

Nephrology Match AY 2018—Preliminary Results

ASN DATA BRIEF

Kurtis Pivert, ASN Data Science Officer (December 7, 2017)

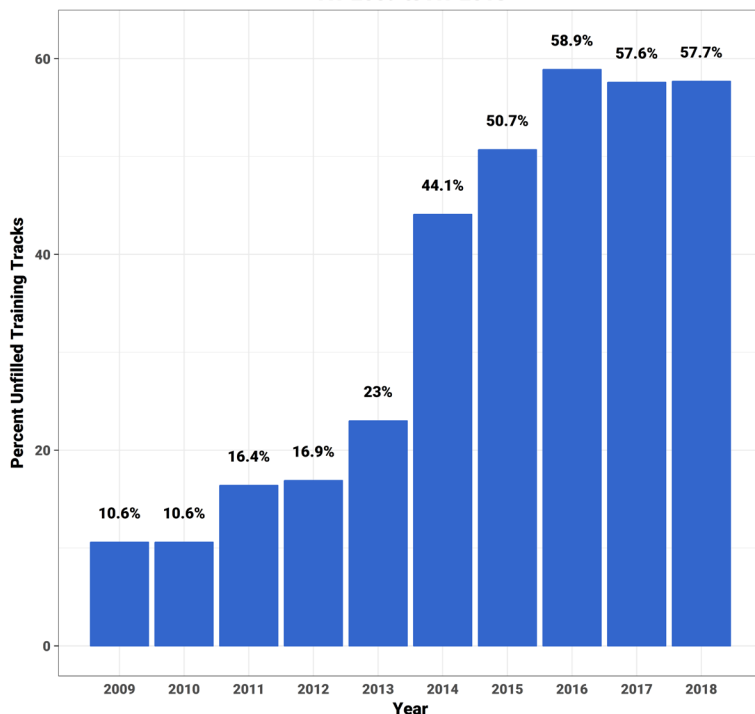
On December 6, 2017, the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) released preliminary results for the appointment year (AY) 2018 nephrology Match, part of the Medical Specialties Matching Program (MSMP). Overall, results were nearly identical to AY 2017—60.1% of fellowship training positions and 42.3% of training programs filled (**Table 1**). With all eligible programs participating in the All-In Nephrology Match, now in its third year, total training tracks (Clinical, Research, Clinical-Research, and Other) and positions offered in AY 2018 reflected little change. Preliminary application data from the Electronic Residency Application System (ERAS) indicated the AY 2018 Match would closely mirror the AY 2017 application cycle (**Figures 5–11**).

Key Points

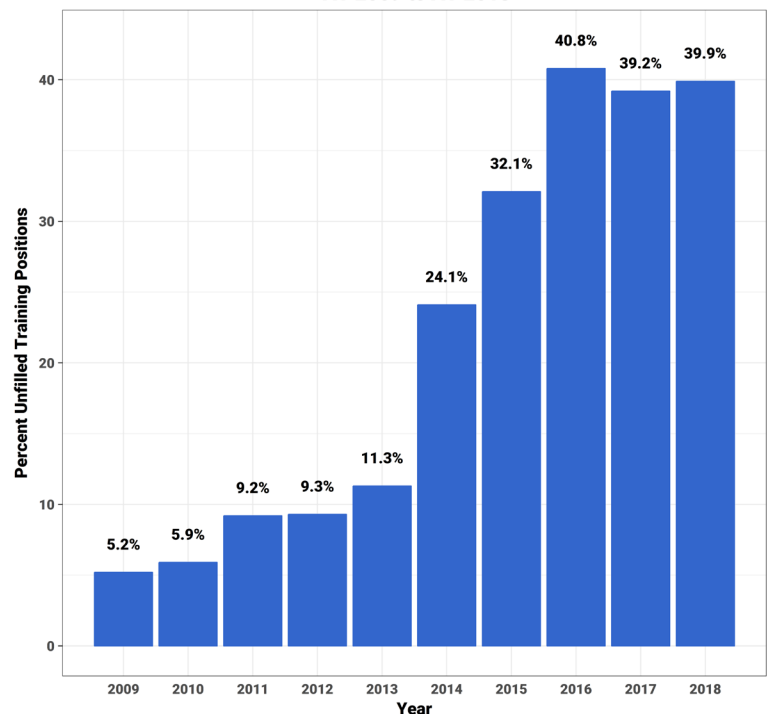
- Percentages of unfilled nephrology training tracks (57.7%) and positions (39.9%) were flat over AY 2017 (**Figure 1**).
- U.S. MDs matching in nephrology increased 42% in AY 2018 (91 U.S. MDs, up from 64 in AY 2017).
- International Medical Graduate (IMG) residents choosing the specialty declined 16% in AY 2018 after rebounding last year, among several key trends being monitored (**Figure 2**).
- The number of training tracks (+1.5%) and positions (–1.2%) were virtually unchanged, which may reflect the “zero sum” of (at least) 2 training programs in the process of closing and 2 new programs recently receiving initial accreditation.
- Similar to last year, 96.1% of candidates preferring nephrology matched in the specialty (**Figure 3**).
- Analysis of post-Match data found the number of 1st-year fellows entering training relatively stable (although slightly declining) since nephrology joined the Match, with 128 positions in AY 2017 filling after Match Day (**Figure 4**).

