



Child Neurology and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

Match Moves to NRMP

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Child Neurology/NDD Match Committee Chair

The New Match

After consultation with Program Directors, the Executive Boards of the Child Neurology Society (CNS) and the Professors of Child Neurology (PCN), voted unanimously to relocate the Child Neurology (CN) and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (NDD) match from the SF system to the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) Main Residency Match. While the SF Match was a good first step, unacceptable limitations significantly restricted our ability to grow. By moving to the NRMP, we have followed the lead of our adult neurology colleagues and now have the ability to have a couple's match, two separate match tiers, and exciting joint match options with preliminary (i.e., two-year) pediatric positions. Although much work needs to be done to complete the transition process, and several issues require finalization, the goal of this letter is to update everyone with the latest information.

Next Scheduled Match Day

March 16, 2012.

Who will run the Match, how does one get information about available positions, and how does the applicant apply?

- All matches will be completed on the web using the NRMP's Registration, Ranking and Results (R3) System.
- **The NRMP will open its registration site on September 1, 2011 (Match is in March 2012).**
- Information is currently being collected from all Program Directors about available training positions and will ultimately be pre-loaded in the R3 System. For more information on the R3 System and step-by-step instructions, see the user guides at http://www.nrmp.org/res_match/user.html.

How will an applicant know what Child Neurology/NDD programs have available positions?

A listing of training programs, Training Program Directors, available positions, and contact information will be made available via both the Child Neurology National Office and the NRMP website. This listing should be completed by mid-July 2011.

Where does one obtain an application form?

A formal agreement has been reached with ERAS allowing Child Neurology/NDD to utilize the ERAS application forms. However, for a variety of reasons beyond our control, all completed ERAS application forms for the March 2012 Child Neurology/NDD match will need to be forwarded to the Association of University Professors of Neurology (AUPN) for processing. Application forms via ERAS become available July 1, 2011.

- **For applicants who are using ERAS 2012 for their pediatric application:**
 - The completed MyERAS application should be copied and a hard copy mailed to the AUPN.
- **For applicants who are NOT using ERAS 2012 (i.e., not applying for a pediatric residency):**
 - The MyERAS application *worksheet* can be accessed at <https://www.aamc.org/download/139512/data/worksheet.pdf>. This application/worksheet should be completed, printed, and forwarded to the AUPN.

Where does the applicant send the completed application or get more information about other required documents, fees, checklists, etc.?

As mentioned above, the AUPN will be handling all applications for the NRMP March 2012 Match. Completed applications can be forwarded to the AUPN beginning September 1, 2011. Applications will be electronically distributed to the requested programs.

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Important application dates:

July 1, 2011	Application forms become available through ERAS
September 1, 2011	AUPN begins receiving completed applications NRMP opens its registration site
March 16, 2012	Next scheduled Match Day

What positions can be placed in the Match?

The NRMP Main Residency Match will accommodate two types of CN/NDD positions:

1) Same Year (Reserved program) Match: i.e., match in March 2012 for a CN/NDD training start date of July 2012.

These 2012 positions are classified as R positions, since they start in the year of the Match and require the applicant to have completed preliminary training in Pediatrics prior to July 1, 2012. Individuals who fail to match for a Same Year program will be eligible to enter into a controlled scramble afterwards.

2) +2 year match, i.e., match in March 2012 for both two-years of preliminary pediatric training (to start July 2012) and either CN or NDD (to start July 2014)

Options in the +2 year match include: the “Categorical” and “Advanced child neurology/NDD program”.

a) Categorical (aka “dummy” categorical program): Provides continuous 5 years of training. The affiliated pediatrics program agrees to train whoever matches into the Child Neurology/NDD program and therefore does not rank them separately. If the number of slots assigned to the “dummy” categorical program is not filled, available positions can then be reverted (donated) to another category.

b) Advanced program: Child Neurology/NDD training begins in PGY-3. This set-up is similar to the joint advanced-preliminary program, except the programs are not linked. In this scenario, the applicant is not restricted to do their preliminary training with the Child Neurology/NDD linked affiliated preliminary pediatrics program. Thus, the applicant could match to either the CN or the preliminary Pediatrics program, but not necessarily to both. The applicant ranks CN on a primary rank order list and ranks the pediatrics program on a supplemental rank order list that is assigned to the CN program. When the CN/NDD program is entered on an applicant’s rank-order list (ROL), an automatic menu will appear that allows the applicant to create a supplemental ROL for his/her preliminary Pediatrics training. A different supplemental list, usually created based on geographic location (e.g., different city), can be established for each listed advanced program on the primary ROL. Child Neurology/NDD and Pediatric Program Directors each submit separate ROLs.

