

# AUPN 2025



2nd Annual Meeting • Baltimore, MD • Saturday, September 13th

## AUPN Clerkship Director's Workshop

**I Want to Become a Neurologist - What Should I Do?**

**How to counsel medical students so they  
successfully match into neurology residency**

*Speakers:*

Neil Masangkay, MD, MS  
Jeremy Moeller, MD, MSc

*Moderator:* Marie Carl Eugene, DO, MSHPE



# Agenda

- Introduction
- Review session's objectives
- Case studies
- Wrap-up

# Objective

- Discuss cases to advise students about:
  - Practical steps to take if interested in neurology
  - Resources that can help them successfully match
  - Proper etiquette during and after interviews
  - How to devise their rank lists

# Case 1

# Superstar!

- Stacy: Fourth-year medical student
- Meeting with you again because they are getting ready to apply to neurology residency
- They would like your advice about what steps they should take to successfully match into neurology residency.

## Vitals:

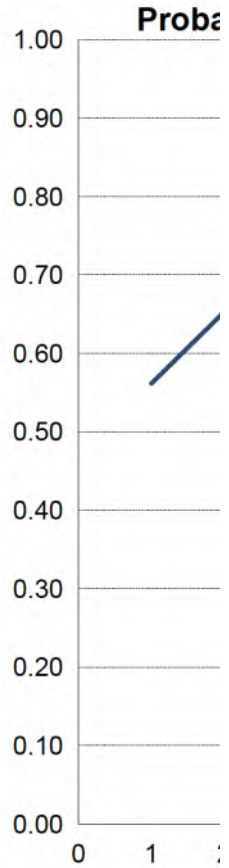
Class quartile	1st
Number of publications	5
Number of national presentations/poster presentations	1/3
Step 1 score	Pass
Step 2 score	265
Leadership	President of SIGN
Awards/ honors	AOA member, Gold Humanism Honor Society inductee, AAN Medical Student Prize

# Superstar! - Discussion

- Application Strategy!
  - How many places to apply to?
- Different Perspectives
  - Other Perspectives (e.g., Student Affairs)
  - What about signaling?

Graph  
N-1

Probabi  
Ranks  
Neurolog



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# Charting Outcomes™: Characteristics of U.S. MD Seniors Who Matched to Their Preferred Specialty

2024 Main Residency Match®

4th Edition

Prepared by:  
National Resident Matching Program  
www.nrmp.org

August 2024

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g Outcomes in the Match:  
0 Seniors, 2024

# Charting the Outcomes, 2024

- Adult Neurology

Applicant Type	Number of Ranks Needed to Achieve a 90% Chance of Matching	2024 Match Rate with Adult Neurology Preference	Odds of Applied Program on ROL
MD Senior	6	93.8%	33%
DO Senior	9	84.7%	23%
US IMG	12	53.5%	15%
Non-US IMG	10	48.7%	14%

