



US GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (GME) For International Medical Graduates

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Care for Your Health, Inc



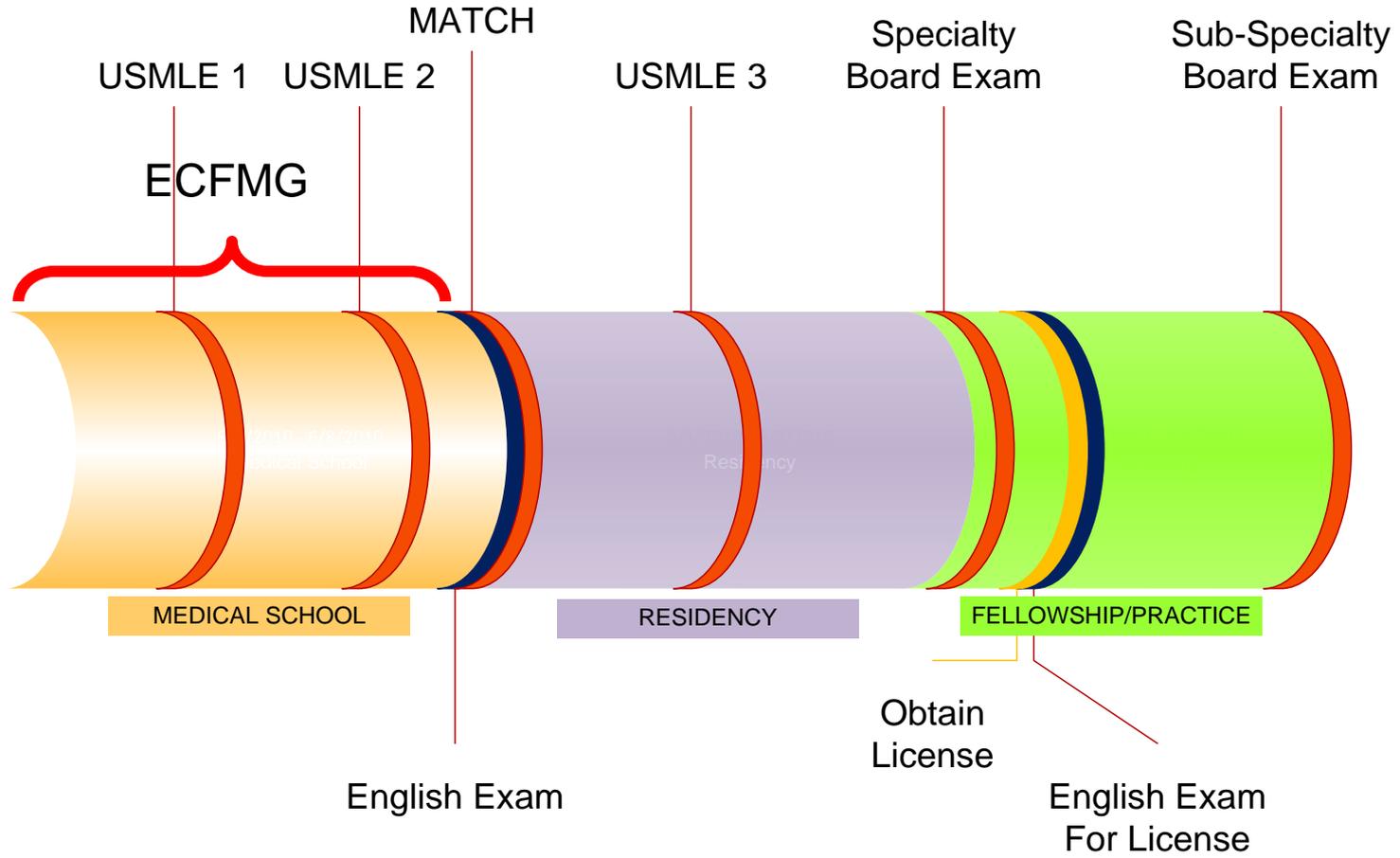
Objectives



- Understand the current system of GME in the USA
- Understand the licensing process in Maryland
- Understand the application process
- Current trends for admission (match results March, 2010)
- Resources for applicants



