



Profound upheaval, cataclysmic change: Reflections on Match Day 2021

By Loretta Jackson-Williams



Jackson-Williams

Since 2008, I have had the opportunity to work in an administrative office for the School of Medicine. For most of that time, processes within the SOM have been routine and predictable, with a few glitches here and there. The year 2020 with the pandemic is in a completely new category of change, and I have decided that it was cataclysmic because a number of these changes are permanent.

The changes from 2020 are also noteworthy for their all-encompassing nature – within the school, within the local community, within the nation, within the world – AND the realization that there was no group that remained unaffected.

The upheaval from the changes was profound for undergraduate medical education – affecting medical students – and necessitated many modifications to processes. These modifications included virtual interviews, limited ambulatory clinical experiences, changes within the hospital clinical environment, increased use of technology, a number of different delivery methods for the educational program and limited or no extramural rotations.

All of these changes had an effect on the match process. It will be a while before we fully appreciate that effect.

The results of the match for our students were tremendous, especially when considering the impact of the pandemic on the processes.

For the graduating seniors:

- Forty-four percent will remain in Mississippi for residency training.

Of that number:

- Eighty-nine percent will train in Jackson
- Six percent will train in Columbus
- Three percent will train in Hattiesburg
- One percent will train in Biloxi
- One percent will train in Corinth

• Seventy-three percent will remain in the Southeastern United States – Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia

- The farthest match was in Oregon

• Fifty-two percent matched in a primary care specialty – Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Med-Peds, Ob-Gyn and Pediatrics. Of that number:

- Forty-seven percent matched in Internal Medicine
- Twenty-one percent matched in Pediatrics
- Fifteen percent matched in Family Medicine
- Ten percent matched in Ob-Gyn
- Seven percent matched in Med-Peds

• The students matched into 21 different specialties. Of the specialties not represented by primary care:

- Eight percent matched in Emergency Medicine
- Five percent matched in Diagnostic Radiology
- Five percent matched in Neurology
- Four percent matched in Anesthesiology
- Two percent matched in Child Neurology
- Two percent matched in General Surgery
- Two percent matched in Ophthalmology
- Two percent matched in Orthopaedic Surgery
- Two percent matched in Otolaryngology
- Two percent matched in Psychiatry
- One percent matched in Dermatology
- One percent matched in Interventional Radiology
- One percent matched in Neurological Surgery
- One percent matched in Pathology
- One percent matched in Thoracic Surgery
- One percent matched in Urology

These results of the 2021 Main Match for our students occurred within the largest in National Resident Matching Program history. A total of 38,106 positions were offered to an all-time high of 48,700 applicants, with 19,866 of those U.S. MD seniors. The percentage of U.S. MD seniors matching to PGY1 positions declined from 93.7 percent in 2020 to 92.8 percent in 2021.

As we finalize decisions for the 2022 match season, let's celebrate what came close to being "normal" during a year that will be remembered for its cataclysmic changes.

Virtual discussion illuminates Match results

Dr. Loretta Jackson-Williams and Dr. Jimmy Stewart will discuss the 2021 School of Medicine Match results from their distinct perspectives of undergraduate and graduate medical education, respectively, at noon on Thursday, May 6, online via WebEx.

The discussion will cover opportunities and challenges moving forward in light of the changing context, including licensure exam requirements.

A WebEx link will be available. For more information, Contact Dr. Lecretia A. Buckley.



School of Medicine Mission Statement

The University of Mississippi School of Medicine is committed to training skilled and compassionate physicians to provide high quality and equitable health care particularly to the state's residents, including diverse and underserved populations. The school prepares learners to provide excellent care through programs of innovative education, state-of-the-art research and comprehensive clinical practice.

HRSA grant focuses on rural education in medical student training

By Rakesh Patel



Patel

Last summer, the School of Medicine secured a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration in the Value Based Medical Student Education Training Program.

Stemming from this four-year grant is a project branded by the School as “IMPACT the RACE - Improved Primary Care for the Rural Community through Medical Education.”

The primary aim of the grant is focused on rural medical education, with Dr. Loretta Jackson-Williams and Dr. David Norris serving as the project’s co-directors.

Throughout the next few years, IMPACT the RACE will provide enhancements to the medical education program and educational experiences for SOM students.

A new rural curriculum and expanded rural training opportunities are planned to provide students more chances for exposure to rural communities. This exposure will be key to the development of this education program.

Because of the grant, the school is able to expand academic support for its students and offer development opportunities for its faculty.

The project will also focus on outreach programs for high school and college students in rural areas of Mississippi who are interested in careers in health care. Students from rural, underserved and tribal communities often face unique challenges that can prevent them from progressing into health professional careers. IMPACT the RACE aims to alleviate some of these disadvantages by offering outreach programs that address some of these issues. Programs for high school and college students will also serve as a recruitment tool and pipeline for these students to enter the SOM.

This summer, IMPACT the RACE will offer three such programs.

- In partnership with the UMMC Departments of Neurology and Psychiatry, the INSIGHT program aims to educate Mississippi’s future physicians on the path to medical school and to encourage representation in medicine from traditionally underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. It is open to any African American, Hispanic, Latinx or Native American student of a participating high school, ages 16 to 18, who is interested in a career in medicine.

Participants in the three-week program are being finalized.

- This summer’s MCAT Prep Program focuses on review, preparation and accountability for college students applying to medical school. This

program is open to students enrolled in the Mississippi Rural Physician Scholarship Program or in the SOM’s PROMISE Program for early assurance for underrepresented minorities and students who are socioeconomically challenged.

During a span of eight weeks, students will receive instruction on each MCAT section and practice exams to assess their knowledge.

- A Pre-Matriculation Program will be offered to our SOM students this summer. This program is for students who have been accepted into our school.

Students in this program may have marginal academic metrics compared with the class average, may have been out of school for two years or more, or may want to ensure that their foundational knowledge is solid. Students will be selected to participate based upon their prior academic performance.

The goal of the program is to ensure that all students beginning in the fall are at the same state of readiness for the rigors of the professional educational program.

Summer series enhances faculty development

For the third consecutive year, the SOM is offering a summer series of faculty development.

This series consists of eight sessions that address key topics in medical education. The sessions will be on Thursdays in the months of June and July.

More information, including descriptions of the sessions, are on the SOM Listserv. To sign up, call Beth Wilson at 5-7833 or email mpwilson@umc.edu.



Transplant surgeon, senior medical student earn Gold Humanism kudos

By Dr. Lyssa Weatherly



Weatherly

Each year, student members of the UMMC Jeanette Pullen, MD Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society select a faculty member and a graduating senior medical student to receive the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award.

This award recognizes graduating students and faculty members who demonstrate clinical excellence and outstanding compassion in the delivery of health care and who show respect for patients, families and health care colleagues.

More than 100 medical schools across the country participate in the award. This year’s recipients are Dr. Felicitas Koller and Alexa Engel, MS4.

Koller is a hepatobiliary and pancreatic transplant surgeon at UMMC and serves as the M3 surgery clerkship director.

Engel is a senior medical student who plans to pursue a career in surgery and will start her surgery internship at UMMC in July.

Congratulations to these two amazing women on this prestigious award.