



To: APDR and APDIR members

From: APDR and APDIR Boards of Directors

Date: May 21, 2020

Re: **APDR / APDIR Position Statement regarding Residency Recruitment in the 2020-2021 Cycle**

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted undergraduate and graduate medical education in unprecedented ways. The need to curb viral transmission and resultant illness and death via social distancing is likely to continue for quite some time. This fact has created an urgent need to institute a consistent approach to medical student away rotations and in-person interviews for residency for the 2020-2021 application cycle that is equitable, transparent and successful for all stakeholders. Towards that end, the cross-organizational Coalition for Physician Accountability's Work Group (WG) on Medical Students in the Class of 2021 Moving Across Institutions for Post-Graduate Training has published recommendations for away rotations, in-person interviews, ERAS timeline and holistic application review (1). The Coalition for Physician Accountability members include ACGME, AACOM, AMA, AOGME, AAMC, CMSS / Organization of Program Director Associations, ECFMG, and NRMP.

Summary of WG Recommendations

- 1. Away Rotations for Medical Students:** The WG recommends that for the 2020-2021 academic year, away rotations be discouraged, except under the following circumstances:
 - a. Learners who have a specialty interest and do not have access to a clinical experience with a residency program in that specialty in their school's system
 - b. Learners for whom an away rotation is required for graduation or accreditation requirements
- 2. Virtual Interviews:** The WG recommends that all programs commit to online interviews and virtual visits for all applicants, including local students, rather than in-person interviews for the entire cycle and that the medical education community commit to creating a robust digital environment and set of tools to yield the best experiences for programs and applicants.
- 3. ERAS Opening for Programs and the Overall Residency Timeline:** The WG recommends a delayed opening of ERAS for residency programs and delayed release of the MSPE and that the opening and release happen on the same day. *NOTE: ERAS has already responded to this recommendation by releasing applications and MSPEs on the same date, which has been delayed to Oct 21, 2020. (2)*
- 4. General Communications:** Implementation of these recommendations will require transparency and regular, clear communications among all stakeholders. The WG encourages the medical education community to work together to provide consistency and equity for applicants across the country.



APDR / APDIR Position Statement

APDR and APDIR agree with the recommendations of the Work Group and strongly urge all Diagnostic Radiology and Interventional Radiology residency programs to commit to following the recommendations regarding limiting away rotations and implementing virtual interviews for all residency applicants. APDR and APDIR acknowledge that these changes necessitated by the current pandemic will be challenging to implement and optimize. APDR and APDIR commit to working together to provide resources and forums to help program directors meet these challenges.

References

- 1 https://www.aamc.org/system/files/2020-05/covid19_Final_Recommendations_05112020.pdf
- 2 <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-residency/article/eras-timeline-md-residency/>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Victoria Marx', written in a cursive style.

M. Victoria Marx, MD, FSIR
APDR President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mollie Meek', written in a cursive style.

Mollie Meek, MD, FSIR
APDIR President