

# EXECUTIVE REPORT

Yipeng Ge, CFMS Vice-President Government Affairs

2018 Annual General Meeting

September 21-23, 2018, Montreal, Quebec



## I. DESCRIPTION OF POSITION

The Vice-President of Government Affairs (VP GA) has a variety of duties related to leading and coordinating local, provincial, and national advocacy efforts of the CFMS. More specifically, the VP GA serves as Chair of the CFMS Government Affairs and Advocacy Committee (GAAC) and leads the organization of the annual CFMS Day of Action in Ottawa. In conjunction with the National Officer of Health Policy, the VP GA guides the Committee on Health Policy in a regular review of existing policy documents and the creation of new documents. The VP GA will also actively collaborate with the Vice President Education on issues related to medical education that require political involvement. Finally, the VP GA will represent the CFMS to various external committees and organizations as deemed necessary by the president and executive.

The CFMS Government Affairs and Advocacy Committee (GAAC) exists to both solicit the broader opinion of Canadian medical students on a wide variety of issues as well as to help take action at the local, provincial, and national levels. The CFMS GAAC is composed of the Chair (VP GA) and one to two representatives from each CFMS member school, selected by the individual medical societies. The mandate of the CFMS GAAC includes, but is not limited to:

1. Provide a grassroots framework to determine and advocate for the interests of the CFMS and its membership;
2. Cultivate leadership and advocacy skills in CFMS membership, and provide further opportunities for involvement with CFMS;
3. Assist with and participate in CFMS national advocacy efforts.

## II. ACTIVITIES

Meetings attended:

Meeting Name	Date	Location
CFMS AGM	September 22-24, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Handover and transition documents with Sarah Silverberg (past VP GA)	September 24, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Vivian Tam, OMSA Director of Representation	September 24, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Teleconference meeting with AFMC eHealth Subgroup	September 25, 2017	Teleconference
Partners in Reconciliation: Recognizing and Respecting Indigenous Health	September 27, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Henry Annan, (CFMS President)	October 1, 2017	Phone call
National GAAC Teleconference - #1	October 1, 2017	Teleconference
2018 National Lobby Day ResComm Meeting	October 2, 2017	Teleconference
CMA Advocacy Training Call	October 4, 2017	Phone call
Dr. Sud Opioid Summer Studentship Research Projects Call	October 5, 2017	Phone call
AFMC Opioids Proposal Call	October 5, 2017	Teleconference
CCSA JSA Phone Call (Opioids file)	October 10, 2017	Phone call
Phone call with Kriti (Opioid Summer Studentship)	October 11, 2017	Phone call
Dr. Verma, VP Education AFMC Call	October 12, 2017	Phone call
National Officer of Health Policy Interviews	October 12, 2017	Phone call
CFMS Fall Board Meeting	October 13 – 15, 2017	Ottawa, ON
National GAAC Teleconference - #2 (only updates via email)	October 15, 2017	Teleconference – rescheduled
Canadian Medical Association 150 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Gala (NOHP attended)	October 17, 2017	Ottawa, ON – NOHP attended
Cannabis Task Force Meeting	October 26, 2017	Teleconference
Meeting on Tax Changes, with MDFM (Member Relevance, Taxation Services)	October 27, 2017	Teleconference
Meeting with Chair of the Ottawa Public Health Board and Manager of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	October 31, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Brandon Chau and Shanza Hashmi, on Resolutions Task Force	November 2, 2017	Teleconference

