August 15, 2011

Dear Pediatric Program Director:

This information sheet has been prepared to provide Association of Pediatric Program Directors (APPD) members with an update about recent changes in the Child Neurology (CN) / Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (NDD) Match. I am personally aware of prior concerns expressed by the Pediatric community relating to Pediatric trainees leaving your programs early to enter CN/NDD residencies. It is my sincere hope that the changes in the Match program, described below, will rectify prior issues and will enable the establishment of closer ties between CN/NDD programs and the Pediatric Program Directors.

Changes in the Match:

The Executive Boards of the Child Neurology Society (CNS) and the Professors of Child Neurology (PCN) voted unanimously this spring to relocate the CN and NDD match from the San Francisco Matching Program to the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) Main Residency Match. By moving to the NRMP, we have followed the lead of our Adult Neurology colleagues and now have the ability to have a couple’s match, two separate match tiers, and exciting new match opportunities with preliminary Pediatric programs.

What are the Match options?

The NRMP Main Residency Match will accommodate two types of CN/NDD positions:

1) Same Year (Reserved program) Match: i.e., match in March 2012 for a CN/NDD training start date of July 2012. These 2012 positions are classified as R positions, because they start in the year of the Match and require applicants to have completed preliminary training in Pediatrics prior to July 1, 2012.

2) +2 year match, i.e., match in March 2012 for both two-years of preliminary Pediatric training (to start July 2012) and either CN or NDD (to start July 2014). Options in the +2 year match include: the “categorical” and “advanced Child Neurology/NDD program”.
a) **Categorical (aka “dummy” categorical) program:** For this program, a joint agreement must be made between CN/NDD and the affiliated core Pediatrics Program Director to establish an offering of five continuous years of training (two years of preliminary Pediatrics and three years of CN/NDD). Both Directors should evaluate the applicants and jointly agree on a single rank order list (ROL). The ROL for this program is entered in the NRMP Registration, Ranking, and Results (R3) System by the CN Program Director. If the two-year Pediatrics preliminary positions assigned to the “dummy” categorical program are not filled when the matching algorithm is processed, the unfilled positions can be reverted (donated) to the core (3 year) Pediatrics program. Whether an applicant needs to apply separately to the preliminary Pediatrics program is an internally institutional decision.

b) **Advanced program:** In the “advanced CN/NDD match program,” the preliminary Pediatrics training is not incorporated in the CN/NDD program. Pediatric Program Directors must create a separate preliminary Pediatrics/Child Neurology two-year “track” in the R3 System. CN/NDD and Pediatrics Program Directors each create separate ROLs and applicants match separately to a three-year CN/NDD program and a two year preliminary Pediatrics program. In one scenario, the applicant is not restricted to do their preliminary training with any specific preliminary Pediatrics program. When the CN/NDD program (for training beginning in PGY-3) is entered on an applicant’s ROL, an automatic menu will appear that allows the applicant to create a supplemental ROL for his/her preliminary Pediatrics training. A different supplemental list, usually created based on geographic location (e.g., different city), can be assigned to each advanced program on the applicant’s primary ROL. There is no guarantee that a matched CN/NDD applicant will match to the preliminary Pediatric training program at the same, or any, institution.

In another option under the advanced match, a preliminary Pediatrics program can be linked to the advanced CN/NDD program in the same institution thereby creating a “joint” preliminary-advanced program. The advantage of this “joint” advanced match is that it assures the preliminary Pediatric Program Director that an accepted 2-year applicant will be completing his/her CN/NDD training in the same institution. Restated, in the “joint” advanced match applicants can rank the preliminary Pediatrics track only if they also have ranked the advanced CN/NDD track at the same institution. Further, applicants in this option can match to the preliminary Pediatrics track only if they also matched to the advanced CN/NDD program.

**How to revert an unfilled position:**

Unfilled preliminary (2-year) Pediatric training positions can be reverted (donated) to the core (3-year) Pediatrics program. Reversions must be entered by the Program Director directly into the R3 System by the rank order list deadline (Feb 22, 2012). For further information on reversions, please see the NRMP website (http://www.nrmp.org).
Required confirmation in the R3 system:

The NRMP has required the Child Neurology Society/Professors of Child Neurology to formally confirm that each Pediatric training program agrees to accept a specified number of Child Neurology trainees for two years of preliminary Pediatrics. This policy has been implemented in order to prevent applicants from opting out of your 3-year core Pediatrics program after completing only two years of training. Core Pediatric training programs will no longer be available for +2 year matches. Pediatric Program Directors must either agree to create “dummy” categorical programs with the CN/NDD programs, or separate two-year preliminary Pediatrics tracks that provide training for applicants who match to advanced CN/NDD programs. In order to expedite this process, we have requested that the CN/NDD Program Director in your institution personally discuss this issue with you.

Information for the applicant:

a) Where does one obtain an application form?
A formal agreement has been reached with ERAS allowing Child Neurology/NDD to utilize their application forms. Nevertheless, only for the March 2012 Match, completed applications for Child Neurology/NDD training will need to be forwarded to the Association of University Professors of Neurology (AUPN) for processing.

For applicants who are using ERAS 2012 for their pediatric application, the completed MyERAS application should be copied and a hard copy mailed to the AUPN.

For applicants who are not using ERAS 2012 (i.e., not applying for a pediatric residency), the MyERAS application worksheet can be accessed at [https://www.aamc.org/download/139512/data/worksheet.pdf](https://www.aamc.org/download/139512/data/worksheet.pdf). This application should be completed, printed, and forwarded to the AUPN.

b) Where does the applicant send the completed CN/NDD application or get more information about other required documents, fees, checklists, etc.?

As mentioned above, the AUPN will be handling all applications for the CN/NDD NRMP March 2012 Match. Completed applications can be forwarded to the AUPN beginning September 1, 2011. Applications will be electronically distributed to the requested programs.

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c) How does an applicant know what Child Neurology/NDD programs have available positions?
A listing of training programs, Training Program Directors, available positions, and contact information is available via the Child Neurology Society (http://www.childneurologysociety.org/careers/training), AUPN and NRMP websites.

d) Important application dates:
July 1, 2011 Application forms become available through ERAS
September 1, 2011 AUPN begins receiving completed applications
March 16, 2012 NRMP opens its registration site
Next scheduled Match Day

Any questions?
Please feel free to contact a member of the Child Neurology/NDD Match Committee, Harvey Singer MD (Johns Hopkins University), Leon Dure MD (University of Alabama, Birmingham), Sidney Gospe MD, PhD (University of Washington), and Steven Roach MD (Ohio State University). Our goal is to make this a smooth transition and we will do our best to address all of your questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

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