

AASPD 2017: OB Anesthesia Fellowship Update

Session

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I have no relevant financial disclosures.

NRMP MATCH RESULTS FOR OB ANESTHESIA

OB anesthesia participated in its third NRMP Match this year.

MATCH RESULTS FOR 2017:

October 4, 2017, for fellows entering July 2018:

PROGRAMS: No non-accredited OB anesthesia fellowship programs participated in the Match this year. There are currently 33 ACGME-accredited programs in OB anesthesia, and 18 non-accredited programs in North America (14 in the US, 4 in Canada), for 51 total programs in North America and one in Israel (not involved in the Match).

27 programs participated in this year's Match with *at least one* of their positions, for a participation rate of 81.2%, above the 75% NRMP suggested threshold for success.

14 programs filled with all of their spots (51.9% of programs), 6 partially filled (all had 1 spot unfilled), and 7 went unfilled (2 did not submit rank lists, so 5 put a single spot in the Match and did not fill through the Match).

POSITIONS: There are 56 accredited positions in OB Anesthesia, 38 of which were placed in the Match. There are 20 non-accredited positions in OB Anesthesia, if all SOAP-reported fellowship information is correct, for a potential 76 fellowship spots per year available.

Only 38 of the positions were available in the Match (67.9% of 56), **BELOW** the NRMP suggested threshold for success.

25 applicants matched to our specialty. 1 did not receive a match to any program.

27 programs either withheld some spots from the Match (7, all ACGME-accredited) or did not put any spots in the Match (20 total, 6 ACGME- and 14 non-ACGME-accredited). Two programs withdrew from the Match, and two did not submit rank lists. This leaves a knowledge gap with how many of these programs are filling outside the Match. I have reached out to the PDs/PCs of these programs to get a better sense of their successes outside the Match, and am still awaiting some responses.

The 2016 Match was more successful in programs complying with Match positions, but similar in number of applicants. The 2017 Match was slightly more successful with programs filling spots.

Thoughts regarding the Match and our Fellowship:

- 1) Continued low numbers of applicants may lead to withdrawal from the NRMP Match related to different (more flexible) fellowship recruitment strategies; these are currently being discussed within the SOAP Fellowship Committee and the SOAP Strategic Task Force on Obstetric Fellowship Interest.
- 2) Program noncompliance with suggested NRMP success rates is multifactorial and is continuing to be explored if the SOAP Fellowship Committee votes to maintain our involvement with NRMP Match.
- 3) There is great interest in evaluating the ACGME program requirements for the OB Anesthesia Fellowship itself, as the “product” of our fellowship may not be as marketable to candidates looking for a definable skill set (e.g., TTE, QI Leadership, leadership in massive hemorrhage treatment). Modification of the ACGME program requirements will be a point of discussion among SOAP Board Members, the SOAP Fellowship Committee, and the SOAP Strategic Task Force members.