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2023 ACG HEPATOLOGY SCHOOL & EASTERN REGIONAL POSTGRADUATE COURSE

JUNE 2-4, 2023 | RENAISSANCE HOTEL WASHINGTON, DC



Register online: meetings.gi.org



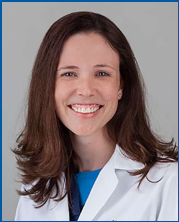
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ACG Virtual Grand Rounds universe.gi.org

Welcome



Anne Tuskey, MD, FACP



Mohammad Bilal, MD

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ACG Virtual Grand Rounds universe.gi.org

Participating in the Webinar

All attendees will be muted and will remain in "Listen Only Mode"

Type your questions here so that the moderator can see them.
Not all questions will be answered but we will get to as many as possible.

A handout with the slides and room to take notes can be downloaded from your control panel.

Exit

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ACG Virtual Grand Rounds universe.gi.org

ACG Virtual Grand Rounds

Join us for upcoming Virtual Grand Rounds!

There will be no webinar on Thursday May 4th

Week 19 – Thursday, May 11, 2023
 Global Health in Gastroenterology: Establishing a Program, Challenges and Solutions
 Faculty: Akwi W. Asombang, MD, MPH, FACP
 Moderator: Omede Mmeyerneabasi, MD
At Noon and 8pm Eastern

Week 20 – Thursday, May 18, 2023
 World IBD Day Webinar: Crash Course in Caring for the Emerging Adult with IBD
 Faculty: Sandra C. Kim, MD; Amy Bugwadia, MS
 Moderator: Mara Shapiro
At Noon and 8pm Eastern

Visit gi.org/ACGVGR to Register

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ACG 2023

OCTOBER 20-25, 2023

VANCOUVER, CANADA

VANCOUVER

Save the Date!

Be sure your passport is up to date!



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 Virtual Grand Rounds

Presenters

universe.gi.org



Neeral Shah, MD, FACG



Mashal Bathjea, MD



Leila Kia, MD




Fernando Castro, MD, FACG


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Panelists



Nikki Duong, MD




Chuma Obineme, MD




Michele Baliss, DO

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Building your ERAS Application/CV

Neeral Shah, M.D.
 Associate Professor of Medicine/GI
 GI Fellowship Program, Director
 Director, Academy for Excellence in Education
 University of Virginia



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Outline

- Program Directors Perspective
- My Perspective
- Errors to Avoid
- Summary



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Program Directors Perspective

- Engage other faculty and program directors
- Survey posted on program directors listserv
- 41 responses
- More collective opinions than my own!

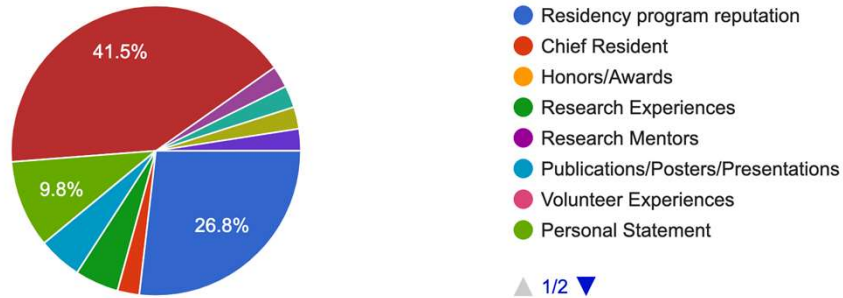


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Most important part of ERAS application

What is the most important part of an applicant's ERAS application?

41 responses

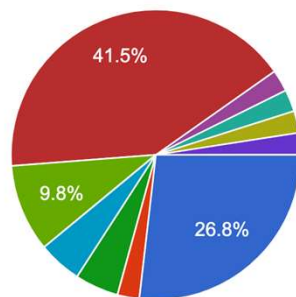


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Most important part of ERAS application

What is the most important part of an applicant's ERAS application?

