

RE: CFMS Director of Global Health - Biography

Dear CFMS Members,

My name is Camelia and I am a medical student at the University of Calgary! I completed my Bachelor's of Science alongside my first year of medicine and by a fortunate turn of events, will be graduating in June with a degree in Biochemistry.

Global health has been a fundamental part of my life since before I decided to pursue medicine. In 2005, I immigrated with my parents from Moldova, a small and socioeconomically complex country that most do not know of, but that means the whole world to me. When I go back, I am able to appreciate the intricacy of the systems that exist there and their consequences; I also get to see how my people flourish, using traditional healing practices and a tight knit community to survive. This has inspired me to not only advocate for the betterment of healthcare in the regions that need it most, but also to encourage myself and my peers to appreciate what people in these areas have to offer to our systems, too, and to learn from them in respectful and reciprocal ways.

My past endeavors were always built on wanting to learn and do my best to help remediate what was deemed by the community to be a problem. My ASHA milestone courses first introduced me to rural and remote healthcare, after which I decided to pursue a project modeling the effects of arsenic contamination, a common toxin in Indigenous community water reserves, using zebrafish. I translated these findings to an Indigenous Studies practicum and was able to explore and outline a model for community-based studies. At the same time, I was involved in leadership positions at the TELUS Spark Science Center, Youreka Canada's Calgary, and iGEM Calgary in local and international settings. These experiences gave me further insight into local and global applications and ways of thinking, and I hope to utilize a similar approach in any service role I have, allowing the community to delineate any next goals and steps that I take.

If selected for this position, I hope to do well by the community in all that I do, to be useful and productive in ways that create solutions that are welcomed by local and global populations and that can be taken up by students across schools. Thank you for your time and kind consideration!

Sincerely and warmly yours,

Camelia Ursu

Student at the University of Calgary

Faculty of Medicine | MD (2026)

Faculty of Science | Biochemistry (2024)