WHEREAS, there are hundreds of U.S. citizens that attend offshore medical schools each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 53% of U.S. IMGs matched and 46.1% of U.S. IMGs did not match in the National Residency Matching program; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that medical students spend over $800,000 to graduate from medical school, which includes lost opportunities costs; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that half of those medical students may not match into a residency program; and

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised about the quality of medical education, clinical rotations, and their accreditation requirements; and

WHEREAS, the challenges of U.S. IMGs impact the quality of health care provided to citizens in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, 56.7% of U.S. IMGs choose a primary care specialty and fill in the gaps in the physician workforce; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the American Medical Association work with the Educational Commission on Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) to study the personal and financial consequences of ECFMG-certified U.S. IMGs who do not match in the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) and are therefore unable to get a residency or practice medicine. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 04/28/17

References
1 National Residency Matching Program: http://www.nrmp.org
2 American Association of Medical Colleges: http://www.aamc.org
RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Foreign Medical Graduates H-255.987
1. Our AMA supports continued efforts to protect the rights and privileges of all physicians duly licensed in the US regardless of ethnic or educational background and opposes any legislative efforts to discriminate against duly licensed physicians on the basis of ethnic or educational background.
2. Our AMA will: (a) continuously study challenges and issues pertinent to IMGs as they affect our country’s health care system and our physician workforce, and (b) lobby members of the US Congress to fund studies through appropriate agencies, such as the Department of Health and Human Services, to examine issues and experiences of IMGs and make recommendations for improvements.


National Resident Matching Program Reform D-310.977
Our AMA:
(1) will work with the National Resident Matching Program to develop and distribute educational programs to better inform applicants about the NRMP matching process;
(2) will actively participate in the evaluation of, and provide timely comments about, all proposals to modify the NRMP Match;
(3) will request that the NRMP explore the possibility of including the Osteopathic Match in the NRMP Match;
(4) will continue to review the NRMP’s policies and procedures and make recommendations for improvements as the need arises;
(5) will work with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and other appropriate agencies to assure that the terms of employment for resident physicians are fair and equitable and reflect the unique and extensive amount of education and experience acquired by physicians;
(6) does not support the current “All-In” policy for the Main Residency Match to the extent that it eliminates flexibility within the match process;
(7) will work with the NRMP, and other residency match programs, in revising Match policy, including the secondary match or scramble process to create more standardized rules for all candidates including application timelines and requirements;
(8) will work with the NRMP and other external bodies to develop mechanisms that limit disparities within the residency application process and allow both flexibility and standard rules for applicant;
(9) encourages the National Resident Matching Program to study and publish the effects of implementation of the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program on the number of residency spots not filled through the Main Residency Match and include stratified analysis by specialty and other relevant areas;
(10) will work with the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) and Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to evaluate the challenges in moving from a time-based education framework toward a competency-based system, including: a) analysis of time-based implications of the ACGME milestones for residency programs; b) the impact on the NRMP and entry into residency programs if medical education programs offer variable time lengths based on acquisition of competencies; c) the impact on financial aid for medical students with variable time lengths of medical education programs; d) the implications for interprofessional education and rewarding teamwork; and e) the implications for residents and students who achieve milestones earlier or later than their peers;
(11) will work with the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), American Osteopathic Association (AOA), American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), and National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) to evaluate the current available data or propose new studies that would help us learn how many students graduating from US medical schools each year do not enter into a US residency program, how many never enter into a US residency program; whether there is disproportionate impact on individuals of minority racial and ethnic groups; and what careers are pursued by those with an MD or DO degree who do not enter residency programs;
(12) will work with the AAMC, AOA, AACOM and appropriate licensing boards to study whether US medical school graduates and international medical graduates who do not enter residency programs may be able to serve unmet national health care needs;
(13) will work with the AAMC, AOA, AACOM and the NRMP to evaluate the feasibility of a national tracking system for US medical students who do not initially match into a categorical residency program;
(14) will study, in collaboration with the Association of American Medical Colleges, the National Resident Matching Program, and the American Osteopathic Association, the common reasons for failures to match;
(15) will discuss with the National Resident Matching Program, Association of American Medical Colleges, American Osteopathic Association, Liaison Committee on Medical Education, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, and other interested bodies potential pathways for reengagement in medicine following an unsuccessful match and report back on the results of those discussions; and