Guidance Statement from the Association of Program Directors in Vascular Surgery Regarding the 2021/2022 Application Cycle

While our medical institutions are moving toward normalcy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, most still have restrictions that may impact the 2021-2022 application cycle. In particular, medical student away rotations have been limited by many schools. In response, the APDVS issues the following guidelines to vascular surgery program directors in the United States regarding the upcoming application cycle for Integrated Vascular Surgery Residencies. The priorities in offering these recommendations are to promote an equitable and transparent application, interview, and match process, as well as to safeguard the vascular surgical education of medical students.

In light of these priorities, our recommendations are as follows.

1. Program directors should demonstrate flexibility in both the number and types of letters of recommendation required for applying to their programs.

2. Programs should strongly consider offering virtual rotations or experiences to students who are unable to participate in person.

3. While it is too early to issue definitive recommendations for the actual interview process, all program directors should at a minimum plan to offer virtual interviews to applicants whose travel may be restricted for any reason. Care should be taken in ensuring students who interview virtually are given equal consideration in the match to those who participate in person.

The situation is constantly evolving. The APDVS will continue to monitor and may periodically issue further guidance to promote a safe and equitable match process.