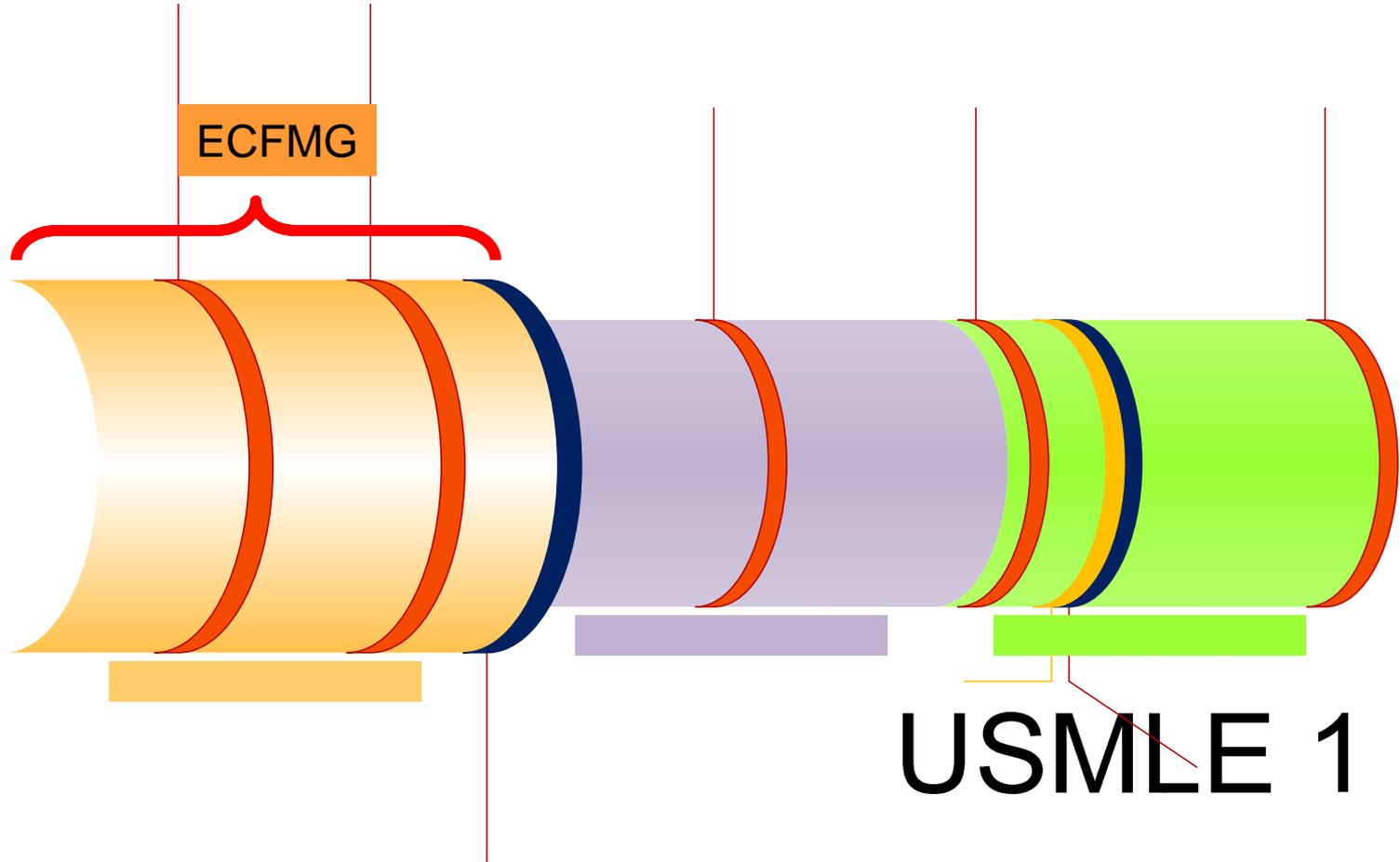
US Graduate Medical Education





USMLE

SUBURBAN MARYLAND
**WELCOME
BACK
CENTER**
FOR FOREIGN-TRAINED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS





USMLE 1



- USMLE Step 1
 - Assesses whether you understand and can apply important concepts of the sciences basic to the practice of medicine, with special emphasis on principles and mechanisms underlying health, disease, and modes of therapy.
 - Ensures mastery of not only the sciences that provide a foundation for the safe and competent practice of medicine in the present, but also the scientific principles required for maintenance of competence through lifelong learning.
 - <http://www.usmle.org/examinations/step1/2009step1.pdf>



USMLE 2



- Assesses whether you can apply medical knowledge, skills, and understanding of clinical science essential for the provision of patient care under supervision and includes emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention.
- Ensures that due attention is devoted to principles of clinical sciences and basic patient-centered skills that provide the foundation for the safe and competent practice of medicine.
 - **Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK)**
