

CFMS Elections Documents 2024-25

Applicant Biography

My name is Kevin Ly and I'm a first-year medical student at the University of Alberta. Originally from Toronto, I practiced as a pharmacist for 2 years in Grande Prairie, a rural town with a population of 60,000 in Northern Alberta. I've seen the challenges the public health system faces in delivering high-quality and accessible care, including 16-hour emergency department wait-times, short-staffed after-hours walk-in clinics, and high primary care physician attrition rates. Indigenous individuals living on reserves and farmers on acreages, up to 100 or more kilometers out of town, frequently expressed their dissatisfaction with accessibility of health services, despite residing in a country that bolsters universal comprehensive care.

There is a gap in medical education when it comes to appreciating the nuanced needs of diverse groups of individuals, from rural and remote communities in Canada to those half-way across the world. We as medical students have so much to learn from participating in international electives and I'm passionate about making this a possibility for as many medical students as I can.

I am personally interested in global surgery and the prospect of bringing surgical access and world-class surgical skills to under-served areas around the world. In areas where resources are scarce, we are challenged to problem solve with creativity and innovation in order to deliver care to patients. The opportunity to learn with and from bright-minded medical students and physicians from different parts of the world is what draws me to global health.

Platform (Director of Global Health)

My goal is to equip medical students with the skills needed to tackle the challenges we face in providing equitable care on a global level. International electives provide medical students with an enriching environment to develop these skills and unique perspectives on the state of global health care. I'm passionate about making these learning opportunities available to students, so that we can pursue meaningful careers and make lasting impacts on the health of our patients, both locally and abroad. My platform consists of three crucial elements, centred around the key theme of **advocating for the needs and interests of medical students across the globe**:

- 1. Fostering partnerships with medical student associations internationally**
 - I am committed to collaborating with medical students around the world on international development projects to align our vision towards a globally-oriented model of physician training.
- 2. Expanding the IFMSA International Exchange Program**
 - I hope to coordinate opportunities with IFMSA to expand offerings for clinical and research exchange programs in countries and topic areas of interest to Canadian medical students.
- 3. Enhancing communications with the Global Health Program**
 - I envision regular ongoing communication with National Officers and Global Health Liaisons at Canadian medical schools to increase visibility of our profile.

I hold the position of incoming VP of Community Engagement within the Medical Students' Association at the University of Alberta. In the coming year, I will represent medical students' perspectives as a member of the Social Accountability Steering Community and provide support to various local officers of community engagement electives (Indigenous Health, Global Health, Inner City Health, amongst many others) as chair of the Community Engagement Committee. In my capacity as VP of Community Engagement, I have the unique opportunity to elicit the concerns of the medical student body and liaise with faculty members, community members, and stakeholders to address the dynamically changing needs of medical students as it pertains to opportunities for engagement with the community.

As Junior Coordinator for the Asclepius Medical Camp for Youth, I am also heavily involved in outreaching to rural (Grande Prairie) high-schools to promote awareness and engagement in pre-medical education for individuals from traditionally under-represented groups in medicine (including Black, Indigenous, 2SLGBTQ+, low socioeconomic status, and individuals with disabilities). Over the past 6 months, I've participated in planning and coordinating the 3-day medical camp that will be delivered in Grande Prairie for the first time this Summer. This aligns closely with our universities vision of training health care providers in rural and remote areas, who will remain there to provide care in their communities.

My experiences will serve well in fostering a deeper understanding of social accountability and the social determinants of health, which I hope to bring forth to my role as Director of Global Health. I am committed to listening to the voices of medical students and championing these three key initiatives to promote international collaboration between medical students.

Sincerely,

B. Kevin Ly
MD Student, Class of 2027
Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
University of Alberta