Guidelines for Senior Year for Students Interested in Pursuing a Career in Combined Internal Medicine-Pediatrics (Med-Peds)

Planning for Residency

We encourage students to attend informational sessions outlining the application process for Med-Peds in May/June. During these sessions we will outline the timeline/application process through the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP); guidelines to strengthen applications (e.g. CV, personal statements); selection of letters of recommendation; and advice to identify/select potential programs. As individual circumstances are often unique, we strongly encourage students to meet with Dr. Lukela 1:1 at some point during the application process in order to provide students individualized attention and guidance tailored to his/her situation. Several faculty trained in Med-Peds are also available to guide students through the career selection and application process:

- Michael Lukela, MD  Hospitalist  Director, Medicine-Pediatrics Residency
- Namita Sachdev, MD  Primary Care  Associate Director, Medicine-Pediatrics Residency
- David Stewart, MD  Hospitalist  Associate Director, Pediatrics Residency
- Becky Northway, MD  Primary Care  Primary Care Sports Medicine Faculty

Preparation

1. Completion of at least one sub-Internship in either Internal Medicine or Pediatrics is strongly recommended prior to submitting applications.
2. Taking USMLE step II CK early is encouraged, particularly for students with lower USMLE I scores. Nationally, USMLE I & II scores average 230 and 240, respectively.
3. Students will need at least one letter of recommendation from either a Chairman/woman in Internal Medicine or Pediatrics. Please be aware that some programs require one Chairman’s/woman’s letter from each department.
4. Up to 3 additional letters of recommendation from faculty trained in Med-Peds, Internal Medicine, or Pediatrics are required. **This does not include the Dean’s Letter.** Letters from substantive research experiences, dual degree programs, and other disciplines may be appropriate depending on an individual’s circumstances.
5. The majority of students should apply to 15-20 schools, planning to have a final rank list of between 12-15 programs. Students applying through the couples match, who are not as strong academically, or who have other special circumstances (e.g. geographic limitations) may need to consider applying to more Med-Peds programs and/or co-applying to complementary specialties (e.g. Internal Medicine or Pediatrics).

Guiding Principles

We are delighted that you are considering Med-Peds as a potential career option! In addition to the career guidance provided above, please be sure to take a moment and enjoy your remaining medical student experience. It’s a wonderful time to take advantage of wonderful experiences that you are not likely to see again, but may add to your personal and professional growth, even if these opportunities fall outside of the disciplines of Internal Medicine or Pediatrics.

Reviewed: March 2016