

NRMP 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Who We Are

ABOUT THE MATCH

The National Resident Matching Program ("The Match") is an independent, non-profit organization founded in 1952 to provide a systematic way of placing medical school students into graduate medical education (GME) positions in United States teaching hospitals. In 65 years, The Match has grown to include international medical school students and graduates among its applicants in the Main Residency Match® and the more than sixty Fellowship Matches managed through its Specialties Matching Service®, National Resident Matching Program International® (NRMPI®), a wholly-owned subsidiary, offers matching services to private and governmental agencies located outside the U.S. and Canada.

The Match is the largest health care matching service in the world, meeting the needs of more than 50,000 medical students and graduates annually who compete for more than 40,000 residency and fellowship positions. The Match also offers unparalleled data resources and is committed to research that benefits the GME community.

What We Do **MISSION**

Match healthcare professionals to training programs through a process that is fair, efficient, and reliable, and provide meaningful Match data and analyses to stakeholders.

What We Strive To Be **VISION**

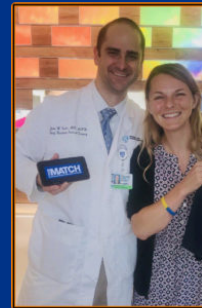
A trusted global provider of matching services for healthcare professionals and the premier Match data resource.

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR AND PRESIDENT/CEO

2017 was a banner year for the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP®). The Main Residency Match and the Specialties Matching Service saw record-high participation, and NRMP published an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* explaining policies that ensure the integrity of the Matching Program. Staff traveled domestically to share Match data, discuss policy changes, and answer constituents' questions about the Match, and internationally attended meetings in Chile and Finland to introduce NRMP services to new audiences. We also renewed our partnership with the Health Authority of Abu Dhabi to provide matching services beyond 2020. NRMP remains committed to supporting constituents by ensuring the Matching Program delivers accurate results and is transparent and accessible. Customer service efforts remained strong.

Strengthening constituent relationships was a major focus in 2017. NRMP convened its second national stakeholder conference, *Transitions to Residency: Conversations Across the Medical Education Continuum*, with best-selling authors Anna Quindlen and Dr. Daniel Goleman as keynote speakers. NRMP also transitioned its Match websites to mobile responsive platforms and collaborated with instructional design experts to usher in a new wave of online support guides and visual tools.

Lastly, 2017 brought a transition in leadership of the NRMP Board of Directors and the onboarding of new members. Interest in serving on the Board remains high, and we are proud of the diverse experience, background, and opinion that Board members bring to the table. We strive to provide the best support, connections, resources, and representation to our constituents. This report highlights our accomplishments in 2017, and we hope you will take a moment to read it. New opportunities will unfold in 2018, and we look forward to sharing them with you.



Susan Guralnick, M.D., Chair

Mona M. Signer, M.P.H., President and CEO

YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2017, NRMP continued to support constituents domestically and abroad with outstanding matching services and resources: participation in the Main Residency and Fellowship Matches was the largest in history, our international matching partnership was renewed, and informative reports and journal articles were published.



Main Residency Match

NRMP continues to serve as a trusted partner in the transition from undergraduate to graduate medical education. The 2017 Main Residency Match was the largest on record when measured by the numbers of applicants and positions offered and filled. Participation by students and graduates of osteopathic medical schools grew by 20 percent. ALL TIME HIGHS [...]

[Read more](#)



Specialties Matching Service

The Specialties Matching Service saw record-high participation. Brain Injury Medicine completed its first Match for July 2017 appointments, and Breast Imaging joined for July 2018 appointments. HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2017 SMS MATCH SEASON: 4,176 programs in 62 subspecialties 9,766 positions offered 8,483 positions filled (86.9%) 10,410 applicants participated in at least one Fellowship Match; 81.5% [...]

[Read more](#)



NRMP International

NRMP is committed to offering high-quality matching services to countries around the world and to partnering with global organizations that promote excellence in medicine and medical education. NRMP successfully completed its seventh Match for the Health Authority of Abu Dhabi (HAAD), and leadership negotiated a new five-year contract to continue the partnership through [...]

[Read more](#)

Impact of Length of Rank Order List on Match Results: 2002-2017 Main Residency Match

The NRMP collects data on the relationship between the average length of the rank order lists (ROLs) of matched applicants and filled programs vs. the average length of rank order lists of unmatched applicants and unfilled programs. The data show that matched applicants and filled programs consistently have longer ROLs than unmatched applicants and unfilled programs.