Figure 1: Percentage of Unfilled Nephrology Tracks and Positions AY 2009–AY 2018

Percentage of Unfilled Nephrology Tracks:
AY 2009 to AY 2018



Percentage of Unfilled Nephrology Positions:
AY 2009 to AY 2018



Source: National Resident Matching Program. <http://www.nrmp.org/fellowship-match-data/>.

The trend of unfilled nephrology tracks continued in AY 2018 (94 unfilled tracks compared to 95 in AY 2017), and unfilled fellowship positions (+3.2%) increased slightly. The number of positions offered was barely unchanged (up by 7 positions, 1.5%), and total matched candidates increased by only 1 fellow over AY 2017 (285 in AY 2018 compared with 284). Matched osteopathic graduates remained the same (34 in both AY 2017 and AY 2018); however, numbers of U.S. graduates of international medical schools (U.S. IMGs) matching in nephrology were down 9% (**Figure 2**).

Applicant/fellowship position ratio and percentage of applicants matched could not be calculated because total applicant data were unavailable as of Match Day. Preliminary data indicate they may be close to those observed in AY 2017, 0.70 and 92.2%, respectively. The percentage of candidates preferring nephrology who matched in the specialty maintained its all-time high at 96.1% (**Figure 3**).

ERAS Application Data

Year-over-year ERAS application data for AY 2018 shadowed AY 2017 numbers closely (**Figure 7**). Yet when compared with previous cycles (for example, ERAS [AY] 2014 and 2015), the recent drop in applications and candidates point to a potential decline in nephrology's selectivity (**Figure 8–11**). Note the post-Match Day bump in applications submitted in December.

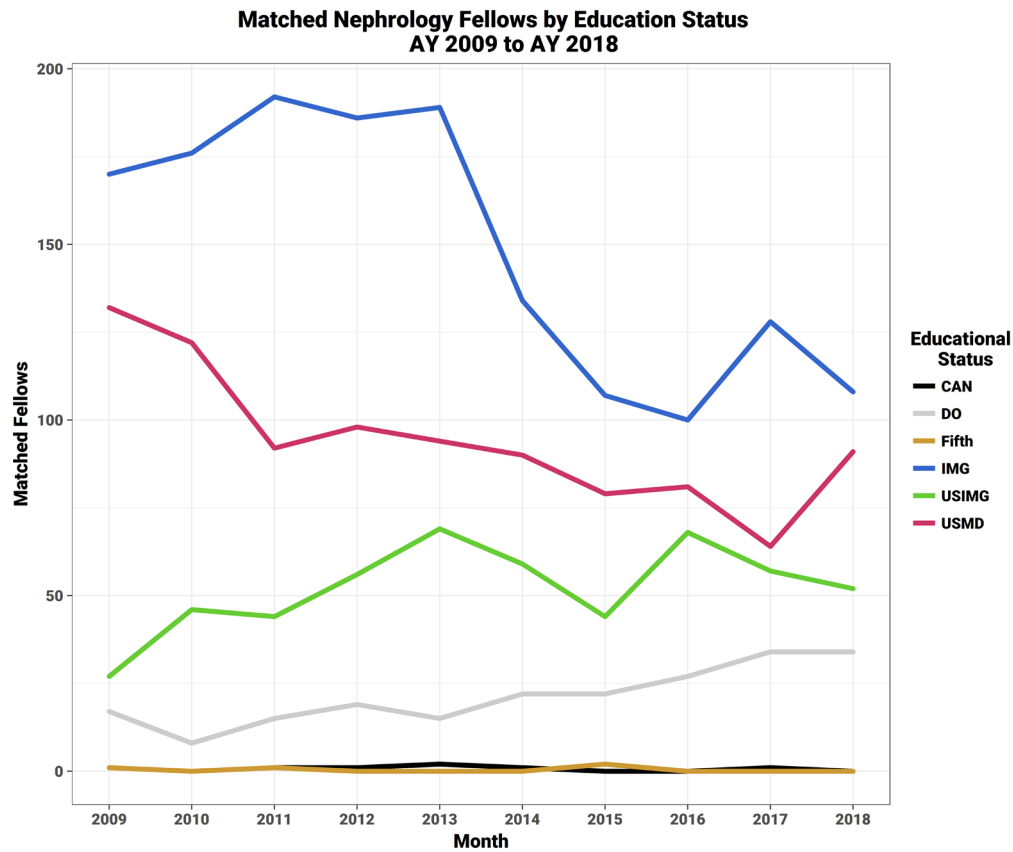
For the first time, ERAS provided educational status data for AY 2018 candidates. Unsurprisingly, IMG applications nearly matched all those submitted by U.S. MDs, DOs, and U.S. IMGs combined (**Figure 5**). Matched fellow totals by educational status were somewhat close to most recent ERAS data (November) for U.S. MD and DO candidates, but lower for IMGs and U.S. IMGs (of note, the number of U.S. IMG candidates swelled 30% in the last 2 months of the application cycle) (**Figure 6**).

Post-Match Day Trends

Although the number of unfilled positions have increased during nephrology's tenure in the Match, analysis of post-Match data indicates numbers of 1st-year fellows entering training have remained relatively stable, although declining from their high point in AY 2012. While the gap in the initial period after nephrology re-entered the Match could be explained by housestaff entering internal positions, this may not account for the larger disparities in recent years. In AY 2017, 128 PGY-4 positions were filled after Match Day (**Figure 4**).

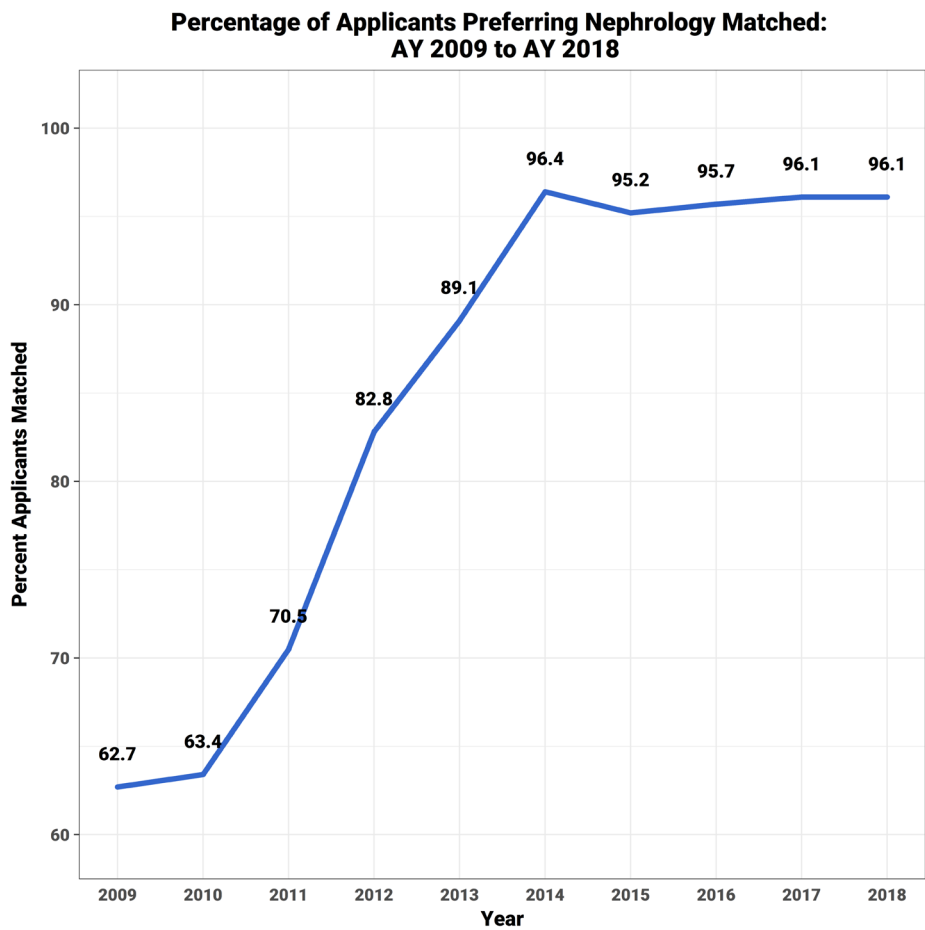
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Figure 2: Matched Nephrology Fellows by Education Status AY 2009–AY 2018



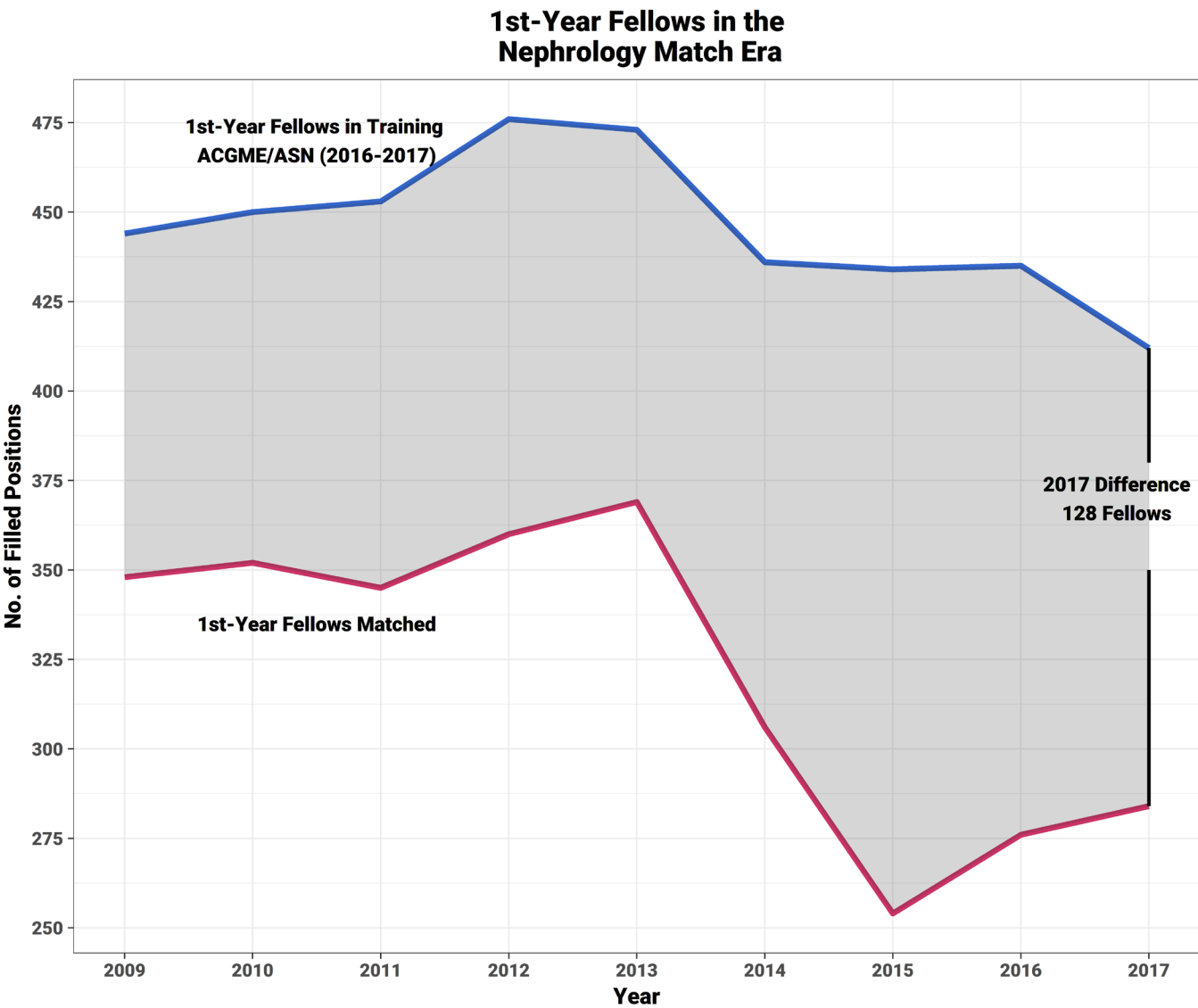
Source: National Resident Matching Program. <http://www.nrmp.org/fellowship-match-data/>. CAN = Canadian; Fifth = Fifth Pathway.

