Primary Care Match Data Show Continued Drop

BY MARY ELLEN SCHNEIDER

Medical student interest in primary care continues its gradual slip, according to the latest data from the National Resident Match Program. In the 2009 resident match, the percentage of U.S. medical school seniors choosing residencies in family medicine and internal medicine dropped slightly. Family medicine experienced a small increase in U.S. seniors matching to its residency programs last year, but dropped back down this year. For internal medicine, this is the third consecutive year in which interest has dipped among graduates of U.S. medical schools.

This year, 2,535 family medicine residencies were offered, 101 fewer than last year. A total of 91.2% of offered residencies were filled, with 42.2% filled by U.S. medical graduates. Last year, 90.6% of total positions were filled, with 43.9% going to U.S. medical graduates. Last year, 90.6% of total positions were filled, with 27 going to U.S. medical graduates. This year, 4,922 internal medicine residencies were offered, and 98.8% were filled. Of those, 53.5% were filled by U.S. medical graduates. Last year, 97.8% of the 4,858 total positions were filled, with 54.8% filled by U.S. medical graduates. In raw numbers, that means only 2,632 U.S. seniors matched to an internal medicine residency program this year, compared with 3,884 in 5 years ago, according to the latest data from the National Resident Matching Program.

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