OBJECTIVE
The purpose of this study was to evaluate if residency applicants in psychiatry could be studied in a systematic way that informs candidate selection. Specifically, we were interested in identifying characteristics of applicants that predict future board certification. Other medical specialties have linked applicant characteristics with future board certification; psychiatry has not.

METHODS
- **Study design:** retrospective, cross-sectional
- **Data extraction:** personnel files and application materials of psychiatry residents
- **Cohort:** residents who entered the psychiatry program at the University of Kansas School of Medicine – Wichita
- **Sample size:** 106 residents from years 1972 to 2010
- **Outcome:** pass or fail on initial ABPN certification
- **Statistical plan:** descriptive statistics, Chi-square tests, data imputations for missing at random values, and binary regression with complementary log-log link; analyses were conducted in IBM SPSS Statistics version 23

DISCUSSION
Interpreting the regression model:
- When compared to residents without experience during medical school, those with:
  - 3-4 volunteer experiences were 1.3 times more likely to achieve ABPN certification
  - 1-2 prior research experiences were almost 8 times more likely to achieve ABPN certification

Compared to other medical specialties:
- Our sample lacked an association between performance on USMLE/COMLEX examinations and board certification

Study limitations:
- Small sample size, sparse data, and a focus on one training program

Future studies should explore the nature of volunteer and research experience that are most predictive of ABPN certification.

RESULTS
Factors predictive of ABPN certification (Table 2)
- Prior experience volunteering; p < 0.040
- Prior experience in research; p < 0.006

CONCLUSION
This pilot study demonstrates that residency applicants in psychiatry can be studied in a systematic way that can be used to predict outcomes. Evaluating the extent to which residency applicants had experience with volunteering and/or research during medical school may inform candidate selection in psychiatry.

DISCLOSURE
The authors have no financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation. There was no direct source of project funding.