

1. Interested students should contact Dr. Sami or Dr. Greenwald to set up an initial meeting to discuss their individual scheduling plans (November of their M3). It is important to schedule this meeting before the end of November. Earlier is even better.
2. In general, students should plan to do dermatology away rotations (4th year clerkships) during the M4 months of July, August, September, and October. Criteria for selecting appropriate programs to apply should be discussed with Dr. Greenwald or Dr. Sami on an individual basis. Ideally, students should plan for 3 one-month away dermatology electives.
3. Students should apply for their dermatology electives through the VSLO system and/or individual programs in February of M3 year. It is important that we discuss this before applying. Ideally, applications for these clerkships should be filed for the program's opening day.
4. A 2 week "independent study" dermatology elective the last 2 weeks in June with Dr. Sami (at UCF COM) and Dr. Greenwald (at private dermatology clinics) just prior to the commencement of the away rotations is highly recommended. During this two week elective students will learn to "present" patients. They will engage in a "mock interview" for their upcoming aways, and they will be required to prepare a presentation on a dermatology topic of interest selected by the student and Dr. Sami/Dr. Greenwald. Whether students can do this particular elective or not, it is still highly recommended to sign up for a mock interview. This is excellent preparation for the actual interviews.
5. Students planning to pursue Dermatology Residency should strongly consider electives that will be especially useful for PGY-1 and for Dermatology Residency. An acting internship in IM is excellent preparation for PGY-1 as well as for Dermatology Residency. Other electives that can be extremely useful for dermatology residency are ENT, Plastic Surgery, ER medicine (lots of derm in ER!), Pathology, Psychiatry, Pediatrics (especially if interested in peds derm), rheumatology (lots of dermatology cases with chance to see and treat "cutaneous manifestations of systemic disease"), infectious disease (lots of cutaneous manifestations). This variety of electives is far better than just trying to take a lot of dermatology electives, and you will already have 3 of those at the beginning of M4.
6. Allow adequate study time for Step 2. For a number of dermatology programs this score is significant.
7. Do not hesitate to email or text me if you have any questions/concerns: cinnamark@gmail.com.