Helping Students Navigate the SOAP®: The Important Role of Medical School Faculty

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Disclosures

- None

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe the SOAP® process in detail to students and faculty members so that the logistics of the process are clear and well understood.

- Develop a protocol for assisting students through the SOAP® from a medical student educator's perspective with clear roles and responsibilities.

- Lead a discussion at their home institutions regarding the role that medical educators can and should play in assisting students through the SOAP® process.

What is the SOAP®?

Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program
- Connects unmatched applicants to unfilled residency positions

Some data….

2016:

- Over 25,000 PGY-1 positions in NRMP
- 1,097 unfilled positions in SOAP
  - Over 1100 US Seniors with ROL unmatched
  - 155 unfilled positions in Family Medicine
- ***NINE*** unmatched applicants for every unfilled position
- More than half of available positions are accepted in 1ˢᵗ round
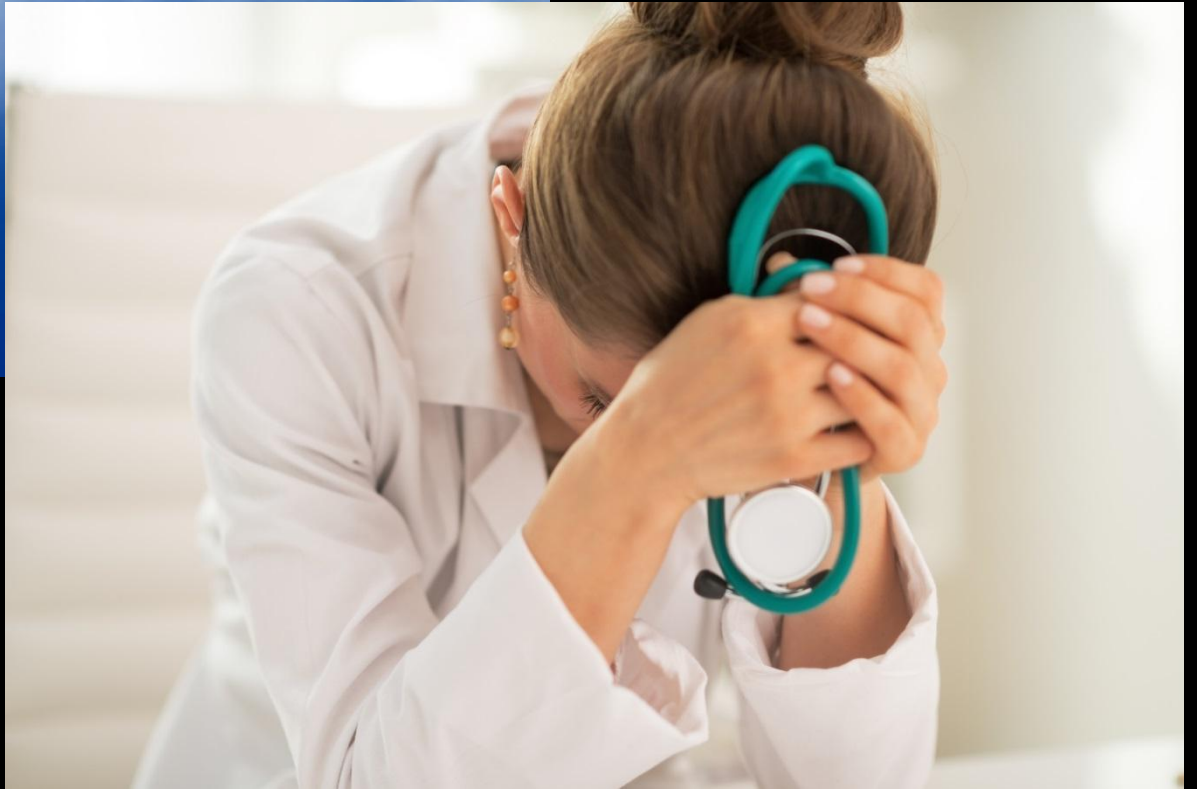- >600 US allopathic seniors with no position post-SOAP

"NRMP Update" June 25, 2016: http://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Signer-GSA-PDC-2016.pdf