Committee on Health Policy (COHP) Teleconference Meeting #1	November 4, 2017	Teleconference
National GAAC Teleconference - #2	November 5, 2017	Teleconference
Macleans' Parliamentarian of the Year Gala, with CMA	November 7, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Asha (National Officer of Human Rights and Peace)	November 8, 2017	Phone call
Meeting with Willow (National Officer of Indigenous Health)	November 8, 2017	Phone call
Meeting with Sarah Silverberg (Past VP GA)	November 9, 2017	Phone call
Position Paper Task Force Meeting #1	November 11, 2017	Teleconference
2018 National Lobby Day ResComm Meeting	November 12, 2017	Teleconference
Meeting with Henry (CFMS President)	November 13, 2017	Phone call
Meeting with Victoria (CFMS Atlantic Rep)	November 13, 2017	Phone call
Meeting with Kelsey (CMA Political Action team)	November 16, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Graham (Day of Action Coordinator)	November 16, 2017	Phone call
Meeting with Legislative Assistant of MP Raj Saini's Office to Discuss Motion M-132	November 17, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Brandon Chau and Shanza Hashmi, on Position Paper Task Force	November 17, 2017	Ottawa, ON
CFMS Executive Board T/C	November 19, 2017	Teleconference
AFMC Meeting with CFMS Executive Board	November 19, 2017	Teleconference
National GHA Team Call – NOHP taking place of VPGA	November 19, 2017	Teleconference
Meeting with Special Advisor for Officer of the Minister of Indigenous Services	November 23, 2017	Gatineau, QC
Position Paper Task Force Meeting	November 25, 2017	Teleconference
Committee on Health Policy Meeting	November 26, 2017	Teleconference
President's Roundtable T/C, Brandon to take place for VP GA	November 27, 2017	Teleconference
uOttawa GAAC CMA Advocacy Training Workshop	November 28, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Leads of Indigenous Health Advocacy Committee (OMSA committee)	November 29, 2017	Teleconference
CPHA Tobacco Control Working Group Teleconference	December 1, 2017	Teleconference
National GAAC Teleconference - #3	December 3, 2017	Teleconference
CCSA JSA Teleconference - #2	December 4, 2017	Teleconference
Meeting with Office of the Minister of Health, Policy Advisor	December 4, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Parliamentary Reception, Assembly of First Nations, Special Chiefs Assembly	December 5, 2017	Ottawa, ON
CFMS Cannabis Task Force Meeting	December 5, 2017	Teleconference
Assembly of First Nations, Special Chiefs Assembly	December 5-7, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Phone call with Day of Action coordinator, Graham	December 6, 2017	Phone call
Meeting with Policy Advisor on Youth and Health, Prime Minister's Office	December 8, 2017	Ottawa, ON
CFMS Opioids Task Force Teleconference #1	December 10, 2017	Teleconference
CFMS Rapid Response Team Teleconference #1	December 10, 2017	Teleconference
CFMS Board T/C	December 10, 2017	Teleconference
Day of Action ResComm T/C	December 10, 2017	Teleconference
Meeting with policy advisors in Office of MP Raj Saini	December 12, 2017	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Day of Action Coordinator, Graham	December 13, 2017	Phone Call
Position Paper Task Force #3 Teleconference	December 13, 2017	Teleconference
Meeting with Carly and Megan (University of Manitoba students), on Day of Action Representation concerns	December 13, 2017	Teleconference
Meeting with ResComm Lead (Charles)	December 14, 2017	Phone Call
Meeting with Knowledge Broker (Lisha), Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction	December 15, 2017	Phone Call
CFMS Winter Board Meeting	January 6-7, 2018	Calgary, AB
Meeting with Jesse Kancir (CFMS Alumni)	January 7, 2018	Phone Call
CFMS/AFMC Teleconference	January 8, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with Graham, Day of Action	January 8, 2018	Phone Call
Opioids Task Force Meeting	January 9, 2018	Teleconference
Pharmacare Task Force Meeting	January 9, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS Reps Roundtable	January 10, 2018	Teleconference
OMSA-OPAC/CFMS COHP Meeting	January 11, 2018	Teleconference
Day of Action Asks Task Force Meeting	January 12, 2018	Teleconference
McMaster Indigenous Health Conference	January 13, 2018	Hamilton, ON
COHP Meeting	January 14, 2018	Teleconference
National GAAC Meeting	January 14, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with Graham, Day of Action	January 15, 2018	Phone Call
Meeting with Kelsey, CMA Political Action Team	January 16, 2018	Phone Call
Health Research Task Force Meeting	January 17, 2018	Teleconference

