



Making the Most of Your Residency Interview

Dr. Hilit Mechaber

October 6, 2009



Why Interview?



- Prove you are someone the program wants to work with
- Prove you are competent to hold the position
- Prove you offer program/dept long-term advantages



The Interview DAY

- Pre-Interview Sessions
- Introductions: PD/Dept Chair
- Rounds/conferences
- Other speeches
- The TOUR
- The Interview(s)



DURING the Interview

- Know your CV
- Weaknesses listed in your application
- Portray Strength and Confidence
- LISTEN more than you TALK
- Learn to shake hands
- How you answer is more impt than WHAT you say; lead answers to strengths
- Be confident

Potential Questions (some)

- Tell me about yourself.
- What do you want to do with your career?
- Interviews at academic programs – Do you plan on a academic career?
- What are your weaknesses?
- Describe a patient you have cared for?
- What has been the most important moment in your med school experience?
- What do you like outside of medicine?
- What is your medical school like?

Questions for YOU to ask

- Be prepared to ASK them
- Stay focused on selling yourself
- Ask interesting questions
- Turn the conversation on the interviewer

BODY LANGUAGE

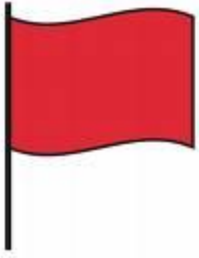
- Act happy and enthusiastic
- Be HONEST
- Dress conservatively
- Learn to maintain eye contact –PRACTICE
- Turn OFF your cellphone



DO NOT...

- Chew Gum
- Bite your nails
- Smoke
- Drink Coffee....think of effects





RED FLAGS



- Absence of residents
- Constant excuses
- Probation
- Failure to share or show endpoints
- Work hours
- Family-friendly?





Thank you

Thank YOUs



Thank you

- YES – send one
- Hand written: old fashioned but still best
- Be sincere, and be BRIEF
 - Thank PD for visit
 - Note what you liked
 - How meets your needs
 - Program you didn't like so much but want it on the list
 - You were impressed – but not #1 choice yet
 - You were impressed and this one is IT

Second Look

- Not required
- Consider for YOU
- Beware of rumors about ranking
- Think about cost

Some classmate questions

- How to refer to partners?
- Can I cancel interviews and HOW?