# How To Be Competitive For Surgery Residency

Kristine Calhoun, MD
Professor, Department of Surgery
Surgery Clerkship Director
UWSOM E94

## MS1/MS2 Considerations

- Foundations course work
  - No fails
- Step 1-
  - Pass first attempt
  - Fail is a hard stop
- Research
  - Helpful, especially publications
  - Type not as important

- Interest Groups
  - Good basic introduction
    - Helpful but not required
  - Connections
- Service, Leadership, Mentorship
  - VIP but
    - Quality over Quantity

## MS3 Considerations

- Surgery Clerkship
  - Grades taking on increasing importance
  - Site important
    - Consider a Seattle site
  - Letter of Recommendation
    - At least one from core site
- Other Clerkships
  - Grades important

- Surgery Department mentorship
  - Career Counselors available
  - Reach out early to discuss interest
- Continue research, service, leadership, mentorship
  - Goal- research accepted for publication or published by ERAS application deadline

#### **MS4** Considerations

- MUST do at least 1 Subintern rotation at UW affiliate site
  - UWMC Montlake
  - Seattle VA
  - Harborview
  - HONORS is must
- Letters of recommendation
  - Surgeons > others
  - At least one from each subinternship

- Away rotations
  - Increasing popularity
  - Not required for General Surgery
- Step 2
  - Must have at least national average, if not higher, to be competitive
- Expansion
  - Will help if deficiency is research/exploration/experience
  - Wont help if deficiency is scores/grades

#### 2023 General Surgery Match Data

Number of General Surgery Programs:	355
Number of R1 positions offered:	1670
Number of R1 positions filled:	99.8%
Mean Step 1 score (2022)	237
Mean Step 2 score (2022)	250
Mean number of applications	75
Mean # continuous ranks (2022)	14.2

Source: NRMP website