ResComm Meeting #9	January 21, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with Nick and Erin, CMA Cannabis Campaign	January 22, 2018	Phone Call
Opioids Response Team JSA Call	January 25, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with Asha, National Officer of Human Rights and Peace	January 25, 2018	Phone Call
Position Paper Task Force Meeting	January 25, 2018	Teleconference
Rapid Response Team Meeting	January 28, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with Graham, Day of Action	January 30, 2018	Phone Call
CFMS uCMG Updates Call	February 3, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS February Board T/C	February 4, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with Graham, Day of Action	February 5, 2018	Phone Call
Meeting with Special Advisor in the Office of the Minister of Indigenous Services	February 6, 2018	Phone Call
Meeting with Policy Advisor in the Office of the Minister of Crown-Indigenous and Northern Affairs	February 7, 2018	Phone Call
Meeting with Legislative Assistant in the Office of MP Bardish Chagger	February 8, 2018	Ottawa, ON
CFMS National Day of Action on Indigenous Mental Wellness Weekend	February 10-12, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Assembly of First Nations Health Transformation Summit	February 13-14, 2018	Toronto, ON
Meeting with Policy Advisors in MP Charlie Angus Office	February 15, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Opioid Response Team National Call	February 20, 2018	Teleconference
COHP Meeting	February 20, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with Minister Carolyn Bennett's Office (Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs)	February 21, 2018	Ottawa, ON
The Lancet Series: Canada's Leadership on Global Health Event	February 23, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Vivian Tam, OMSA Director of Representation	February 25, 2018	Ottawa, ON
uCMG Advocacy Teleconference	February 25, 2018	Teleconference
Canadian Club of Ottawa Event: Perspectives on Tax Reform and Innovation	March 1, 2018	Ottawa, ON
The Royal Ottawa's 15 <sup>th</sup> Annual Inspiration Awards Gala	March 2, 2018	Ottawa, ON
National GAAC Teleconference	March 4, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with policy advisor in Office of the Minister of Health	March 5, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Charles Yin, ResComm Lead	March 7, 2018	Phone call
Meeting with Assembly of First Nations Mental Wellness Policy File Lead, Stephanie Wellman	March 8, 2018	Phone call
CFMS Board Meeting – March	March 11, 2018	Teleconference
Debrief with MD Financial Management for Day of Action	March 16, 2018	Phone Call
Pillars of Change: Priorities for Addressing the Opioids Crisis meeting	March 20, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Debrief and feedback session with Graham, Day of Action coordinator	March 20, 2018	Phone Call
Meeting with Deputy Minister Tremblay and Dr. Tom Wong, Indigenous Services Canada	March 21, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Opioid Response Partners Monthly Call	March 22, 2018	Teleconference
National GAAC Team Teleconference	March 25, 2018	Teleconference
Call with Jessica Bryce, CFMS SGM 2018 Chair	March 29, 2018	Phone Call
CFMS uCMG Lobby Day Planning Call	April 1, 2018	Teleconference
Touch base Meeting with Kelsey Shein, CMA Political Action Team	April 6, 2018	Ottawa, ON
The Past, Present and Future of Private Finance for Medicare in Canada Conference	April 6, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Upstream's the Closing the Gap Conference: The Next 150: Reconciliation and Health	April 6-7, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Ontario Medical Students Association Lobby Day Weekend on Physician Services Planning and the Unmatched Canadian Medical Graduate	April 7-9, 2018	Toronto, ON
CFMS Board Teleconference Meeting, April	April 8, 2018	Teleconference
Final Position Paper Task Force Meeting	April 11, 2018	Teleconference
Public Policy Forum Testimonial Dinner	April 12, 2018	Toronto, ON
Committee on Health Policy Teleconference	April 17, 2018	Teleconference
National GAAC Teleconference Meeting	April 22, 2018	Teleconference
Spots for Docs Protest at Queen's Park, advocating on the uCMG crisis	April 25, 2018	Toronto, ON
Royal College Competency By Design (CBD) Summit	April 26, 2018	Halifax, NS
CFMS Board Meeting	April 26, 2018	Halifax, NS
CFMS Spring General Meeting 2018	April 27-28, 2018	Halifax, NS
Canadian Conference on Medical Education (CCME) 2018	April 29, 2018	Halifax, NS
Parliamentary Breakfast Presented by Canada's Nurses	May 1, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Champions of Mental Health Award Gala with Canadian Medical Association	May 8, 2018	Ottawa, ON

