Matching Plan Committee report, November 26, 2018, based on October 15, 2018 ERAS data
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The Matching Plan Committee monitors ERAS publications and will update these forecasts when more recent data become available.

Executive Summary: early ERAS data suggests that the pool of DR and IR applicants has shrunk in comparison with same time in 2017. Increase in the number of applications seen by radiology programs is artificial, due to increased number of applications per applicant. Given this reality, program directors may expect to go somewhat lower down their rank lists than in 2018.

ERAS Data as of October 15, 2018

1. **Diagnostic Radiology:**
    a. Applicant pool is smaller than in 2018 by 6%, to the level seen in 2017. There is a greater decline in the number of international medical graduates (IMG) (Figure 2) (13%) rather than in the number of US medical students (3.5%) (Figure 1).
    b. On the program level, decrease in the number of applicants is obscured by the fact that applicants are sending out more applications than ever before. As of October 15, 2018 US medical students averaged 56 applications per person (Figure 3) and IMGs 64 applications per person (Figure 4).
    c. As the result, the number of applications per program actually increased, with an average program seeing applications from 407 US medical students (Figure 5) and 152 IMGs (Figure 6).
2. **Interventional Radiology:**
    a. Applicant pool is smaller than in 2018 by 16%, to the lowest level since IR entered the match as in 2016. There is a slightly greater decline in the number of international medical graduates (Figure 2, 17%) than in the number of US medical students (Figure 1, 15%).
    b. IR applicants are sending out record numbers of applications. As of October 15, 2018 US medical students applying to IR average 35 applications per person (Figure 3) and IMGs 26 applications per person (Figure 4).
    c. Even so, an average IR program is seeing a 20% decrease in the number of applications from US medical students (Figure 5) and 26% decrease in the number of applications from IMGs (Figure 6).

Discussion:

The reason for the decline of the DR applicant pool is unclear. The greater attrition by IMGs suggests applicant self-selection after the competitive 2018 season rather than decline in applicant interest or some other factors. Even though this drop may be due to attrition of the weakest candidates and the general quality of the candidates may be higher, the increased number of applications per applicant will

increase the overlap in rank lists among competing programs. This will make an average program go further down the list.

Insofar as the size of the applicant pool is the sole predictor of specialty performance [1], radiology as a whole is likely to see a greater number of unfilled positions in the main match. If all other parameters influencing the match, such as the number of DR residency positions, applicant strategy and application timing, etc., remain stable, the return to the 2017 pool size suggests that the number of unfilled radiology positions will be in the 20-25 range (Figure 7). An average DR program is also likely to go a bit farther down the rank list this coming year, from 6 ranked candidates per position in 2018 to perhaps 7, the number seen in 2017 (Figure 8).

As to IR, the decline in the number of applicants in both groups is most likely due to self-selection after the 2018 match, the most competitive of all specialties that year. The lack of depth in historical data does not allow us to make predictions as to the IR match outcome in 2019. However, the specialty remains highly competitive which suggests that programs are likely to fill all or most positions.

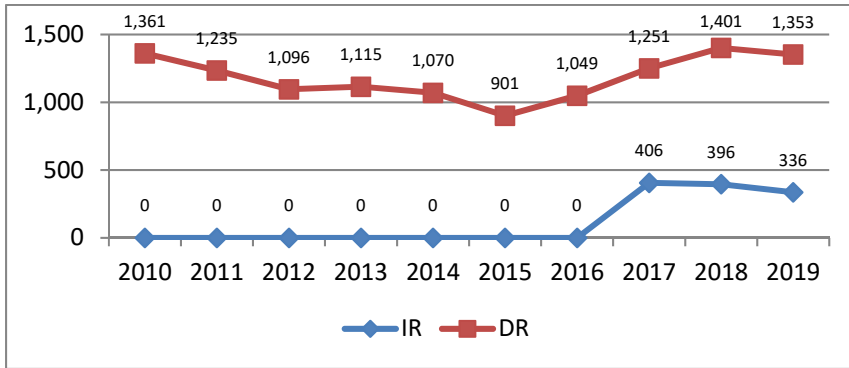**Figure 1: USMD Applicant pool as of October 25 of the preceding year**