- Step 2 CK is constructed according to an integrated content outline that organizes clinical science material along two dimensions: physician task and disease category.
- <http://www.usmle.org/Examinations/step2/ck/2009step2CK.pdf>
 - **Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS)**
- Step 2 CS uses standardized patients, i.e., people trained to portray real patients. The cases cover common and important situations that a physician is likely to encounter in clinics, doctors' offices, emergency departments, and hospital settings in the United States.
- <http://www.usmle.org/Examinations/step2/cs/2009CSinformationmanual.pdf>



Example Questions



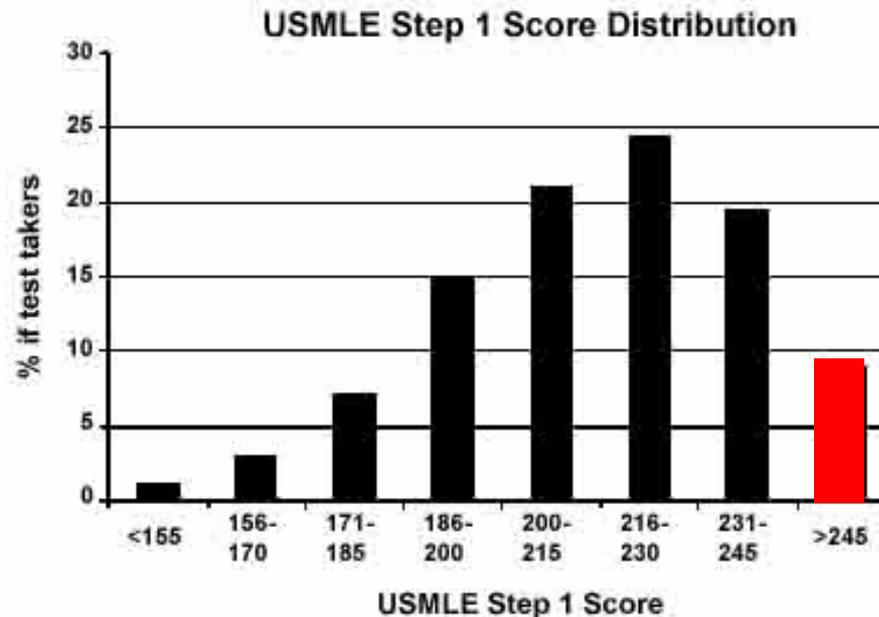
Example Item 1

- 1. A 32-year-old woman with type 1 diabetes mellitus has had progressive renal failure over the past 2 years. She is not yet on dialysis. Examination shows no abnormalities. Her hemoglobin concentration is 9 g/dL, hematocrit is 28%, and mean corpuscular volume is 94 μm^3 . A blood smear shows normochromic, normocytic cells. Which of the following is the most likely cause?
 - A. Acute blood loss
 - B. Chronic lymphocytic leukemia
 - C. Erythrocyte enzyme deficiency
 - D. Erythropoietin deficiency
 - E. Immuno-hemolysis
 - F. Microangiopathic hemolysis
 - G. Polycythemia vera
 - H. Sickle cell disease
 - I. Sideroblastic anemia
 - J. β -Thalassemia trait

