



Opportunities for the Unmatched Applicant

Granville Lloyd – Program Director
University of Colorado
Intern Program
3/year

Chris Deibert – Program Director
University of Nebraska
Urology Resident Associate
1/year

Both programs are paid positions with direct urological clinical care.

No relevant disclosures



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Urology Resident Associate

- 1 year, 40 hours weekly, no call, 3 weeks vacation
 - Typically 6a-2p but flexible
- Improve hospital throughput, be available to floor nurses
- Assist w rounds, consults, notes
- Time in OR
 - Uncovered cases
 - General surgery stent certification
 - Double scrubbing

100% (3/3) Match Rate



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Unmatched Applicants



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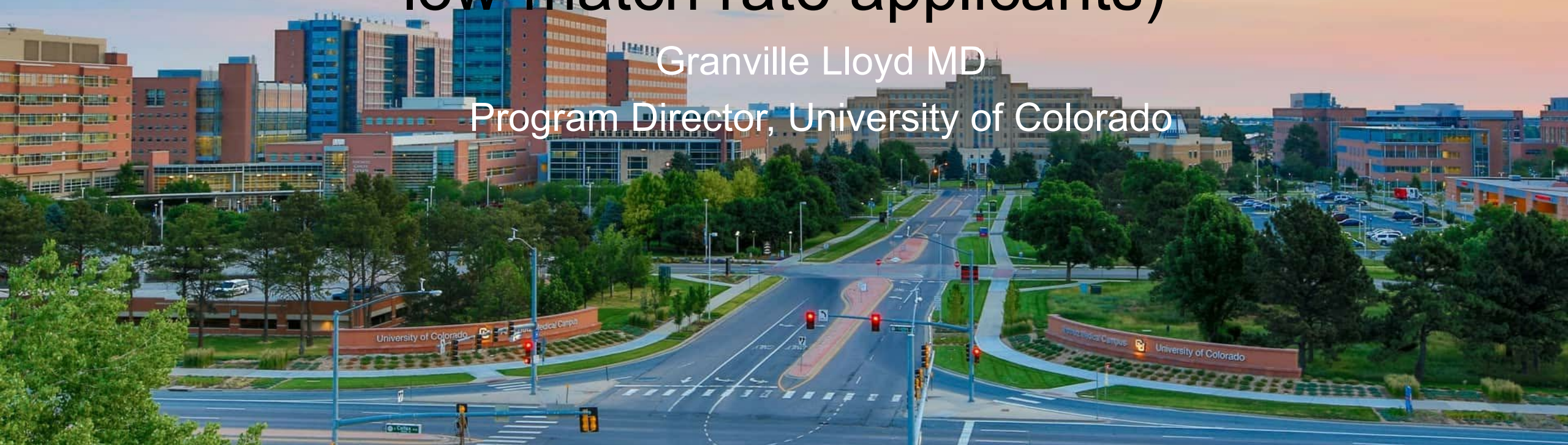
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Options for Unmatched Candidates (and insights into low-match rate applicants)

Granville Lloyd MD

Program Director, University of Colorado



- Urology is competitive!
- Match fail rate still around 15% for US grads first time
- 25% overall



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Unmatched Applicants

What's the next step?

- Research?
- Clinical?
- SAU Fellowship?

- Change of plans entirely?



Identify weaknesses



WHY ARE THEY HERE?



WHAT WILL BEST POSITION
THEM FOR SUCCESS ON THE
RE-RUN?



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How do they win?

Through the Match – hard but potential

- Bonus if you go to a place that loves you

Outside the match!

- Often a homerun. No repeats, direct entry.
- Before or After Match
- Applicants must monitor website aggressively



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Unmatched Applicants

How to help prelims - lab or clinical

- Day 0: help them identify ways to get as much **support** as rapidly as possible
 - Research projects
 - Faculty Exposure – encourage meetings, Grand Rounds, etc..
- Consider what specific deficiencies are and coach to them
 - Ask them!
 - Practice interviews
 - Self discovery/ coaching
 - Identify resident mentor(s)

The Colorado Unmatched Program



University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus

The Colorado Program

- Mentors, meetings, **coaching** and support as needed.
- Ideally the identification of one **rapidly achievable** project (“things I can say about you”)
- Front load Urology Rotations – 6 months of Urology total in the year
- **All take the ISE**

