

# Effects of COVID-19 and the Growing Virtual Interview Process on Match Preference for Internal Medicine Residency Applicants

Sarah Person, MS4, Anne Burnett Marion School of Medicine at Texas Christian University; Joshua Wilcoxson, DO, PGY-3, Texas Health Fort Worth Internal Medicine Residency Program; Christopher Rees, MD, PhD, PGY-4, University of Colorado Pulmonary Critical Care Fellowship Program; Alex Estrella, Texas Christian University; Hilary Ryder, MD, MS

## Introduction

- Unprecedented changes have been made to the residency interview process due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual recruiting of medical students for residency programs was implemented on a national scale at 444 internal medicine residency programs during the 2020-21 application cycle. For the first time in the history of the NRMP Match, applicants were asked to generate rank lists having visited none of the institutions to which they applied. While residency programs have invested significant time and effort in the development of virtual interview days, there are undoubtedly components of the interview day that cannot be adequately experienced virtually (e.g., interacting directly with faculty, trainees, and other interviewees, or touring the facilities and resources offered by an institution). We sought to better understand the change in outcomes due to the change in venue and style of recruiting.

## Impact

These results suggest that the virtual interviewing process may have hindered a student's likelihood to leave the state or region that they attended medical school within internal medicine residency matriculants.

## Methods

A research assistant aggregated data from publicly available websites of Internal Medicine Residency Programs across the United States, obtaining information about the medical school alma mater of each internal medicine resident for the residency graduating classes of 2022-2024. A repeated measures ANOVA was used to determine whether the proportion of individuals who remain affiliated with the same institute for both medical school and residency differs significantly for the 2020-21 application cycle relative to prior years.

## Results

- There is a statistically significant increase in the number of matriculants that stayed in the same state and region as their medical school.
- There is no statistically difference among the south vs. non-south likely due to a type II error. However, the trend in the south shows that southern matriculants were more likely to stay in the same state and region
- There is a non statistically significant increase in university-based program matriculants who choose to stay within the same state and region as their medical school

