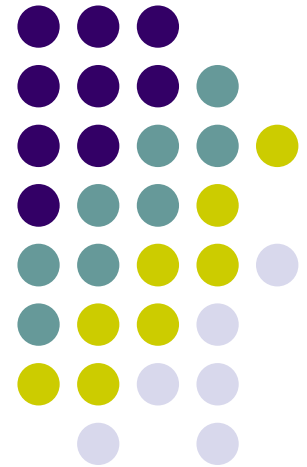
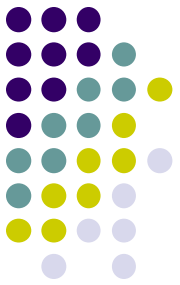


Preparing for Residency Interviews – Class of 2009

DOWN THE INTERVIEW TRAIL

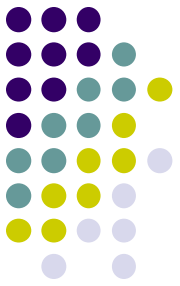




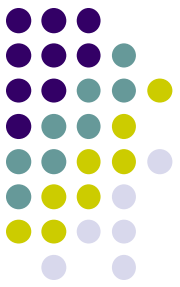
Purpose of Interviews

- Assess how compatible you are with the program and how well it meets your goals.
- Convey your sense of compatibility with the program to the faculty, residents and staff who interview you.
- Assess the program's relative strengths and weaknesses so you will be able to construct a thoughtful and informed rank order list.

BEFORE

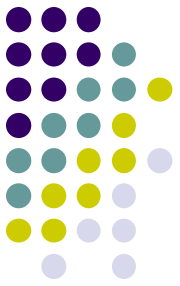


- Travel and Logistics
 - Be super organized
 - Scheduling by geographic proximity – OK to ask programs to accommodate travel schedules
 - Timing of travel and interviews – Be sure to give yourself plenty of time
 - Call to confirm your appointment about a week prior to your interview.



- Plan on one full day for your interview and possibly a dinner the evening before.
- Try to allow some time to tour the community outside the program and/or spend some informal time with residents or faculty.
- If your spouse/partner will be traveling with you, be sure to schedule time to assess other aspects of the program important to him/her.

Scheduling – When to go?



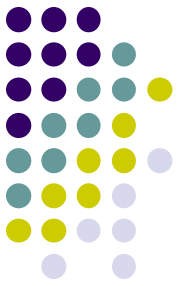
- Majority of interviews from October through January.
- Schedule the interview at the programs in which you're most interested after you've gotten some interview experience.



● Preparing for the Interviews

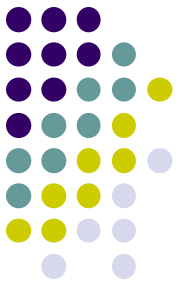
- Mock interviews/sample questions
- Talk with alumni who have interviewed at or matched into the programs to which you are applying.
- Talk with classmates to see who is applying to the same programs.
- Anticipate questions, but don't memorize your responses.
- Clothing – conservative choices, comfort, neatness.

Just Before

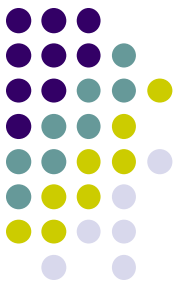


- Review information about the program and make some notes about what you already know. Be sure to review the names of people you are likely to meet during your interview.
- Review your questions for the residents and faculty at the program.
- Bring everything you need for the interview, including your notes, paper and pen, and an extra copy of your credentials.
- Get a good night's rest!

DURING

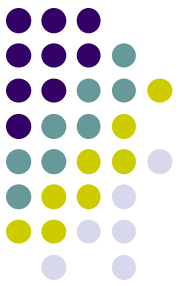


- Arrive a bit early (10 minutes) to give yourself plenty of time to find the office, get settled.
- It's ok to be nervous- just don't let your nervousness hide your personality.
- Don't be shy about asking questions.



Structure of Interviews

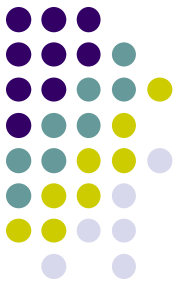
- Applicant's itinerary lists the people you'll be meeting and times of meetings.
- Applicants usually meet with the program director, other faculty and residents.
- Try to see both the hospital and clinic facilities during your interview.
- Try to spend time in places where there are residents to get a good idea of the actual working environment.