Program Data

Over the period for which data are reported, the average number of rank order positions for unfilled programs is between 21-25% less than that for filled programs.

Year	Filled Programs			Unfilled Programs		
	Number and % Filled	Average Length of ROL	Average Rank per Position	Number and % Unfilled	Average Length of ROL	Average Rank per Position
2002	2,547 (14.1%)	34.71	8.24	890 (23.7%)	26.86	7.81
2003	2,748 (14.1%)	33.48	8.32	842 (23.7%)	26.24	7.89
2004	2,806 (15.7%)	33.61	8.40	786 (23.0%)	27.81	8.85
2005	3,005 (19.4%)	33.66	8.35	779 (20.8%)	28.63	8.90
2006	3,139 (18.8%)	33.65	8.74	762 (20.2%)	29.11	9.05

Reports and Publications

NRMP published an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* describing NRMP policies designed to ensure the integrity of the matching process. The online version earned more than 21,000 views. In addition to the Results and Data Books for the Main Residency Match and the Specialties Matching Service, NRMP published the Results [...]

[Read more](#)

Connect 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017, NRMP sought ways to strengthen connections with constituents. The second national stakeholder conference took place in New Orleans, and attendee reviews were overwhelmingly positive. In addition, the NRMP public website and the Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system were transitioned to mobile responsive platforms. NRMP also engaged an instructional design expert to create specialized learning aids and videos for Match participants.



STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE

NRMP reconvened in New Orleans for its second stakeholder conference, bringing together medical school faculty and residency program directors to discuss key issues for students transitioning to residency.



NRMP GOES MOBILE!

NRMP's migration to mobile responsive platforms ensures that website visitors can view content of interest on desktops, tablets, and smartphones.



LEARNING AIDS

NRMP engaged in a complete redesign of its R3 system User Guides, and they now benefit from instructional design expertise that ensures the materials align with current adult learning theory and training trends.



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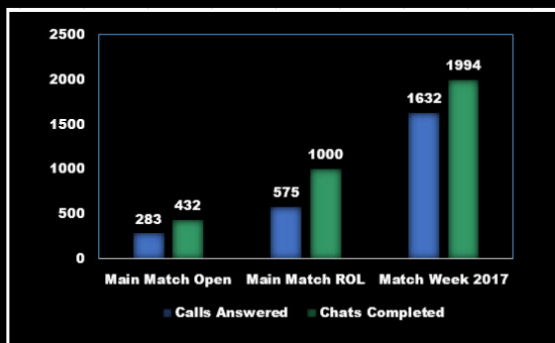
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Engage CUSTOMER SERVICE



Call center staff continued to provide accurate and timely information to constituents. During peak periods for the 2017 Main Residency Match:

- Phone call handle response rates averaged 92 percent
- Customer satisfaction with online chat responses averaged 95 percent
- Customer satisfaction with email responses averaged 97 percent

`` Excellent help throughout the Match and SOAP process.
Much appreciated! ``

Program Director



19K

Facebook Fans



14K

Twitter Followers



88K

Avg. Monthly Website Visitors



122

NRMP Media Mentions

Guide NRMP LEADERSHIP

The NRMP is governed by a 19-member Board of Directors that includes medical school deans, GME program directors, resident physicians, and medical students. The Board prioritizes diversity and breadth of experience to ensure thorough and thoughtful deliberation of issues.



Susan Guralnick, M.D.
Chair

Associate Dean for Graduate
Medical Education, University of
California, Davis



Steven J. Scheinman, M.D.
Chair-Elect

Executive Vice President and
Chief Academic Officer,
Geisinger Health System;
President and Dean, The
Commonwealth Medical College



Kenneth B. Simons, M.D.
Secretary/Treasurer

Executive Director and DIO,
Senior Associate Dean for
Graduate Medical Education and
Accreditation, Professor of
Ophthalmology and Pathology,
Medical College of Wisconsin



