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July 31, 2020

Dear Department Chairs, Business Administrators, Program Directors, Fellowship Directors, Residents, and Program Coordinators:

This is a follow-up communication to update you on the status of the AAN's ongoing efforts to facilitate the adoption of a universal timeline for fellowship recruitment. **The AAN supports a universal timeline for neurology fellowship applications beginning in March of the PGY-3 year with fellowship offers beginning no earlier than August of the PGY-4 year – [AAN Fellowship Application Timing Position Statement](#).**

Since my last communication, we piloted an initiative with three subspecialty fellowship groups. On April 23, 2020, I emailed the fellowship directors in Neuromuscular Medicine, Movement Disorders, and Headache Medicine, asking them to commit to the AAN's recommendation for fellowship positions beginning in July 2022. Once 85% of the fellowship programs in each specialty commit to participate in this universal timeline, the AAN will announce the agreement and periodically re-publish the updated list of all participating programs on AAN.com, or provide a link to the specialties' preferred site where this data is documented, for the purpose of informing all applicants and program directors.

The AAN committed to provide an update to all stakeholders (fellowship directors, program directors, chairs, residents, and coordinators) by August 1, 2020 as to whether the threshold of 85% was met for each specialty to enact the proposed timeline reform for the upcoming interview season.

PILOT STATUS UPDATE

Movement Disorders

Movement Disorders surpassed the 85% commitment threshold, with 100% of the programs participating in the San Francisco Match (SF Match) having agreed to the timeline. Movement Disorders fellowship programs participate voluntarily in the SF Match. The timeline for recruitment starts in March and the match occurs in early September. This timeline works in agreement with the AAN's Fellowship Application Timing Position Statement. Participating programs can be viewed [here](#).

If there are programs that are not currently participating in the SF Match process who are also committed to follow the timeline, we encourage these programs to contact us to be included in our listing.

Neuromuscular Medicine

A total of 80% (41/51) of neuromuscular programs have responded with their commitment to the AAN Fellowship Application Timing Position Statement. At this time, the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM) is moving forward with fellowship recruitment reform and is actively

developing a comprehensive plan for fellowship recruitment, which includes implementing a modified timeline beginning on March 1, 2021, as well as an application and offer management system. Further details will be forthcoming, and information will be posted on the [AANEM website](#).

Headache Medicine

As of May 29, 74% (32/43) of programs had responded to the AAN Fellowship Application Timing Position Statement to which 88% expressed their commitment. The American Headache Society (AHS) has signed on in support of the AAN Position Statement and is working with headache fellowship programs on this initiative to ensure all programs respond and have an open forum to express themselves. The AHS has launched a new section of their website called "[National Headache Fellowship Opportunities](#)." This website is a centralized resource for applicants and programs alike and will list programs who have agreed to participate according to the Academic Headache Center Consortium.

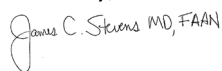
NEXT STEPS

- The AAN will continue to engage with leadership from other neurological subspecialties and will be reaching out in the coming weeks to fellowship programs and subspecialty organizations to provide advocacy and guidance in their continued endeavors to reform the fellowship recruitment process that aligns with AAN recommendations.
- The AAN will provide periodic updates, starting in August 2020, to all our constituents regarding the progress of this initiative. This will include links to external websites that will document which programs are participating in specialty-specific timeline recommendations.

If you have comments, ideas, or want to get involved in supporting or promoting this initiative please let us know by contacting Lucy Persaud, Senior Manager, Graduate Education, American Academy of Neurology (lpersaud@aan.com).

As you can see, this is an immense endeavor and the AAN cannot do this alone. Please support improving the neurology residency experience by ensuring that our trainees have gained enough exposure to our many subspecialties to make as informed of a fellowship decision as possible.

Sincerely,



James C. Stevens, MD, FAAN
President, American Academy of Neurology

cc:

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