

2020-09-24: Guiding Students as They Walk Down the Virtual Interview Trail

Hosted by Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine (Lonika Sood, M.D.)

The following links were shared during the chat:

- Virtual Interviews: Applicant Preparation Guide https://www.aamc.org/system/files/2020-05/Virtual_Interview_Tips_for_Applicants_05072020_1.pdf
- Graduate Medical Education Virtual Interviews and Recruitment in the Era of COVID-19 <https://www.igme.org/doi/pdf/10.4300/JGME-D-20-00541.1>



MedEd Chat @MedEdChat8 hours ago

Topic 1: Are you changing the number of programs you recommend students apply to? If so, how? [#MedEdChat](#) [#meded](#)



Lonika #wearyourmask Sood @sood lonika8 hours ago

[@MedEdChat](#) T1: such a weird year... empathize with both sides .. but probably increasing the number slightly [#mededchat](#)



Gary Beck Dallaghan @GLBDallaghan8 hours ago

T1 Not sure what is going on here with programs, but it seems that interviewing more might be most prudent [#mededchat](#)



Alliance4ClinEd @Alliance4ClinEd8 hours ago

T1 It's interesting that there are good resources for students to help prepare for virtual interviews...but few for programs1 <https://t.co/yUXVqFy7NU> [#mededchat](#)



MedEd Chat @MedEdChat8 hours ago

RT [@Alliance4ClinEd](#): T1 It's interesting that there are good resources for students to help prepare for virtual interviews...but few for p...



Paul Haidet @myheroistrane8 hours ago

The thing is, virtual residency interviews without travel costs, logistics, or time will make it easier to interview at multiple programs, so from the student perspective, why not do more? [#MedEdChat](#)



Lonika #wearyourmask Sood @sood lonika8 hours ago

[@myheroistrane](#) T1: yes... but balancing with clinical rotations also important .. [#mededchat](#)



Alliance4ClinEd @Alliance4ClinEd8 hours ago

T1 [@JournalofGME](#) has a nice article to guide program directors somewhat with virtual interviews <https://t.co/wmLdcZqLHQ> [#MedEdChat](#) [@debsimpson3](#)



MedEdBot @MedEdBot8 hours ago

RT @MedEdChat: T1 about to come up in a few moments [#meded](#) [#mededchat](#)



MedEdBot @MedEdBot8 hours ago

RT @MedEdChat: Topic 1: Are you changing the number of programs you recommend students apply to? If so, how? [#MedEdChat](#) [#meded](#)



MedEd Chat @MedEdChat8 hours ago

RT @Alliance4ClinEd: T1 @JournalofGME has a nice article to guide program directors somewhat with virtual interviews <https://t.co/wmLdcZqLH...>



Peds Endo Chick @PedsEndoChick8 hours ago

[@myheroistrane](#) Yes... but virtual interviews are still exhausting [#MedEdChat](#)



Shannon Scott-Vernaglia, MD @ScottVernaglia8 hours ago

[@MedEdChat](#) Late to the party. Shannon from outside Boston [#MedEdChat](#)



Lonika #wearyourmask Sood @sood Lonika8 hours ago

RT @Alliance4ClinEd: T1 @JournalofGME has a nice article to guide program directors somewhat with virtual interviews <https://t.co/wmLdcZqLH...>



MedEd Chat @MedEdChat8 hours ago

T1 If your program does interview more this year, is it going to take more or less resources? [#mededchat](#)



MedEd Chat @MedEdChat8 hours ago

Topic 2: What resources are you providing for students to engage in virtual interviews (eg, etiquette, best practices)? [#MedEdChat](#) [#meded](#)



Shannon Scott-Vernaglia, MD @ScottVernaglia8 hours ago

[@MedEdChat](#) T1 it is the people resources that are the hardest part so yes, more interviews will tax our faculty interviewers and residents. 2 cents from an [#IntrovertedPD](#) [#MedEdChat](#)



Kaitlin Sundling, MD, PhD @KaitlinSundling8 hours ago

A fortuitous convergence of [#mededchat](#) and [#path2path](#)! Join us on [#path2path](#) too if you are thinking about [#pathology](#) residency!