# AAN Official Statement

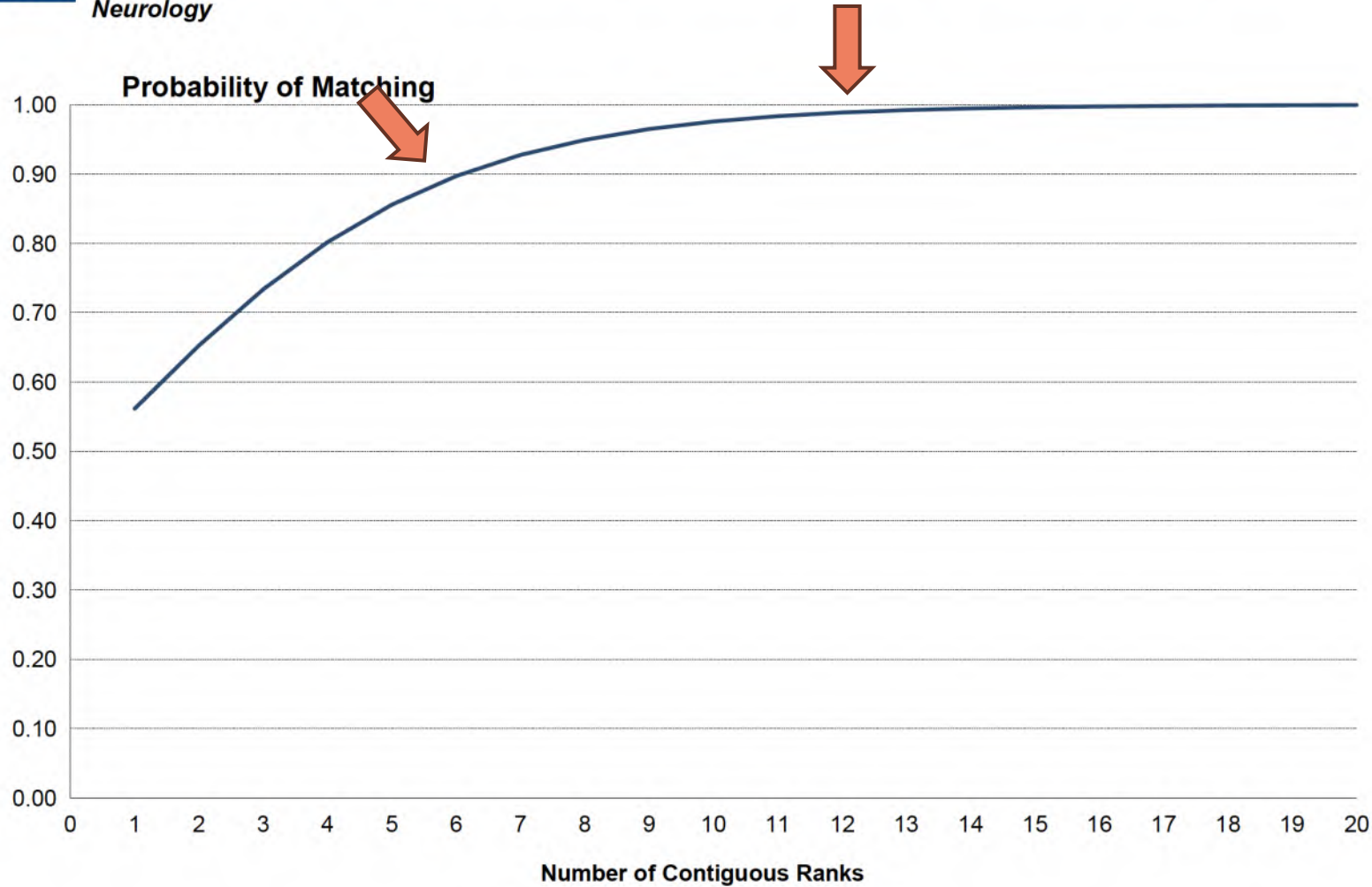
- Adult Neurology:
  - 159 programs with 932 PGY-1 slots; 7 unfilled in initial match
  - 37 programs with 228 PGY-2 slots; 1 unfilled in initial match

## Averages Among Adult Neurology Applicants:

- MD seniors ranked 13 programs → 90% chance of matching into a PGY-1 slot with 6 ranks
- DO seniors ranked 12 programs → 90% chance of matching into a PGY-1 slot with 9 ranks.
- US IMGs ranked 7 programs → 90% chance of matching into a PGY-1-1 slot with 13 ranks
- Non-US IMGs ranked 8 programs → 90% chance of matching into a PGY-1 slot with 8 ranks

**Graph  
N-1**

**Probability of U.S. MD Seniors Matching to Preferred Specialty by Number of Contiguous Ranks**  
*Neurology*



From *NRMP, Charting the Outcomes, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. 2024*. [https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Charting\\_Outcomes\\_MD\\_Seniors\\_2024-2.pdf](https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Charting_Outcomes_MD_Seniors_2024-2.pdf)

# Other Perspectives

- More conservative approaches (more applications)
  - Expect many other sources to recommend many more applications
- Where to Apply and Program & Geographic Signaling
  - What do you want in your next job and why?
  - Importance of having a proper strategy for signaling

