

## 2020 National Residency Matching Program

- The total number of **Match registrants** was the highest ever at 44,959.
- The number of **U.S. MD seniors** who submitted program choices was a record-high 19,326, an increase of 401 over 2019; 18,108 (93.7%) matched to first-year positions, the highest number ever. The 94 percent PGY-1 match rate for U.S. MD seniors has been consistent for many years.
- The number of **U.S. citizen international medical school students and graduates (IMGs)** who submitted program choices was 5,167, an increase of 87 over 2019; 61 percent (3,154) matched to PGY-1 positions, representing the highest match rate since 1991.
- The number of **non-U.S. citizen IMGs** who participated in the Match increased slightly, breaking a three-year trend of decline. In 2020, 6,907 IMGs submitted program choices, up 38 from 2019. Furthermore, 4,222 IMGs (61.1%) matched to first-year positions, which is 2.5 percentage points higher than 2019 and the highest match rate since 1990.

### *Unmatched Applicants*

Applicants who did not match to a residency position participated in the [NRMP Match Week Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program® \(SOAP®\)](#) to obtain an unfilled position. This year, 1,897 positions were offered during SOAP. SOAP results will be available in the full Match report published in early May.

### Program Highlights

#### *Specialty Competitiveness*

The results of the Match can be a predictor of future physician workforce supply. The results also can indicate the competitiveness of specialties, as measured by the percentage of positions filled overall and the percentage filled by senior students in U.S. MD medical schools.

- Specialties with more than 30 positions that filled all available positions were Dermatology, Medicine-Emergency Medicine, Neurological Surgery, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (categorical), Integrated Plastic Surgery, and Thoracic Surgery.
- Specialties with more than 30 positions that filled more than 80 percent with U.S. MD seniors were Integrated Plastic Surgery (91.7%), Medicine-Pediatrics (81%), Neurological Surgery (87.5%), Orthopedic Surgery (80.8%), Otolaryngology (88.6%), Thoracic Surgery (84.2%), and Vascular Surgery (81.3%).
- Specialties with more than 30 positions that filled less than 45 percent with U.S. MD seniors were Family Medicine (33.1%), Internal Medicine (categorical) (40.2%), Pathology (33.8 %), Pediatrics – Primary (39.1 %), and Surgery – Preliminary (24.7%).

### *Primary Care Specialties*

Of the 34,266 first-year positions offered in the Match, 17,135 were in the primary care specialties of Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Internal Medicine – Pediatrics, Internal Medicine – Primary, Pediatrics, and Pediatrics – Primary, a 7.4 percent increase over the number offered in 2019. Of those, 16,343 (95.4%) were filled and 7,369 (45.1%) were filled by U.S. MD seniors.

- **Internal Medicine** programs offered 8,697 categorical positions, 581 more than in 2019; 8,324 (95.7%) positions filled, and 3,496 (40.2%) filled with U.S. MD seniors. The percentage of Internal Medicine categorical positions filled by U.S. MD seniors has declined every year since 2015; however, fill rates for U.S. DO seniors has increased from 6.9 percent in 2016 to 16.0 percent in 2020.
- **Family Medicine** programs offered 4,662 positions, 555 more than in 2019; 4,313 (92.5%) positions filled, and 1,543 (33.1%) filled with U.S. MD seniors. This year was the second consecutive year, and second since 2009, that the number of U.S. MD seniors matching to Family Medicine has decreased. However, a record number 1,392 U.S. DO seniors matched in Family Medicine, accounting for 29.9 percent of all applicants who matched to the specialty.
- **Pediatrics** programs offered 2,864 categorical positions, 17 more than in 2019; 2,812 (98.2%) filled, and 1,731 (60.4%) filled with U.S. MD seniors.

### *Other Specialty Trends*

- **Obstetrics-Gynecology** programs offered 1,433 first-year positions, 48 more than in 2019, and filled all but three. The overall fill rate was 99.8 percent, and 75.5 percent were filled by U.S. MD seniors.

- **Orthopedic Surgery** programs offered 849 PG-1 positions, 94 more than in 2019, a 12.4 percent increase. While the overall fill rate was 99.4 percent, the number of positions filled by US MD seniors decreased for the first time since 2016 but only modestly. Strikingly, US DO seniors filled 112 (13.2%) of the available positions this year compared to only 13 (1.7%) in 2019.
- **Radiology-Diagnostic (PGY-2)** programs offered 990 positions, 25 more than in 2019, and the overall fill rate was 97.6 percent. It is noteworthy that while the number of positions filled by U.S. MD senior has declined each year since 2018, the number filled by U.S. DO seniors has increased each year (and a total of 77.6 percent) since 2016.