

Bulletin: The Pediatrics Match Process

February 2010

Background on the new Match Process

Over the last three years Canadian pediatric residents collaborated with Pediatric program directors and pediatric staff to advocate for a systematic and coordinated process for Canadian subspecialty admissions. The proposal was discussed but not accepted by the PGME Deans in May 2009, in part because of outstanding issues with other subspecialty residency match systems. In September 2009 the PGME Deans reconsidered the proposal and decided to proceed with the match for July 2011 entry into pediatric subspecialty programs for residents who are trained in Canadian core pediatric programs and funded by Canadian sources. An implementation committee was formed, consisting of: Dr. Ripstein (PGME Dean), Dr. Jonathan Kronick (Council of Academic Pediatric Health Centres), Sandra Banner (CaRMS), and Dr. Roona Sinha (CAIR/Canadian Pediatric Society residents).

An initial question was whether the match should be an algorithm or a rolling match. The PGME Deans, program directors, subspecialty program directors and CAPHC were all strongly in favour of an algorithm match, however residents had previously favoured a rolling match and resident opinion was considered paramount in answering this question. A joint survey was sent out in October 2009 by the Canadian Association of Internes and Residents (CAIR), the Fédération des médecins résidents du Québec (FMRQ), and the Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS) Resident section. 177 residents responded to the survey, corresponding to a response rate of 35%. The results of this survey showed that overall, 52% were in favour of an algorithm match. This varied significantly from school to school as did the response rate. The feedback from this survey was reviewed by the committee. Since an extremely small majority of residents preferred a rolling match and all of the other stakeholders strongly favoured an algorithm match, it was decided to move forward with an algorithm match.

Table 1: Resident Match Administration Survey Results

University	For Algorithm Match (%)	Number of Respondents
Dalhousie University	57	7
Laval University	100	2
McGill University	63	8
McMaster University	41	17
Memorial University	60	10
Northern Ontario School of Medicine	66	3
Queen's University	25	8
University of Alberta	64	11
University of British Columbia	69	13
University of Calgary	33	10
University of Manitoba	40	5
University of Montreal	83	6
University of Ottawa	31	16
University of Saskatchewan	60	15
University of Sherbrooke	0	1
University of Toronto	55	17
University of Western Ontario	33	6
Skipped Question	n/a	5
Overall	52%	177

Background on the new Match Process (continued)

The survey also showed that residents still prefer an Autumn subspecialty match process (~8 months before commencing subspecialty training) over a Spring process. This feedback was also taken back to the group and a date change to Fall of the application year (i.e., apply in Fall 2011 for entry in July 2012) will be considered for matches after 2011.

Other members of the implementation committee were asked to hold off on informing their members about the timing and logistics of the new match until CaRMS had the opportunity to communicate with the programs in January 2010. From December 2009 to January 2010 CaRMS worked closely with each of the universities to create the application system and to develop descriptive material about each program to be included on the application website. The application system will open on March 2nd 2010, but if pediatric residents wish to send documents in before that time, CaRMS is more than happy to collect them, provided they clearly indicate the applicant's name and that the material is for the pediatric subspecialty match.

The final proposals can be found on the CAIR website in **English** and **French**.

Further details about the application process are now available through the **CaRMS website**.

Table 2: Timeline for Application Cycle for Subspecialty Entry July 2011

Date of Training Entry	Applications Open	Programs begin to review files	Rank Order List begins	Interview Period Concludes	Rank Order Lists Deadline	Match Day	Post Match Process
July 1, 2011	March 2, 2010	April 1, 2010	May 20, 2010	June 2, 2010	June 8, 2010	June 16, 2010	June 17 to July 6, 2010

Addressing Residents' Concerns

CAIR, the CPS Residents and the FMRQ are now communicating details of the match system to their members including the fundamental principles and application details. There has been concern expressed by residents across the country concerning some aspects of the match. One issue residents have been particularly concerned about is entering into a subspecialty after R3 versus R4. Introduction of the application system does not change this decision but highlights that dependant on provincial funding rules and/or subspecialty time taken up by studying for pediatric exams, some programs / universities may prefer to take applicants after R3 rather than R4 or vice versa.

There has also been concern from the programs regarding enough time after the match to consider international fellows. As for programs with multiple stream of entry such as pediatric ICU where applicants can come from pediatrics, ER, Anesthesia, etc., **for this year**, schools will be able to accept applicants from other programs through this system or have separate application processes for them.

CAIR's next steps

- **Work with the CPS Residents section and the FMRQ** to better communicate with all Canadian pediatric residents regarding the match timeline and clarification of questions regarding the match process which will take place for the first time this spring.
- **Ensure feedback from residents about the match process is transmitted to the committee** before, during and after the match process.
- **Help the implementation committee to develop an appropriate match review system** to evaluate and continually improve the match for future years.
- **Continue to advocate for a Fall match** (~ 8 months before entry into a subspecialty) rather than ~13 months prior to entry into a subspecialty.

Questions or feedback on this issue? Please contact CAIR at cair@cair.ca or at **613-234-6448**.