

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2019

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MARCH MADNESS –WITH A STETHOSCOPE

Medical Students to Meet Their Match

[Editor's Note: Envelopes will be opened at 11 a.m.]

Just as basketball fans wait every year for the tradition, excitement and upsets of March Madness, medical students await the same with Match Day. Fourth-year medical students from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) School of Medicine will participate in Match Day at 10:30 a.m. Friday (March 15) at the McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center, 17th Street and University Avenue.

Match Day is a nerve-wracking event that has played out on medical school campuses across the country since 1952. Approximately 170 TTUHSC School of Medicine students will participate in Match Day and learn where they will be for the next three to seven years for their residencies. The results are sealed in an envelope and are opened simultaneously at all of the nation's medical schools.

This year the TTUHSC School of Medicine celebrates its 50th Anniversary. Steven L. Berk, M.D., TTUHSC executive vice president, provost and dean of the School of Medicine, said those who saw the need to train primary care physicians for the diverse population of West Texas spread out over 131,000 square miles would be proud of the 50 years of progress.

"Our School of Medicine provides a medical school education with excellent metrics compared to schools around the nation, including the top 10 percent in student satisfaction and a high board pass rate," Berk said. "The School of Medicine has one of the lowest tuitions in the nation and is the sixth most affordable medical school. Our school ranks in the top five schools in the United States for the percentage of students who stay in their home state."

Months before Match Day, students begin applying to residency programs in their preferred specialties. Students visit sites to evaluate and ultimately rank their preferred residency programs. At the same time, administrators at each site interview applicants and rank them. The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) coordinates this process and makes the final match algorithm, which is designed to produce results for students to fill the thousands of training positions available at U.S. teaching hospitals.

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Berk said although Match Day is celebrated for one day, the event is actually a week-long process. The process of Match Day is celebrated at the 141 U.S. medical schools accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education. Starting on the Monday of Match Week, applicants are informed whether they have been matched to a residency program of their choice, but the student is not told the name of that program.

“The ratio of physicians to patient population in West Texas has been greatly increased by the influx of our graduates,” Berk said “We are proud of our students’ accomplishments and share their excitement as they pursue their careers at outstanding teaching programs around the country.”