41 responses



Top Four Parts of ERAS Application

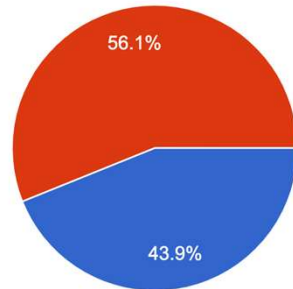
1. Letters – 42%
2. Reputation of Program – 27%
3. Personal Statement – 10%
4. Research Experiences – 5%

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Presentations at Own Institution – Credit?

Do you consider presentations by the applicant at their own institution as scholarly activity?

41 responses



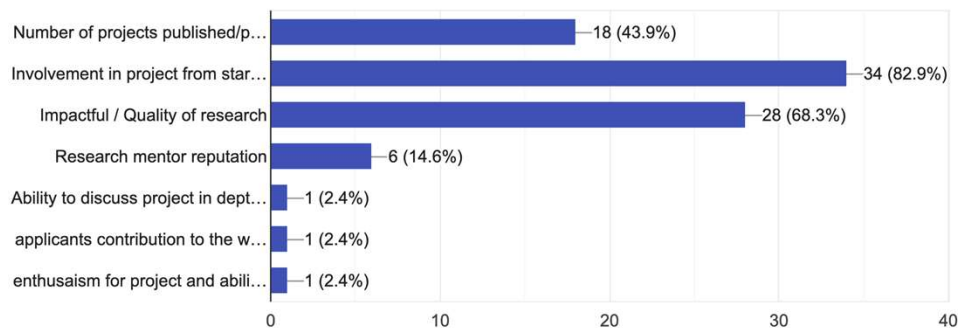
1. No – 57%
2. Yes – 43%

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Important Characteristics about Research

Please indicate what is important about research experiences (check all that apply)?

41 responses



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Important Characteristics about Research

Top 4 about Research

1. Evidence of project from start to finish – 83%
2. Impact / Quality of research – 68%
3. Number of projects published – 44%
4. Research mentor reputation – 15%

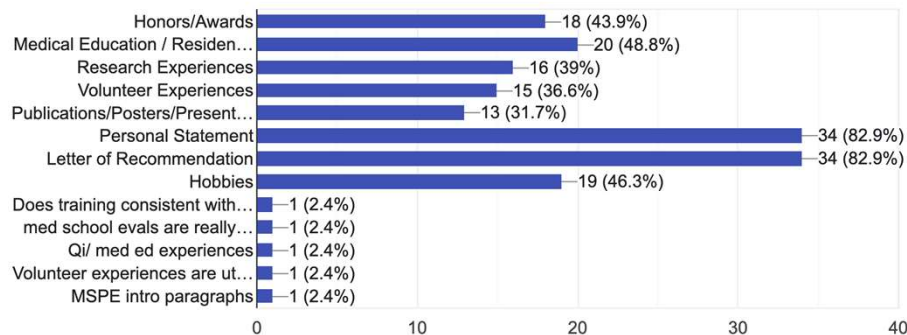


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Evidence of Holistic Resident from ERAS App

What parts of the ERAS application help you get a holistic view of the applicant (check all that apply)?

41 responses



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Evidence of Holistic Resident from ERAS App

Top 3 Ways to Evaluate Holistically

1. Personal Statement – 83%
Letters of Recommendation – 83%
2. Reputation of Residency Program – 49%
3. Hobbies - 46%
Honors / Awards – 44%



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My Perspective

- Reputation of training program is important
- Chief Residents have demonstrated leadership
- Applicants with inordinate number of projects is a red flag
- Research showing an arc of growth is impressive
- Involvement in activities good
Leadership is great
- Holistic review has put more importance on personal statement



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Errors to Avoid

- If you have a glaring issue, please address it up front
 - Misdemeanor on record
 - Failure of boards
 - Other circumstances
- Do not list all research in one entry
- Give each project own entry and identify each mentor separately
- Do not overstate your research projects
Only include those you really contributed to
- Do not get too controversial on the personal statement,
but add some of your own voice in it



