or challenges

Dear Resident Review Committee,
Identifying a mentor for letters
Ask yourself…

- Who has seen and interacted with me in these domains:
  - Clinical reasoning
  - Patient care team
  - Research (Analytical skills and writing)

- Who has witnessed my:
  - Leadership or service
  - Communication skills
  - Professionalism/Integrity

- Who can speak to my strengths?
  - What are they? List them.

Note – only one letter needs to come from an ophthalmologist
Some internships require Internal Medicine or Surgery letter
The ASK

• Initiate in person or email, but always follow up with email
  o Let people know your intentions early (i.e. after a rotation or before a rotation)

• Be sure adequate time is given to write (4-6 weeks)

• Set up a one-on-one meeting
  o Discuss key attributes you want to highlight
  o Discuss concerns you have about your application

• Before the meeting, email these:
  o Updated professional CV
  o Personal statement or autobiography
  o Photograph (optional)
  o Ask if you need to prepare anything else

• After the meeting:
  o Follow up with thank you email
  o Include deadline reminder, submission details and short summary of meeting
  o Ask if it would help to send a reminder email when deadline is closer
Unique situations

• What if mentors say no?
• What if they ask you to draft your own letter?
• What if you mainly worked with residents/fellows?
• How do you address the following in your letter?
  o Reapplying
  o Probation
  o Remediation
  o Hardships
Opportunities to enhance or deepen interactions

- Virtual mentoring
- Research or case reports
- New initiatives
- Invitations and outreach
- Shadowing
Mentee expectations

- **Commitment**: To fully participate in the mentoring relationship
- **Responsibility**: To accept responsibility for his/her career development
- **Honesty/Authenticity**: To communicate honestly with the mentor and communicate often
- **Proactive**: To take initiative in seeking help and feedback from the mentor
- **Receptive**: Willingness to listen, learn, and change
- **Follow through**: To implement feedback and complete tasks
Thank You and Good Luck!

Janice.Law@Vanderbilt.Edu
Advice from the Dean’s Office

Chris Alabiad, MD
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs
Residency Program Director
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
Is Ophthalmology the right career for me?

• Gauging interest
  • Clinic/OR shadowing opportunities
  • Virtual opportunities: Grand Rounds, Lectures, Conferences
• Identify a specialty specific mentor
How do I stack up against the crowd?

Factors to Consider:

- USMLE Step 1 Score
- Class Standing
- Research Accomplishments
- Unique interest/talent
- Adversity
- Supportive mentor
- Leadership/Service
How does one improve their odds?

• No "one size fits all" answer
• Can’t undo certain metrics
• BUT, you can …
  • Try to do well on USMLE Step 2 CK
  • Demonstrate dedication to/passion for the field through research
Speaking of USMLE Step 2 CK…

• When should I take it?
• How important is it?
• How long to prepare for it?
• What if my score comes in after I submit my application?
What options can I consider if I don’t measure up?

- Are you “Ophthalmology or bust”
  - Consider a research year
    - Not a guarantee to secure a match the following year
- Are you happy in any clinical setting?
  - Consider double applying
Taking a year off for research/other degree

• **Important factors:**
  • Identify a supportive mentor with a track record of success
  • Identify a research topic that stimulates you

• **Consider applying for a research fellowship**
  • NIH Medical Research Scholars Program
  • RPB Medical Student Research Fellowship
  • Home institution student research programs
Working on the MSPE/Deans Letter

• Work closely with your advising dean on 3 unique characteristics/contributions
• Review your clerkship narratives for accuracy
It’s time to apply! Where do I apply?

• Tips to applying SMART:
  • IGNORE THE RANKINGS!! This is about YOU!
  • Reflect on YOUR learning style and career goals
    • independent vs closely supervised environment?
    • research a big component of your future career?
    • interest in pursuing a fellowship vs being a comprehensive ophthalmologist?
    • Are there “life” mentors and “career” mentors you identify with?
  • How important is proximity to your family/social support system?
  • Talk to your ophthalmology mentor to identify programs aligning with above
Assessment of a Program

Jeff Pettey, MD, MBA
Residency Program Director, Vice Chair Education
Moran Eye Center, University of Utah
July 7, 2021
PRETTY PLEASE
WITH SPRINKLES ON TOP
MATCH ALGORITHM
MATCH ALGORITHM
PROGRAMS ASSESSED

ASSESSMENT DEPTH

INITIAL EVALUATION
100%

APPLY
80%

Interview at 12

Match 1

SUPERFICIAL

MODERATE

DETAILED

OBSESSIVE
Program Assessment Pearls

- Lean Into Bias
  - Sampling Bias
  - Confirmation Bias
  - Familiarity Heuristic

