ECFMG|FAIMER Update

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Today’s Discussion

• IMG Performance in 2021 Match
• Pathways for 2021 Match
• IMGs Entering Residency in 2021
• J-1 Visa Sponsorship
• Pathways for 2022 Match
IMG Performance in 2021 Match
2021 ERAS Season

ERAS® 2021 Residency Tokens

• 21,724 residency tokens issued to IMGs
• Increase of 12.2% over 2020

IMG Applicants to Residency Programs

• An approximate 12% increase in IMG applications for ERAS 2021 compared the same time in ERAS 2020 to date (≈ 19,000)*
• Previously, the number of ERAS applications was decreasing each season by 2-3% every year since ERAS 2018

*As of January 31, 2021
Match Positions and IMG Participation

First-year Residency Positions Offered

- 34,266 (2020)
- 35,194 (2021)

Increase: 928

IMG Participation

- 12,074 (2020)
- 13,238 (2021)

Increase: 1,164

Source: National Resident Matching Program® 2021 Main Residency Match® Advance Data Tables.
IMG Match Rates

2020 Match

7,376
(61.1%)
IMGs Matched

2021 Match

7,508
(56.7%)
IMGs Matched

Source: National Resident Matching Program® 2021 Main Residency Match® Advance Data Tables.
Pathways for 2021 Match
NRMP Eligibility Status

- More than 17,000 IMGs met ECFMG requirements and were verified to NRMP as “eligible” for the 2021 Match.

- Approximately 6,000 IMGs who registered for the 2021 Match completed a pathway.

1/3 of IMGs in the 2021 Match completed a pathway.
Certification Status of IMG ERAS Applicants

- 61% ECFMG Certified (Step 2 CS)
- 18% ECFMG Certified (2021 Pathway)
- 20% Not ECFMG Certified

19,138 Applicants
IMGs Entering Residency in 2021
IMGs Entering Residency in 2021

Specific Concerns / Issues

- International medical students, like U.S. medical students, have not had traditional clinical experiences
- Issues different for U.S.-citizen IMGs and foreign national IMGs
- Continued travel restrictions due to COVID-19
- Visa implications of early start
- Vaccinations

Continued Mitigation Efforts

- Advocacy with various branches of U.S. government: Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, Social Security Administration
- Ongoing communication and dialogue with DIOs, program directors, and incoming J-1 physicians
- Collaboration with partners
Transition Well-being Themes

The annual J-1 physician well-being survey administered in October 2020 provided the following insights:

Wellness Challenges as a Result of COVID-19:

- Excessive loneliness / no time to adjust to new environment
- Not enough guidance from leadership
- Lack of PPE
- Lack of connectedness / inability to travel
- U.S. grad safety and wellness prioritized
- Afraid to ask for help due to “fragile” immigration status
Supporting UME to GME Transition

• Collaboration to develop a new toolkit of resources to support medical school graduates and U.S. GME programs in the transition to the first year of GME during the COVID-19 pandemic
• Available now on ECFMG website
• Enhancements forthcoming
J-1 Visa Sponsorship
Specialties* Pursued by J-1 Physicians

2020 Calendar Year

- **INTERNAL MEDICINE**: 51%
- **PEDIATRICS**: 10%
- **SURGERY**: 6%
- **FAMILY MEDICINE**: 6%
- **NEUROLOGY**: 6%
- **ALL OTHER SPECIALTIES**: 21%

*Specialties listed include related subspecialties.
Supporting Incoming J-1 Physicians

ECFMG | FAIMER is working to promote a smooth transition for incoming J-1 physicians in advance of July 1, including:

- Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program (EVSP) is working at full capacity, so far slight increase in total application volume
- Advocating with the U.S. Department of State to reduce entry barriers
- Surveying DIOs, Program Directors, and Training Program Liaisons to identify and respond to common challenges
- Outreach to incoming J-1 physicians to provide timely information and supportive resources
Pathways for 2022 Match
Step 2 CS Discontinuation and 2022 Pathways Timeline

**January 26**
USMLE announced discontinuation of Step 2 CS / ECFMG announced continuation and expansion of pathways for 2022 Match.

**February 16**
ECFMG published general eligibility requirements and individual pathway details.

**Late April**
ECFMG expects to open on-line application process for Pathways 1-5.

**Early July**
ECFMG expects to open on-line application process for Pathway 6.