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Medical Student Forum

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE RESIDENCY APPLICATION PROCESS

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Abstract—Emergency medicine (EM) is a swiftly developing yet still relatively young discipline. We are going to present in the Medical Student Forum section of the *Journal of Emergency Medicine* several article series covering the key topics that medical students interested in emergency medicine will find helpful. This article introduces the topics that will be tackled in the first compilation of articles dealing with the residency application process. © 2018 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Inc. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

Keywords—EM; emergency medicine; match; medical student; residency application

Emergency medicine (EM) continues to be a relatively young field and is growing at a fast pace. Although it is a generally well-accepted field, we still face challenges relating to our practice both from inside and outside the locus of specialty. Accordingly, we are going to present a comprehensive series of articles in the Medical Student Forum section of the *Journal of Emergency Medicine* that can be widely used as a guide. In addition, as we continue to shape our future, one of the major goals of these articles is to inform all those considering or entering the field of the issues that stir controversy. Most of these manuscripts are

based on the second edition of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine's Resident and Student Association *Rules of the Road for Medical Students: The Guide for A Career in Emergency Medicine*. Every topic of the book has been extensively revisited to provide the most up-to-date information possible at the time of publication.

Although these articles are designed to provide guidance for students who are interested in emergency medicine, certainly everyone from premedical students to full-fledged academic faculty may find use in some or all of the material presented. The information made available will help medical students through the process of match from the earliest days of medical school through the beginning of residency.

The articles address a broad range of topics from clerkships to the match and application process through a description of the field itself and challenges within the realm of emergency medicine. These articles compile the efforts of over 150 of the best professionals in emergency medicine. Authors and editors were chosen based on their accomplishments and respect within the field with our hopes that the information and advice given will be of the best quality possible. Not all articles will be equally valuable to all readers, but we hope that by including them we have created a comprehensive and valuable resource to all students. With so many authors and editors involved, some duplication of material is unavoidable. While we have worked to eliminate some instances, others we have purposely left in to allow the

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same topic to be addressed from a variety of angles and by different people.

The first compilation, consisting of around 17 articles, tackles the residency application process. We will start off with a general note on EM (incentives, challenges, concerns, etc.) that can help medical students decide if EM is the right choice for them. We will then provide an overview of the allopathic match, osteopathic match, and the single graduate medical education (GME) accreditation system (expected to be effective as of July 1, 2020). We will also highlight the process of selecting a medical school advisor, the importance of securing letters of recommendation, and the ideal way to write a curriculum vitae and a personal statement. Moreover, we will describe what program directors look for in an applicant and then move to discuss program visits, residency interviews, and ranking pro-

grams. We will also emphasize the difference between three- and four-year EM training programs and elaborate on the combined EM residency programs as well as the couples' match.

We hope that readers will find these articles useful in their journey into an incredible medical specialty that is truly like no other. EM can be an intensely rewarding field for the right candidates.

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