(Answer D)

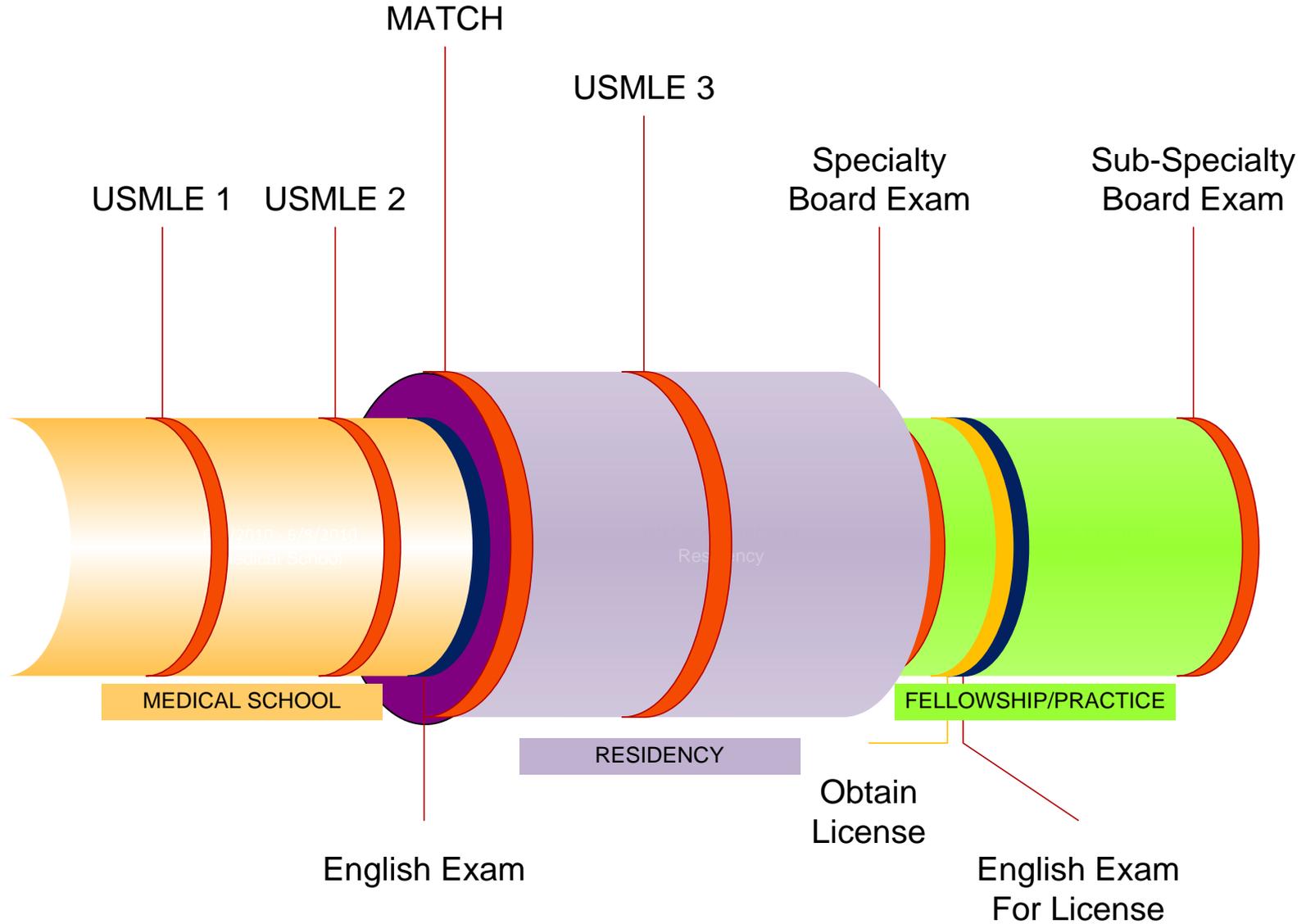
Decisions

- When to take the exam? -> Sooner than later
- When am I ready? -> **When I can score 90 or higher**