Kamran Mirza MD PhD | مرزا کامران [@KMirza8 hours ago](#)

RT [@KaitlinSundling](#): A fortuitous convergence of [#mededchat](#) and [#path2path](#)! Join us on [#path2path](#) too if you are thinking about [#pathology](#)...



Gary Beck Dallaghan [@GLBDallaghan8 hours ago](#)

T2 The best advice for [#medstudents](#) is to test the technology BEFORE the interview and have reliable internet during [#mededchat](#) [#meded](#)



Maren Y. Fuller, MD [@marenwhyemd8 hours ago](#)

RT [@KaitlinSundling](#): A fortuitous convergence of [#mededchat](#) and [#path2path](#)! Join us on [#path2path](#) too if you are thinking about [#pathology](#)...



Alliance4ClinEd [@Alliance4ClinEd8 hours ago](#)

T2 Students should find a quiet place with no distractions to conduct the interviews....oh, and put away your cell phone [#mededchat](#)



Patricia V Hernandez, MD [@pvhernandezmd8 hours ago](#)

RT [@KaitlinSundling](#): A fortuitous convergence of [#mededchat](#) and [#path2path](#)! Join us on [#path2path](#) too if you are thinking about [#pathology](#)...



Monica Miyakawa-Liu, MS4 [@Patho_mon8 hours ago](#)

[#mededchat](#) [#Path2Path](#) there's a lot of discussion about programs having to work with increased applications this year. Would you recommend applicants to cut down on verbage when writing descriptions on ERAS applications? (like bullet points instead of full sentences)



Kamran Mirza MD PhD | مرزا کامران [@KMirza8 hours ago](#)

RT [@Patho_mon](#): [#mededchat](#) [#Path2Path](#) there's a lot of discussion about programs having to work with increased applications this year. Would...



Lonika #wearyourmask Sood [@sood lonika8 hours ago](#)

T2: mock interviews, tech support... telling them they r awesome (they are!) [#mededchat](#)



Paul Haidet [@myheroistrane8 hours ago](#)

[@sood lonika](#) Agree with yours and [@PedsEndoChick](#) 's responses; I'm just saying that students on the cusp will now be able to interview at more programs ... demand will rise to meet the supply. [#mededchat](#)



Gary Beck Dallaghan @GLBDallaghan8 hours ago

[@Patho_mon](#) T1 Or perhaps you could look at what you've written and try to make it more concise. Bullets may work, but too many can get burdensome to read as well [#mededchat](#) [#path2path](#)



Paul Haidet @myheroistrane8 hours ago

Some schools providing students rooms to do virtual interviews in, in order to have "more professional" background... [#MedEdChat](#)



Kamran Mirza MD PhD | مرزا کامران @KMirza8 hours ago

RT [@GLBDallaghan](#): [@Patho_mon](#) T1 Or perhaps you could look at what you've written and try to make it more concise. Bullets may work, but to...



Nicole D. Riddle, MD @NRiddleMD8 hours ago

RT [@KaitlinSundling](#): A fortuitous convergence of [#mededchat](#) and [#path2path](#)! Join us on [#path2path](#) too if you are thinking about [#pathology](#)...



Jake Prunuske, MD, MSPH @jprunuske8 hours ago

[#mededchat](#) Hi all.. joining late from Central Wisconsin



Shannon Scott-Vernaglia, MD @ScottVernaglia8 hours ago

[@Alliance4ClinEd](#) T2 and if you are writing notes, which is fine, tell your interviewer so they don't think you're texting or doing something else. [#mededchat](#)



@DSchatteMD @dschattemd8 hours ago

[@MedEdChat](#) T2 <https://t.co/yKzhpCPOXB> [#mededchat](#)



Jake Prunuske, MD, MSPH @jprunuske8 hours ago

We're opening up study/huddle (small group) rooms on campus and dedicating them for students to use on interview days to ensure fast internet and professional backgrounds. [#mededchat](#)



MedEd Chat @MedEdChat8 hours ago

RT [@jprunuske](#): We're opening up study/huddle (small group) rooms on campus and dedicating them for students to use on interview days to ens...