## Median Interview Rates\*

Applicant Type	Signal	No Signal
MD	62%	20%
DO	44%	6%
IMG	14%	1%

\*Adapted from AAMC: *Optimal Strategies for your residency application, with a focus on adult neurology.*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vueRvS-Nb3s>

# Case 2

# Red Flags

- David: Beginning of the fourth year of medical school
- Took one year off for medical leave between first and second year - struggled with the first-year curriculum
- Failed USMLE Step 1; score of 236 on USMLE step 2
- Mother became ill 1 month before they took Step 1
- What is your advice?
- Is it acceptable to write about the medial leave, Step 1 failure, and their mother's illness in their personal statement, or should this information be indicated elsewhere in their residency application?
- Is there a chance that writing about this makes it seem as if they are making "an excuse."

## Vitals:

<b>Class quartile</b>	4 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Number of publications</b>	None
<b>Number of national presentations/poster presentations</b>	None
<b>Step 1 score</b>	Fail
<b>Step 2 score</b>	236
<b>Leadership/ service</b>	Volunteers in the Migrant Farm Worker Clinic
<b>Awards/ honors</b>	None

# David - Discussion

- Portion of application not in David's control
  - USMLE Score Report
  - MSPE
  - Start and end date of training
- All of these may contain information related to his exam failures, leave and struggle with first-year courses
- Portion of application in David's control
  - Explanation for any gap in training
  - Personal statement
  - Experiences – including most meaningful experience
- Each of these sections could contain an opportunity to control the narrative around his difficulties

# David - Discussion

- Sources of advice
  - Academic advisors
  - Local neurology program director
- Opportunities to address gaps/difficulties in training
  - In his application
  - Letters of recommendation – focusing on most recent performance
  - Faculty members reaching out directly on his behalf to programs
  - In the interview
    - If the opportunity arises in the context of a question
    - With the program director

# Case 3

# Late Decider

- Susan: Fourth-year medical student
- Decided to apply to neurology residency one month ago – after their 3rd-year neurology rotation
- Was planning to pursue pediatrics
  - Scholarly work and leadership positions have thus far been related to pediatrics
- Susan asks whether it is still possible at this stage to apply to neurology residency?

## Vitals:

<b>Class quartile</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Number of publications</b>	5 (in pediatrics)
<b>Number of national presentations/poster presentations</b>	0/2
<b>Step 1 score</b>	Passed
<b>Step 2 score</b>	Pending
<b>Leadership/ service</b>	President of Pediatrics Student Interest Group
<b>Awards/ honors</b>	Gold Humanism Honor Society inductee

# Late Decider - Discussion

- Recommended Application Materials
  - Reviewing their “why”!
- Application Needs:
  - Letters of Recommendation
  - Designing/Refining their M4 Schedule
  - Guidance from Consortium of Neurology Program Directors



# Case 4

# The Dual Applier

- Carrie: Fourth-year medical student in the MD-PhD program
- Plans to apply to both neurology and internal medicine
- Goal after residency: Subspecialize in neuro-oncology or neuro-immunology vs. rheumatology
- What advice do you have for Carrie regarding applying to both specialties?
- Are there potential risks and/or benefits?

## Vitals:

<b>Class quartile</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Number of publications</b>	10
<b>Number of national presentations/poster presentations</b>	3/7
<b>Step 1 score</b>	Passed
<b>Step 2 score</b>	250
<b>Leadership/ service</b>	Student representative on the clerkship committee
<b>Awards/ honors</b>	AOA member

# Carrie - Discussion

- ERAS Considerations

- Applications to multiple specialties are allowed
- Students can use all available program signals for EACH specialty
- Separate applications (with LORs, personal statements, etc) can be designated for each specialty

- NRMP Rules

- No member of any interview committee is permitted to ask an applicant about other programs or specialties they may be applying to.
- An interviewer may ask about commitment to neurology (or the other specialty) and the motivation for this.
- Advanced Neuro programs may coordinate with IM programs for prelim slots, which could make both programs aware.

# Questions?

# Thank you!

Marie Eugene: [membewe@uchc.edu](mailto:membewe@uchc.edu)