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Summary

- Get letters from people that know you well
- Have others read your personal statement
 - Sometimes best to step away and re-read it later
- Be honest and accurate about research projects
- Try to show growth in your research on a single topic or by project
- Develop a good relationship with research mentors
- Keep track of your awards and honors



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Personal Statement: Tips and Tricks



Leila Kia, MD

Michael A. Ruchim, MD Gastroenterology Fellowship Program Director

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

ACG Training Committee 3rd Annual Webinar: Gastroenterology and
Hepatology Fellowship Match Application

April 26th, 2023

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WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- Gives programs a sense of who you are as a person
- Chance to highlight something that may not be readily apparent in your CV, e.g.: a character trait, resilience, perseverance, overcoming adversity
- A bad personal statement **will** hurt you. Programs are looking for red flags
- A stellar personal statement may give you the edge, but...
 - It's okay to be boring. You don't want to be *too* memorable unless your story is truly inspiring and genuine



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LOGISTICS

- Don't put it off
- Grammar and spell check
- Ask mentors, colleagues, non-medical persons to read
- Don't go over 1 page- no one wants to read your biography
- Be direct, concise, to the point. Do not rehash your CV

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LOGISTICS

- Don't over think it – this is not a creative writing assignment
- If you are personalizing your letter to each program you apply to, triple check that the names and programs you are referencing are correct. If you mention a doctor by name, make sure they still work there

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WHAT TO WRITE ABOUT

- An important experience, life-event, or patient encounter that affected your decision to pursue medicine/GI
- A significant adversity you have overcome that highlights your resilience and commitment to hard-work
- Prior careers that have shaped your current career aspirations
- If you know, your career aspirations, and how you plan to achieve those goals
 - Be specific and avoid vague generalizations
- If there is something in your application that needs explaining, you may write about it here (e.g., taking extended time off after residency before applying)



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COMMON TOPICS

- Personal GI illness and journey navigating through medical system
- Family member's GI illness
- Patient experience "taking care of patient X with cirrhosis" (note: most write about cirrhotic patients)
- Overcoming adversity: first generation immigrants, helping non-English speaking family members navigate healthcare system, refugee/immigrant story, member of URM overcoming barriers
- Other careers/hobbies (e.g., engineer, pianist, athlete, history major, etc.) and how these skills are helping you now/make you a unique candidate (work ethic, attention to detail, intellectual curiosity, lifelong learner)



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STRUCTURE

1. BACKGROUND/WHY GI/PERSONAL ANECDOTE – YOUR STORY. This is the hook that make us want to read more. Don't make this part too long
2. ATTRIBUTES/STRENGTHS – Be specific and go beyond discussing your research. We are looking for self-starters, dependability, honesty, collegiality, professionalism. Show us how you are **resilient and adaptable**.
3. WHAT DO YOU WANT IN A CAREER – What excites you about GI ("the fire under your belly")?
4. WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR IN A PROGRAM – If your interest is in transplant hepatology, then you may not get interviews at programs without TH. If geography is important, you can say that.



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WHAT TO AVOID

- Don't be arrogant, insensitive, boastful
- Don't talk poorly about any programs or your home institution
- Don't lie
- Don't exaggerate your involvement in a project or your skills
 - E.g.: if you say you're fluent in Spanish, be prepared to speak it.
 - Programs may talk to your research mentors
- Don't try to be too funny or creative (e.g., poems, jokes)
- Avoid clichés
- Be genuine and avoid writing about current "hot topics" just because- unless you are genuinely interested and have something to back it up (e.g., AI, DEI)



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SUMMARY

- BE GENUINE, TELL YOUR STORY, AND HIGHLIGHT YOUR STRENGTHS
- DON'T OVERTHINK IT, BORING IS OKAY – BUT IT MUST READ WELL AND HAVE NO ERRORS
- WE READ 100S OF THESE. TELL US SOMETHING INTERESTING AND UNIQUE ABOUT YOU THAT WILL SET YOU APART. CONVINCE ME TO WANT TO MEET YOU!

