

Candidate Bio

Hi everyone! I'm Zili, a rising second-year medical student at the University of Saskatchewan. I hope to have the opportunity to serve you as Dir. GA next year.

Prior to medicine, I obtained a BSc from McGill, and an MPH from Yale. In school and my public health career, I have worked hard on advocacy efforts on the community, provincial, as well as national levels. I have had the privilege to work with many NGOs, from grassroots organizations in Ontario to the WHO; Canadian and U.S. universities; student-run free clinics in the U.S. and in Canada; and the Government Affairs (GA) and Global Health Divisions within the CFMS.

I had the privilege of being a part of both the 2023 NDoA Follow-Up and the 2024 NDoA Partnerships Committees last year. Working with and learning from colleagues who are equally passionate and incredibly knowledgeable about political advocacy was truly the highlight of my first year in medical school. Whether it's drafting petitions, emailing and interviewing potential partners, or garnering support from our broader communities, our collective hard work to push forward and the shared excitement over our victories made my GA experience incomparably memorable and fulfilling. If given the opportunity, I will bring the same fervor and dedication to serve the CFMS as Dir. GA.

Candidate Platform

Relevant Experience

1. To advocate for inclusive mental health care, I reached out to Ontario MPPs and helped obtain 10,000 petition signatures. With the support of an MPP, we brought our petition to include mental health care in the Ontario Health Insurance Plan to the House of Commons.
2. I built partnerships with women's shelters, crisis helplines, and universities to create a nationwide network of NGOs targeting gender-based violence (GBV.) Our coalition provided GBV survivors easier access to free resources and support.
3. For 1.5 years, I led a team of 37 health educators within the 400-member student-run free clinic at Yale. I worked on campus outreach to advocate for the expansion of Medicaid to include all children in Connecticut, regardless of insurance or immigration status. In 2023, we expanded the Medicaid coverage limit from 12 years old to all children under the age of 15.

Goals

In addition to continuing the successes of NDoA, MEDoA, and more, I plan to:

1. Increase knowledge and participation in advocacy training among the general student body.
 - a. Encourage GAAC Reps at each school to regularly promote LATS training to their student body. Collect data to examine facilitators and barriers to increasing student participation. Create appropriate incentives to increase participation.
 - b. Identify schools traditionally underrepresented as hosts of LATS workshops; support schools in organizing workshops with principles outlined in the CFMS Advocacy Training Toolkit.
2. Strive toward equitable representation of medical schools within the GA Portfolio.
 - a. Work with GAAC Reps at under-represented schools to create discussions with students, throughout the school year, on how to get involved with advocacy within the CFMS. Aim to increase the schools' participation as GA Committee members and National Officers.
 - b. Work with National Officers and local GAAC Reps to encourage equitable participation across medical schools in NDoA, MEDoA and PDoAs.
3. Support inter-provincial knowledge and idea sharing for PDoA's.
 - a. At the provincial level, facilitate knowledge of each PDoA topics, asks, successes and challenges across the Division/country to increase students' knowledge of issues & efforts pertinent to each province.
 - b. Host a centralized platform where GAAC representatives from each province could share their ideas and progress in real-time.
4. Increase cohesion in themes of advocacy across committees.
 - a. The 2024 NDoA topic is Healthcare Spending. Given the financing structure in Canada, advocacy is as important at the provincial level as it is at the national level. Work with GAAC Reps in identifying and executing feasible efforts for issues pertinent to each province.
 - b. Work with LATS and PAT to plan training sessions to increase student literacy on Healthcare Spending.

Conclusion

I am extremely grateful to have worked within the GA Division this past year. It would be an honour to serve you next year as Dir. GA - to continue our legacy of great collaboration and productivity, as well as strive toward tangible improvements that could benefit Canadian medical students equitably for years to come. Thank you for your kind consideration of my candidacy.