

UROLOGY

Specialty: Urology

Advisor for Specialty (if you had one):

Did you use ERAS or SFMatch or Other: ERAS

Number of programs applied to: 42 Was this number sufficient? Yes

Number of interviews attended for specialty: 14 Was this number sufficient? Yes

Interview season (month/year): 10/05 to 12/06

Typical structure of interview day: Some programs had dinner the night before (good to attend for programs you are really interested in because gives you a chance to speak with residents and sometimes attendings before interview day) Interview days started in a.m. with talk about program given by some combination of chair/program director/residents (sometimes day began by attending weekly grand rounds). Following talk were the actual interviews typically with most/all attendings in department (anywhere from 5-17 individual interviews depending on size of dept). Usually during interviews residents were available for answering questions and took candidates on tours of facility. All had breakfast and lunch!!

Popular topics covered in the interviews:

- Why urology?
- Describe an interesting case.
- Be able to explain any research you have done.
- Biggest challenge, greatest achievement, proudest moment, etc?
- Often the most difficult and sometimes only question is “what questions do you have for me or about the program” so come prepared with some questions even if you ask the same one(s) to multiple people.

Some difficult questions/unusual tasks (tying knots, etc.):

- Oregon Health Sciences – knot tying
- UCSF – knot tying

How did you prepare for your interviews?

- Review your CV and be able to describe all things on it.
- Be able to describe all research
- Read about the program from info found online and generally have an idea of what important people in the dept (chair, program director) specialize in.

Did you do an away rotation in your specialty field? I did and found it very helpful. I ended up matching at the program I did an away rotation at. I think doing an away at a program you are interested in helps you learn more about the program and give the program a chance to get to know you. Also if you could get a letter from the chair/program director from the away it is one more letter from someone in urology (likely a well-known someone if they are a chair or PD) and that goes a long way in a field as small as urology. If a well-known urologist supports you it is worth more than great boards, grades, etc.

Additional comments/advice: If you get interested in urology early enough try to get involved in some research (even a clinical project that could be done at nights on an easier clinical rotation later in third year or early fourth year) because it shows interest in the field and gives you something to talk about on interviews. Also helps you to get to know the dept where you do the research.

- Do at least two rotations in Urology (one home and one away) to not only see multiple programs but also to get letters (preferably from chairs and PD's)
- Be sure to apply to a broad range of programs and while most people apply to 30-40 programs I was advised that if you get 12-15 interviews you probably have enough to match at one of them.
- Send thank you letters to all programs (definitely those you are interested in).
- Some good info could be found on urologymatch.com but take the info on the site and discussion board with a grain of salt.

May future applicants in your specialty contact you for advice? Email: jxa130@jefferson.edu
