

dear residents

Celebrating Another Successful Match Season

March 22, 2026

Dear Residents,

As we celebrate another successful Match season, it is a good moment to reflect on the history and purpose of the **NRMP Match**, and more importantly, on what it represents for all of us.

Before 1952, residency recruitment was chaotic. Hospitals competed aggressively for medical students and offers were made earlier and earlier in training. Students often felt pressured to accept quickly, sometimes within hours, without the opportunity to fully explore their options. This created stress, uncertainty, and decisions that were not always in the best interest of either learners or programs.

The creation of the National Resident Matching Program in 1952 brought order to that system. By allowing applicants and programs to rank one another and using an algorithm to produce stable matches, the process became more fair, more thoughtful, and more humane. Decades later, this work was recognized with the Nobel Prize in Economics, highlighting the importance of creating systems that serve people well.

Over time, the Match has continued to evolve. Applications have increased dramatically, and both applicants and programs have had to adapt. **Preference signaling** has been introduced to help identify genuine interest, and while it has improved certain aspects of the process, it has not solved every challenge. The reality is that this is a complex system shaped by many forces, including supply and demand, uncertainty, and the aspirations of thousands of talented individuals.

There is ongoing discussion at the national level about the future of the Match, including recent congressional interest in how the system functions. These conversations remind us that while the structure may change over time, the core mission remains the same. We are here to train excellent physicians and to serve our patients and communities with integrity and compassion.

It is also worth remembering what can happen when coordination is lost. History shows us that without structure, processes can become fragmented, decisions can be rushed, and inequities can grow. The Match, for all its imperfections, continues to provide a framework that promotes fairness and thoughtful choice.

Within this environment, **programs strive to distinguish themselves in meaningful ways.** We think carefully about how to support you, how to balance clinical experience with education, and how to create opportunities for growth. We continue to invest in our program, in our faculty, and most importantly, in you.

At UT Southwestern, our strength lies in the people and the experiences we share. You care for a diverse and often vulnerable patient population. You manage complex and challenging cases. You learn in an environment

that is busy and demanding, but also deeply rewarding. Through this, you develop not only knowledge and skill, but also judgment, resilience, and confidence.

There are many excellent programs across the country, each with its own strengths. What defines this place is the belief that by working hard and caring deeply, you will leave here prepared to handle whatever comes your way. That preparation is not just about medicine. It is about becoming the kind of physician your patients trust and your colleagues respect.

Most importantly, I want to thank you. Thank you for choosing to train here. Thank you for your dedication to your patients and to one another. Thank you for the energy, curiosity, and compassion you bring every day. You are the reason this program continues to thrive.

Congratulations on another Match season and on the role each of you plays in welcoming the next generation into our community.

Warm regards,

Dino