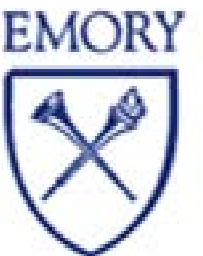


# THE MATCH: EARLY OR NOT?

Chad W M. Ritenour, MD  
Professor & Vice Chair of Urology  
Emory University School of Medicine



# DISCLOSURE

Member—ACGME Review Committee for Urology<sup>#</sup>

<sup>#</sup>Opinions are my own

# OBJECTIVES

- Highlight voiced concerns with the current state
- Perform a pulse check for opinions on the future state

Keep the early match?

# OTHER QUESTIONS

- What is the level of trust in the process?
- What are the demands on the applicant and the program?
- Does the current practice promote gaming the system?
- What are the rules? Are they followed?

# HISTORY

- First national organized match for medical internships started in 1952 (developed into NRMP)\*
- Over 25 years ago, AUA began facilitating the Urology match for the Society of University Urologists
- Timeline for completion of Urology match (and several other specialties) developed into an earlier period than standard NRMP

\*Roth (2000); *JAMA* 289:909-912.

# WHEN I APPLIED...

Five specialties had “early match” timelines

- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- Ophthalmology
- Otolaryngology
- Urology

Now, there are two

- Ophthalmology
- Urology

# WHAT ELSE HAS DEVELOPED?

- USMLE mean scores have risen
- ERAS was started
- “Research” has become an increasingly important part of a student’s application
- Student expectations



# MOVING THE MATCH TIMELINE

## PROS?

- NRMP is well-established; potential economies of scale
- Aligns timeline for medical schools
- Couples match is incorporated

## CONS?

- Removes specialty control from match process
- Adjusts timeline for programs
- Does not allow for unmatched applicants to apply to “second” match in another specialty

Change is not necessarily  
bad, but it is HARD...

Thoughts?

# MATCH BEHAVIORS

- We all want the best residents
- The bar keeps getting raised
- So, how do we maintain healthy competition?

**SELLING  
YOUR  
OWN  
PROGRAM**

**NEGATIVELY  
REFLECTING  
ON ANOTHER  
PROGRAM**

# POST-INTERVIEW CONTACT

# Urology Residency Match Guidelines for Programs

- All vacancies in each program will be offered as part of the match.
- No offers or commitments to "rank an applicant first on my list" will be made to applicants before the match.
- No verbal contact with applicants will be made by anyone from a program after the interviews. Contact by letter is permissible.
- No offers will be made to an applicant outside the match until after the match is completed.
- Programs agree to accept any applicant submitted on their ranking list.
- Programs agree that after the match no commitments will be made with an applicant matched with a different program unless there is mutual agreement between all three parties including both program directors and the applicant.

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# Post-Interview Contact

- Contact by letter or email is always permissible.
- Telephone contact initiated by a program director or department personnel at any level is considered undue pressure and should not take place.
- Telephone calls from applicants are acceptable.

**2017 MATCH**

# ADJUSTMENTS OVER TIME

**2011**

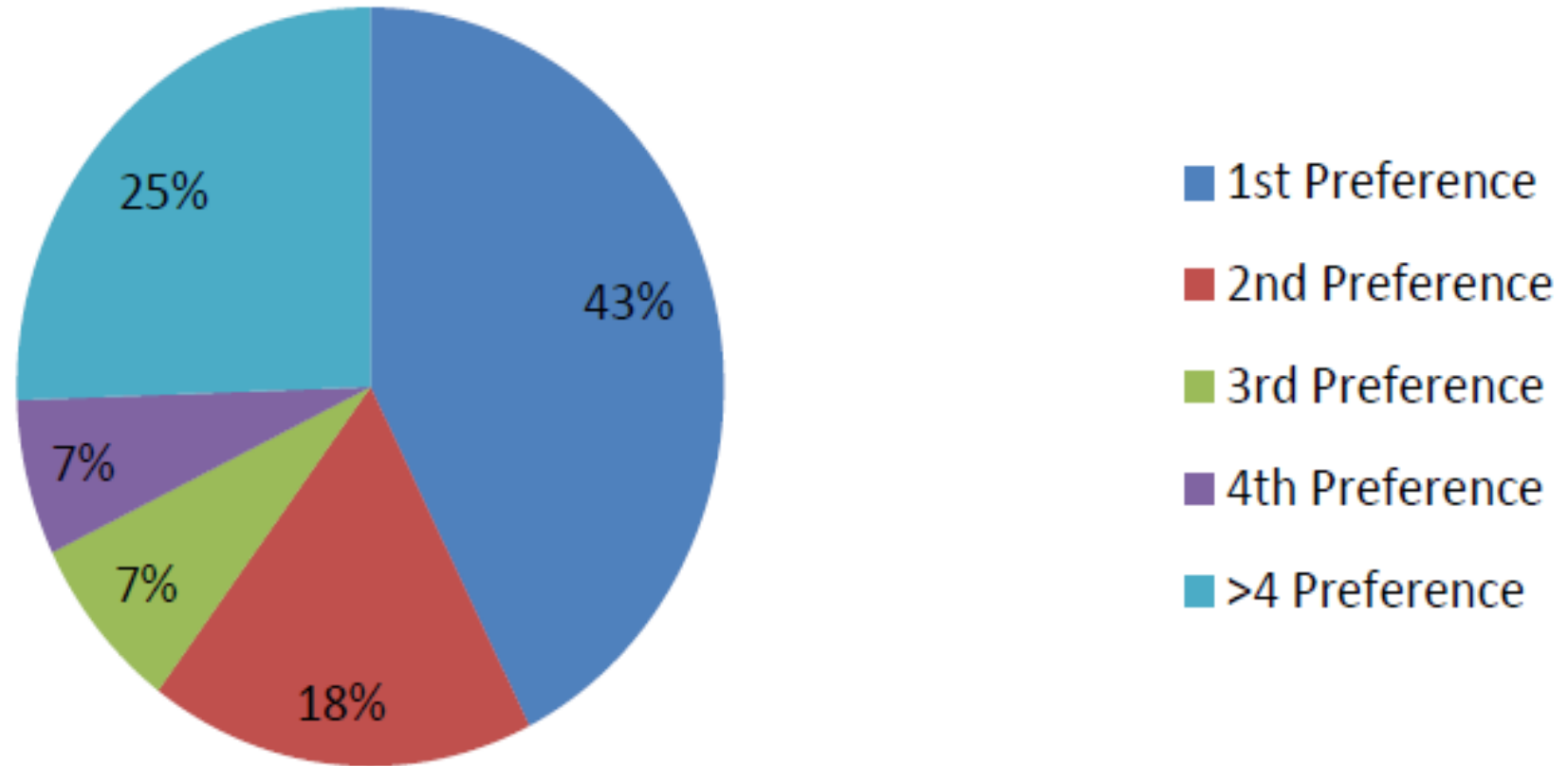
- 271 positions offered
- 68 average applications
- 11 interviews (average)
- 75% overall match rate

**2017**

- 319 positions offered
- 48 average applications
- 11 interviews (average)
- 79% overall match rate

# Matches by Preference Selection - All Matched Applicants

2017



**THANK YOU**