

Programs & Applicants Updates on AUA/SAU Preference Signaling Urology Match 2023-2024:

Background:

The 2nd cycle of Urology Preference Signaling (PS) in the 2022-2023 Urology **Match showed largely similar outcomes to the 2021-2022 pilot**. The average signals sent to programs was 18 (range 1 to 61), 48% of signals went to the 25% of programs, overall interview rate in 2023 was 13%, signaled interview rate was 52%, non-signaled interview rate was 11% and therefore there was a 4-fold increase in likelihood of interview with a signal. Qualitatively, **applicant and program perceptions remained positive about PS**, and programs largely incorporated PS into initial application review.

Rationale:

The SAU board has **examined the experience of other ERAS specialties such as Ortho and OBGyn**. Ortho elected a large volume signaling program of 30 signals to create value for both programs and applicants using data in Urology (Kogan et al 2022) that simulated a capped application process. Ortho realized a broader signal distribution as well as 12% reduction in applications per student in addition to the benefit of an increased interview rate (signaled 23%, non-signaled 1%, overall, 5%). OBGyn utilized a tiered system and realized a 53% interview rate for gold signaled, 31% for silver signaled and 5% for non-signaled. (A Preliminary Research and Review and Program Reactions to Program Signaling. ERAS, AAMC & OPDA. Available at <https://vimeo.com/819886701>).

Changes:

With these data in mind, a positive Ortho & OB experience, the plan for 6 other specialties to increase to large volume signals in 2023-2024 (Ortho, OBGyn, ENT, Anesthesia, Derm, Radiology) and the potential to reduce application volume and allow for holistic review, the SAU/AUA has elected to give **applicants 30 equally weighted signals in the 2023 – 2024 Urology Match cycle**.

In addition, the AAMC has recommended all participating specialties in ERAS's preference signaling process **signal their most interested programs regardless of whether they are home or away rotations** as the most fair and equitable process for all applicants. Therefore, within Urology, PS will now include home/away programs as potential signal targets consistent with AAMC recommendations for 2023-24.

Clarification of ERAS Geographical Signaling and AUA/SAU PS process:

Urology applicants will also see in ERAS this year new fields to include **geographic preferences and information about their most meaningful work, volunteer, or research experiences** (additional essay). These ERAS changes have been fully integrated from the "Sup App" ERAS pilot in 2022 into the ERAS system for all applicants in all specialties. Unlike last year, specialties cannot opt out of the supplemental application components which include geographic preferences and information about their most meaningful work, volunteer work, or research experiences and therefore urology applicants will be able to select up to 3 "geographic preferences" in ERAS in addition to participating in the AUA/SAU Preference Signaling Program

For program and applicants, these are some additional resources/few short videos on the experience update and geographic preferences. [MyERAS Application Geographic Information Updates \[click.email.aamc.org\]](#) focuses on how applicants can share their geographic preferences in the 2024 ERAS application (3 minutes). [MyERAS Experiences Update \[click.email.aamc.org\]](#) highlights the targeted experiences section, including meaningful and impactful experience fields (3 minutes).

Summary Changes for PS In the Urology Match 2023-2024:

- 1. Paradigm shift to large volume signals (30) per applicant in the Urology Match 2023-2024.**
- 2. Applicants will be instructed to send signals to home and away rotation programs if they desire to signal these programs.**