Wichita medical students learn residency matches – just not like before

WICHITA, KANSAS – Since last fall, fourth-year medical students at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita have been applying and interviewing for residency programs across Kansas and throughout the United States, and have ranked their choices. Likewise, residency programs have ranked the students they most want to invite into their program. The National Resident Matching Program, a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1952, provides the methodology for pairing the students and their residencies.

This process for fourth-year students nationwide culminated on Match Day, Friday, March 20, when they learned which residency program they are matched with, and what part of the country they will move to for the next phase of their training.

The normal process is for students across the nation to gather and learn — along with their classmates, family and friends, where they’ll be headed after graduation in May. Circumstances were beyond their control this year due to the coronavirus and practicing safe and healthy choices, those students received a letter at their home or email announcing that exciting news. Many of them were with a much small gathering of a couple friends or family members to celebrate the news.

Of the 67 students at KU School of Medicine-Wichita who matched, 31 will stay in Kansas. The remaining 36 students will travel to 19 other states to continue their medical education.

A few less than half of this year’s graduates — 31 — will go into a primary care field (family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics), eight to surgery, seven matched to obstetrics and gynecology, five to anesthesiology and five to emergency medicine residency programs.

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