The Colorado unmatched program

- Challenges:
 - General Surgery/ NRMP Match dynamics: **3 means 3.0**
 - General Surgery organization/ support – mandatory!
 - Funding!
 - Can they leave early if an immediate slot opens?
 - **Overall logistics burden:**
 - 40 + applications to read and interview
 - Support, mentorship and growth of more learners

Successes

- We have placed all but two (14/16)
- One changed plans to FM
- Tad Manalo -> GURS applicant



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A Novel Urology Preliminary Residency Curriculum Within a Department of Surgery for Unmatched Applicants



Tad A. Manalo, MD,^{*} Nicole M. Mott, MD, MSCR,[†] Victoria E. Gonzalez, MD,[‡] Mark R. Nehler, MD,[†] Kshama Jaiswal, MD,[†] Kerri L. Thurmon, MD,^{*} Vijaya M. Vemulakonda, MD, JD,^{*,#} and Nicole T. Christian, MD, MSCS^{†,#}

^{*}University of Colorado, Department of Surgery, Division of Urology, Denver Colorado; [†]University of Colorado, Department of Surgery, Denver, Colorado; and [‡]University of Iowa, Department of Urology, Iowa City, Iowa

OBJECTIVE: Traditional options for unmatched applicants in urology include pursuing a research fellowship or completing a preliminary general surgery training year. We aimed to create a novel urology-focused preliminary curriculum.

DESIGN: The general surgery program commits three preliminary positions for urology-focused interns. These interns complete six months of urology rotations and six months of general surgery rotations. Additionally, they are paired with a urology faculty member to participate in a longitudinal coaching and mentorship program.

SETTING: The curriculum is situated within a Department of Surgery, which includes the Division of Urology, at one academic institution.

PARTICIPANTS: Eight residents have completed the urology-focused preliminary curriculum in three academic years (2022-2023).

RESULTS: Six residents have obtained categorical urology positions. Four matched via the American Urological Association Urology Match into a post-graduate year 1 (PGY1) position, and two matched outside of a formal matching process into a PGY2 position.

CONCLUSION: This urology-focused preliminary curriculum presents a novel strategy to address the growing number of unmatched applicants in competitive surgical subspecialties such as urology. (J Surg Ed 81:1529–1532. © 2024 Association of Program Directors in Surgery. Published by Elsevier Inc. All rights are

reserved, including those for text and data mining, AI training, and similar technologies.)

KEY WORDS: match, preliminary resident, surgery, surgical education, urology

ACGME COMPETENCIES: Patient Care, Systems-Based Practice, Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

BACKGROUND

Each year graduating medical students participate in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) to obtain graduate medical education training positions. Some specialties, such as urology, have a separate matching process that occurs outside the NRMP. Matching is a high stakes process. Beyond the scholastic, extracurricular, and research metrics needed to be a competitive applicant, the number of applications a student has to submit to match has steadily risen, along with associated costs.¹⁻³ In addition to the emotional challenge of going unmatched,⁴ matching success diminishes in subsequent attempts, especially in competitive specialties.² Many unmatched applicants participate in the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP) in the hopes of obtaining an open categorical or preliminary training position.

In a competitive specialty like urology, these issues are exacerbated. In the 2023-2024 application cycle, the urology match rate was 77% (385 matches/500 applications).⁵ Match rates for former M.D. and D.O. graduates (i.e., those who failed to match previously) were 57% and 50%, respectively.⁵ For unmatched urology applicants, there are 2 possibilities: a research fellowship or a preliminary surgical internship. Research fellowships

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Correspondence: Inquiries to Nicole T. Christian, MD, MSCS, FACS, Division of Surgical Oncology, General Surgery Residency Program, Department of Surgery, University of Colorado Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus, 12631 E. 17th Avenue, C-305, Aurora, CO 80045; e-mail: nicole.christian@cuanschutz.edu



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Unmatched Applicants



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THANK YOU

Granville.Lloyd@CUAnschutz.edu

Christopher.Deibert@UNMC.edu

Other audience discussion questions

- Advising students preemptively who we think have a low likelihood of match success
- When someone does not match



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