Figure 2: IMG applicant pool as of October 25 of the preceding year
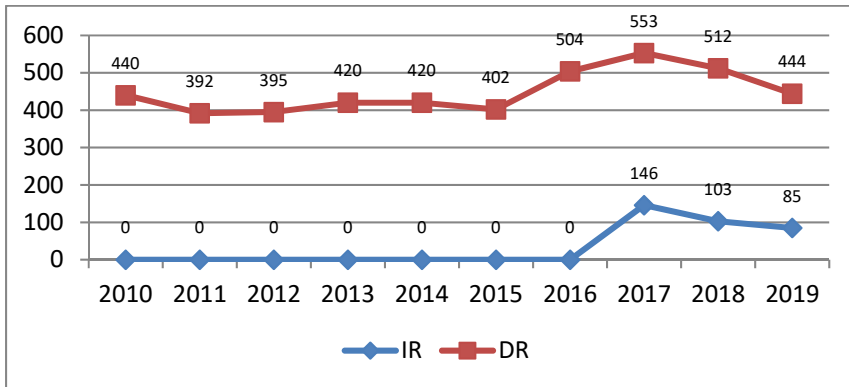

Figure 3: Applications per person USMDs as of October 25 of the preceding year
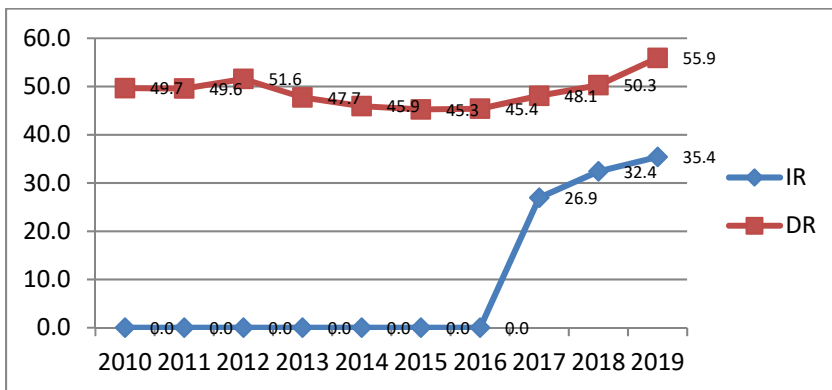
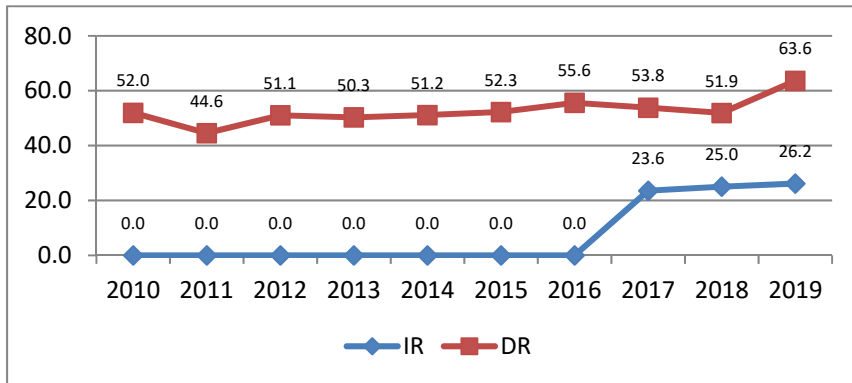**Figure 4: Applications per person IMGs as of October 25 of the preceding year**

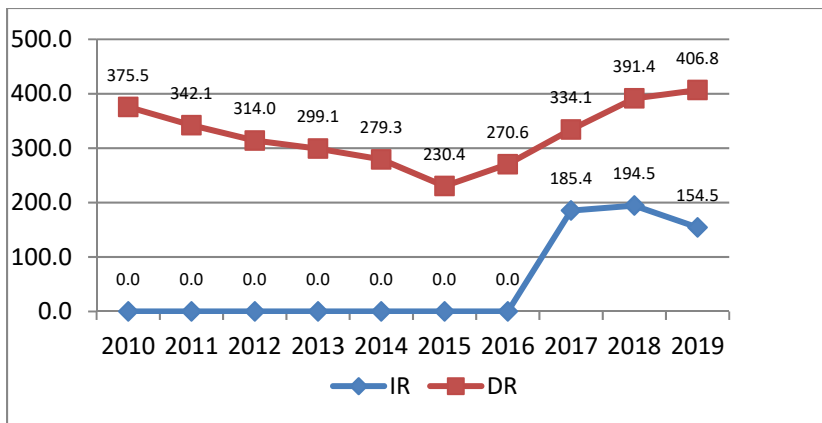**Figure 5: Applications per programs USMDs as of October 25 of the preceding year**

