

Pulse

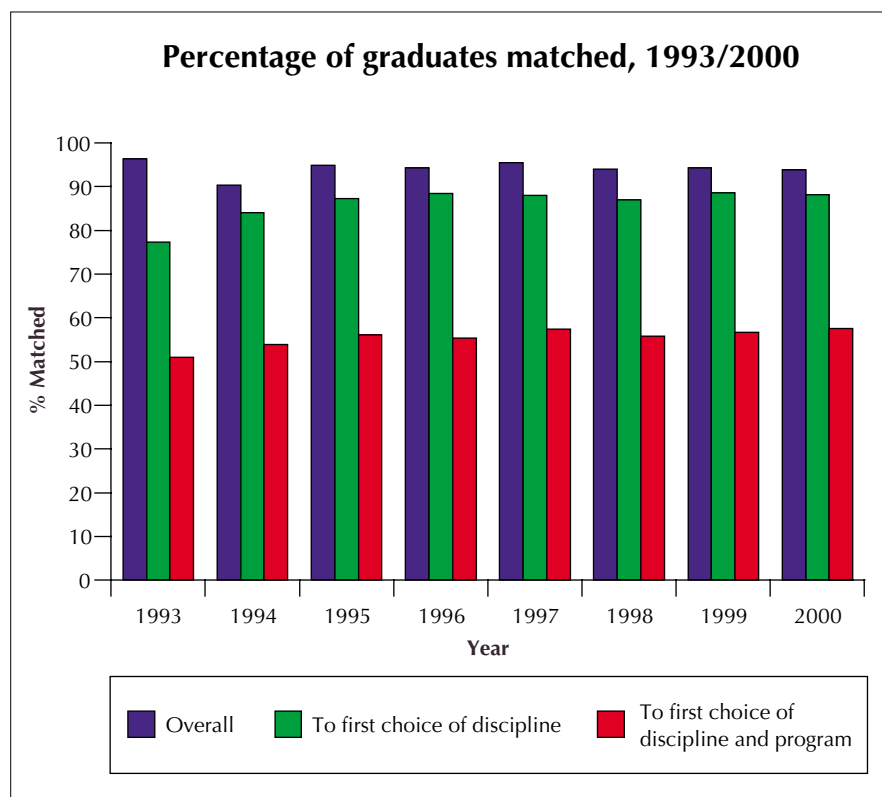
Where do medicine's job opportunities lie?

More than 80% of graduating medical students matched to a program within their top 3 choices in this year's Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) match. The overall success rate of the service (94%) has remained relatively stable in recent years.

Excluding applicants whose schools do not participate in the match (Laval, Sherbrooke, Montreal), 58% of graduates matched to a postgraduate training program at a faculty that wasn't the same as the one they graduated from. There was a significant increase in the number of couples (35) that entered the match, up 40% from last year. By contrast, the number of applicants sponsored by National Defence fell from 25 to 30 graduates in the early 1990s to 6 this year, a reflection on the military's recruiting woes.

Of those who matched this year, 88% received their first-choice discipline, although perhaps not in the location they wanted. The percentage of graduates choosing family medicine is down from 35% of the total in 1997 to 29% in 2000, even though the percentage of positions available for family medicine has remained relatively constant at around 38% of the total.

All program directors surveyed by CaRMS said that job opportunities in radiology, medical genetics, general surgery and thoracic surgery will improve in the next 5 years. Specialties in which the majority of program direc-



tors thought that opportunities would either remain constant or deteriorate were occupational medicine (100%), neurosurgery (77%), pediatrics (54%) and community medicine (50%).

In selecting students for their programs, a student's grades in electives in the program director's specialty rated as the most important academic achieve-

ment, followed by grades in mandatory clerkship rotations.

When asked to select the most important qualities of the ideal candidate, the qualities mentioned most often by program directors were a sense of responsibility (70%), integrity (54%) and communication skills (50%). — *Lynda Buske*, buskel@cma.ca

with the major challenges, because they require only a business licence to operate. Since they are not licensed to serve alcohol, they are exempt from gaming and liquor act bylaws. However, Abbott says that because the clubs often open after licensed premises have closed, many patrons arrive inebriated. Police would like the clubs to be regulated by bylaws, such as those that set

age limits and legislate hours of operation. The police recently met with city officials, who are looking at creating such bylaws. Mayor Bill Smith has been "overwhelmingly supportive" and has visited raves to see the problems first-hand, says Abbott.

Meanwhile, without bylaws to enforce, the police are limited to parking a mobile command unit near the rave

clubs and talking to teenagers about the differences between hard and soft drugs. Abbott is frustrated with harm reduction groups such as RaveSafe, which simply hand out literature about rave drugs. "Kids don't understand how dangerous [the drugs] are. They just see a cute little pill that you can swallow and you're high." — *Heather Kent*, Vancouver