Make A-meritocracy Great Again

Michael Clifton, MD M.Sc ; Allyne Topaz MD
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Department of Interventional Radiology, Dallas, TX

michael.clifton@utsouthwestern.edu

INTRODUCTION

- The Match remains one of the most controversial aspects of graduate medical education. The NRMP utilizes a "deferred acceptance" algorithm, implemented in 1952, to pair students with hospitals as it pertains to their individual preferences. The algorithm has been updated since the original "Boston Pool" to the current Roth-Peranson algorithm in 1998 accommodating a match favorable for applicants with stable outcomes. In this retrospective analysis, we will examine if U.S. International Medical Graduates (IMGs) are disproportionately disadvantaged in the NRMP match system for an interventional radiology position.

OBJECTIVES

- **To assess whether U.S. IMG applicants are disadvantaged in the Vascular and Interventional Radiology independent match process.**

METHODS

- Retrospective analysis of the NRMP match data from 2021 revealed a total of 181 applicants, consisting of 120 US MD graduates, and 11 US IMGs applying for 150 total positions at 68 different institutions. 141 of those positions were filled through the match. After a data analysis of the average ranked position, the US IMGs were surveyed for their responses pertaining to match likeliness, experience, and possible discrimination experienced during the process.
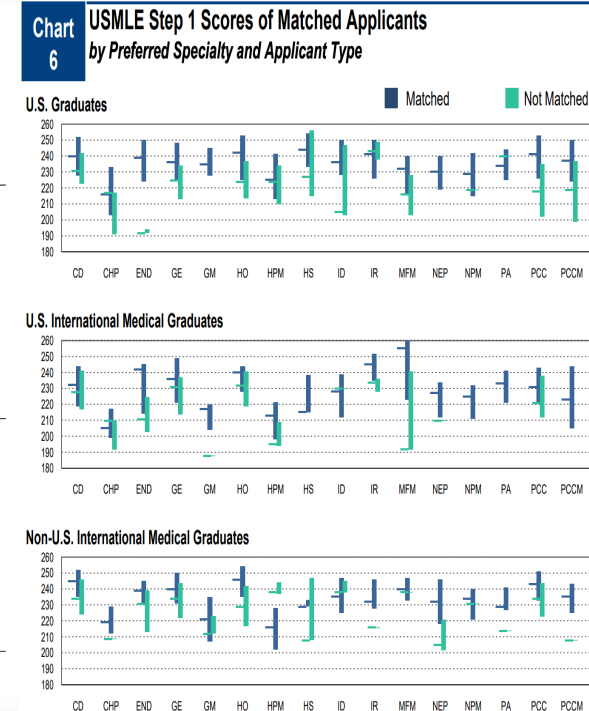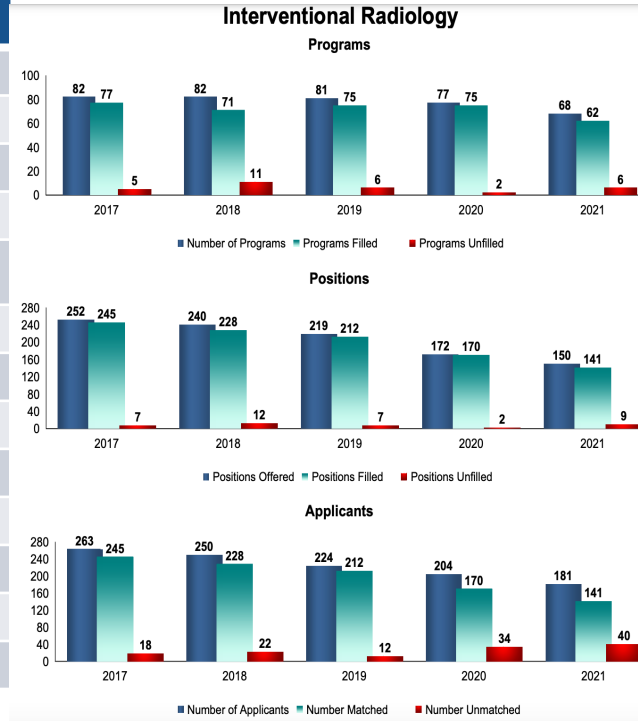
MATCH Results

Category	Data
Applicants	181
Positions filled/posted	141/150
US M.D.	120
Institutions Participating	68
Positions filled via Match	141
IMGs (U.S)	**11 (7.8%)**
IMGs (Non US)	14 (9.9%)
D.O.	13 (9.2%)
U.S. M.D.	103 (73%)
Applicants 1st choice match	87 (48%)
Applicants 2nd choice match	16 (8.8%)
Applicants 3rd choice match	11 (6.1%)
Applicants 4th choice/lower match	27 (15.0%)

IMG Survey Results

- Subsequently, post match, nine (9) of the eleven (11) total U.S. IMG were surveyed to ascertain their match position according to their rank order list (ROL).
- The average ROL position for all US IMG applicants: 5.0
- The average ROL position for all ESIR US IMG: 5.75
- The average distance (miles) of residency institution to fellowship institution: 975 miles
- The average distance (miles) of fellowship institution to listed hometown on NRMP application: 1156 miles
- U.S. IMGs average higher Research/Educational publications: 6.0 vs 4.0 (US M.D. grads)

Match Data

Interventional Radiology — Programs, Positions, Applicants charts

Chart 6 — USMLE Step 1 Scores of Matched Applicants by Preferred Specialty and Applicant Type

CONCLUSIONS

- ❑ **The 2021 IR fellowship is a mere microcosm of what US-IMGs experience across nearly every specialty in medicine. In 2018-2019, only one US-IMG obtained an integrated interventional radiology position as a PGY-1 applicant.**

- ❑ **The likelihood of a U.S. IMG to obtain a VIR independent fellowship is the lowest amongst all applicant types. Furthermore, if a U.S. IMG obtains a VIR fellowship, they can expect a ranked match position of fifth (5) or lower, despite their superior qualitative application metrics (step scores, research experience, and publications).**