

**VIA EMAIL**

March 18, 2020

Dear Residency Candidate:

To protect vulnerable populations from concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, many U.S. colleges and universities have closed their campuses to minimize transmission of the virus. Many have begun converting their traditional, face-to-face lecture-based courses to virtual courses. For those currently enrolled in MS, PhD, Post-Doctoral Certificate and DMP programs, their completion dates may be impacted. Example causes of these delays include reduced access to laboratory-based research infrastructure, difficulty scheduling defenses of theses and dissertations, and cancellation of required laboratory-based courses. Although some universities allow dissertation defenses to take place by video conference, it has come to our attention that a number of students enrolled in the MedPhys Match may experience delays in their degree completion due to circumstances beyond their control. These delays may affect incoming resident's ability to begin residency programs on time.

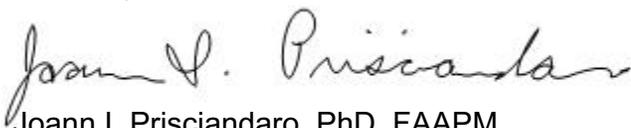
AAPM is monitoring the situation and has been working closely with CAMPEP and SDAMPP to communicate with stakeholders. In view of these extenuating circumstances, and the impending deadline (Friday, March 20th) for submitting your rank list, we encourage you to:

- (For PhD candidates with concerns that their defense/degree may be delayed) Reach out to your thesis advisor and graduate program to check if they are able to confer an MS degree. Proof of completion of your graduate degree may be sufficient to initiate your residency, as you continue to work on completing your Ph.D. requirements.
- Review the employment conditions of the residency programs you have ranked. Some programs may allow for delays in the start date of their residency due to circumstances such as visa or degree delays, family or personal emergencies, and so on. The MedPhys Match residency agreement states that programs must "Provide complete and accurate information to applicants prior to the Rank Order List deadline concerning the position(s) available through the MedPhys Match, including all institution, residency and program policies related to eligibility requirements for appointment." Please contact programs if you do not have this information and need it to complete your rank list.

Please note, graduate and residency program directors will be reminded that CAMPEP does allow some flexibility when complying with graduate and residency standards, especially given these exceptional circumstances.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



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