Figure 3: Percentage of Applicants Preferring Nephrology Matched AY 2009–AY 2018



Source: National Resident Matching Program. <http://www.nrmp.org/fellowship-match-data/>.

Figure 4: First-Year Nephrology Fellows in Match Era



Sources: National Resident Matching Program. <http://www.nrmp.org/fellowship-match-data/>; Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. <http://acgme.org/About-Us/Publications-and-Resources/Graduate-Medical-Education-Data-Resource-Book>; ASN Nephrology GME Database.

Table 1: Nephrology Match Results—NRMP MSMP Appointment Years (AY) 2009–2018

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
POSITIONS										
Offered	367	374	380	397	416	403	374	466	467	474
Filled	348	352	345	360	369	306	254	276	284	285
Unfilled	19	22	35	37	47	97	120	190	183	189
Percent Filled	94.8%	94.1%	90.8%	90.7%	88.7%	75.9%	67.9%	59.2%	60.8%	60.1%
TRAINING TRACKS (Clinical, Research, Clinical-Research, Other)										
Offered	142	142	146	142	148	145	134	158	165	163
Filled	127	127	122	118	114	81	66	65	70	69
Unfilled	15	15	24	24	34	64	68	93	95	94
Percent Filled	89.4%	89.4%	83.6%	83.1%	77%	55.9%	49.3%	41.1%	42.4%	42.3%
APPLICANTS										
Total	578	576	510	446	421	323	276	298	308	NA*
Prefer Nephrology	553	543	481	425	395	306	252	280	280	282
Prefer Nephrology Matched	347	344	339	352	352	295	240	268	269	271
Matched Other	12	19	16	10	7	4	7	7	11	0†
Did Not Match	218	205	149	76	45	13	15	15	13	11†
MATCHED APPLICANTS										
Total	348	352	345	360	369	306	254	276	284	285
U.S. MD	132	122	92	98	94	90	79	81	64	91
Osteopaths	17	8	15	19	15	22	22	27	34	34
U.S. IMG	27	46	44	56	69	59	44	68	57	52
Non-U.S. IMG	170	176	192	186	189	134	107	100	128	108
Canadian	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0
Fifth Pathway	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0

Source: National Resident Matching Program. <http://www.nrmp.org/fellowship-match-data/>.

*Data not available in preliminary report.

†Data are preliminary and subject to change.

Figure 5: Cumulative Nephrology Applications By Educational Status AY 2018 Application Cycle

