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ANOTHER RECORD MATCH DAY FOR FAMILY MEDICINE

Family medicine once again celebrated a record-breaking Match Day on March 15!

The specialty's programs filled 4,595 positions in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) Main Residency Match, which is 65 more than the record-breaking class of 2023.

According to results announced on March 15, 2024, family medicine categorical and combined programs offered 5,231 positions, up 124 compared with a year ago. It marked the 15th year in a row that the number of family medicine positions offered in the NRMP Match increased. Nearly 800 family medicine programs offered positions in 2024, with a fill rate of 88%.

"We celebrate and welcome those who matched today," AAFP Vice President of Medical Education Karen Mitchell, MD, FAAFP, said on Match Day. "Our new family physicians of the future will deliver much-needed health care across the United States, serving in rural and underserved areas in a way that is unique to family medicine."

Initial results for 2024 showed that the specialty had 636 unfilled positions, up 59 from 2023.

Of the students and graduates who filled family medicine slots in the main Match reported by the NRMP:

- US seniors from allopathic medical schools accounted for 1,535 positions, up from 1,499 in 2023
- Seniors from osteopathic medical schools accounted for 1,493 positions, down from 1,514
- International medical students and graduates (including 749 US citizens) accounted for 1,455 positions, up from 1,355
- Previous graduates of US allopathic schools and osteopathic schools accounted for a total of 112 positions

A more in-depth look at the 2024 numbers is available on the AAFP's Match analysis webpage at www.aafp.org/students-residents/residency-program-directors/national-resident-matching-program-results.html.

"We need more family doctors," said Mitchell, who noted the United States is projected to experience a shortage of more than 52,000 primary care physicians by 2025. "Each person matching today moves us one step closer to meeting the primary care workforce needs of our country. Medical students' experience with and exposure to family medicine greatly influences their decision to choose our specialty. We are grateful to the many preceptors who have touched the lives of our medical students and encourage those who want to contribute to this vital work to contact your local medical school."

The AAFP launched the Family Medicine Champions program last fall to support those who influence students to choose family medicine, and the Academy has created a partnership to expose students to the specialty as early as high school. The Academy also supports a nationwide network of family medicine interest groups with resources and information.

"The future is bright for family medicine, a specialty that will fill our country's primary care needs," Mitchell said. "We know there is more work to be done, especially looking at the systemic issues that challenge primary care. Nevertheless, family medicine educational opportunities in community-based settings will help provide the primary care workforce in the future in the areas that need it most."

What's Next?

Free Match Guidebook

Students can access a free, step-by-step guide to the Match process in *Strolling Through the Match*, which the AAFP has updated for the 2024-2025 Match cycle, at www.aafp.org/students-residents/medical-students/become-a-resident/match/strolling-through-the-match.html. The resource offers tips for every stage of the Match, from choosing a specialty to applying, interviewing, and ranking residency programs.

National Conference

The AAFP's National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students will meet August 1-3, 2024 in Kansas City, Missouri. This event offers live workshops, procedural courses, leadership opportunities, student and resident congresses, and an expo hall showcasing hundreds of residency programs.

"National Conference is a great opportunity for students to see a broad view of family medicine, meet programs and connect with peers and residents," Mitchell said. National Conference registration is open at www.aafp.org/nationalconference.

David Mitchell
AAFP News



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QUICK CONSULT: CONNECTING MEMBERS TO ACADEMIC FAMILY MEDICINE EXPERTISE

Crafted to cultivate collaborative learning and facilitate professional advancement, Quick Consult is an online mentoring platform that links STFM members in search of guidance/

advice with seasoned peers interested in sharing their wisdom and expertise.

Whether navigating career shifts, refining new skills, or in pursuit of faculty development insights, Quick Consult empowers users to thrive and excel within a supportive and cooperative environment.

Why Be a Mentor?

Being a mentor on Quick Consult offers numerous benefits:

Fulfill Promotion Requirements

Serving as a mentor counts toward your professional advancement goals. By sharing your expertise and insights, you contribute to the development of your peers and the field.

Expand Your Network

Engaging as a mentor allows you to connect with like-minded individuals who share your passion and interests. Building these connections can lead to valuable collaborations and opportunities for growth.

National-Level Service

Mentoring on Quick Consult is recognized as national-level service within the STFM community. Your contributions make a tangible impact on the professional development of your colleagues and the broader medical community.

Why Be a Mentee?

As a mentee on Quick Consult, you gain access to a wealth of knowledge and support:

Quick Consults

Need advice or guidance on a particular issue? Quick Consult provides a platform for rapid and targeted assistance. Whether you're navigating a career transition or seeking insights on faculty development, you can find the help you need with just a few clicks.

No Strings Attached

Mentoring relationships on Quick Consult can be flexible and tailored to your needs. Whether you're seeking ongoing guidance or a one-time consultation, you have the freedom to engage with mentors as you see fit.

Access to Skilled Faculty

Connect with experienced professionals who can offer valuable insights and perspectives. Whether you're looking to refine new skills or gain specialized knowledge, Quick Consult provides access to a diverse pool of mentors across various disciplines.

Variety of Topics

Whatever your professional interests or goals may be, Quick Consult offers a diverse range of topics and mentors to explore. Whether you're interested in clinical practice,

research, teaching, or leadership, you can find mentors who can provide guidance tailored to your needs.

In conclusion, Quick Consult is more than just a mentoring platform—it's a community dedicated to fostering collaboration, learning, and professional growth. Whether you're eager to share your expertise as a mentor or seeking guidance as a mentee, Quick Consult offers a supportive environment where members can thrive and excel together. Quick Consult is exclusively available for STFM members—register now to start your mentoring journey!

Caroline. Tanner, STFM



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FORGING THE FUTURE OF FAMILY MEDICINE AT THE 2024 ADFM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We are pleased to share below some highlights from the 2024 ADFM Annual Conference, which took place February 20-24, 2024 in Palm Springs, California. Attendance was strong, with over 240 chairs, administrators, and other senior leaders from departments of family medicine in attendance. The theme of this year's conference was *Forging the Future of Family Medicine - Returning to our Roots in an Era of Dis-integration*, and these concepts were woven throughout our programming.

We started the conference with preconference days, featuring dynamic workshops for both of ADFM's fellowship programs—LEADS and BRC—as well as a session tailored to department administrators, another focused on using persuasion principles to build research capacity in family medicine, and one hosted by ADFM's Leadership Development Committee focused on "Tools for Enhancing Your Leadership Skills."

Our featured presentation on the first full day of the conference was a keynote, "Survive and Thrive: Moving Family Medicine into the Future," from Tim Hoff, PhD. Building off recommendations for the specialty from his book *Searching for the Family Doctor: Primary Care on the Brink*, Dr Hoff spoke about many of the modern-day challenges facing primary care, including physician burnout, financial pressures, and corporatization of primary care. His framing as an outsider with an inside view (he was previously an administrator in a family medicine department and is now a business professor and researcher at Northeastern) created provocative discussion and reflection for the group.

Dr Hoff then set the stage for an experiential workshop by introducing 4 of his recommendations for how family medicine could potentially respond to these challenges: