Bad News to Worse News: 2015 Infectious Diseases Fellowship Match Results

TO THE EDITOR—The National Resident Matching Program just released the results of the infectious diseases (ID) match for training starting July 2015 [1]. The results are nothing less than disheartening, as they have been in recent years [2]. Fifty-one percent of the 138 certified ID programs did not fill their positions; 30% (99 of 327) of certified fellowship slots remained unfilled. There were 240 applicants for the 327 positions, just over 1 position for each applicant. For the years 2013 and 2014, 34% and 41% of the ID programs respectively, were unfilled. Meanwhile, of note, the number of certified ID programs increased from 123 (for 2013) to 134 (for 2014) and 138 (for 2015). Likewise, the subspecialty of nephrology continues to show a declining trend in the number of applicants. Compared to the 2014 nephrology match, 6.3% and 23.7% increases were seen in the number of unfilled programs and unfilled positions, respectively. There was 0.68 applicants for each fellowship position [3]. More than 50% of nephrology training programs and 32% of nephrology fellowship positions were unfilled. None of the other subspecialties of internal medicine have witnessed a decline in the number of fellowship applicants.

This alarming declining trend of applicants to ID programs needs to be promptly addressed. A response from the Infectious Diseases Society of America, preferably through this journal, is eagerly awaited.

Note

Potential conflict of interest. Author certifies no potential conflicts of interest.

The author has submitted the ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest.

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References