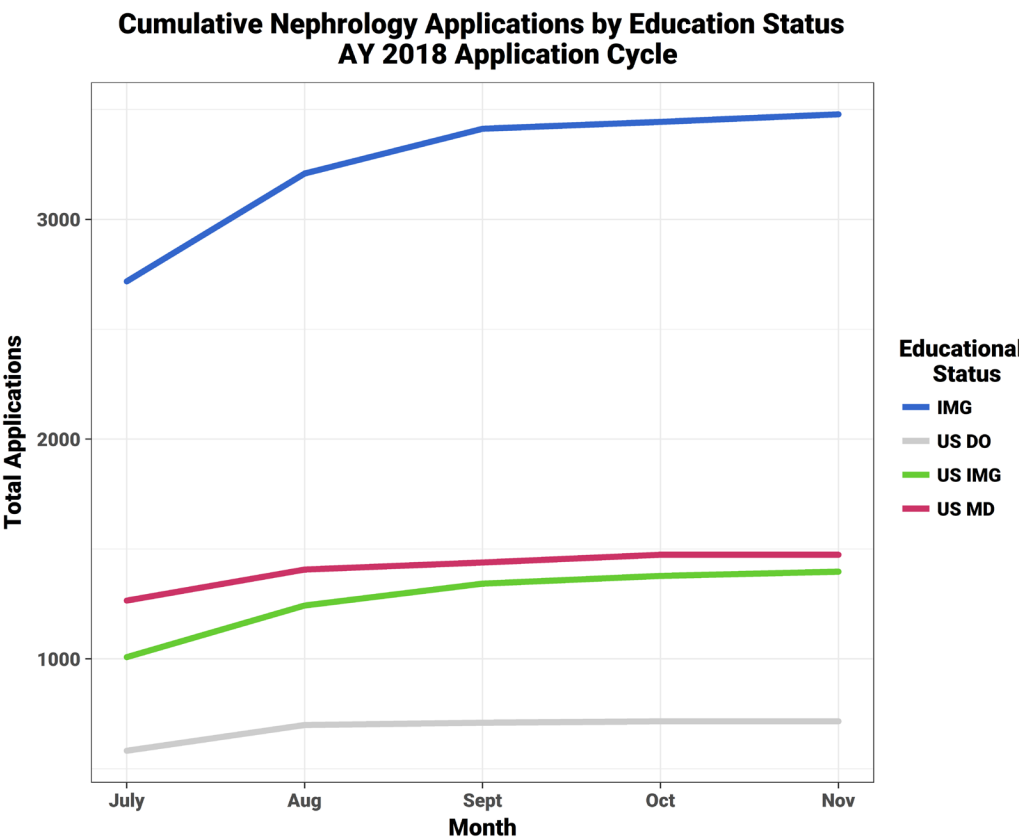
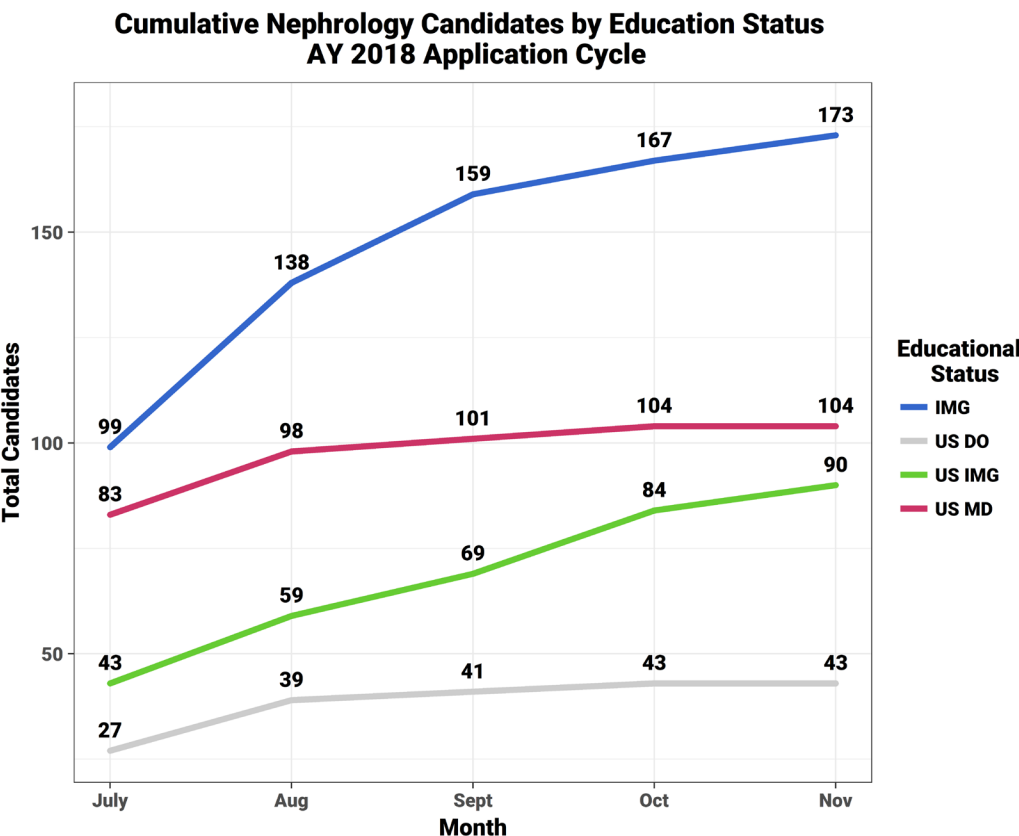