## Additional Figures



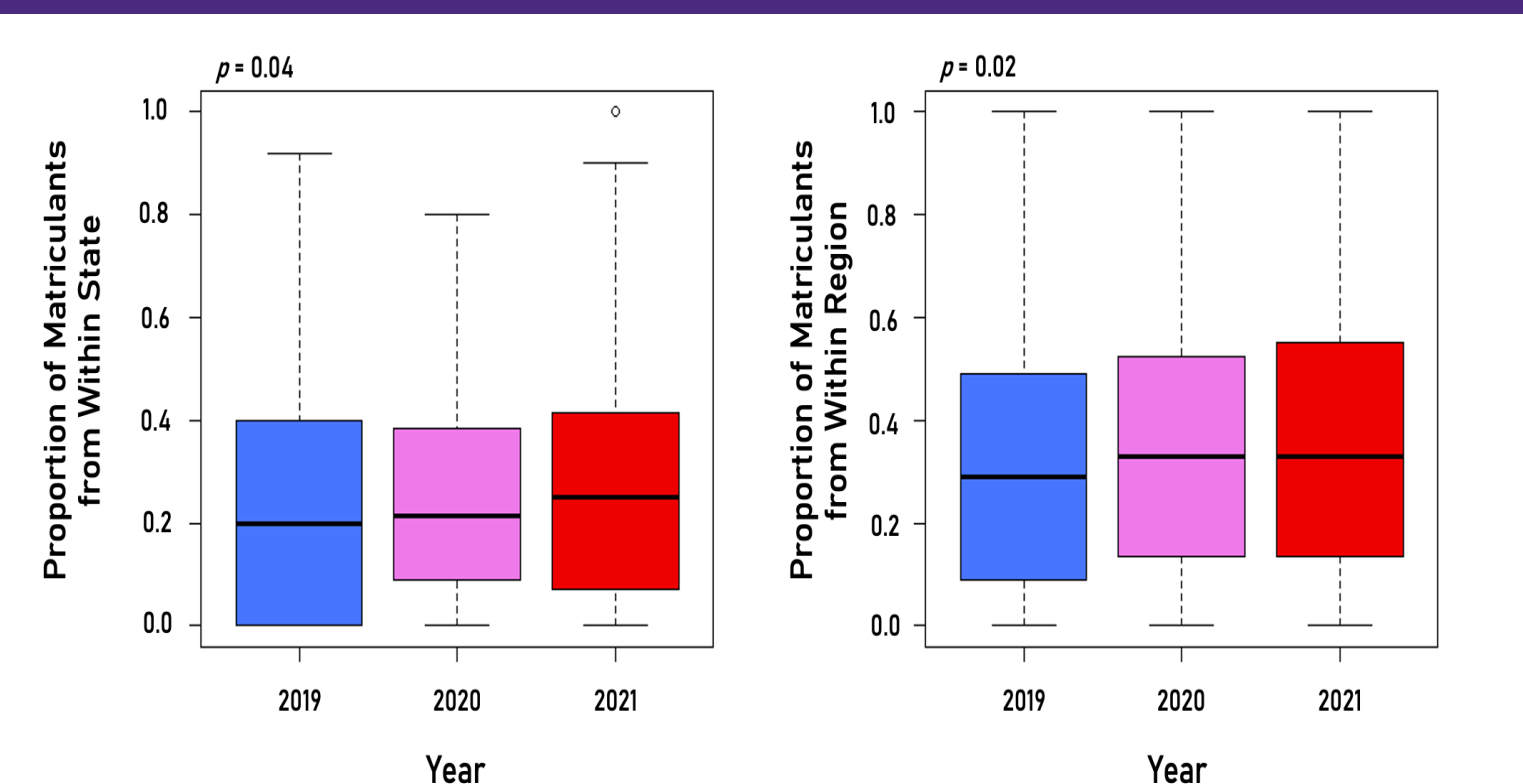
## References



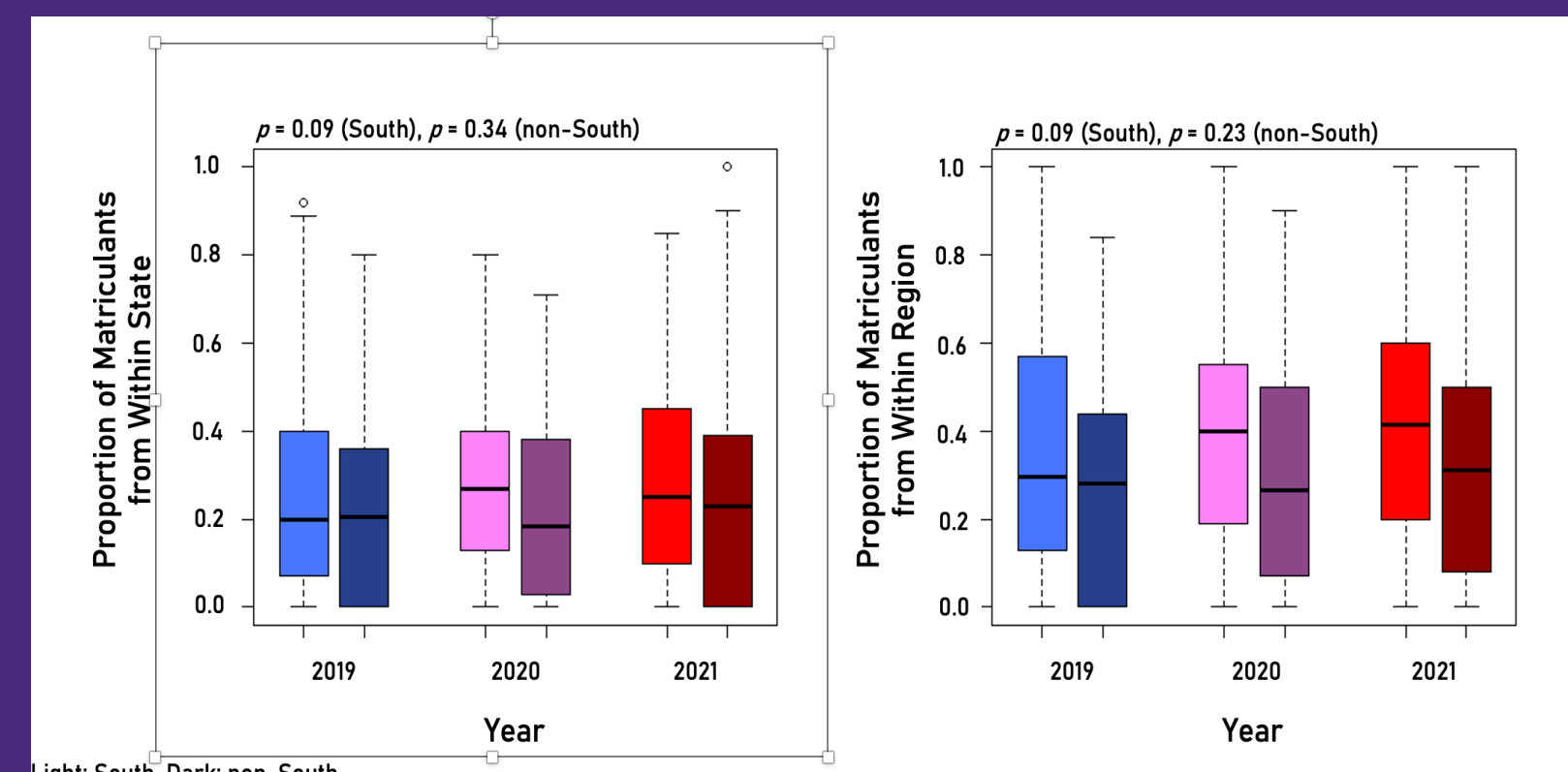
**Table 1: Overall Data**

	2019	2020	2021
# of Programs	192	192	192
Region			
South	94	94	94
Non-South	98	98	98
Type			
University	57	57	57
Community	40	40	40
Combined	95	95	95
# of Matriculants	3142	3245	3416
Region			
South	1628	1681	1720
Non-South	1514	1564	1696
Type			
University	1564	1614	1680
Community	395	406	430
Combined	1183	1225	1306

**Figure 1: Overall Data**



**Figure 2: South Vs. Non-South**



**Figure 3: University Vs Community Vs Community/University**

