

November 4, 2015

Dear Program Director:

Re: Challenges establishing Undergraduate electives at Canadian medical schools and implications on this year's CaRMS match

We are writing Program Directors as you are about to begin file review for this year's CaRMS match. You may be aware that the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada launched an online portal ("the Electives Portal") for securing visiting electives between Canadian medical schools. The increased efficiency in applying for an elective conferred by the Portal resulted in much higher demand for electives that outpaced capacity. As a result, many medical schools enacted electives moratoriums for short periods of time throughout this past year, preventing any student from establishing an elective at the 'closed' school. Specifically, this may mean that students were not able to pursue an elective at your school.

Canada's Postgraduate and Undergraduate Medical Education Deans have always asserted that it is not necessary for medical students to complete an elective at any given school to be eligible to match to residency programs at that school, even for highly competitive programs. The pool of talent available for any given residency program will include students who both attended and did not attend the school on an elective. As a result of Portal-related moratoria, this year it is more important than ever to consider the quality of applicants who did not complete an elective at your school, in addition to those who did. Adopting best practices in candidate selection remains the preferred mechanism to ensure that your program matches the most optimal talent.

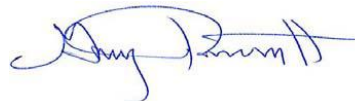
If you have any questions or clarifications about the above, please contact the Postgraduate or Undergraduate Medicine Dean at your institution.

Wishing you all the best with this year's CaRMS match.

Sincerely,



Chair, AFMC Committee on Postgraduate
Education



Chair, AFMC Committee on Undergraduate
Education