Fellowship Interview Tip Sheet

Preparation: Look at each program’s website carefully and talk to your advisor(s) about the strengths of different programs
  - What is the program “known for” in the field
  - Who are the faculty? What do they do for scholarship?
  - Pubmed each person on your interview schedule
  - Identify potential scholarship mentors in the division. If you don’t find one, identify someone outside the division
  - It doesn’t have to be very defined. Just some general ideas

Interview Day Logistics
  - This is a job interview – dress, act, behave appropriately
  - You are the consumer – make sure it’s a good fit
  - Everyone you meet is interviewing you, all day – admin, other fellows, nurses.
    One bad interaction can sink your application

Be prepared to answer these questions
  - Why did you decide to enter a career in _________________?
  - Why did you choose to apply to our program?
  - What do you want your career to look like in 5/10/15 years?
  - Do you envision yourself more as a Researcher? Clinician? Educator?
  - As you look at our Division, who would you be interested in working with?
  - You have a great <specialty> program at Stanford. Why would you want to leave?

Good questions to ask
  - How are fellows funded? Are they guaranteed funding for their entire fellowship?
  - Are fellows expected to apply for their own grant funding?
  - Is there opportunity for advanced degrees like a MPH or Masters in Epidemiology? Is there funding for this?
  - What changes have occurred over the past few years with the division or department? Do you anticipate upcoming changes?
  - If there were one thing you could change or improve about the program, what would it be?
  - What are recent graduates from the fellowship program doing now?

Pitfalls
  - Although location and cost-of-living may be important to you, it should never be the primary reason for choosing a program
  - Ask the right people the right questions – Eg. Ask current fellows about call schedule, ask Fellowship Director about funding
  - Try to frame questions in the neutral to positive.
    o “How does the call schedule work?” vs. “How much call do I have to take?”
    o “How are fellows funded during their research years” vs. “Do fellows have to find their own funding?”