SOAP®

- Starts Monday of Match week, 11am
- Majority of activity occurs on Days 1, 2 & 3, but SOAP® continues through Day 4 (Thursday)
- **Match Day** Friday March 17th

http://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Match-Week-and-SOAP-Schedule.pdf

SOAP® Day 1

Monday, March 13, 2017

- 11am:
  - Applicants find out they did not match
  - Programs find out if unfilled
  - List of unfilled programs distributed
- 2pm:
  - SOAP® applicants can start preparing and sending applications in ERAS
- 3pm:
  - Programs begin viewing SOAP® applications in ERAS
  - Interviews begin and continue through evening

http://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Match-Week-and-SOAP-Schedule.pdf

SOAP® Day 2

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

- Interviews continue throughout the day

- 11:30am:

    – Programs begin creating SOAP® preference list in R3 system

http://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Match-Week-and-SOAP-Schedule.pdf

SOAP® Day 3

Wednesday March 15, 2017

- Interviews continue in the morning
- 12:00pm: SOAP® Round 1, applicants receive offers
  - 2:00pm: Deadline to accept/reject
- 3:00pm: SOAP® Round 2 offers
  - 5:00pm: Deadline to accept/reject
- 5:05pm: List of Unfilled Programs updated in R3 system

http://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Match-Week-and-SOAP-Schedule.pdf

SOAP® Day 4

Thursday March 16, 2017

- 9:00am: SOAP® Round 3, applicants receive offers

- 11:00am:

  - Deadline to accept/reject
  - SOAP® Ends

http://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Match-Week-and-SOAP-Schedule.pdf

Faculty Tasks in SOAP®

- Be a force of calm, reassurance, and support
- Know your institution:
  - Where do students meet, who reaches out, etc.
- Write new LOR for student
- Career counseling/guidance
- Dean can add addendum to MSPE (as needed)

No contact with programs until they make contact, but _after_ programs make contact, reach out and offer to speak to them!

Student Tasks in SOAP®

- Start a spreadsheet to keep track of programs applied to
  - Apply to the max: #45
  - Look at websites and take notes about program
- Work on revising Personal Statement
  - Can be shorter and more concise
  - Upload different versions with CLEAR titles into ERAS
- Go through LORs to decide if all still work
- Interview Prep

Prepare for Interviews

- What were you trying to match into and why do you think you did not match successfully?

- Why are you interested in our program?

- What experience or exposure do you have in your SOAP specialty?

- What are your career aspirations?

- What are your weaknesses in your residency application?

- What is your connection to this geographic area? What is your personal support system?

- Are you planning to re-enter the Match again next year?

- ❑ Prepare some questions you would like to ask the program.
- ❑ Close the interview with PLANS FOR NEXT STEPS

Case Studies

Questions to consider

- Who currently assists these students at your institution?
  - Are they the best fit?
- How would you advise the student?
  - Yes/No apply for FM positions
- How can you assist the student?
  - Research programs, letters of rec, etc.

Who's at the table?

Pick a card!

- Student
- Clerkship Director and/or MSE Directors
- Mentors
- Advising Dean
- Department Chair
- Home institution Residency PD
- Residency PD with unfilled positions

Case 1:

Student applied to Family Medicine, received interviews, but did not match. His plan is to try for a position in FM through the SOAP® .

Case 2:

Student applied to psychiatry, received interviews, but did not match. The plan is to try for a position in FM through the SOAP®.

Case 3:

Student applied to dermatology, received interviews, but did not match. The plan is to try for a position in FM through the SOAP®.

Case 4:

Student applied to OB/GYN, received interviews, but did not match. He is considering applying for a position in FM through the SOAP®.

Common Themes

- Psychosocial issues are common!
- Distractions are everywhere
- FM spots have historically been available
- SOAP® is NOT a strategy
- Maintain professional integrity
- SOAP® is not the only option
- Prevention is KEY!

Ideas for
Next Steps

Resources

- AAMC Careers in Medicine: Advising the At-Risk and Unmatched Student Checklists

  https://www.aamc.org/cim/residency/thematch/matchprocess/348936/matchoverview.html *(Log –in required)*

- National Residency Matching Program SOAP Tool Kit

  http://www.nrmp.org/match-week-and-soap-schedule-and-resources/

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