

## **Tips for Residents: What Program Directors are looking for in desirable candidates**

In selecting applicants to interview for breast imaging fellowship, program directors look at a variety of factors:

- a. Academic record/board scores/medical school performance
- b. Letters of recommendation
- c. Personal statement
- d. Connections to their program
- e. Reputation of the applicant's radiology residency program

### **Tips for residents on the interview day:**

- 1.** If you are selected for an interview, congratulations! Start the day off right by dressing professionally and arriving early or on time.
- 2. Interactions with faculty and staff:** Always be courteous and professional to everyone you meet.
- 3. Interpersonal skills:** Interpersonal skills are important for a breast imager, and will be evaluated during your interview day.
- 4. Interaction with current fellow(s):** Although the current fellow(s) may not be directly involved in ranking applicants, their input is often used.
- 5. Know why you want to pursue breast imaging,** and be able to articulate it to those interviewing you. Be open and honest about what you are looking for in a training program.
- 6. Know your application.** Know what is on your CV, particularly if you have participated in publications or research. Be prepared to discuss what you have put in your application.
- 7. Research the program and faculty.** Having knowledge of the program demonstrates interest in the program and may allow you to find common ground for discussion. Also, it will allow you to ask more pertinent questions. For example, knowing what research has recently been published from that section demonstrates a genuine interest and knowledge about the program.
- 8. Ask questions.** Asking questions is a great way to demonstrate your interest in a program.
- 9. Enjoy the process, and good luck!** You have worked hard to get here!