Nailing the Fellowship Interview

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Overview

• Picking the right Surgical Fellowship Specialty
• Identifying the right programs.
• Setting up for the Interview
• The Interview
• Follow up
Pick the Right Surgical Fellowship

• Passion about the subject material
• Understanding the workflow
  • Control of schedule
  • Hours
  • Family Buy-in.
• Choose for the right reason?
Identifying the Right Programs

• Prestige Personalities
• Clinical vs Research
• Geography
  • More likely to end up near your fellowship.
• Support Network
Preparing for the Interview

Differences between Residency and Fellowship Interviews

• Obviously more narrowed and focused.
• Small World
• Much more likely to be future colleagues.
• Interviewer are probably friends with other Interviewers around the country.
Preparing for the Interview

• Zoom vs In-person
• Look up the faculty
• Guess which questions you might be asked.
  • Toughest rotation
  • Dealing with bad outcomes
  • Handling bad behavior of others.
• Discuss your research
  • Explain Previous Publications
• Write these questions down.
• Rehearsing your answers to common interview questions.
• Get a good night sleep
Put yourself in Interviewer’s Shoes

• Program Director Viewpoint
• Mid-level Attending Viewpoint
• Future Co-Fellows
• Physician Assistants
The Interview

- Balance Confidence against Arrogance
- Show enthusiasm for the field.
- Dress professionally
- Pay attention to your own Zoom background
- Center your zoom to the camera.
- Leave desktop space for notes.
- For in-person interviews – beware the “social” gatherings.
Follow-up with Interviewers

• More important than the residency interview follow-up.

• Reminds the them of your existence.

• Programs like to be liked.

• Do not fib.
Take Notes Immediately After Interviews

• Questions you did not answer well
• Follow with Interviewers about specific points.
• Pros and Cons.
• Coming out of Stanford, you are well-trained.
• We have a history of graduates doing well around the country.
• You have earned right to be honest with yourself.

Know that you are strong candidates