Residency Interviewing

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Objectives

- Understand goals of interviewing
- Departmental perspective
- Applicant perspective
- Avoiding pitfalls
Why do applicants interview?

- Get “feel” for program
- Meet prospective faculty
- Meet prospective colleagues
- Make an impression on program
Why do programs interview?

- To assess fit for program
- To showcase their program
- To weed out applicants who are a poor fit
Remember

- Everyone and anyone can put their best foot forward for 6–8 hours
- Any deviation from this is a big warning
  - Examples
    - Acting bored during interview
    - Falling asleep
    - Overfamiliarity
    - Making disparaging remarks about faculty or residents
Preinterview

- Respond promptly to offers, emails, questions
- Careful consideration to how many interviews, how much time off etc.
- Application should be pristine (more on that in the spring)
Preinterview

- It’s your job to make sure your application is complete
- Inquiries regarding status: a few, timed carefully
- Who’s answering the phone?
  - Don’t flunk the secretary test
Preinterview

- Confirm arrival time and location
- Confirm departure estimates
- Do your homework
  - Internet era: study the department ahead of time
  - Have lists of questions/notes
  - Be able to answer the question “Why us”
    - (and not just because your chair ranked it as a top ten program)
Dinner/Social time with residents

- Important part of most interviews
- Honest source of information
- You’re making an impression
  - Don’t drink too much
  - Don’t order the mega $ meal
  - Think of the content of your questions
  - This is the place for lifestyle questions, work hours, personal life issues etc.
Interview Day

- Show up ON TIME
  - Leave extra travel time
- Dress professionally
- Respect for the office staff
- Respect for everyone
The Handshake
Why anesthesia?

- Stupid question that you will be asked a lot
- Stock answer
- Think of who you’re talking to and how many times they are hearing the same thing
Why (Duke)?

- This one’s important
Other common questions

- Where are you looking
- What are your goals in ___ years
- What sort of career are you planning
- Strengths
- Weaknesses
More provoking questions

Most common response:
“no one’s ever asked me a question like that before”
Some examples

- Give me an example....
- Pros and cons of anes
- Hardest thing about med school
- Etc.
Your questions

- Have a list
- Consider who you’re talking with
- Sort questions accordingly
- If you run out, you can repeat
  - modifiers
The place you know the best

- Comparing Duke to other places
- Comparing a one month rotation to a one day interview

VS
Thank you letters
  ◦ Who to send to
  ◦ What to say
Follow up questions
NRMP rules
Impact of no contact
Common Courtesies

- Respond promptly
- Be polite/respectful
- Provide all requested material
- If you have to cancel/be late: CALL
- Don’t be a no-show
- Remember who’s interviewing you
  - And how many others have sat in your chair