



**Board of Directors  
2019-2020**

May 15, 2020

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Dear APCCMPD Members,

Much uncertainty exists about how the COVID-19 Pandemic will impact this upcoming application and interview season. Shelter-in-place orders, travel bans, and work place/training demands of programs across the United States will undoubtedly change the ability of applicants to travel and of programs to host visitors.

As a community of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Pulmonary-Critical Care Medicine Fellowship Programs, we coalesce around the belief that the safety and wellbeing of our staff, faculty, and trainees are of utmost importance. With this in mind, the APCCMPD Board of Directors recommends that programs conduct their fellowship interviews virtually.

We recognize that face-to-face interviews provide a level of rapport that can rarely be obtained via a virtual meeting. To ensure that candidates and programs that interview virtually are not disadvantaged, the APCCMPD further recommends an "*all-in*" approach to virtual interviews. It only seems fair to have all programs conduct all interviews via a virtual medium, even in those situations in which institutions/candidates would easily be able to participate in live interviews. This is in line with recommendations by the Coalition of Physician Accountability, which includes the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, and National Board of Medical Examiners.

We realize there may be hesitation with transitioning to virtual interviews. Even members of the Board of Directors are apprehensive, while recognizing the importance of this alteration to the interview process. We will all have to make considerable efforts to successfully achieve virtual interviews this year, as this will be a new process for most of us.

As such, the APCCMPD is committed to providing resources and educational offerings to members to help with this transition. This will kick off with a panel discussion, "[Emerging your Fellowship from the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)" on Monday, May 18, 2020 from 8:00 - 9:30 PM Eastern time. This virtual check in will piggyback on the format of our annual virtual meeting from March, so come prepared with questions for the chat box!

In addition, we will host a virtual educational webinar on June 18, 2020 at 12:00 PM Eastern time entitled "[Pearls and Pitfalls of Virtual Interviews](#)" with Sanjay Desai, MD, Internal Medicine Program Director, Johns Hopkins; and Cheryl O'Malley, MD, Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, University of Arizona. This session will provide tangible knowledge and steps for all of us.

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@APCCMPD

Lastly, we have been in close communication with the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM) in suggesting a revised timeline for the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) application cycle for this year. We anticipate that the application cycle will be delayed by a month, with the same rank list due date and match date- this will effectively shorten the interview season. We anticipate an official announcement shortly from ERAS and the National Residency Matching Program regarding this year's application cycle timeline. You can learn more, including reading the APCCMPD's response to AAIM here: <https://www.apccmpd.org/national-gme-advocacy>.

- **AAMC Resources:**

- <https://www.aamc.org/what-we-do/mission-areas/medical-education/conducting-interviews-during-coronavirus-pandemic>

- [https://www.aamc.org/system/files/2020-05/covid19\\_Final\\_Recommendations\\_Executive%20Summary\\_Final\\_05112020.pdf](https://www.aamc.org/system/files/2020-05/covid19_Final_Recommendations_Executive%20Summary_Final_05112020.pdf)

- **Article:**

- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1931720420300866?via%3Dihub>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Lenz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Lenz, MD, MEd  
President

Association of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Program Directors