

To: OTA / ACGME Trauma Fellowship Program Directors

From: OTA Fellowship Committee & OTA BOD of Directors

Re: Adoption of Virtual Interview Platform for 2021-2022 Trauma Fellowship Application Cycle

Rationale: The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant disruptions to medical care and has limited access to hospital and clinical facilities. Many institutions have implemented restrictions on individual and work-related travel. Some have already extended these restrictions, which has the potential to affect a resident's ability to attend on-site interviews in the fall and winter.

Significant uncertainty exists with the upcoming interview season and that the pandemic has the potential to disrupt the interview process and potentially create disparities in access to both applicants and programs (i.e. applicants quarantined or travel restricted by institution or program in "hot spot"). In order to address these issues and "level the playing field", it was recommended that adoption of a virtual format would result in a more consistent interview experience for all. The OTA Fellowship Committee and Board of Directors have approved this recommendation for the 2021-2022 for the interview cycle.

All trauma fellowship programs will adhere to the guidelines listed below as a condition of participating in the 2021-2022 SF Match process.

1. Information sessions and interviews will be allowed at the Annual Meeting as scheduled. Programs are encouraged to host a separate virtual session or provide a link to a recording for those applicants unable to travel.
2. Traditional onsite interviews are not allowed. All interviews should be preformed in a virtual format.
3. In order to provide sufficient opportunity to candidates, respect applicants and program faculty time, avoid abuse and provide equitable access of the virtual interview format, applicants should interview at no more than 15 programs and programs should offer interviews to no more than 20 applicants for first position and 10 applicants for each subsequent position (i.e., a program with 3 fellows should not interview more than 40 applicants).

The fellowship committee appreciates the challenges associated with the interview process this year and is committed to creating an environment that is fair and equitable to both applicants and programs. Please reach out to oconnell@ota.org with questions