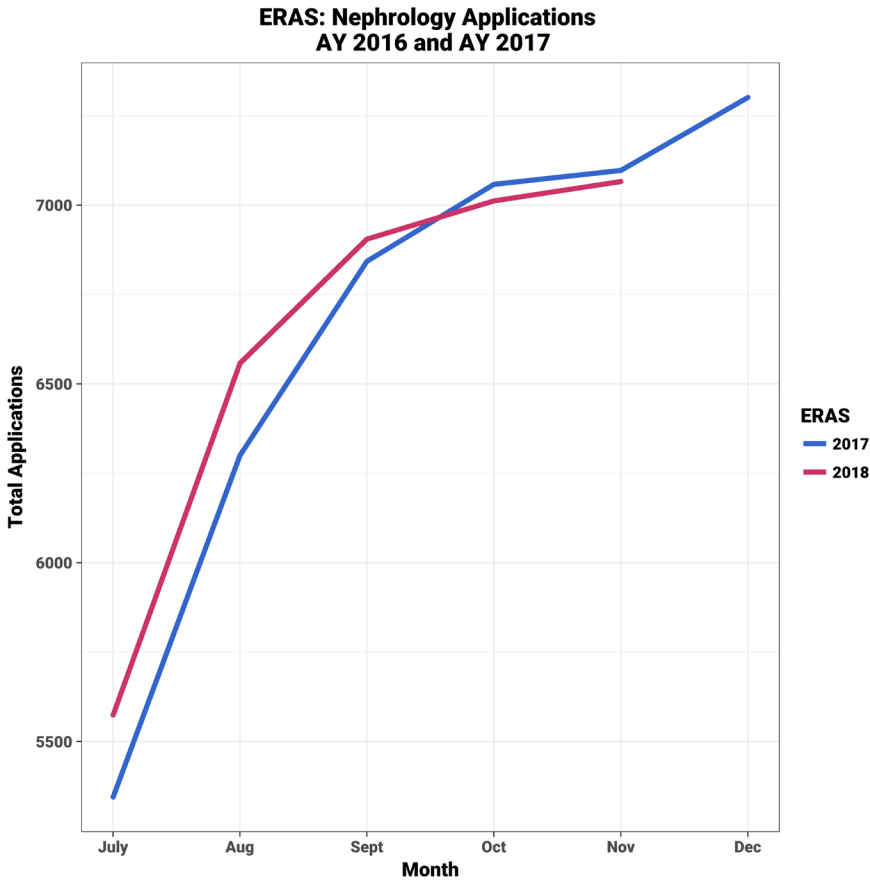
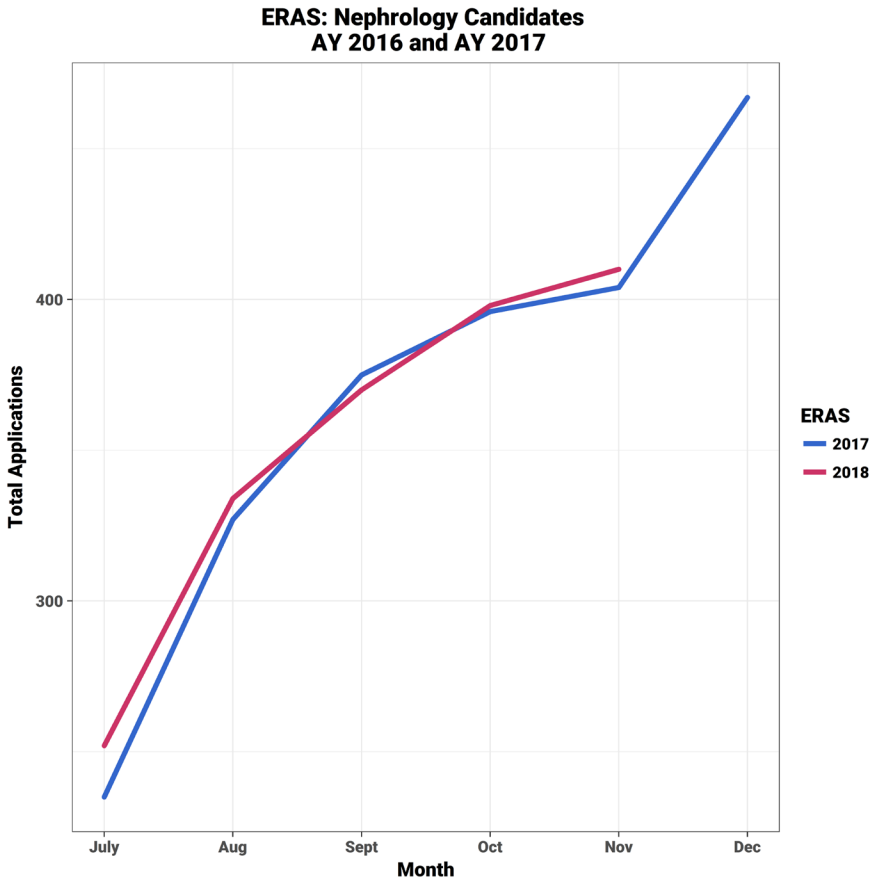