Committee on Health Policy Meeting	May 13, 2018	Teleconference
Canadian Medical Association, CEO Roundtable Meeting (on behalf of Henry Annan)	May 16, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Phone call with Addie Pryce, Director of Health of Assembly of First Nations	May 17, 2018	Phone Call
Phone call with Silvio Ndoja, OMSA Director of Representation	May 17, 2018	Phone Call
Indigenous Health Conference	May 24-26, 2018	Mississauga, ON
AFN/CFMS Joint Virtual Forum on Indigenous Mental Wellness	May 27, 2018	Teleconference/ WebEx
National GAAC teleconference	May 27, 2018	Teleconference
National Seniors Strategy Meeting	May 27, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS uCMG Advocacy Strategy Meeting	May 27/28, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS Advocacy Meetings to Discuss Physician Resource Planning and uCMG	May 29/31, 2018	Ottawa, ON
National Opioids Response Team Call	May 31, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS Summer Board Meeting	June 2-3, 2018	Toronto, ON
CBC Indigenous Q and A with Minister Jane Philpott, Indigenous Services Canada	June 21, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Alison of MD Financial Management	June 25, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Kate, David, and Kevin of MP Raj Saini's Office	June 27, 2018	Ottawa, ON
Meeting with Kyle of Department of Indigenous Services Canada	June 27, 2018	Ottawa, ON
CFMS Board evaluation debrief with Henry, CFMS President	July 3, 2018	Phone Call
CFMS uCMG advocacy strategy teleconference	July 3, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS Criminal Justice Reform Task Force Initial Teleconference Meeting	July 4, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS Board Teleconference (meeting missed)	July 8, 2018	Teleconference
July Committee on Health Policy Meeting	July 9, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with CMA Political Action team	July 12, 2018	Phone Call
GAAC National Teleconference Meeting	July 15, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with AFN Health File Team	July 23, 2018	Vancouver, BC
Assembly of First Nations 39 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly	July 24-26, 2018	Vancouver, BC
CFMS National Seniors Strategy Task Force Call	August 8, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS Board Teleconference	August 12, 2018	Teleconference
National Officer of Political Advocacy Interviews	August 11-14, 2018	Phone Call
CMA Health Summit	August 19-21, 2018	Winnipeg, MB
CFMS President's Roundtable Teleconference	August 23, 2018	Teleconference
Meeting with Elections Canada regarding Inspire Democracy program	August 24, 2018	Gatineau, QC
Onboarding call with National Officer of Political Action	August 24, 2018	Phone Call
Day of Action Topic Selection Committee Meeting #1	August 29, 2018	Teleconference
Call with CMA regarding National Seniors Strategy and National Seniors Day	August 31, 2018	Teleconference
Call with National Geriatrics Interest Group for coordinated National Seniors Strategy	September 1, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS Board Teleconference Meeting	September 7, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS National Seniors Strategy Task Force Meeting	September 8, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS National GAAC Team Meeting	September 9, 2018	Teleconference
Day of Action Topic Selection Meeting #2	September 11, 2018	Teleconference
Day of Action Topic Selection Meeting #3	September 18, 2018	Teleconference
CFMS Annual General Meeting 2018	September 20-23, 2018	Montreal, QC

### III. PRIORITIES AND PROJECT AREAS

#### CFMS Day of Action: Indigenous Mental Wellness

A tremendous amount of work and preparation has gone into the 2018 National Day of Action on Indigenous Mental Wellness. Following the passing of the CFMS position paper entitled, Mental Health and Suicide in Indigenous Communities in Canada, in April 2017, the wheels were set in motion. An extensive effort from medical students across multiple portfolios contributed to the discussions and work in making this advocacy effort possible. A thorough community consultation process was implemented to gather guidance and support from Indigenous community leaders, health experts, and institutional/organizational leads. With respect to our government relations, meetings were also held with multiple ministerial offices. This year marks a unique shift in our efforts to communicate extensively and build relationships with

community and government, in hopes of a strong, meaningful, and respectful effort to exercise our voices as medical students in a position of speaking from our own truths.

