

The Virtual Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship Interview: Perspectives from Physician Applicants

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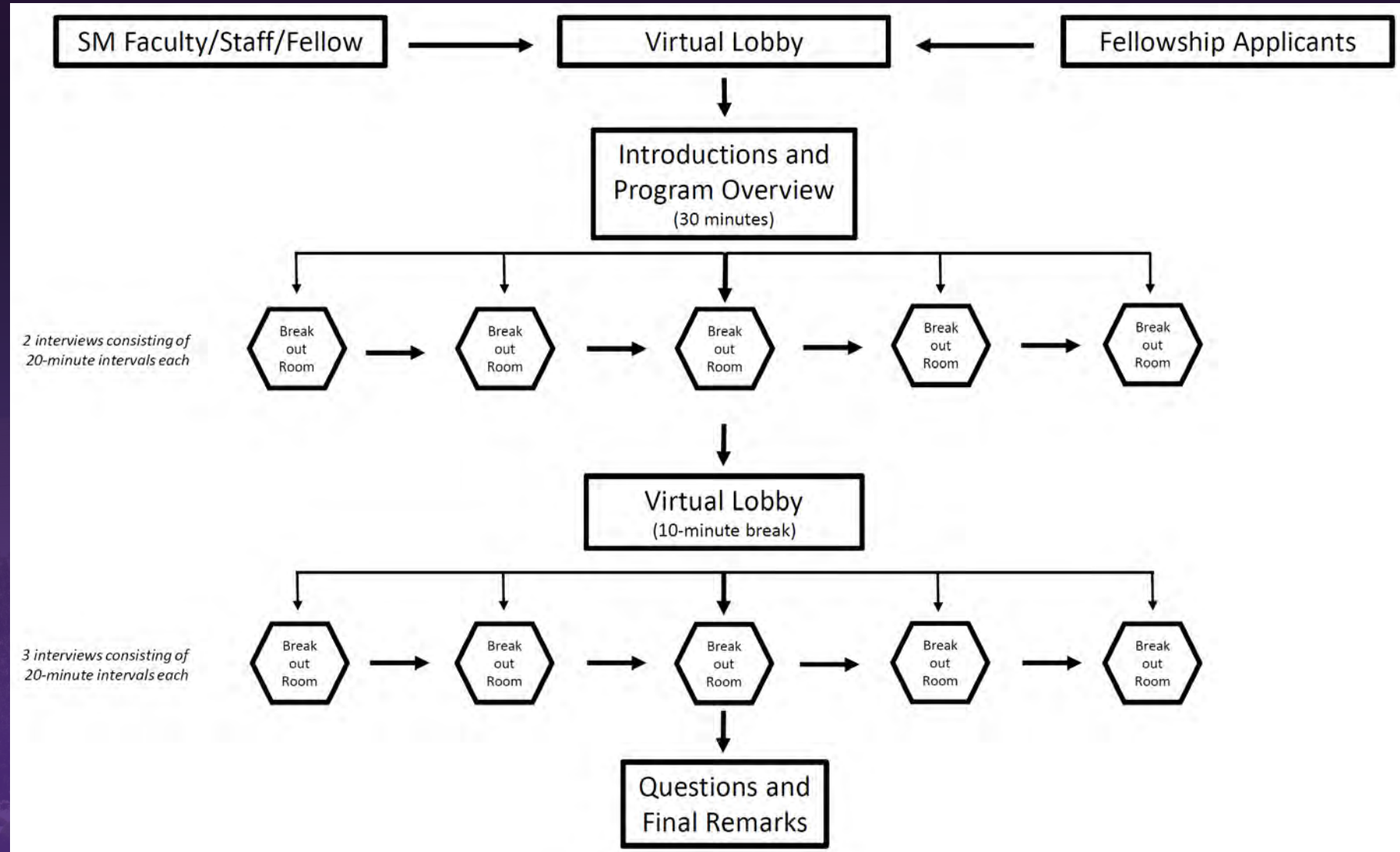
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No Disclosures

- The presence of the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-2019) necessitated the transition of interviews for fellowship programs to virtual platforms, however there is limited data on applicant perceptions of this change.
- To date, there is no published data on Primary Care Sports Medicine (PCSM) Fellowship virtual interviews.
- ACGME recommendation: to convert traditional in-person interviews to virtual.
- **Objective:** *To present a template of the virtual interview process for a PCSM fellowship and assess applicant satisfaction of the virtual interview process through post-interview survey responses.*

- **Type of study:**
Retrospective cohort (cross-sectional survey)
- **Population:**
Interviewing residents for Sports Medicine fellowship
- **Intervention:**
New virtual structure of fellowship interviews; Oct 1 – 22, 2021
- **Outcome measure:**
Satisfaction with virtual interview process



- 20 applicants:
 - 80% were male (n=16)
 - 60% were osteopathic physicians
 - All were current senior residents in their last year of training (95% family medicine)
- Of the interviewing applicants, 25% (n=5) served as chief residents.
- 18 applicants completed the surveys (90%).

Table. Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship Applicant Survey Responses

Question	Results
Overall Virtual Interview Experience ^a	9.34 (±0.55)
Appropriate Amount of Time per Interview ^a	9.27 (±0.73)
Usefulness of Pre-reading Material ^b	94% Extremely useful (n=17) 6% Moderately useful (n=1)
Interested in Fellowship After Interview ^b	83% Extremely interested (n=15) 17% Very interested (n=3)
How Can the Virtual Interview be Improved ^c	67% No change to process (n=12) 5.6% Additional time for breaks (n=1) 5.6% Wish for in-person experience (n=1) 11% More time for transitions (n=2) 11% Technical issues/use other platform (n=2)

^a Likert scale 0-10.0, resulted as mean (±sd)

^b Percentage of respondents based on the following: (1)extremely useful/interested, (2) very useful/interested, (3) moderately useful/interested, (4) slightly useful/interested, (5) not at all useful/interested

^c Percentage of respondents answering an open-ended question

- *Invited PCSM applicants who attended a virtual interview responded positively to the sports medicine fellowship program's anonymous survey regarding the virtual interview process.*
- Most applicants felt no changes were needed to the virtual interview process.
- **Address suggestions:** extend break time, add additional minute to transition time; consider having IT professional available to assist applicants as needed.
- **Limitations:** survey not designed for research (no psychometric testing or validation), respondent bias.
- **Future directions:** validated questionnaire, qualitative evaluation, follow-up survey after Fellowship Match Day (how process affected rank list order); consider multi-center study.