Residency

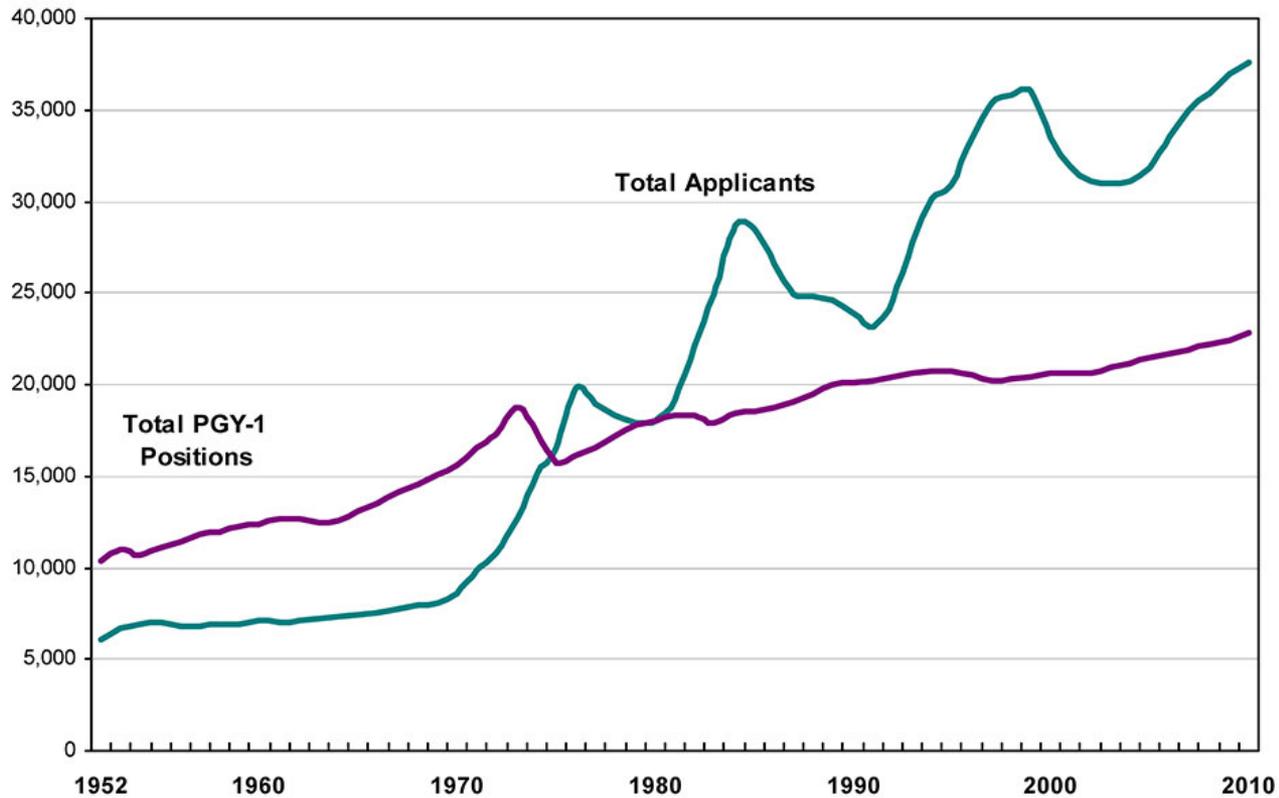




Trends of Residency positions

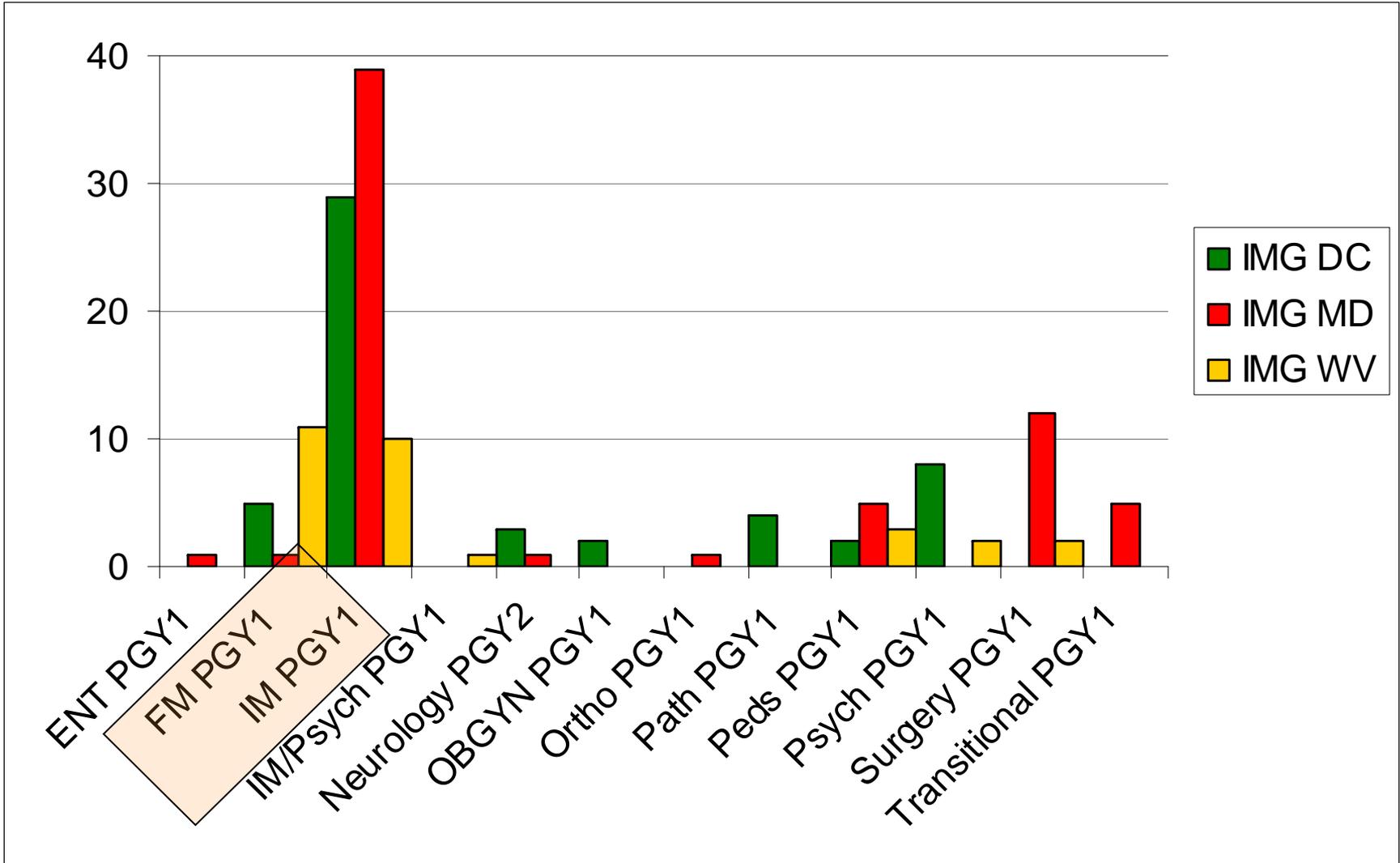


Figure 1 Applicants and 1st Year Positions in the Match, 1952 - 2010





IMG Match 2010





Application to the Match



- The NRMP Main Match provides an impartial venue for matching applicants' preferences for residency positions with program directors' preferences for applicants. Each year approximately 16,000 U.S. allopathic medical school seniors and 15,000 graduates of osteopathic, Canadian or foreign medical schools compete for approximately 24,000 residency positions.
- There are four categories of programs participating in the Match:
 - **Categorical** - programs that begin in the PGY-1 year and provide the training required for board certification in medical specialties.
 - **Advanced** - programs that begin in the PGY-2 year after a year of prerequisite training.
 - **Preliminary** - one-year programs beginning in the PGY-1 year that provide prerequisite training for advanced programs.
 - **Physician** - programs that are reserved for physicians who have had prior graduate medical education. Physician programs are not available to senior U.S. medical students.
- The NRMP is not an application service or a job placement service.