- Limited Information and Data

- Culture, Culture, Culture
Program Generated Content

• Websites

• Virtual Open Houses

• Promotional Materials
Program Assessment TOOLS

• Doximity’s Residency Navigator
• SF Match
• AMA’s FREIDA
• GME Track
• ACGME
**Dark Web - Web Comments Section**

**eyeballin23**  Today at 119 PM  
I have a mini crush on the Colorado PD  
@kim99999 ooh sounds juicy explain  

**kim99999**  Today at 120 PM  
idk I just watched a video of him talking about the program  

**eyeballin23**  Today at 120 PM  
Will have to check out. I know I def have a crush on WVU PD (like not in a weird way I just love him ok?) (he's like 70)  
😊 3  

**aussie1**  Today at 121 PM  
Rumor has it he is the nicest ophtho PD there is  

**eyeballin23**  Today at 121 PM  
Ugh I bet. He reminds me of the grandpa from Up.  
😊 1
Dark Web

I have a mini crush on the Colorado PD
@kim99999 ooh sounds juicy explain

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Ugh I bet. He reminds me of the grandpa from Up.
Dark Web

eyeballin23  Today at 11:59 PM
I have a mini crush on the Colorado PD
@kim99999 ooh sounds juicy explain

kim99999  Today at 12:00 PM
idk I just watched a video of him talking about the program

eyeballin23  Today at 12:00 PM
Will have to check out. I know I def have a crush on WVU PD (like not in a weird way I just love him ok?) (he’s like 70)

aussie1  Today at 12:01 PM
Rumor has it he is the nicest ophtho PD there is

eyeballin23  Today at 12:11 PM
Ugh I bet. He reminds me of the grandpa from Up.
Dark Web
Advice from the 2020-2021 Application Cycle:

Start writing down meaningful experiences with patients/residents/faculty, both positive AND negative, now. It'll make your life easier when you have to think of examples to use for behavioral questions. Applies especially if you took a research year like myself and forgot everything from M3 year haha +4

Yes yes yes yes yes, could not agree with this more!!!! +1

Such good advice

Around April, make a list of 10 programs you would want to train at. Start with location if that's important to you. Email the program coordinator and ask if they can connect you to any residents who come from similar background (e.g. alma mater, have kids, ethno). If/then they reply-at least they did for me. Set up a time to chat with the resident via phone. Ask about the program, the city and how they like it. Ask for advice and in some cases see if they will proof your personal statement. By doing so you will gain a friend at a place where you want to interview and an advocate who can mention your name to the program director. This method resulted in a generous number of interviews for me that I might not have received otherwise.

I did this and it did not help me at all- had a lot of great convoes with residents tho but felt like it was a bit of a waste. Maybe bc they were all higher tier schools? not sure +4

Seems like you may have just gotten lucky! Would have gotten an interview here anyway. Doing an away may swing the odds in your favor. I have doubts that from a residency PD standpoint, you trying to garner favor from the residents will net you any significant interviews.

Yeah this seems silly IMO – OP probably would have gotten those interviews regardless and this is kinda weird considering we all shotgun apply to 80+ anyway

OP here. Step 1 was 240, 2nd Tertile, low-mid tier school, not AOA. Applied to 78 programs, 13 interviews—only 2 came from programs where i had not previously built a relationship with residents. Still going to reaffirm networking was key. OP update: following interviews several residents texted me and said "factual here were impressed, great job on the program. This was very helpful when considering rankings and was made possible because of networking. Networking, how dreams are made (cue futurisic music)

How did you build relation residents? I: Yes, how exact network so effectively?

Lots of wine, but not too much. < yes to 1, no to 2

< rate of wine consumption increases exponentially over interview season, so pace yourself

Especially for upper-tier programs, research is the great equalizer. You can have subpar board scores and clinical grades and publications in good ophthalmology journals will get you an interview. Seeking out an engaged research mentor as early as possible in med school is hands down the most high yield way to upgrade your application, at least in the experience of n = 1 < second this (my2) < third < fourth (academic programs want to see academic activities; that said, i wouldn't just go to academic program if you have 0 interest in research) < agreed with this - research is more important at research-heavy programs and you shouldn't go to those programs if you hate research. However, i got interviews at a lot of clinically heavy programs with research but without great clinical scores so I think research can still be useful in helping you get that interview

I will also add: you will be discriminated against if you don't want to do academic practice and state that in your app (contrary to what my advisors told me). This came up verbatim in one of my interviews that while my app was great they weren't seriously considering me for this reason. Always lie and say you want to do academics.

