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
QUESTION?

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