- Applicants must apply directly to residency programs in addition to registering for the Match.
- Most programs participate in the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), which transmits residency applications to program directors via the Internet.
- **Applicants must register with both NRMP and ERAS to participate in the services of each.**
- <http://www.nrmp.org/>



ERAS



- ERAS[®] — the Electronic Residency Application Service is a service of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and was created in 1995 to enhance medical students' transition to residency by reducing the amount of time spent on the application process.
- Using the Internet, ERAS transmits
 - a standardized application,
 - letters of recommendation (LoRs),
 - the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE),
 - transcripts, and other supporting credentials from applicants and designated dean's offices to program directors.
- ERAS also provides national statistics on applicant behavior by specialty.
- <http://www.aamc.org/students/eras/start.htm>



Decisions



- Which Specialty?
- Which programs?
- How many applications to send? (\$\$)
- When to apply?



The Application Process



- The application is for getting an interview, the interview is for getting the position
- Issues to consider in the application
 - * Completeness of required documents
 - * Year of graduation
 - * Post graduation residencies
 - * Post graduate experience in the US: work in the medical field (research), contacts with patients etc



The Application Process



- Issues to consider in the application (cont.)
 - * Proficiency in English
 - * Personal statement
 - * Recommendation letters: from whom and about what kind of work
 - * Scores in the ECFMG exams, number of times taken, CSA etc.
 - * Visa or work status in the US
 - * Medical school, including performance



The Application Process



- If you are invited for an interview.....

- If you are not invited for an interview.....



The Interview: BE PREPARED



- Know about
 - * The specialty
 - * The program and the location
 - * Healthcare system in the US
 - * Your limitations and needs
- Show
 - * Proficiency in English (and native language)
 - * Excellent communication skills
 - * Enthusiasm (career plans and goals)
 - * Ability to process information and to learn



The Interview



- If you match.....
- If you don't match.....
 - * Post match scramble
 - * What went wrong?
 - * Learn from the mistakes
 - * Alternatives?



