

## Are Digital Solutions Enough to Address the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic?

### From:

Valentina Ferrer Valencia, MD, José David Cardona Ortégón, MD, Bibiana Andrea Pinzón Valderrama, MD, María Alejandra Rueda, MD

From the Department of diagnostic imaging, Fundación Santa Fe de Bogotá, 116 street # 9-02, Bogotá, Colombia.

We read with great interest the article by Kerrigan and colleagues (1), as it highlights the important role of social media, specifically during the COVID-19 pandemic residency recruitment and application process (2). The modality proposed in this article of exposing prospective residents to their workspace environment and installations is not used in Colombia, but we believe it would enable applicants to get a more complete grasp of medical residency programs. It is clear that using social media, especially short videos, and question and answer sessions has a great impact on the applicants. Nevertheless, virtual processes have clear disadvantages previously discussed in this article, and we would like to address more issues that were not mentioned.

The first disadvantage is that promotional videos can leave out or cut short aspects that are not that favorable to their

program, leading to application bias and incomplete, and/or wrongful impressions of the program. Seeing a video is never the same as seeing the environment in person and sometimes videos paint a picture that is not quite accurate. The second disadvantage is in-person interaction with residents, doctors, and professors is necessary to obtain a better and more complete impression and perspective. Additionally, virtual interactions may create a false sense of security with wrongful impressions of how people are in real life.

These two disadvantages that can be improved to offer a more realistic perspective to future applicants and positively influence their decision-making in regards to residency programs. Some of these disadvantages can be improved by using more real world experiences such as augmented or virtual reality. The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us the importance of implementing hybrid virtual and in-person experiences (3).

### REFERENCES

1. Kerrigan TP, Jeong CY, Pannu S, et al. Increasing applicant engagement during the 2020-2021 virtual residency interview cycle and beyond: the Dartmouth-Hitchcock radiology residency video project. *Acad Radiol* 2022; 29(8):1266–1274. doi:10.1016/j.acra.2021.11.002.
2. Akers A, Blough C, Iyer MS. COVID-19 implications on clinical clerkships and the residency application process for medical students. *Cureus* 2020; 12(4):e7800. doi:10.7759/cureus.7800.
3. Kassutto SM, Baston C, Clancy C. Virtual, augmented, and alternate reality in medical education: socially distanced but fully immersed. *ATS Sch* 2021; 2(4):651–664. doi:10.34197/ats-scholar.2021-0002RE.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acra.2022.12.047>