2019 College Admissions Story And ERAS/NRMP/GME

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My opinion

2019 College Admissions Story is pertaining to Honest Services Fraud statute [1-2]. This federal statute safeguards the third party from the harms caused by transactions between two parties whereby the transactions have caused the recipient party to be non-compliant in its duty to provide honest services to the collaterally damaged party. It is our understanding that while corruption is when actual breaches in the statute have occurred, conflicts of interest are the avenues which can potentially evolve as future breaches in the statute [3]. Therefore [4], the questions arise if and how 2019 College Admissions Story affects ERAS®/NRMP/GME when programs are shortlisting and selecting their future residents.

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1. USMLE in Pass/Fail format [5]: Will the proposed change in USMLE format make screening of ERAS® applications unpredictable and liable when resident selection process becomes dependent on everything else except USMLE scores which have been the lone objective grading tool available to GME recruiters [6]?Â Â
2. Demand-supply mismatch: Will solicitations for Visiting Student Learning Opportunities (VSLO) warrant enhanced scrutiny for conflicts of interest because VSLO externships/observerships can act as stepping-stone to GME admissions [7]?
3. Future of one-on-one interview model [8]: Will group-cum-panel interviews replace one-on-one interviews to avoid undisclosed conflicts of interest being misconstrued as improprieties?
4. Diversity in GME [9]: Will increased caution and conscious efforts therein by GME recruiters improve diversity and inclusion for underrepresented communities in GME programs?
5. â€œAâ€• vs. â€œBâ€• vs. â€œCâ€• students [10]: Will the heightened awareness among GME recruiters ensure selection opportunities for all grades of applicants?
6. Future of â€œlegacyâ€• admissions [11]: Just like â€œsportspersonâ€• admissions serving needs of colleges to excel in competitive college sports, will the â€œlegacyâ€• admissions evolve to be rechristened as â€œfundraiserâ€• admissions serving the cash/in-kind needs of admitting institutions [12]?
7. High NRMP Match Rates [13]: While >50% applicants donâ€™t get selected to medical schools, only < 10% matriculants fail to graduate medical school [14]. Thereafter, only < 10% medical

graduates fail to match into GME residencies [13]. Moreover, GME residentsâ€™ attrition rates remain very low in stark comparison to alarmingly high college dropout rates [15-16]. Even practicing physicians are unable to retire early or quit practicing medicine by choice [17]. Therefore, is 2019 College Admissions Story more burdensome to medical school recruiters rather than ERAS®/NRMP/GME recruiters when ~90% admitted to medical schools are anyway going to practice medicine in their chosen specialty?

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During ERAS®/NRMP/GME season, one of the efforts for â€œwell-roundedâ€• classes can be development and disclosure of objective parameters utilized to quantify emotional quotient (EQ), social quotient (SQ) and collective quotient (CQ) beside intelligence quotient (IQ) of GME applicants [18-21]. GME programs should always seek happy applicants having big potential to satisfy the reality-bending needs of world whereby collegial collaborative service providers adapt, survive and excel better than eccentric disruptive academic geniuses [22-24]. To accomplish the above-mentioned:

(a)Â Â IQ/EQ/SQ/CQ Portals: ERAS® may have to develop standardized-personalized-centralized online IQ/EQ/SQ/CQ assessment via video-recording-portals to serve as applicant-screening tools for programs

(b)Â Â Group Interviews: Programs may have to arrange interviews as visits by small groups of one-day hands-on observers followed by end-of-the-day group-cum-panel discussions

(c)Â Â CQ Weightage: Programs may have to give more weightage to CQ of one-day observers-cum-interviewees when submitting their rank order lists to NRMP.

(d)Â Â Mandatory VSLO [25]: Futuristically, ERAS® may have to consider mandating its VSLO program to match all third year medical students for at least three cost-effective externships in fourth year of medical school wherein GME programs as well as their matched externs will have ample opportunities to evaluate each other before ranking and eventually matching to GME residencies through NRMP.

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Summarily, ERAS®/NRMP/GME may preemptively overcome 2019 College Admissions Story effect by

continuing constant and conscious efforts to honestly and transparently select future physician leaders of the world.

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