Mona M. Signer, M.P.H.
President and CEO

National Resident Matching
Program

Board of Directors

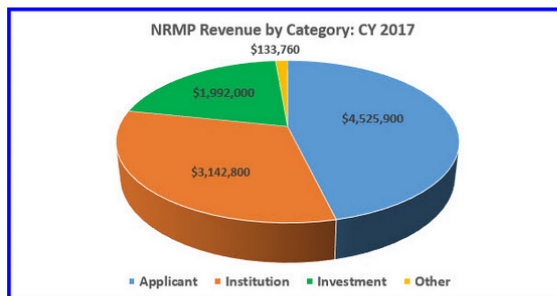
Directors

Resident Physician Directors

Student Directors

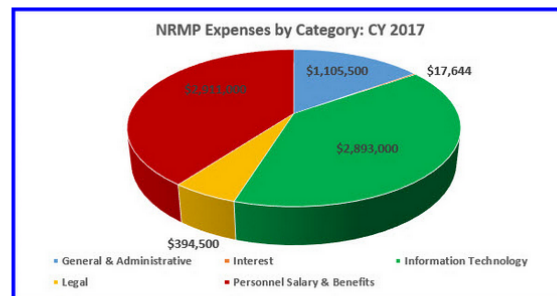
Value FINANCIALS*

NRMP fees remain among the lowest charged by medical education service organizations.



The Match registration fee includes

Data Reports and Research Articles
Newsletters
PRISM Smartphone App
Learning Guides and Micro-Learning Videos



Increases in revenue are funneled into

Software
Information Technology (IT) Upgrades
Innovative Tools and Resources

*Calendar Year 2017 Financials pending audit

CONTACT US

**If you have questions about NRMP matching services
or any information contained in this report, please
send us an email. We look forward to helping you!**



Address:

2121 K Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20037



Phone:

SUPPORT: 866-653-NRMP
POLICY: 202-400-2235



Email:

support@nrmp.org
policy@nrmp.org
datarequest@nrmp.org
admin@nrmp.org



Hours:

Mon-Fri 8:30am – 5:30 pm (EST)

Your Name (required)

Your Email (required)

Your Message

Send Now!


NRMP STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Expand domestically and internationally

COLLABORATION



INTERNAL PAGE ONE: MAIN RESIDENCY MATCH



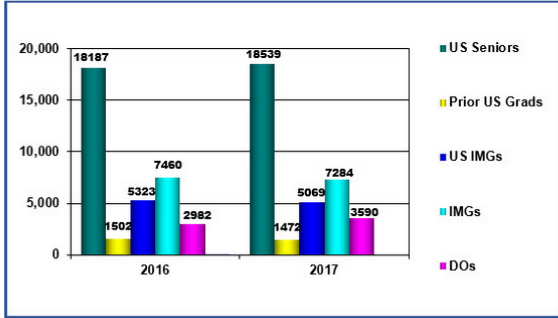
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NRMP continues to serve as a trusted partner in the transition from undergraduate to graduate medical education. The 2017 Main Residency Match was the largest on record when measured by the numbers of applicants and positions offered and filled. Participation by students and graduates of osteopathic medical schools grew by 20 percent.

ALL TIME HIGHS!

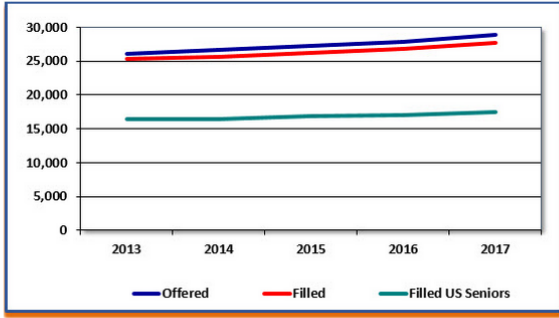
- 43,157 registrants
- 28,849 PGY-1 positions; 31,757 total positions
- 17,480 U.S. allopathic seniors matched to PGY-1 positions
- 2,933 U.S. osteopathic students and graduates matched to PGY-1 positions
- 3,814 non-U.S. international medical graduates matched to PGY-1 positions

Active Applicants: 2016-2017



Category	2016	2017
US Seniors	18,187	18,539
Prior US Grads	1,502	1,472
US IMGs	5,323	5,069
IMGs	7,460	7,284
DOs	2,982	3,590

PGY-1 Position Fill Rate: 2013-2017




Year	Offered	Filled	Filled US Seniors
2013	~25,000	~24,500	~16,000
2014	~26,000	~25,500	~16,500
2015	~27,000	~26,500	~17,000
2016	~28,000	~27,500	~17,500
2017	~29,000	~28,500	~18,000

The 2017 Main Residency Match gained 989 positions, the largest one-year jump since the All In Policy was implemented for the 2013 Main Residency Match. Under All In, specialties that had offered significant numbers of positions outside the Match have contributed to much of the position growth:

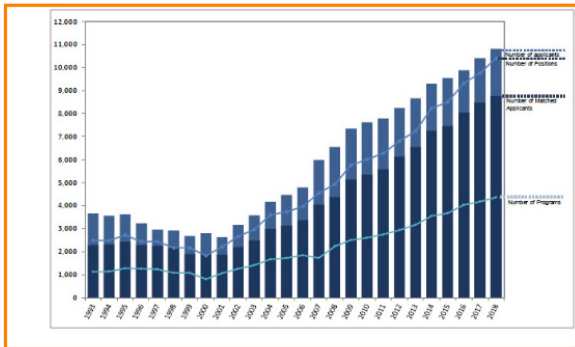
- Internal Medicine, 1,956 positions
- Family Medicine, 616 positions
- Emergency Medicine, 379 positions
- Psychiatry, 378 positions
- Pediatrics, 263 positions

INTERNAL PAGE TWO: SPECIALTIES MATCHING SERVICE



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The Specialties Matching Service saw record-high participation. Brain Injury Medicine completed its first Match for July 2017 appointments, and Breast Imaging joined for July 2018 appointments.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2017 SMS MATCH SEASON:

- 4,176 programs in 62 subspecialties
- 9,766 positions offered
- 8,483 positions filled (86.9%)
- 10,410 applicants participated in at least one Fellowship Match; 81.5% obtained positions.

Five subspecialties voluntarily implemented the All In Policy: Breast Imaging, Infectious Disease, Medical Genetics, Nephrology, and Sleep Medicine.

2017 SMS Appointment Year

Fellowship Matching Continues to Grow

Active Applicants
(submitted ranked lists of programs)

All Applicants
↑ **517**
10,410 active applicants

U.S. Allopathic Graduates
↑ **284**
5,766 active U.S. allopathic graduates

81.5%
Highest match rate on record for SMS

88.9%
2nd highest match rate on record for SMS


Fellowship Programs

Positions
↑ **446**
9,766 positions


Programs
↑ **140**
4,176 programs

86.9%
positions filled

79.0%
programs filled all positions



Dr. Kip Sun Fung
2016 SMS Medical Specialties Matching Program



Drs. Steven Campbell and Gina Korman
with Director of Medical Education & Pediatric Residency Program
Theodore D. Riegel, M.D.
Johns Hopkins All Children's Pediatric Residency Program
2016 SMS Pediatric Specialties Spring Match



NRMP is committed to offering high-quality matching services to countries around the world and to partnering with global organizations that promote excellence in medicine and medical education.

- NRMPI successfully completed its seventh Match for the Health Authority of Abu Dhabi (HAAD), and leadership negotiated a new five-year contract to continue the partnership through 2021.
- NRMP leadership also presented at the annual Latin American Conference on Residency Education (LACRE) in Santiago, Chile, and exhibited at the annual Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) conference in Helsinki, Finland.
- Inquires about matching services were received from New South Wales, Australia, and the Saudi Commission for Health Services.

NATIONAL RESIDENT MATCHING PROGRAM INTERNATIONAL (NRMPI) Producing a Best Result in Residency Selection and Recruitment

Mona M. Signer, M.P.H.
www.nrmpiinternational.org



Introduction

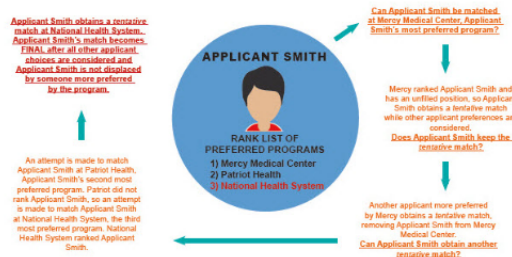
NRMPI® is a subsidiary of the National Resident Matching Program® (NRMP®), a United States non-profit organization that has provided physician matching services since 1952. NRMP is governed by a Board of Directors that includes representatives from national medical and medical education organizations and medical students, resident physicians, and residency program directors.

In an NRMPI Match...

- Applicants send applications to the training programs of their choice; program directors select which applicants to interview.
- Applicants and program directors rank each other from most-preferred to least-preferred and submit preferences to NRMPI.
- NRMPI processes preferences using a Nobel Prize-winning mathematical algorithm to place applicants into training programs.
- The matching platform can be accessed by any computer connected to the Internet.

The NRMPI Algorithm Produces a Best Result in Resident Selection/Recruitment

The algorithm attempts to place an applicant in the most preferred program that also prefers the applicant. If a match cannot be made to the first-choice program, an attempt is made to place the applicant into the second-choice program, and so on, until an applicant obtains a *tentative* match or all the applicant's choices have been considered. When the Match is complete, tentative matches become final.