Suzanne Minor, MD @minor se8 hours ago

#mededchat t1 A program asked me to give a talk about this question. I am having difficulty finding resources. Looking to the business literature.



COMSEP @COMSEPpediatrics8 hours ago

RT @Alliance4ClinEd: Join #MedEdChat Sept 24th at 9PM NYC to brainstorm ideas for virtual interviews for residency training! @AAIMOnline @...



Jake Prunuske, MD, MSPH @jprunuske8 hours ago

Helpful resource for @TheNRMP #match2021 interviews #mededchat



MedEd Chat @MedEdChat8 hours ago

RT @jprunuske: Helpful resource for @TheNRMP #match2021 interviews #mededchat <https://t.co/KCKGYBXYDO>



Suzanne Minor, MD @minor se8 hours ago

T1 Also, many programs stretched thin with pandemic care duties. Adding interviewing duties would be challenging. #mededchat



@DSchatteMD @dschattemd8 hours ago

@GLBDallaghan T2 and check out the lighting and where to look (too many people telling students to look at the camera but then they stare off into space on some computers) #mededchat



Jake Prunuske, MD, MSPH @jprunuske8 hours ago

Local realtors have expertise in staging, showing homes online... can be applied to showing a residency program, clinic, hospital as well... #mededchat



Rachel "Danielle" Fisher MD @dfishermd8 hours ago

@MedEdChat T2 Would love any resources on the debate "can virtual backgrounds be professional?" #mededchat



Suzanne Minor, MD @minor se8 hours ago

We are doing the same. Also allows for a professional /plain backdrop. Agree w IT being nearby! #mededchat



MedEd Chat [@MedEdChat8 hours ago](#)

Topic 3: How can students get a sense of "fit" without interviewing in person? [#MedEdChat](#) [#meded](#)



Gary Beck Dallaghan [@GLBDallaghan8 hours ago](#)

[@dfishermd](#) [@MedEdChat](#) Interesting question. If you're set up to have a virtual background that is not distracting it may work. I honestly wouldn't risk it since people sometimes blend into their background. It's horribly distracting and could work against you in the interview. [#mededchat](#)



Jake Prunuske, MD, MSPH [@jprunuske8 hours ago](#)

Prefer a blank wall to virtual; but no data. Don't like the blurred edges of my head with a virtual background :) [#mededchat](#) <https://t.co/qPidTI66HI>



Jam [@OpMedStudent8 hours ago](#)

Hoping my school can do this as well!!!!



Suzanne Minor, MD [@minor se8 hours ago](#)

[#mededchat](#) late to the party. Joining from South Florida



Lonika #wearyourmask Sood [@sood lonika8 hours ago](#)

[@dfishermd](#) [@MedEdChat](#) Helpful for programs to set expectations... I struggle with toddlers and dogs entering the virtual background [#mededchat](#)



Shannon Scott-Vernaglia, MD [@ScottVernaglia8 hours ago](#)

[@GLBDallaghan](#) [@dfishermd](#) [@MedEdChat](#) Agree. Generally more distracting than anything positive. We understand the situation and if a cat walks in, so be it. [#mededchat](#)



Jake Prunuske, MD, MSPH [@jprunuske8 hours ago](#)

Agree with this! Neutral background is better; also recommend being inside... avoid lawn-mowing neighbors, sirens, dogs, etc...



Jake Prunuske, MD, MSPH [@jprunuske8 hours ago](#)

RT [@MedEdChat](#): Topic 3: How can students get a sense of "fit" without interviewing in person? [#MedEdChat](#) [#meded](#)



Gary Beck Dallaghan [@GLBDallaghan8 hours ago](#)

T3 This is a million dollar question. I've been curious if people are using some sense of belongingness evaluation for virtual electives or things like that to explore connectedness in a virtual session [#mededchat](#)



Jake Prunuske, MD, MSPH [@jprunuske8 hours ago](#)

Talk with as many different people at the program 1:1 as possible! PD, APD, residents, coordinators, MAs, nurses etc... [#mededchat](#)



MedEd Chat [@MedEdChat8 hours ago](#)

RT [@jprunuske](#): Talk with as many different people at the program 1:1 as possible! PD, APD, residents, coordinators, MAs, nurses etc... [#me...](#)