Always hedge your bets when applying to ophthalmology - the process can be extremely random and arbitrary. I will strongly advise dual applying just in case. It's more work, but in case of no match, you're not "stuck"

Application Advice:

Apply EVERYWHERE because you have nothing to lose. It's a little more you are investing into your future. Just because you want to be in a certain geographic area, it doesn't mean you can't move elsewhere for 4 years. You can and you will make it work. I have gotten it's from places I never would've considered geographically, and have matched very far away from my original location. Have no shame.

I definitely agree with applying broadly. There were places I thought I'd have no problem getting an interview that I didn't get one, and there were programs I would have never guessed would be interested that gave me an interview. That said, I don't think there's any reason to apply to every single program.

Agree, and to add to this I ended up ranking many programs further from home above those closer to family because I thought they were a great fit for my wife and I. These are programs that I wouldn't have considered if I was limited in where I applied and I'm so happy to have matched at one of them.

Your letters matter so much more than you realize. Try to choose someone who is good at writing letters/ Knows what PDs are looking for and who offers. < yes x10000. Cannot

I think at the end of the day, it's the

Very mediocre applicant – letters
Advice from the 2020-2021 Application Cycle:

Start writing down meaningful experiences with patients/residents/faculty, both positive and negative. Start making your life easier when you want to think of examples to use for behavioral questions. Apply especially if you took a research year like myself and forgot everything from M3 year hahaha.

Around April, make a list of about 10 programs you would want to train at. Start with location first that's important to you. Email the program coordinator and ask if they can connect you to any residents who come from similar background (e.g. alma mater, have kids, ethnicity). 9/10 they reply-at least they did for me. Set up a time to chat with the resident via phone. Ask about the program, the city and how they like it. Ask for advice and in some cases see if they will proof your personal statement. By doing so you will gain a friend at a place where you want to interview and an advocate who can mention your name to the program director. This method resulted in a generous number of interviews for me that I might not have received otherwise.

Start building a rapport with letter writers early. Things specific to YOU are really key in LoRs.

Lots of wine, but not too much. < yes to 1, no to 2

Especially for upper-tier programs, research is the great equalizer. You can have subpar board scores and clinical grades and publications in good ophthalmology journals will get you an interview. Sealing out an engaged research mentor as early as possible in med school is hands down the most high yield way to upgrade your application, at least in the experience of n = 1 here < second this (n2) < third < fourth (academic programs want to see academic activities; that said, I wouldn't just go to academic program if you have 0 interest in research) agreed with this - research is more important at research-heavy programs and you shouldn't go to those programs if you hate research. However, I did get interviews at a lot of clinically heavy programs with research but without great clinical scores so I think research can still be useful in helping you get that interview.

Always hedge your bets when applying to ophthalmology - the process can be extremely random and arbitrary. I would strongly advise dual applying just in case. Its more work, but in case of no match, you're not "stuck"

Application Advice:

Understand residents Sướng.
Program Assessment Pearls

- Lean Into Bias
  - Sampling Bias
  - Confirmation Bias
  - Etc.

- Limited Information and Data

- Culture, Culture, Culture
SF Match Interviews:
Central Scheduling

Misha Syed MD, MEHP
University of Texas Medical Branch
Professor and Residency Program Director, Ophthalmology
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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| Thursday, July 1, 2021           | • Applicant registration opens.  
• Please note that although registration is open until the rank list deadline, applicants are encouraged to register as early as possible to allow time to apply and for interviews. |
| Wednesday, September 1, 2021     | • Completed applications are released to programs.  
• Applicants may upload supplemental documents and additional applications as available.  
This is **NOT** a deadline. Programs can accept applications after this date. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact training programs for individual deadline dates. |
| Monday, October 18, 2021         | • First date that interviews can be extended.                                                                                                                                                        |
| Monday, November 1, 2021 - Friday, January 7, 2022 | • Interview Period. All interviews are VIRTUAL.                                                                                                                                                      |
Important NEW Information on Virtual Interviews

• There is a cap of 18 interviews per applicant this year. Depending on the program, an interview may be a half-day or it may be longer.

• The central scheduling system in SF Match will not allow for any time overlap between different program interviews, but you may be able to schedule two interviews in one day if the timeframes do not conflict.
Dear Jonathan Carter (ID: 63898),

You have an interview invitation from the program listed below:

Program ID: 5460
Program Name: Northwestern University - Kidney/Liver/Pancreas/Hepatobiliary
Specialty: Abdominal Transplant Surgery Fellowship

Sincerely,
SF Match Team
### TASK LIST

- Select the Programs where you have interviewed
- Submit Rank List
  - Deadline: 06/30/2021 - 12:00 pm

### COMPLETED TASKS

- Complete Personal Info Section
- Submit Additional Information
- Create Personal Statement
- Upload Global Documents
- Request Letters of Recommendation
- Assign LORs/Personal Statement to Applied Programs

### MATCH SUMMARY
- SF Match ID: 63898
- Applicant: Jonathan Carter
- Applied Programs: 13
- Rank List Status: -
- Match Results: 07/02/2021
- Application: Print PDF

### WHAT MAKES YOUR APPLICATION COMPLETE?

**Complete Your Personal Information**

Try to complete your Personal Information sections before applying to programs. Your personal information is displayed to the program after you apply.

