

Tips on Residency Application Process from 4th year students matching in Ob/GYN

June 2011

Pre-Interview

- “Complete” Application –criteria on website
 - Many complete with 2 LORs
- “On the Trail” helpful
- ACOG workshop on “personal statement” (during annual clinical meeting in May)
 - Get submitted Ps from Jill Davis in A300

Practical Matters

- Interview dates—*Rare end of October, vast majority in November and December; If January-only first 2 weeks
 - You can do lumping of interviews
 - Check website for dates (make master grid of all possible dates)
 - Make general schedule—West vs. Mid vs. East
 - Print out calendar—keep it with you at all times
- Don’t wait to accept interview and schedule—ASAP
- Call right away if you need to cancel interview
- Use Southwest Airlines—very flexible
 - Check-in ahead of time, 1st come seating
 - *Carry-on luggage—2 suits
- HOST program—helps with lodging and transport

Interview *Behavioral questions—<50% of questions, but important.

- Send out in advance—stress thinking about these issues
- During Morning info session—keep list of questions you will ask later
- Make “cheat” sheet for each program that has questions and pros/cons on it—carry with you
 - “Running rank list”
 - Don’t look/focus on benefits
 - Trust your intuition
- Spin personal life in a good way
- Have a good answer to “why here?” if far away
- Consider one extra day in the interview location—can decrease burnout, and you can see the city and have fun.
- Go to all organized “social activities”
- Keep snacks for interviewing
- Frequent question: “teamwork” questions—good/bad

- How to answer “why should we choose you?”—your strengths/weaknesses—possible spin
- “Did you have a problem with an attending?”—how did you handle it?
- “Why OB?”—try to think of real answers—meaningful
- Know your application/CV well
- Be descriptive in the hobbies section—can you talk passionately about this?

Post-Interview

- “Thank you notes”
 - Remember something specific (take notes)
 - Most did thank you notes
 - Follow program guidelines – if programs request no notes, do not send