

Applicant and Program Director Perceptions Regarding Virtual Interviewing and Signaling

Zachary Schoppen, MD
PGY-4 Resident
Medical College of Wisconsin

Sarah E. Miller, MD
PGY-4 Resident
Stanford University

Leah Kaufman, MD
Vice Chair for Faculty Development
Stony Brook University

Nagaraj Gabbur, MD
Ob/Gyn Program Director
Zucker School of Medicine



INTRODUCTION

- In 2020, Ob/Gyn residency programs switched to a virtual format due to the pandemic
- The majority of programs still conduct virtual interviews
- In 2022, "signaling" was introduced to allow candidates to indicate interest in specific programs

OBJECTIVES

- To survey residency applicants and program directors regarding their perceptions of the virtual interview and signaling process

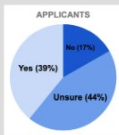
METHODS

- Education for All (EFA) committee members developed survey, validated with focus groups of educational experts, to assess applicant and residency program director (PD) perceptions
- Survey was distributed online to all residency applicants and PDs who registered for the 2022 EFA Residency Fair in September 2021

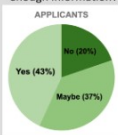
RESULTS

Responses collected from 506 residency applicants and 33 PDs:

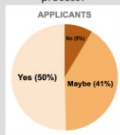
Should interviewing continue to be virtual?



Does virtual interviewing provide enough information?



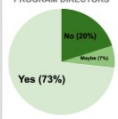
Does signaling improve the interview process?



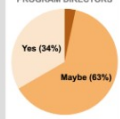
PROGRAM DIRECTORS



PROGRAM DIRECTORS



PROGRAM DIRECTORS



What is the most important factor regarding virtual interviewing?



CONCLUSIONS

- Many PDs and residency applicants are unsure if interviews should continue to be virtual
- Most applicants planned to use signaling but many PDs are unsure if this improves the application process
- Further study is necessary to explore the impact of signaling and determine if virtual interviews should be continued
- Cost and equity were the factors applicants considered most important regarding virtual interviews

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you to all other members of the EFA Committee: Ali Morell, Jordan Hylton, Kyan Lynch, Michelle Wang, Megan Evans, and Jenifer Byrnes