Figure 6: Cumulative Nephrology Candidates By Educational Status AY 2018 Application Cycle



Source: Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). <https://www.aamc.org/services/eras/>.

Figure 7: Cumulative ERAS Candidate (*upper*) and Application (*lower*) Data by Month: AY 2017 and AY 2018



Source: Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). <https://www.aamc.org/services/eras/>.

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Figure 8: Cumulative ERAS Applications By Month ERAS 2014–2018

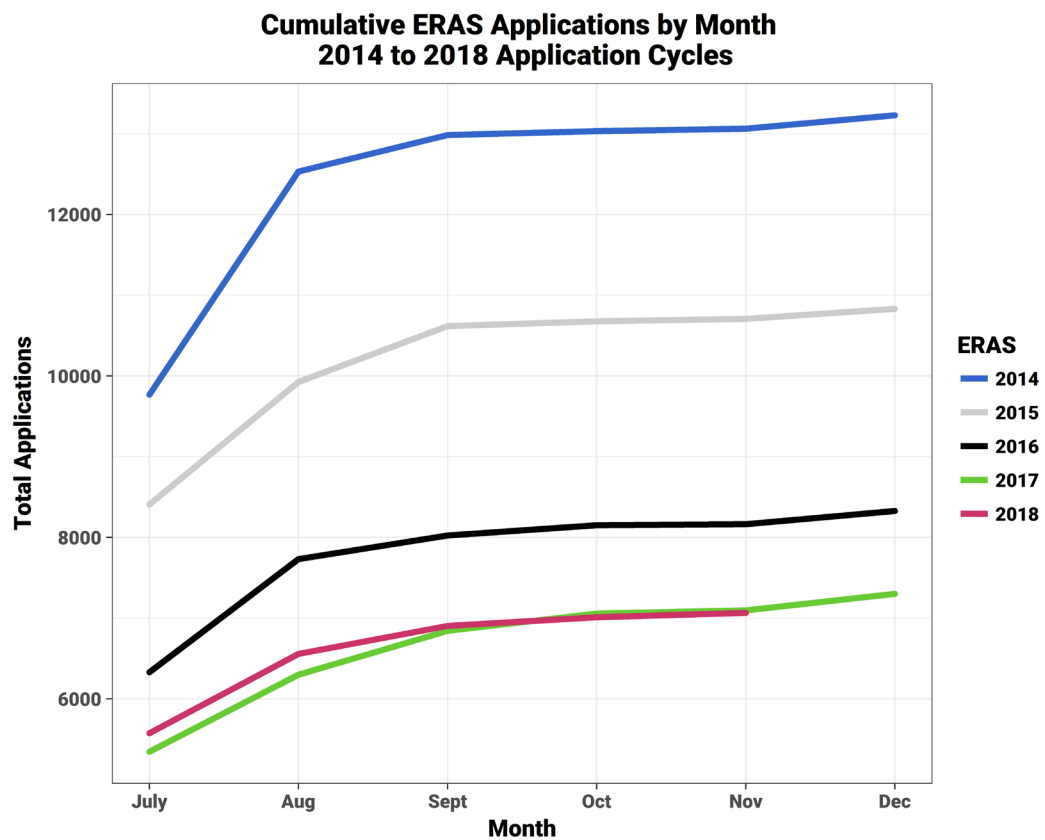
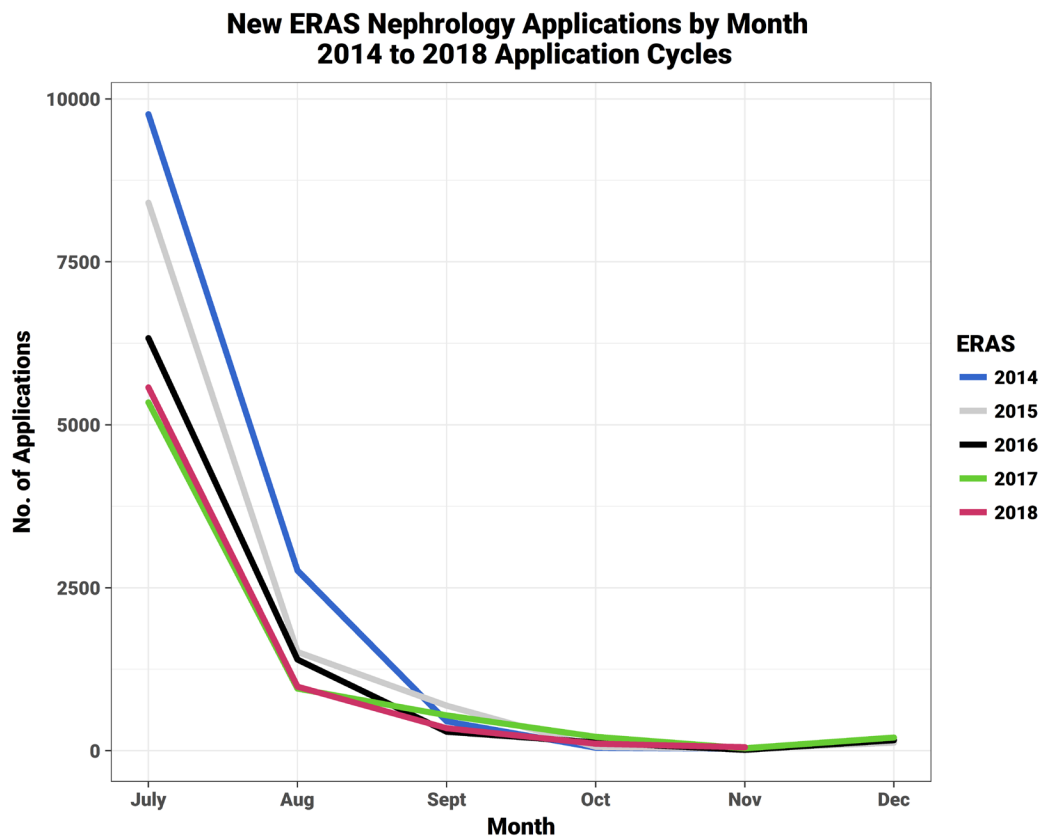


Figure 9: New ERAS Applications By Month ERAS 2014–2018



Source: Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). <https://www.aamc.org/services/eras/>.

