May 18, 2015

Dear Designated Institutional Officer:

Participation in the Nephrology Match by fellowship applicants has declined significantly since 2010, yet the number of training opportunities has increased during the same time period. Match participation fell to an all-time low in December 2014.

To help address this issue, the American Society of Nephrology (ASN)—which is the sponsoring organization of the Nephrology Match and includes as members approximately 90% of the nephrologists in the United States—convened a Nephrology Match Task Force to determine if ASN should continue to participate in the Match.

Task Force deliberations included reviewing the results of surveys sent to training program directors and nephrology fellows. After numerous discussions over two months, the Task Force unanimously recommended to the ASN Council (the society's elected governing body) an all-in policy under which all accredited training programs that participate in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) Medical Specialties Matching Program must offer all positions through the Match. The ASN Council unanimously approved these changes. NRMP will implement ASN’s policy, help monitor compliance, and apply sanctions in accordance with the NRMP Match Participation Agreement.

ASN believes improving processes related to training (such as adopting an all-in policy for the nephrology match) will help future kidney professionals provide the highly specialized care important to patients facing complex health challenges. If you have questions or feedback, please send them to nephrologymatch@asn-online.org and ASN will respond to you within one business day.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Himmelfarb, MD, FASN  
President

Raymond C. Harris, MD, FASN  
President-Elect and Match Task Force Chair