Interviews

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Overview

The interview is one of the most important phases of the neurosurgical residency application process. Since most applicants complete only 2-4 subinternships, the interview is your chance to put a face and a personality to your application for the majority of programs to which you apply.

The good news is that anyone invited to interview by a program has been deemed competent – on paper – to become a neurosurgical resident at that program. The interview, then, is an opportunity to show the faculty and the residents that you are personable, thoughtful, funny, quick-

thinking, and – above all – a *normal* person who they would enjoy spending seven long years in the trenches with. Take advantage of this chance to make the case that you'd be a great colleague.

One of the most rewarding parts of the interview trail is getting to travel around the country and meeting all of your future colleagues. After the first few interviews, you will begin to recognize many of the same applicants attending the same interviews. Many lifelong friendships in neurosurgery begin on the interview trail – cherish this unique experience to make friends with future coresidents and colleagues (and coauthors, grant and paper reviewers…).

However, keep in mind that because neurosurgery is such a small community where word travels quickly, you should always be on your best behavior, avoiding saying negative things about other people or programs. Always be positive, diplomatic and affable!

The Interview Scheduling Process

Beginning in October, programs will begin to send interview invitations to applicants of interest. As of the 2016 interview season, interview invites arrive via several modalities:

- Direct email from the program (usually from the program coordinator, program director, or chairman)
- ERAS message from the program
- Automated email from a scheduling service such as