1560: Evaluating NRMP Residency Program Director Surveys to Compare Neurosurgery to Other Competitive Specialties in the Match

Phillip Bonney
Vance Fredrickson
Tatsuhiro Fujii
Saman Sizdahkhani
Shivani Rangwala
Alexandra Kammen
Frank Attenello
Disclosures

No disclosures relevant to the subject material of this presentation.
Introduction

• NRMP surveys program directors on a biannual basis
• We reviewed survey results to compare neurosurgery to other competitive specialties
Methods

• We reviewed all Program Director Survey reports that included neurosurgery (2012, 2014, 2016, 2018)
• Primary data were obtained from 2018
• Neurosurgery was compared to dermatology, orthopedics, otolaryngology, plastic surgery, and radiation oncology
Results

• All specialties frequently used USMLE Step 1 score thresholds for offered interviews
  • Neurosurgery: 84%
  • Other competitive specialties: 58%-98%
• USMLE Step 1 score thresholds were similar
  • Neurosurgery IQR 220 – 238
  • Other competitive specialties 25th percentile range: 210-230
  • Other competitive specialties 75th percentile range: 230-240
Results

• All specialties strongly considered interactions with faculty and residents during the interview when formulating rank lists

• Neurosurgery program directors were more likely than program directors of other competitive specialties to consider perceived commitment to specialty when ranking applicants
  • 76% vs. 38-67%

• Neurosurgery program directors valued research and publications more than program directors of other competitive specialties
  • 4.3/5 vs. 3.7-4.1/5
Discussion

• Neurosurgery programs place increased emphasis on commitment to specialty when ranking applicants
• Neurosurgery programs value research more so than programs of other competitive specialties when ranking applicants
Summary Points

• The most important variables affecting rank lists relate primarily to interactions with faculty and residents during interviews and other encounters including rotations