The Coalition for Physician Accountability (COPA) has recommended that all interviews for Graduate Medical Education (GME) training positions be conducted virtually this year. For programs which have to date relied primarily on traditional in-person interviews, this will necessitate a major shift in recruitment.

This presentation will introduce core concepts of Virtual Interviewing Strategies and the use of live video interviews to preserve meaningful components of traditional interviews, while increasing flexibility and safety during the current pandemic and decreasing costs. Residency program leaders plan to detail the process for both Categorical and Preliminary/Transitional Year programs, share personal experiences, discuss outcomes, and answer questions from participants.

Objectives:
At the conclusion of the session, learners should be able to:

• Recognize the benefits of virtual interviews (efficiency, consistency, adaptability, and cost-effectiveness);
• Anticipate and avoid the pitfalls that may be encountered with virtual interviews;
• Explain how to effectively highlight program strengths digitally; and,
• Describe practical tips to implement when transitioning from an in-person to a virtual interview format.

Speakers:
Brenda Shinar, MD, FACP, is Clinical Professor and Associate Program Director of the UA College of Medicine – Phoenix Internal Medicine Residency Program. Her clinical practice is in academic hospital medicine at Banner – University Medical Center Phoenix. She also serves as director for the Preliminary Medicine Internship and as block director of Transition to Clerkships at the College of Medicine.

Cheryl O’Malley, MD, FACP, FHM, is the Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education at the University of Arizona College of Medicine where she served as the Internal Medicine Residency Program Director from 2008-2019. She works clinically as an academic hospitalist at Banner-University Medical Center Phoenix and has served on numerous national committees including current service on the ACGME’s Residency Review Committee for Internal Medicine.

Moderator:
Neville M. Alberto, MD, FACP, is Professor of Clinical Medicine, Transitional Year Residency Program Director and Associate Program Director of Internal Medicine - University of North Dakota. He serves as Chair of AHME’s Council of Transitional Year Program Directors (CTYPD).

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