

fill out the application on the AKMG website under Rising Star.

Recommendation Letter

Residency applicants can submit four recommendation letters, ideally from American board-certified attending physicians practicing in the same specialty, preferably with academic backgrounds. This document is crucial after the USMLE scores. Mentors should agree to write and upload a letter only if they have sufficient contact with the applicant to write an in-depth letter. If you



cannot write a strong letter, inform the applicant up front and suggest what they need to do to obtain one.

Convention activities

In recent years, mentees and young graduates have been given opportunities to present posters and oral presentations, with awards for the best presentations. Eligible mentees may receive partial financial assistance during conventions. Since 2023, we have included mentorship activities at conventions, providing mentees the opportunity to interact with mentors, practice interview skills, and hear inspiring stories from senior AKMG members.

Future

Once we stabilize our US residency mentorship, we plan to expand into other areas of active mentorship, including:

- Fellowships in the USA
- Alternate career paths for medical graduates in the USA and Canada
- Residency in Canada

- Dental career paths in the USA and Canada
- Medical school entrance in the USA and Canada

New Proposal

I propose that AKMG hold an exclusive Rising Star workshop or Academy annually, separate from the convention. This event, lasting two nights and one day at a consistent location, would allow mentees and mentors to plan attendance months in advance. I encourage AKMG leadership to discuss this proposal in the coming months.

Our group had 26 to 30 mentees in the last match cycle, with more than half matching into different specialties, mostly in internal medicine. Mentees also matched into pathology, family medicine, pediatrics, and neurology.

Conclusion

The mentorship committee invites both mentees and mentors to join the program. The next mentee registration will open on January 1,

2025, but mentors can register anytime. For questions, please contact our secretary, Preetha Nair, who will provide answers or redirect as necessary.

Many mentees have benefited from this program. Included is a list of mentees matched into various residencies in March 2024 and the mentors who worked with them from 2023-2024. Our group had 26 to 30 mentees in the last match cycle, with more than half matching into different specialties, mostly in internal medicine. Mentees also matched into pathology, family medicine, pediatrics, and neurology.

I thank the mentors for their contributions to the AKMG organization through the Rising Star program. We also appreciate AKMG secretary Preetha Nair for her commendable work behind the scenes. We wish all mentees success in their professional journeys and invite them to become mentors and life members of AKMG.

Neena Thomas is the current chairperson of the mentorship committee of AKMG and is an Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Lexington, Kentucky