Preparing for Pediatrics Residency Training
Department of Pediatrics
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Overall Perspective on Pediatrics Training
• You will be able to match somewhere if you list enough programs
• Significant variability in “competitiveness” of individual programs
• Prediction of who could match where is difficult
  o programs rank using different priorities

Considering Where to Apply
Use FREIDA to choose programs for applications
http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/2997.html
• Start with geography
• Size
• Reputation
• Academic or community setting?
• Children’s hospital or not?
• Presence of fellows
• Board pass rates

• Programs do not want to match applicants who are not committed to a given field
  o Be careful with your ERAS letters

Personal Statement
• Statement of one page or less that clarifies why the student is choosing pediatrics
  o Sincere, individualized
  o Why pediatrics suits your talents
  o Gives the interviewer something to talk about
• Everyone entering pediatrics loves children – be sure it says more than that
• Choose safe over bold
• Assure that there are no spelling or grammatical errors
• Don’t try to be too unique
• Be sure to get others to read it before its finalized to ERAS
• Don’t hurt your application with your personal statement

Interviews
• Schedule as early as you are invited
  o Season is November - February
  o Try to group geographically
• Be very, very nice to coordinators
• Go to all the socials
  o Remember -they are part of the interview

The Interview Day
• Remember the whole visit is a job interview
• Meet as many people as possible
• Be yourself, but on your best behavior
• This is not the time to complain
• Be professional at all times
• Have questions prepared to ask, and ask multiple people

The Faculty Interview
• Show your enthusiasm for learning and patient care
• Show respect for research, opportunities in primary care, subspecialties, etc.
  regardless of your own interests
• They should have read your application
  o Remember what you wrote
• Be prepared to ask good questions (not the details about call schedules, maternity leave, etc.)

Follow Up After Interview Day
• Send thank you notes routinely, but don’t go overboard
• It’s ok to tell your top choice you love them
  o It is NOT required
  o Always be honest
  o “Near the top of my list” doesn’t mean anything to programs
  o Complete whatever communication you intend before mid-February
• Don’t expect follow up communications from the programs to you
  o No news is NOT bad news

How Programs Rank
• Highly variable and hard to predict
• Interview
• Clinical performance – academic (based on grades, dean’s letter)
• USMLE scores, step 2 > step 1
• Dean’s letter, class rank
• Letters of Recommendation
• Preclinical performance (based on grades, dean’s letter)
• Medical School reputation
• Extracurricular experience (leadership, service)
• Research experience

How to Rank Programs
• Geography
• Feel
• Resident satisfaction, friendliness, support
• Breadth of experiences offered, patient population
• Affiliated sites
• Strength of faculty
• Resident responsibility
• Fellowship opportunities
• Board pass rate
• Stability

**How Many to Rank**
• Generally US grads entering peds rank 8-12 programs
• Rank anywhere you interviewed that you would rather be an intern than jobless