



President's Message

Dr. Daniel Pomerantz

"Beware the Ides of March!" Act II Scene 1, Julius Caesar, by William Shakespeare, a soothsayer. We hear it so often that most of us no longer think about the origins of the phrase. The Ides of a Roman month was the day of the full moon, usually around the fifteenth of the month. Since Shakespeare's time, the Ides of March has been marked as an ominous day.

This year the Ides, Friday, March 15, marks a weighty and promising day for aspiring physicians all around the world. Last week, on what is usually the last day of February, i.e. the 28th, both applicants and program directors certified their rank order lists for the upcoming "Match", the results of which will be revealed on March 15th. Many applicants will happily match at one of their top choice programs. Others will find that they have matched a program at or near the bottom of their list. An unfortunate number will have already been informed that they did not get a match, and some of them will have found spots through the inaptly initialed SOAP (Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program fka "The Scramble"), allowing them to join their classmates and celebrate their "match" results. Those who do not match at all, even after SOAP, will likely feel discouraged, or even angry, some may feel hopeless. Many will resolutely regroup and try again. One of the tropes of Match Day is students celebrating matching at their #1, and program directors boasting about how high up their list they filled. I wish that everyone could celebrate more joyfully on Match Day. Let's celebrate for those who get to advance in their careers, and for those programs that get to continue training new physicians. Let's set aside questions likely to drain away the joy of the occasion. I do not ask, and I will not ask anyone if they got their first choice. If someone wants to celebrate by sharing that information with me, I will accept it. As an assistant program director, my highest priority is trying to put together a residency program full of people who want to build a learning community that cares for each other and for our patients. Over the years, I have been surprised each year by how little our rank list predicts who will be class leaders, and who will be the physicians we hope that all of our residents will become. Please help everyone you know who is in the Match to find joy, or at least support when they get their news. By the way, I matched to my fifth choice, and I am very happy with how things worked out.

While next Friday may be Match Day, next Wednesday, March 13, is your last chance to respond to the member survey and tell us how you feel about the resolutions to be considered by the ACP Board of Governors at our Spring meeting in Boston next month. If every reader of this newsletter could respond to the survey, the governors of NYACP would have a lot more information about how our members feel about the issues we are considering. Please help us represent you. [The survey is available here](#) (until Wednesday 3/13). You will need to log in to access the survey—use your acponline.org username and password.

Spring training baseball is well underway, and the New York Mets are already setting records for lowering fans' expectations for the season. Nevertheless, I remain a hopelessly hopeful Mets fan. I am looking forward to Opening Day, and to all 161 games of the regular season that follow. I hope that fans of all baseball teams get to enjoy the upcoming season.

With gratitude,



Daniel Pomerantz, MD, FACP
NYACP President