Note: Applicants can mix “Dummy categorical”, “Joint-advanced”, and “Advanced” programs on a single rank order list (ROL) and can create a different supplemental ROL for each Advanced program.

Program Directors can similarly place some of their positions in the Dummy categorical, Joint-advanced, or Advanced programs. Separate ROLs are created for each program type. The PD can revert (donate) positions from one program type to another (e.g., Dummy categorical to an Advanced program) to guard against going unfilled. Pediatric Program Directors can also redirect positions from a two-year to a three year program.

Required relationships with Pediatrics:

The NRMP is requiring the CNS/PCN to obtain formal confirmation that each pediatric training program agrees to accept a specified number of child neurology trainees for just two years of preliminary pediatrics. To prevent pediatrics programs from being disadvantaged based on accepting individuals who opt out of the third year of training, the current listing of three-year pediatric training programs will no longer be available for +2 year matches. Since most pediatric programs already admit our trainees for two years, we do not believe this should be a major issue.

What about +1 year candidates?

There is **no** match for 2013 (+1 year) candidates. At present, based on previous data obtained from the SF Match, we expect very few applicants to fall into this category. All applicants will need to be accepted via either the “same year” or “plus 2-year match, except as defined below.

Can a Program Director offer a position outside of the match?

At present, this is only permissible in the following situations

- a) Post-match vacancy: An applicant has gone through the Same-Year match process but has failed to match in March for a position to start in July of that same year. In this instance, the CN/NDD Program Director can directly negotiate with the candidate as part of an organized scramble process immediately following the Match.
- b) Unexpected opening: defined as a position, previously filled through the Match, that unexpectedly becomes available in the months immediately preceding an expected July start. In this instance only, a commitment can be made to another individual for that open position as long as the training begins within the first few months of that academic year and satisfies the rules and regulations of the Graduate Academic Training Committee of the Institution. Any position filled outside of the formal Match must have the approval of the Child Neurology/NDD Match Committee, prior to the formal commitment.

Couples Match:

The partners register individually and then link their ROLs so that they match into the highest pair of programs where both applicants are offered positions. This option allows couples to obtain training at Institutions that are acceptable to both by geography and/or medical specialty. http://www.nrmp.org/res_match/special_part/us_seniors/couples.html.

Several Match Rules:

1. All programs with Child Neurology/Neurodevelopmental Disabilities residency training positions must participate in the NRMP Child Neurology/Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Matching Program.
2. Participating programs are required to make all of their positions available through the NRMP Match.
3. All applicants for Child Neurology/Neurodevelopmental Disabilities training positions are expected to participate in the NRMP process.

Policy and procedures for the reporting and investigation of Match violations of NRMP agreements:

“The NRMP assumes responsibility for instituting measures to protect the integrity of the matching process by requiring all match participants to behave ethically and responsibly during the matching process.” Information on NRMP reporting procedures, confirmation and investigation procedures, corrective actions, and consequences can be found at http://www.nrmp.org/res_match/policies/violations.html.

Are there future planned discussions?

Ms. Mona Signer, Executive Director NRMP and Ms Renee Overton, Director ERAS, have offered to speak with CN/NDD Program Directors at the CNS Annual Meeting in Savannah this October (PCN Meeting is scheduled at 2:00 - 5:00 pm, Wednesday, October 26).

Child Neurology/NDD Match Committee:

Current members of this Committee include: Harvey Singer MD (Johns Hopkins University), Leon Dure MD (University of Alabama, Birmingham), Sidney Gospe MD, PhD (University of Washington), and Steven Roach, MD (Ohio State University). Our goal is to move this new and exciting venture ahead in a smooth and orderly fashion. We will do our best to answer all of your questions and to monitor the need for a process to address requirements for individuals in extraordinary circumstances. Please recognize that the Match application procedure is still being finalized. We look forward to the continued growth of Child Neurology and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities programs.