Supplementary Online Content


eAppendix. Survey

This supplementary material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.
eAppendix. Survey

1. How many programs did you plan to apply to at the beginning of the application process?  
a) <20  
b) 21-30  
c) 31-40  
d) 41-50  
e) 51-60  
f) 61-70  
g) >70

2. How many programs did you actually apply to?  
a) <20  
b) 21-30  
c) 31-40  
d) 41-50  
e) 51-60  
f) 61-70  
g) >70

3A. In August, the Otolaryngology Program Directors Organization (OPDO) released a memo which required a program-specific paragraph at the end of each personal statement. Did this have any impact on the number of programs you applied to?  
a) no impact  
b) applied to more programs  
c) applied to less programs (please answer 3B)

3B. If you applied to less programs, why? (select all that apply)  
a) not interested in applying to some programs after doing further research to write program-specific personal statements  
b) not enough time to complete individual program-specific personal statements  
c) other (briefly explain): 

4. What advice did your Dean or mentor/advisor provide about the number of programs you should apply to?  
a) <20  
b) 21-30  
c) 31-40  
d) 41-50  
e) 51-60  
f) 61-70  
g) >70  
h) did not receive advice from Dean or mentor/advisor

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5. What advice did your Otolaryngology program director provide about the number of programs you should apply to?
   a) <20  
   b) 21-30  
   c) 31-40  
   d) 41-50  
   e) 51-60  
   f) 61-70  
   g) >70  
   h) did not receive advice from program director

6. What advice did Otolaryngology residents provide about the number of programs you should apply to?
   a) <20  
   b) 21-30  
   c) 31-40  
   d) 41-50  
   e) 51-60  
   f) 61-70  
   g) >70  
   h) did not receive advice from residents

7. What advice did other medical students applying to Otolaryngology provide about the number of programs you should apply to?
   a) <20  
   b) 21-30  
   c) 31-40  
   d) 41-50  
   e) 51-60  
   f) 61-70  
   g) >70  
   h) did not receive advice from other medical students

8. Please list any other resources that you used to help decide the number of programs you should apply to?

9. What percentage of programs had sufficient online information for you to identify unique aspects about the program that appealed to you?
   a) 0-25%  
   b) 26-50%  
   c) 51-75%  
   d) 76-100%
10. How many minutes would you expect an average faculty member to spend reviewing your application prior to making a decision to offer an interview?
   a) 0-5 min
   b) 6-10 min
   c) 11-15 min
   d) 16-20 min
   e) > 20 min

11. This year, the average U.S./Canada applicant applied to 61 programs, resulting in roughly 225 applications per residency. By necessity, programs have less time to review each component of an application and unique personal qualities, accomplishments, and genuine interest in a program may be overlooked when identifying candidates for interviews. How do you think the current application process could be improved so that programs have more time per application to allow an in-depth review and identify candidates to interview that would best fit their program?

12. Would you prefer or be agreeable to an upper limit of programs to which you could apply if it was uniformly mandatory for all applicants? If so, what would be a reasonable number?
   a) Yes; number of programs:_______
   b) No

13. In the end, did you apply to programs in which you did not have a high or specific interest just to make sure you had the best chance of matching?
   a) Yes
   b) No

Thank you for your thoughtful participation in this brief survey of your experience during the 2016 Otolaryngology Match application process.