**Submit Additional Information**

You can save your Additional Information form but you must submit your additional information form before your application is considered complete.

**Upload All Required Documents**

Make sure to upload all of your required documents. Please note that some documents may need to be uploaded by your Medical School. Please refer to your Global Documents page.

**Assign Personal Statements and LORs**

[Logo: American Academy of Ophthalmology]

[Logo: Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology]
Program Invitation shows interview dates

Northwestern University - Kidney/Liver/Pancreas/Hepatobiliary Abdominal Transplant Surgery Fellowship

Invitations: 5
Accepted: 4
No limits for the match: 0

Northwestern U...

May 04, 2021
3rd Party Video Conference
06:00 am → 04:00 pm MST
Northwestern University - Kidney/Liver/Pancreas/Hepatobiliary
Abdominal Transplant Surgery Fellowship

Accept interview date and time

09:00 am — 10:00 am MST
10:00 am — 11:00 am CST

Accept
JUNE 9, 2021

**Northwestern University - Kidney/Liver/Pancreas/Hepatobiliary**
Abdominal Transplant Surgery Fellowship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Interview is confirmed (09:00 am → 10:00 am MST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Info</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interview limits for the match: no limits
Video Conference Interview Platform in SF Match
How can I maximize my virtual interview impression and experience?

• Just like in-person interviews, do your homework! Review program in detail ahead of time, have specific questions ready

• Dress as you would for any interview; make sure your environment looks professional through the screen (check ahead of time to ensure light is good, no distracting elements)

• Make sure you have your best foot forward throughout the interview process (may be spread over 1-2 days between resident mixers, interviews, etc.) – avoid showing zoom fatigue

• You may have the opportunity to participate in a pilot program to incorporate situational judgment testing and other non-cognitive assessments into your application profile; depending on the programs you apply to, this may be part of your application process (if they are part of the pilot)
Thank you!

Questions?

mfsyed@utmb.edu
SF Match Webinar: July 14, 2021
4pm PT / 6pm CT / 7pm ET
https://bit.ly/3w7h4Hm
Advice for the 2021 Match Cycle

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PGY1

• Traditional internship is what we have been doing for years
  o Match PGY1 thru NRMP
  o Match ophtho thru SF Match

• All programs must convert to integrated or joint by July 1, 2023

• 3 months ophthalmology required in PGY1

• Citations not issued till after July 1, 2023

• Type of PGY1 is listed on SFM website for each program
New PGY1

- **Joint**
  - Administrated by another department (IM, Surgery, etc)
  - Other department responsible for curriculum, evaluations, HR issues, scheduling, etc
  - NRMP + SF Match required

- **Integrated**
  - Administrated by ophthalmology
  - Ophthalmology directs curriculum
  - Ophthalmology responsible for evals, HR, schedules, etc
  - Payment models vary
    - As may control and responsibility
  - SF Match only needed
Integrated PG1 in reality…

• Ophthalmologists are not internists or general surgeons
• We need a close relationship with IM or Surgery or FM to do this
• It is a compromise to determine schedule and interaction with other departments
Scheduling issues to consider

- Need time for wards and units
- Useful rotations include
  - Rheumatology, endocrinology, neurology
  - (Neuro) radiology, ENT, neurosurgery, plastic surgery
  - ER, outpatient primary care
- How much procedural experience do you want?
- How to do the 3 months of ophthalmology
  - All ophtho residents together last 3 mos vs in separate or partial blocks
- Call responsibilities
Open Houses

- New program for SF Match this cycle
- Low-stress optional opportunity for applicants to visit programs at which they have interviewed
- Easily scheduled like interviews through SF Match platform
- When?
  - After programs submit their rank lists
  - Before applications submit their rank lists
Live Open Houses

• No limit on number of open houses that applicants may attend
• Up to 4 hours in length
• May include one meal/reception
• Tour of facilities, city highlights, campus
• Information sharing and socialization with residents and faculty
• NO interviews, discussion of rank lists, or coercive activity permitted
  o Coercive activity should be reported to AUPO
Live Open Houses Important Dates

- November—programs list dates, times, and slots for post-interview open houses. Only interviewees at the program may attend.
- December—applicants sign up for open houses
- January 12—program rank lists due; programs see names of applicants coming to open houses
- January 13-26—live program visits
- February 1—applicant rank lists due
2021 Advice for the Ophthalmology Residency Match

Question & Answer

Thank you for attending!