Gary Beck Dallaghan [@GLBDallaghan8 hours ago](#)

[@ScottVernaglia](#) [@dfishermd](#) [@MedEdChat](#) Mine always do...in fact, one's sitting right next to the keyboard now! [#mededchat](#)



@DSchatteMD [@dschattemd8 hours ago](#)

[@MedEdChat](#) T3 we are recommending seeking out former graduates of our med school to ask questions. We've kept the lists of where students have matched previously to try to connect applicants [#mededchat](#)



Suzanne Minor, MD [@minor_se8 hours ago](#)

T1 not changing numbers specifically but certainly continuing to use the diminishing return curve for # of applications [#mededchat](#)



Cristin Colford [@cristincolford8 hours ago](#)

[@MedEdChat](#) T3 our programs are trying with updates websites, program videos, Instagram takeovers by residents, 'virtual happy hours replacing the traditional pre-interview dinner, to deliver a sense of the culture and feel of the program [#mededchat](#)



MedEd Chat [@MedEdChat8 hours ago](#)

RT [@cristincolford](#): [@MedEdChat](#) T3 our programs are trying with updates websites, program videos, Instagram takeovers by residents, 'virtual...



Jake Prunuske, MD, MSPH [@jprunuske8 hours ago](#)

Connectedness is in sharing stories, lived experiences, developing relationships. People are as important as place, maybe moreso... hard to build these connections in a group setting; breakout rooms in a virtual world may help [#mededchat](#)



Kimberly Beiting, MD [@kimberlybeiting8 hours ago](#)

T3 an idea: informal video "tour" that not only hits the major clinical care areas but pops in on (socially distanced) work rooms? Also private "break out rooms" on zoom for informal Q&A with current trainees (>1 trainee/room allows applicants to see how they interact). [#meded](#)



Jake Prunuske, MD, MSPH [@jprunuske8 hours ago](#)

RT [@dschattemd](#): [@MedEdChat](#) T3 we are recommending seeking out former graduates of our med school to ask questions. We've kept the lists of...



Alliance4ClinEd [@Alliance4ClinEd8 hours ago](#)

[@cristincolford](#) [@MedEdChat](#) That's a great idea! How challenging is it to ensure residents have time off duties to participate? Have you done some training with them to ensure they are focused and not distracted during the social hours? [#mededchat](#)



Paul Haidet [@myheroistrane8 hours ago](#)

[@MedEdChat](#) I think that it will be more important than ever for residency programs to articulate, with clarity and specificity, their mission, their identity, their soul. This can help them to differentiate themselves. Your program can't be everything, so what DOES it try to be? [#mededchat](#)



Shannon Scott-Vernaglia, MD [@ScottVernaglia8 hours ago](#)

RT [@jprunuske](#): Connectedness is in sharing stories, lived experiences, developing relationships. People are as important as place, maybe m...



Suzanne Minor, MD [@minor se8 hours ago](#)

T3 I make feedback part of the culture. I ask for feedback with kindness and genuinely want it. [#mededchat](#)



MedEd Chat [@MedEdChat8 hours ago](#)

RT [@myheroistrane](#): [@MedEdChat](#) I think that it will be more important than ever for residency programs to articulate, with clarity and speci...



Jake Prunuske, MD, MSPH [@jprunuske8 hours ago](#)

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Jake Prunuske, MD, MSPH [@jprunuske8 hours ago](#)

RT [@Alliance4ClinEd](#): [@cristincolford](#) [@MedEdChat](#) That's a great idea! How challenging is it to ensure residents have time off duties to par...



Jake Prunuske, MD, MSPH @jprunuske8 hours ago

Right! How do you convey that to prospective residents beyond just saying so? [#mededchat](#) <https://t.co/IDD6r7ZsqP>



MedEd Chat @MedEdChat8 hours ago

RT @dschattemd: @MedEdChat T3 we are recommending seeking out former graduates of our med school to ask questions. We've kept the lists of...