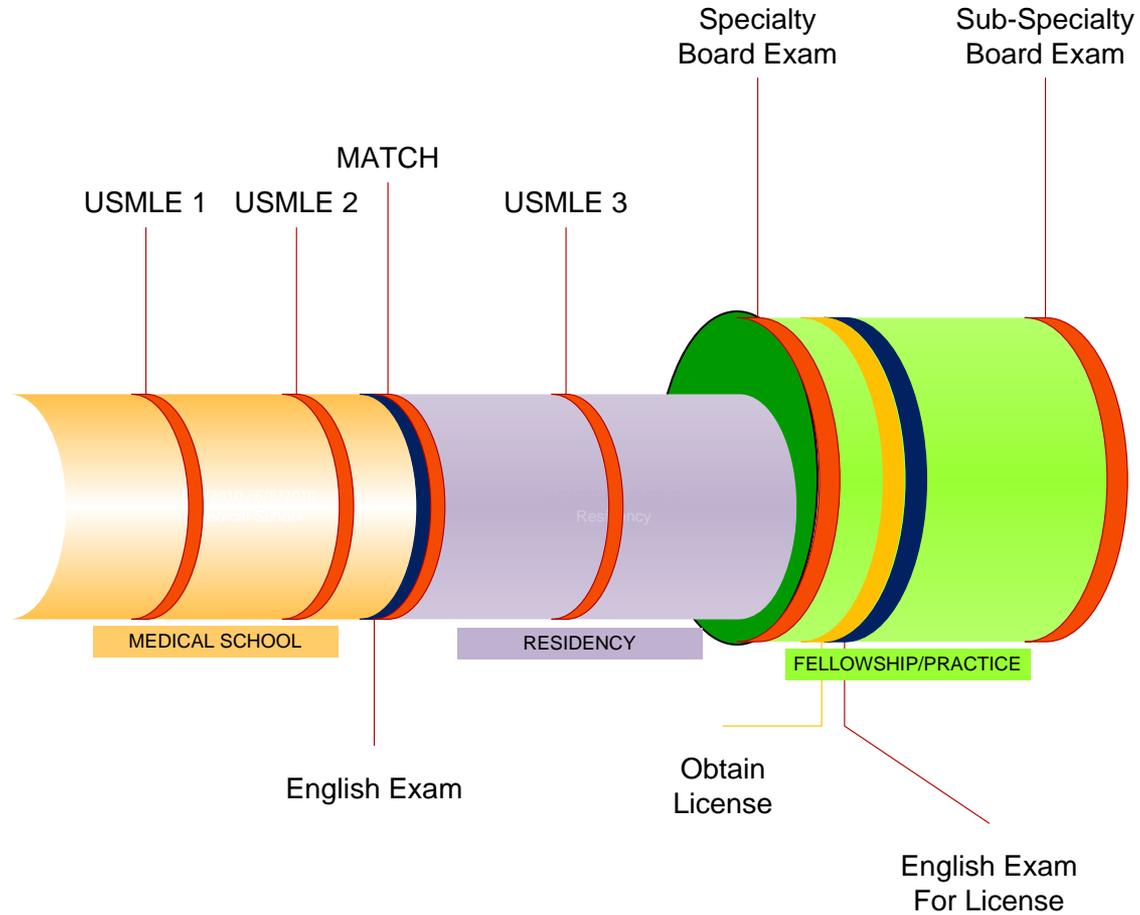
GME in the United States



- Requirements for J-1 Visa Sponsorship (ECFMG)
 - * Have passed USMLE Step 1 and Step 2
 - * Hold a valid Standard ECFMG Certificate
 - * Hold a contract or an official letter of offer for a position in an accredited program of graduate medical education or training
 - * Provide a statement of need from the Ministry of Health of the country of nationality or last legal permanent residence
- * If you get a residency position the J1 visa is easy!



Licensing





Licensing steps in Maryland



- Social Security Number
- Fees: \$260 + Usual licensing fees (~ \$500)
- MD/DO from accredited Foreign Medical School
 - Federation Credentials Verification Service <http://www.fsmb.org>
- ECFMG certification
 - USMLE 1
 - USMLE 2
 - English Exam
- 2 years of Post-graduate training = **No license without residency**
- Good character: copies of arrests, complaints, malpractice law suites, disciplinary actions...
- English proficiency (written and oral)



English proficiency (written and oral) for MD License



- (i) The Test of Spoken English (TSE) with a score of either at least 220 on tests taken before July, 1995, or at least 50 on tests taken beginning July, 1995, as determined by the Board,
- (ii) The Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) with a score of at least 2 or advanced for examinations taken after October 1, 1994, as determined by the Board, or
- (iii) An equivalent examination with an equivalent passing score, as determined by the Board.



RESOURCES



- Association of American Medical Schools
 - * <http://www.aamc.org/>
- Electronic Residency Application Services
 - * <http://www.aamc.org/students/eras/start.htm>
- ECFMG
 - * <http://www.ecfmg.org/>
- Medical Board of Maryland
 - * <http://www.medchi.org/>