

Letters

COMMENT & RESPONSE

Consolidating NRMP Fellowship Matches to Enhance the Applicant Experience

To the Editor The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) appreciates the perspective shared by Bravo-Jaimes in her recent *From the Heart* commentary.¹ In 2019, she and her spouse participated in different matches within the NRMP Specialties Matching Service. For the NRMP to leverage the matching algorithm to pair couple partners, both partners must participate in the same match. This is necessary not only to ensure the integrity of ranking data but also to adhere to the fellowship match timelines established by the different specialty organization program director groups that sponsor fellowship matches and retain authority over the timing of the recruitment and matching processes.

Since 2015, the NRMP has intentionally worked with fellowship match sponsors to consolidate matches wherever possible to ensure applicants can access programs across multiple subspecialties in which they might be interested and facilitate couples matching. Today, the NRMP facilitates 7 consolidated fellowship matches representing more than 60 subspecialties.

After collaborating with the Council of Pediatric Subspecialties, the Association of Pediatric Program Directors, and the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine, the NRMP launched the Medicine and Pediatric Specialties Match, representing 38 subspecialties. This effort required each subspecialty entering into the combined match to reconsider recruitment timing and processes impacting applicants, institutions, and programs. In the Medicine and Pediatric Specialties Match, applicants can rank any combination of medicine, pediatric, multidisciplinary, or addiction programs and may participate in the combined match as a couple. The Medicine and Pediatric Specialties Match just celebrated a second successful Match Day that included 139 couples,² of which 84% of both individuals matched while another 14% of couples had 1 partner who matched.

Over its more than 70-year history, the NRMP has worked to prioritize the needs of learners in providing matching services to the medical education community, and the NRMP remains dedicated to serving specialties and their future couple trainees. NRMP also remains committed to engaging in dia-

logue with specialty organizations regarding fellowship match consolidations not only to address the challenges highlighted by Bravo-Jaimes but also to consider ways the NRMP can continue to strengthen the match experience for fellowship applicants.

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Editorial Note: This letter was shown to the corresponding author of the original article, who declined to reply on behalf of the authors.

1. Bravo-Jaimes K. We matched. *JAMA Cardiol*. 2024;9(1):5. doi:[10.1001/jamacardio.2023.4254](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamacardio.2023.4254)

2. National Resident Matching Program. 7,700 Resident physicians placed into fellowship training positions through the NRMP's Medicine and Pediatric Specialties Match. Accessed November 30, 2023. <https://www.nrmp.org/about/news/2023/11/7700-resident-physicians-placed-into-fellowship-training-positions-through-the-nrmps-medicine-and-pediatric-specialties-match/>

CORRECTION

Open Access Note Added to Article Information: In the Original Investigation titled "Lead Extraction and Mortality Among Patients With Cardiac Implanted Electronic Device Infection,"¹ published in the December 2023 issue of *JAMA Cardiology*, CC-BY-NC-ND open access license information has now been added to the Article Information section of the article and to the footer in Supplement 1. This article was corrected online.

1. Pokorney SD, Zepel L, Greiner MA, et al. Lead extraction and mortality among patients with cardiac implanted electronic device infection. *JAMA Cardiol*. 2023;8(12):1165-1173. doi:[10.1001/jamacardio.2023.3379](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamacardio.2023.3379)

Change to Open Access Status: The Original Investigation titled "Effects of Pitavastatin on Coronary Artery Disease and Inflammatory Biomarkers in HIV: Mechanistic Substudy of the REPRIEVE Randomized Clinical Trial,"¹ published online February 21, 2024, was changed to open access status under a CC-BY license. This article was corrected online.

1. Lu MT, Ribaudo H, Foldyna B, et al; REPRIEVE Trial Writing Group. Effects of pitavastatin on coronary artery disease and inflammatory biomarkers in HIV: mechanistic substudy of the REPRIEVE randomized clinical trial. *JAMA Cardiol*. Published online February 21, 2024. doi:[10.1001/jamacardio.2023.5661](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamacardio.2023.5661)