

Hi, this is Sam, a fourth year applying to dermatology (although I imagine the questions aren't all that different in different fields). I noticed that during my interviews there were some definite themes to the questions that I was asked, and I thought that it might be helpful to some of you folks to know what those questions were, so here you go. I felt like it took me about two interviews to catch on to the pattern and start doing a good job with my answers, so maybe this will bypass those first couple interviews for some of you. My other tip would be to ask the residents at the dinner the night before what zinger questions they like to ask at their program. There are usually one or two and they will usually tell you if you ask, but not if you don't. Enjoy!

Sam

Dermatology: (4-10 interviews per day lasting 8-25 minutes each with 1-3 interviewers per interview)

What questions do you have for us? (Almost every interview, you will have 0-25 minutes to fill an otherwise uncomfortable silence)

What do you see yourself doing in 10 years? (Almost every interview)

What kind of dermatology do you want to practice/do you wish to specialize? (About 2/3rd of interviews)

Tell me more about ___ aspect of your research (usually general and good natured, but rarely very specific and trying to find holes in your knowledge. It's good to have a 2-3 minute chat polished about each of your research projects because you'll give them over and over and it's a good way to sound smart or an easy time for them to discover that you don't know what you're talking about even though your name is on the paper. About 1/2 of all interviews)

What brought you to dermatology and/or medicine/was there a moment when you knew that you wanted to be a dermatologist? (About 1/2 of interviews)

So, tell me about yourself. (About 1/3rd of interviews)

How was it working with ___ faculty? (About 1/4th of interviews)

Why did you apply to our program specifically and/or why do you want to come to our part of the country? (Almost every interview day)

Tell me about a time in your life, clinically or otherwise, when you have failed +/- what did you learn from that experience? (About 2/3rds of interview days)

What kind of a clinic will you be associated with, i.e.: academic vs. non-academic (academic is the right answer)? (About 2/3rds of interview days)

How will you divide your time between clinical work and research? (About 1/2 of interview days)

What are you most proud of? (About 1/2 of interview days)

Tell me about a time when you have had to face a challenge as a leader. (About 1/2 of interview days)

How do you want to split your time between clinical work and research as a physician? (About 1/2 of interview days)

Tell me about a patient experience where you screwed up. (About 1/2 of interview days)

What do you do in your spare time? (About 1/2 of interview days)

If you hadn't been a doctor, what would you be doing right now? (About 1/3rd of interview days)

If you decided against going into dermatology, what other medical specialty would you have chosen and why? (About 1/3rd of interview days)

What are 1-3 strengths and 1-3 weaknesses about yourself? (About 1/3rd of interview days)

What is the hardest thing that you have ever had to do, in patient care or otherwise? (About 1/3rd of interview days)

What do you think is the most important scientific discovery in any field in the last year? (about 1/3rd of interview days)

What would you bring to our program that other applicants would not/what are your unique strengths? (about 1/3rd of interview days)

What is one word that best describes you? (About 1/3rd of interview days)

Tell me about a patient who is memorable to you. (About 1/3rd of interview days)

Tell me about a role model you have in dermatology. (About 1/3rd of interview days)

Tell me about a patient experience where you did a great job. (About 1/4th of interview days)

What have you done in terms of community service during medical school or earlier? (About 1/4th of interview days)

As a leader, do you think it is more important to be respected or liked? (Once)

A physician is treating a patient of yours medically incorrectly, what do you do? (Once)

After you talk to the above physician nicely and he refuses to change his management stating that "that's the way he practices medicine" then what do you do? (Once)

What do you think is the most significant world event of the year? (Once)

What is the one sub-specialty of medicine that you would least like to do and why? (Once)

Tell me about a dermatology patient who was medically fascinating to you? (Once)

Tell me about a situation when you noticed one of your peers doing something unethical, and what did you do about it? (Once)

Medicine prelim and transition year interviews: (1-2 interviews per day lasting 15-45 minutes with one interviewer per interview)

How's it going? (Every interview)

What questions do you have for our program? (Every interview)

Do you have any more questions? (Every interview)

So, you're going into dermatology? (Most interviews)

Why dermatology? (About 1/2 of interviews)

Did you make it to dinner last night? (About 1/2 of interviews)

How about I make us a pot of tea? (Once)