Figure 10: Cumulative Nephrology Candidates By Month ERAS 2014–2018

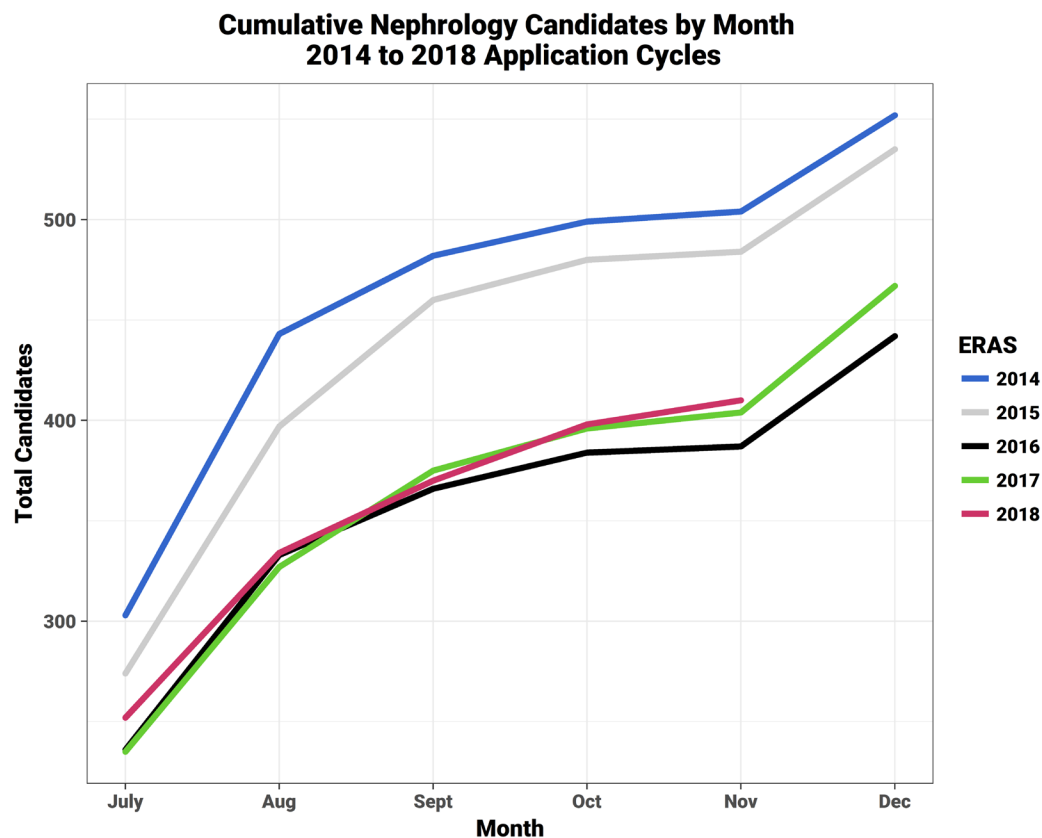
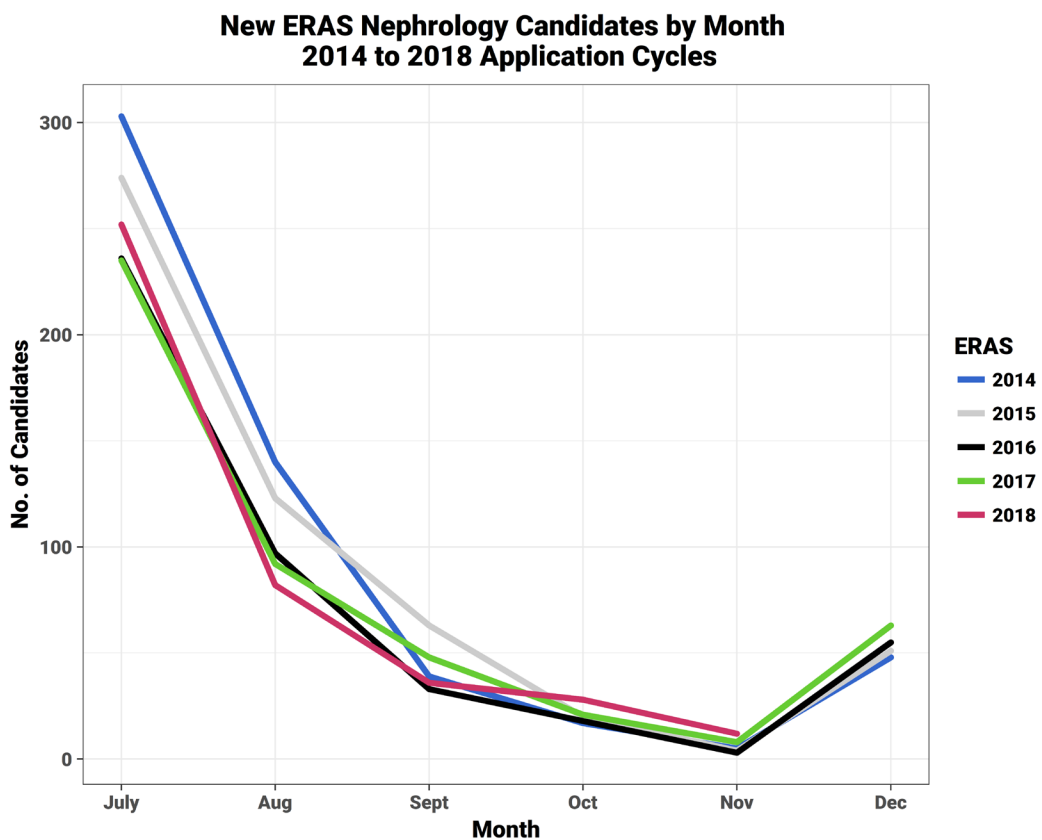


Figure 11: New Nephrology Candidates By Month ERAS 2014–2018



Source: Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). <https://www.aamc.org/services/eras/>.

Questions? Concerns? Your feedback is encouraged.

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