SELECTING A CLINICAL ADVISOR
... some basic considerations

WHAT SPECIALTY?
- You don’t have to be absolutely certain: pick from basic “divides:” primary care vs. specialty, medical vs. surgical, for example, if unsure.
- If certain, pick from advisor list in student affairs/online.
- “What if I change my mind?” It’s OK. Most advisors will not shoot you 😊.

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR ADVISOR
- Are you able to articulate your concerns? List them out if need be.
- There are no stupid questions—The match and related issues have many moving parts and lots of acronyms; you might be surprised at the really good questions you have.
- Develop a good rapport, be open about issues you may face.

GETTING THE MOST, CONT’D
- Make sure your advisor has time for you: some are extremely popular and unlikely to say “no.”
- How many students are they likely to advise?
- It’s OK to ask directly, knowing that most advisors can only handle 2-3 students (maybe up to 5 in some cases).

GETTING THE MOST, CONT’D
- What do they know about the locations you are looking into?
- Top programs in one field may not be the same as top programs in another—varies greatly from specialty to specialty.

FORMAL VERSUS INFORMAL ADVISING
- Use both!
- Don’t be afraid to approach high credibility sources in your field other than your formal advisor.
- Department chair, program director, associate program director, etc. are all possibilities.
- When consulting informal advisors, come with prepared questions if possible.
“WHAT IF I WANT TO CHANGE?”

- WORLD ENDS, HEAVENS OPEN... 😊
- CONSIDER WHETHER YOU ABSOLUTELY NEED TO MAKE A CHANGE (e.g., MAJOR CONFLICT, CHANGE OF SPECIALTY THAT DEMANDS DETAILED INSIGHT, ALTERNATIVE MATCH etc.)
- CONTACT STUDENT AFFAIRS TO ARRANGE FOR A CHANGE

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?
THANK YOU

QUESTION?
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