Suzanne Minor, MD @minor se8 hours ago

T3 Time with residents and students alone virtually so that students can ask questions and residents can too. Many residents. Not just one! [#mededchat](#)



Cristin Colford @cristincolford8 hours ago

@MedEdChat They have done some practice sessions with the chief residents. Holding them in the evening allows for greater participation but it is definitely not the same as sharing a meal. Certainly worry about how hard this may be for more introverted applicants. [#mededchat](#)



Suzanne Minor, MD @minor se8 hours ago

In [#sgeafacdev](#) meeting today, we discussed that introverted folks are actually having their voices heard through zoom chat. I hear u though.



MedEd Chat @MedEdChat8 hours ago

We have about 5 more minutes left in our discussion. Please feel free to give some final thoughts [#meded](#) [#mededchat](#)



Lonika #wearyourmask Sood @sood Lonika8 hours ago

@MedEdChat Would love tips from programs on how else applicants can figure out their true fit [#Mededchat](#) @AAIMOnline @Alliance4ClinEd



Suzanne Minor, MD @minor se8 hours ago

T2 Yes! We are just finishing our mock interviews for students. Really helpful. First half hour is mock interview. Second half hour is feedback on mock interview. [#meded](#) hat



MedEd Chat @MedEdChat8 hours ago

Join us again next week at 9 pm Thursday. Thanks again to [@sood Lonika](#) and [@AAIMOnline](#) for tonight's topic! Don't forget to suggest topics by DM or email [#meded](#) [#mededchat](#)



MedEd Chat @MedEdChat8 hours ago

That's a wrap...I will post the [#mededchat](#) transcript tomorrow morning on <https://t.co/mJivoKroXx> on the Resources page. Thanks everyone for participating! [#meded](#)



Jake Prunuske, MD, MSPH @jprunuske8 hours ago

Interested to see how the [#match2021](#) and [#soap2021](#) play out this year. SOAP may be even more challenging than usual. Topic for another [#mededchat](#)?



Suzanne Minor, MD @minor se7 hours ago

We have been doing Q&A sessions with residency directors and quite a few have said they do not want virtual backgrounds. They want professional backgrounds that are real behind the students.



Peds Endo Chick @PedsEndoChick7 hours ago

[@jprunuske](#) [@MedEdChat](#) How do you connect with people outside of the ones you're assigned to have a virtual session with? [#MedEdChat](#)



MedEdBot @MedEdBot7 hours ago

RT [@minor se](#): T2 Yes! We are just finishing our mock interviews for students. Really helpful. First half hour is mock interview. Second hal...



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Robert W Sedlacek, MD FAAFP @datafin6905 hours ago

RT [@jprunuske](#): Interested to see how the [#match2021](#) and [#soap2021](#) play out this year. SOAP may be even more challenging than usual. Topic...



AnnalsAfricanSurgery @AfricanSurgery3 hours ago

Orofacial-infections. [#Imaging](#) plays an important role in identifying the source of infection and anatomic spaces involved. This is key in the [#surgical](#) management of complicated orofacial infections. Here is more <https://t.co/EG9aRGHtNi>. [#MedEdChat](#) [#dentistry](#) <https://t.co/i0UAqR90A0>



MerciehDaniels. [@merciehdaniels3](#) 3 hours ago

RT [@AfricanSurgery](#): **Orofacial-infections.** [#Imaging](#) plays an important role in identifying the source of infection and anatomic spaces invol...



Doctorsinjim [@somyabhargav2](#) 2 hours ago

WEBER's disease- Why is Occulomotor injury LMN type lesion and Nerves 5,7,11 and spinal nerve injury UMN type lesion? [#MedTwitter](#) [#QuestionOfTheDay](#) [#QnA](#) [#MedEdChat](#) [#NeuroTwitter](#)



Jemima Thompson [@Jemimajane87](#) an hour ago

"What if we address the root of the problem—the great sickness in medical education—rather than shifting blame to 75% of medical students for not having enough serotonin or dopamine or norepinephrine in their brains?" [#MedEdChat](#) [#mentalhealth](#)

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[@jprunuske](#) 17.8K



[@ScottVernaglia](#) 13.3K



[@MedEdBot](#) 12.0K



[@GLBDallaghan](#) 9.8K



[@marenwhymd](#) 8.5K



[@myheroistrane](#) 6.7K



[@NRiddleMD](#) 4.9K