EXPLAINING THE RESIDENCY MATCH PROCESS... THROUGH COMICS!

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Every year, senior medical students are faced with the task...

"Med student me," in a short white coat

...of finding their first job as a real doctor.

This is called "residency."

"Future doctor me," in a long white coat. Notice the added bigger pockets!

Here's my take on the residency application process, which culminates with "the match."
**Application Questions:**
1. Date of birth?
2. Exam scores?
3. Grades?
4. Favorite ice cream flavor?

Each individual training program costs money to apply to:

**Directors of Residency Programs Interview You Based on This Application.**

**Hmmm... Grades...**
Recommendation letters... OK... Oooh! Under hobbies, she likes cats! Invite her to interview!

**Meow!**

Once you're invited to interview, you must schedule an interview day.

Honey, it's your mom! Remember, the Flossnik family reunion is December 15th and you are going!

After scheduling, the next challenge is traveling to the interviews. This is physically and financially taking.

Another flight delay and another $4 caffe latte

Dang! An ice patch and high heels don't mix when walking to the interview!

Once you arrive, here's how interviews go:

Why psychiatry?

Why do you want to be a psychiatrist?

What made you pick psychiatry?

Tell me about your childhood...

Freud's couch.

People often ask, "So, you've won all of these interviews... any job offers yet?"

But it doesn't really work like that...

After you finish interviews, you rank the programs that you like (in list format) from most favorite to least favorite:

**My Rank List:**
1. #1 Favorite!
2. Awesome!
3. Still Great
4. Close to Beach
5. I'd be OK here
6. Has its positives
7. Eh
8. After all, I do need a job to pay off the quarter million debt.

**Their Rank List:**
1. Best and smartest ever!
2. Please, God!
3. Fantastic
4. Still good
5. OK, OK, OK.
6. Fine
7. Meh
8. Tolerable, but definitely not ideal for us...

At the same time, programs rank applicants in order of their most favorite to their least favorite.
These lists go through a computer algorithm that "matches" you with a program, based on both lists!

Magic!

So, now that you're done with interviews, what part of the process are you at now?

Well, a couple things are happening...

...I'm receiving love letters...

Dear Mr. [Name],

Every since we met you, we can't stop thinking about you! Do you love me? One, yes! Two, no.

...and at the same time, I'm experiencing unrequited love from my #1 choice program.

This is from my #10 choice on my rank list.

Of course, everyone wants to know...

What did you rank #1?

Ph.D.

So, what's your first choice?

Researcher

Street vendor

Do you have any spare change? Or, by the way, what is your #1?

...and parents need to know.

Great, honey! I don't want you to go all the way to Texas!

Well, mom, it's my #8 choice, so if I get it, I have to go!

What's next?

On March 19 at noon, every med student across the country opens an envelope with their match result.

Hopefully it's #1!