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 — virtually due to COVID-19, 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 19, when they learned which residency program they are matched with, and what part of the country they will live in 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. Last year, they couldn’t come together with family and friends and make their announcements, but this year COVID-19 circumstances were a little better. This year, Wichita students gathered as a class, distancing in the Wichita State University Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex, and announced in front of their peers and more than 100 people watching virtually where they will spend the next few years of additional training.

Of the 66 students at KU School of Medicine-Wichita who matched, 28 will stay in Kansas. The remaining 38 students will travel to 18 other states to continue their medical education.

Half of this year’s graduates will go into a primary care field (family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics), 14 to surgery, two matched to obstetrics and gynecology, three to anesthesiology, two to urology, one to psychiatry, four to radiology, one to child neurology, one to ophthalmology and five to emergency medicine residency programs.

###

The University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita educates tomorrow’s physicians and health care leaders through community partnership. We doctor Kansas.