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GOOD LUCK!

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HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR LETTER WRITERS

MASHAL BATHEJA, MD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, GI FELLOWSHIP
MAYO CLINIC ARIZONA



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ATTESTS TO YOUR POTENTIAL TO BE A SUCCESSFUL FELLOW

- Longitudinal relationships
- Well rounded assessment
 - Clinical Caliber
 - Scholastic achievements
 - Community engagement
 - National society contributions
- Connection to your top choice programs are helpful

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CHARACTER AND TRAITS

- Clinical Judgement
- Reliability
- Conscientiousness
- Organization skills
- Work ethic
- Team player
- Integrity

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SCHOLASTIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Research
- Presentations
- Abstracts
- Manuscripts
- Local or national recognition
- Special interest/Focus/depth in a specific area
- Awards

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SERVICE AND OUTREACH

- Community Service
- Volunteer work
- Education (local, national)
- National society involvement
- Social media involvement

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HELP OUT YOUR LETTER WRITERS

- Set up a meeting early
 - Discuss where and whys of applying
 - 'Do you feel comfortable writing a strong letter?'
 - 'Would you be willing to make a phone call or write an email?'
- Updated CV
- Personal statement
- Follow up couple weeks before due date

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WHO NOT TO ASK/TRIAGING

- Someone you worked with very briefly
- Hesitates when asked about strong letter or phone call
- Assistant or Associate professor who knows you well is better than professor or world's expert who has superficial awareness

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SO HOW SHOULD YOU PICK YOUR LETTER WRITERS?

- Longitudinal familiarity is ideal
- Knowledge of Clinical skills
- Speak to your work ethic
- Scholastic achievements
- Community outreach/DE&I/service
- If it's a strong letter, it is ok if one is outside your desired subspecialty
- Willing to email/call on your behalf

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THANK YOU

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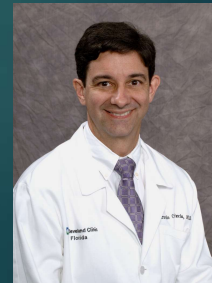


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How To Determine Where To Apply: Lessons Learned From Virtual Interview Season

FERNANDO CASTRO, MD AGAF FACG
CLEVELAND CLINIC FLORIDA
GASTROENTEROLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM DIRECTOR



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Observations and Recommendations

- ▶ Applications received in our program were about 280 in 2010
 - ▶ Increase of about 20-30 applications per year
 - ▶ Faster increase during and after COVID with the use of virtual interviews to about 500 applications last year
- ▶ Recommendations:
 - ▶ Don't apply just because it is easier and you don't have to travel if it is a training program you don't want to go
 - ▶ Use same criteria as you would if you had to invest time and money in traveling

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Where to Apply? What is Important to You?


- ▶ This is a match after all
- ▶ Small vs. large size program
- ▶ Academic vs. Community vs. Hybrid practice interests
- ▶ Whether the program has a strong research background
 - ▶ Is there an area of research you want to pursue
- ▶ Whether the program has more of a clinical focus
 - ▶ If you may want to pursue subspecialty does the program have training in that area you are interested
- ▶ Geography
- ▶ Program culture, whether fellows happy

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Ok, so now I have defined what I want, how do I know which program offers this?



- ▶ Do your homework, invest time researching the programs
- ▶ Check the program's website
- ▶ See where graduates have gone, specially over the last few years
- ▶ Culture:
 - ▶ If closeby, pay a visit
 - ▶ If you can't get there, ask the current fellows about their experiences
- ▶ So much more time than prior to virtual interviews but more difficult to make a decision since you may not be physically there
 - ▶ DO YOUR HOMEWORK

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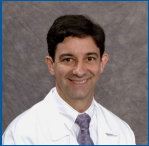



 Virtual Grand Rounds

Q&A




universe.gi.org



Moderators



Speakers



Panelists

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