Questions, questions

- Questions you may be asked
- Questions it's not legal to ask you
- Questions you may want to ask
- UNSOM Website Resources:
 - http://www.medicine.nevada.edu/dept/asa/students/4thyear_Sample_questions.htm
 - http://www.medicine.nevada.edu/dept/asa/students/4thyear_Residency_Interviewing.htm

Questions you may be asked



- Why did you choose this specialty?
- Why did you apply to this program?
- What are your strengths? Weaknesses?
- What are your career goals?
- How would you describe yourself?
- What do you like to do in your spare time?



Illegal Questions

- Marital status
- Sexual orientation
- Whether you have or plan to have children
- Whether you have a disability
- Questions about family (either planning or how partners/spouses feel about residency)

Responding to Illegal Questions



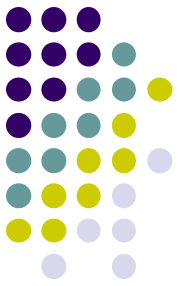
- Refuse to answer. Will likely insure that you will not get a position in the program.
- Finesse the question. Possibilities include asking the interviewer if the question is really pertinent to obtaining a residency position, while maintaining a pleasant demeanor.
- Answer the question. Most applicants choose to answer the question indirectly, possibly saying “my training comes first.”

Questions You May Ask

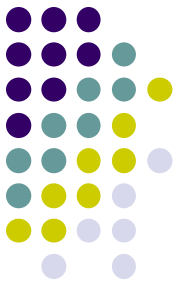


- Two Choices:
 - Different questions of different interviewers (ex. director, faculty, residents).
 - Standard questions of everyone - compare responses.
- A good question to find out about a program's weakness or deficits: If someone gave your program \$500K, what would you do with it?

Program Selection Criteria



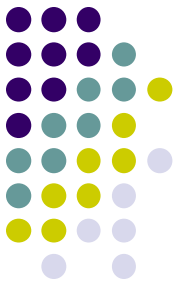
- Morale of current residents; are they satisfied?
- Current accreditation status
- Program quality
- Program size
- Educational structure
- Clinical responsibilities, including call schedule
- Opportunities for research and teaching
- Evaluation - timing and structure of resident evaluation
- Program type: academic or community; hospital-based or ambulatory
- Opportunities for interaction with residents in other programs
- Reputation of program director and faculty members
- Success of graduates in obtaining fellowships



Personal Issues

- Location
- Housing
- Cost of living
- Proximity to family members
- Spousal and family opportunities

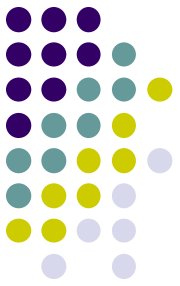
Residency agreement and stipend issues

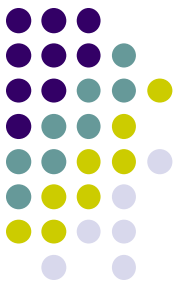


- Stipend
- Leave: vacation, sick and professional
- Benefits vary widely by program (health, liability and disability insurance)
- Other prerequisites

Follow Up

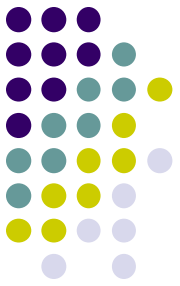
- Thank you notes
- Phone Calls
- Second interview issue





Good Resources

- Roadmap to Residency: From Application to the Match and Beyond (AAMC)
https://services.aamc.org/Publications/index.cfm?fuseaction=Product.displayForm&prd_id=146&prv_id=172
- Strolling Through the Match – American Academic of Family Physicians (but great resource for every specialty)
<http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/publications/otherpubs/strolling.html>



● Thrifty Travel

- Airline, hotel and rental car discounts for students, AAA members, Costco members, etc.
- UNSOM Alumni – check with the Office of Student Affairs and people in the programs to which you're applying
- Stay with family and friends

Be proud of yourself
and your
accomplishments!