A "best result" is achieved because there is no better outcome than the one produced by the algorithm. Applicants match to their most-preferred program that ranked them and did not fill with applicants more preferred by the program. Programs fill with their most-preferred applicants who also ranked them.

What NRMPI Offers

The NRMPI matching process provides an accurate, fair, and transparent transition into residency training. Match data are used by governmental agencies and participating institutions to assess workforce needs, evaluate program and specialty competitiveness, and identify trends in post-graduate training.

INTERNAL PAGE FOUR: REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS



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NRMP published an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) describing NRMP policies designed to ensure the integrity of the matching process. The online version earned more than 21,000 views.

In addition to the Results and Data Books for the Main Residency Match and the Specialties Matching Service, NRMP published the *Results of the 2017 NRMP Applicant Survey*, detailing the characteristics most important to applicants when they consider which programs to apply to and rank. The report was published in September and downloaded nearly 4,000 times in the last three months of 2017.

VIEWPOINT

Ensuring the Integrity of the National Resident Matching Program

Lauren S. Curtis, PhD
National Resident Matching Program,
Washington, DC

Maria M. Sigler, MPH
National Resident Matching Program,
Washington, DC

The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP), also referred to as The Match, annually conducts the Main Residency Match to place US and international medical school students and graduates (IMGs) into residency training positions in US teaching institutions. The Match, established in 1952, includes among its 19-person board of directors medical school deans and faculty members, medical students, residents and fellows, and 1 public member. In 2002, the legality of The Match was challenged by 3 resident physicians alleging it was anticompetitive, but the complaint was dismissed after Congress enacted legislation finding that "antitrust lawsuits challenging the matching process... have the potential to undermine this highly efficient, pro-competitive, and long-standing process" that "has effectively served the interests of medical students, teaching hospitals, and patients for over half a century."

During registration, participants must electronically sign the Match Participation Agreement ("Agreement"), a contract between participants and NRMP that defines eligibility for Match participation, articulates Match policies, and sets forth the consequences of noncompliance (such as may involve individuals not accepting the position to which they match). Despite educational efforts, noncompliance sometimes occurs because participants do not fully understand their obligations.

The Agreement is designed to promote fairness and encourage professional and ethical behavior among participants, and sanctions for violating the Agreement can be far-reaching. This Viewpoint describes actions taken by NRMP to ensure the integrity of the matching process when applicants do not comply with the Agreement.

respectively, if a match occurs. This binding commitment is among the most important of Match policies because an applicant's failure to accept a position has a "waterfall" effect: another applicant who also preferred that program may have matched to a lower-ranked program or not matched at all.

Nonetheless, every year some applicants cannot or will not honor their commitment. Of the 28,265 applicants who obtained positions in 2016, 738 requested waivers of their obligation. Among their reasons were health conditions, the desire to work in a more preferred program or specialty, financial difficulties, and relationship issues.

Waivers of the Agreement

Applicants who cannot or will not honor their binding commitment must obtain a waiver from NRMP. The Waiver Policy authorizes NRMP to grant waivers in cases of serious and extreme hardship or for change of specialty if the match is to a PGY-2 advanced position that begins the year after the Match and the change is requested no later than December 15 prior to the start of the PGY-2 training.¹ In processing waivers, NRMP contacts all parties having information that might bear on the decision. In adjudicating hardship waivers, NRMP considers severity and timing of the circumstance; of particular importance is whether the hardship occurred or could have been anticipated when the applicant was still able to modify a rank order list. NRMP also strives to ensure consistency so that applicants with similar hardships obtain the same outcome. While a waiver review is under way, neither applicant nor program can make alternate arrangements for training.

Between 2012 and 2016, NRMP processed 476 applicant waiver requests. Hardship (eg, applicant health issues, change in applicant personal or professional circumstances) accounted for 217 (46%) of the requests; of those, 135 (64%) were approved. Waivers requested for change of specialty accounted for 155 (24%) of the total number processed; however, the number of those of specialty requests declined from 38 in 2012

THE MATCH
NATIONAL RESIDENT MATCHING PROGRAM®

Results of the 2017 NRMP Applicant Survey

by Preferred Specialty and Applicant Type

Reports and publications continued in 2017 to be among the most popular downloads on the NRMP website:

- 2017 Main Residency Match Results and Data Book: 41,945 downloads
- 2017 Main Match Results by State and Specialty: 25,622 downloads
- Results and Data for SMS – 2017 appointments: 19,742 downloads
- 2017 "Match By the Numbers": 9,726 downloads