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## **Introduction**

Meanwhile, the current pre-medical student culture is as competitive

the USMLE must take both exams, which slightly differ in their length, emphasis, and question type, although they cover similar material apart from OMM. Percentages of allopathic and osteopathic students who matched in specific specialties showed that there were some important distinctions in proportions of graduates going into certain fields, namely Family Medicine, Paediatrics, and Emergency Medicine. Despite the common misconception that highly competitive specialties are not open to DO graduates, significant numbers of DOs enter such fields as orthopaedic surgery, anaesthesiology, and diagnostic radiology. Several limitations of this data analysis were acknowledged by the contributing SDN member, Jimmy DeMeo, who is currently an osteopathic medical student at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and the national Student Osteopathic Medical Association president [6]. For instance, the analysis did not take into consideration how applicants ranked specialties, whether or not they matched into their top choice of specialty, multiple match attempts, post-match placement, or scramble results. It also did not include results from the San Francisco matching program, which is a third system apart from the AOA and NRMP that matches applicants to a few highly competitive specialties, including neurology, ophthalmology, and plastic surgery. The increase in the number of osteopathic medical schools has been so steep, in fact, that the number of new osteopathic school graduates has already surpassed the number of available AOA residencies. For the 2011 AOA match, there were 3,875 new osteopathic graduates and only 2,549 AOA residency positions. However, because osteopathic graduates can also apply to allopathic residencies accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the match ended with only 419 unmatched osteopathic graduates [7]. In recent years, it has become more popular for osteopathic students to apply to ACGME residencies. Reasons for an individual's choice of an allopathic residency program as opposed to an osteopathic program include factors such as location and program availability. Occasionally, the perception that ACGME residencies are superior to those of the AOA in terms of quality and future employment eligibility may also influence this decision. In our research, it was difficult to locate a centralized database or source for reviews, some metrics of quality, and prestige of residency programs. Most sources were, unfortunately, scattered and from individuals with varied general opinions of either residency match program. Nonetheless, sources did share commonalities in the advice given about residency programs [8]. They agreed that each student should carefully consider all of the following factors to determine the perfect fit for his/her individual goals: program stability, program support, prestige, patient population, level of academic orientation, and everything that program location entails. Ultimately, considering all of these aspects will influence selection of certain residency programs over others. Recently, a member of the Student Doctor Network forum, a popular online forum for members of the pre-health and professional fields, stated that the