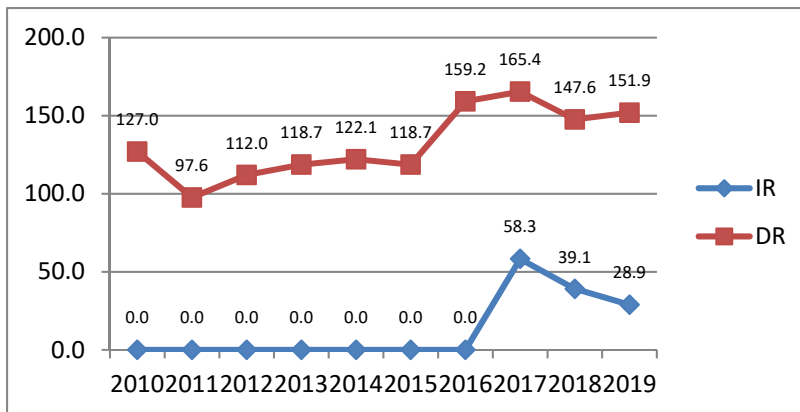**Figure 6: Applications per program IMGs as of October 25 of the preceding year**

Figure 7: Total applicant pool in ERAS as of October 15 of the preceding year vs. unfilled positions in the match
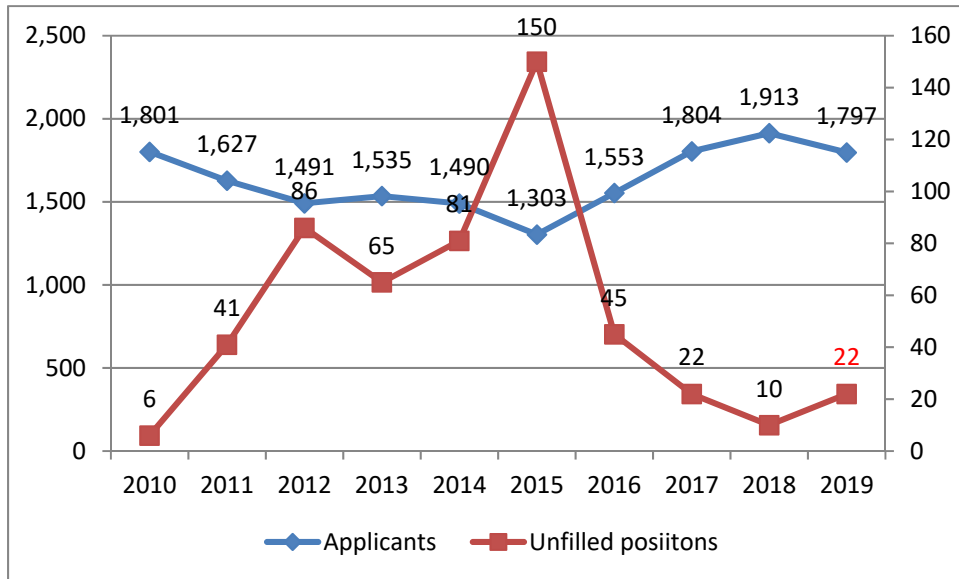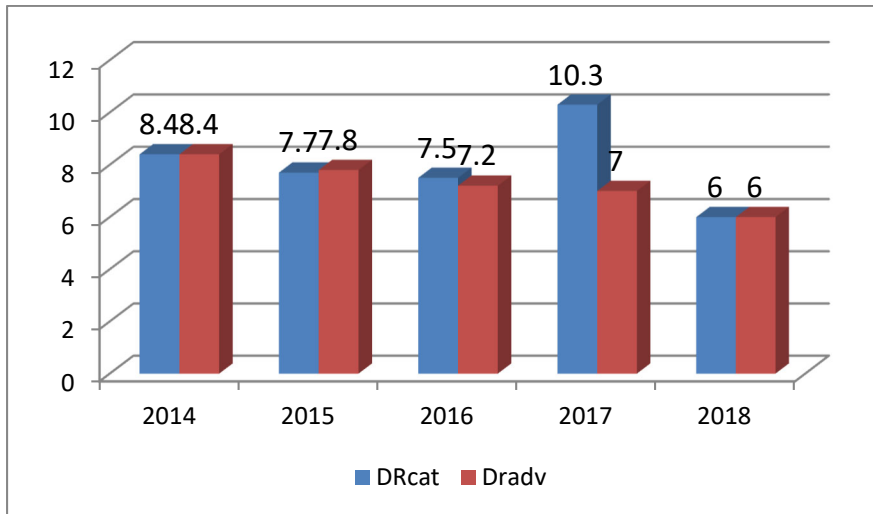

Figure 8: Number of applicants per position an average DR program has to rank to fill all positions,

References:

Rozenshtein A, Gilet AG, Griffith B, Kamran A, Wiggins EF 3rd, Anderson JC
Radiology Residency Match: The Cost of Being in the Dark. Acad Radiol 2018; 25(11):1491-1496