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, over 70 medical student delegates from across Canada met with over 60 MPs and Senators across all federal political parties. Student delegates outlined to policymakers the issues facing Indigenous peoples in Canada with respect to mental health and how our policy proposals could help address some of those unmet needs in a manner that supports Indigenous self-determination. Overall, our meetings were met with positive responses. A number of MPs committed to bringing our policy proposals to Indigenous Services Minister Jane Philpott. Several letters have now been sent from MPs we have met with to both Minister Philpott and Leader of the Opposition Andrew Scheer. Other MPs expressed interest in continuing to meet with medical students in their home ridings to discuss our findings and things that can be done at the local level. A further number promised to invite CFMS as a witness in any future government inquires or studies on Indigenous health or mental health. MP Yves Robillard (Liberal, Marc-Aurèle-Fortin) made a Members Statement (Standing Order 31 or SO31) in the House of Commons on February 27, 2018 to recognize the efforts of CFMS in advocating for Indigenous mental wellness. In the media, CFMS had radio interviews with CBC Nunavut and CBC All in a Day with Alan Neal, and multiple student reflections shared online. An AFN/CFMS Joint Virtual Forum on Indigenous Mental Wellness was held on May 27, 2018 to continue the conversation and explore Indigenous health and cultural competency/safety in the context of medical education and curricula.

#### Related links:

- Our summary report (including our policy asks related to Indigenous mental wellness) can be viewed here: <https://www.cfms.org/files/day-of-action/2018-day-of-action-report.pdf>
- AFN/CFMS Joint Virtual Forum on Indigenous Mental Wellness Summary Document: <https://www.cfms.org/files/day-of-action/Summary-Report-of-AFN-CFMS-Joint-Virtual-Forum-on-Indigenous-Mental-Wellness.pdf>
- PRESS RELEASE: Canadian Medical Students Urge The Government of Canada to Strengthen Response to Indigenous Mental Health and Suicide Crisis: <https://www.cfms.org/news/2018/02/12/future-physicians-on-parliament-hill-tog.html>
- CBC Radio Ottawa's All in a Day Interview with Indigenous medical students on Day of Action and Indigenous Mental Wellness: <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/shows/all-in-a-day/segment/15520355>
- MP Yves Robillard's Member's Statement in the House of Commons on Day of Action: <https://twitter.com/YRobillardPLC/status/968483172047556608>

#### Day of Action 2019

Small working groups at SGM 2018 provided delegates with an opportunity to provide ideas for the theme and topic of Day of Action 2019. Following SGM 2018, the Day of Action Topic Selection Committee was reassembled to begin preliminary research on ideas gathered. Ideas have been shared from GAAC to the Day of Action Topic Selection Committee, headed by the National Officer of Political Action. A short list of approximately 3 ideas will be confirmed during the summer months and brought forward to AGM 2018. We are incredibly excited to be working towards another successful Day of Action, a CFMS event that provides medical students with the opportunity to learn about the process of advocacy and government engagement while exercising their ability to do exactly that.

#### Physician Resource Planning and the Unmatched Canadian Medical Graduate

The issue of unmatched Canadian medical graduates is an unparalleled priority issue for the CFMS. A great deal of work has been undergone by the CFMS Education portfolio on this issue to date. Further to our collective efforts to bring this issue to resolution amongst its many stakeholders, the CFMS sent the federal government a letter advocating for additional residency positions to bring the ratio of medical students to residency training positions closer to 1:1.2. The CFMS was also present in Ontario Medical Students Association's (OMSA) lobby day on this very topic in April 2018, advocating to Ontario provincial government on the need for transparent, evidence-based physician service planning systems that offers sufficient residency positions for medical graduates. To date, the CFMS has also met with Members of

Parliament on May 29, 2018 to discuss pan-Canadian solutions to the issue of physician resource planning nationally. The CFMS has also submitted a pre-budget brief to the Standing Committee on Finance in advance of the 2019 federal budget, particularly focused on the issue of unmatched medical graduates and increasing residency positions to appropriately provide opportunity to medical graduates. Finally, a letter writing campaign towards provincial ministers of health has been supported by a number of medical student society presidents across the nation to bring the issue of unmatched medical graduates to an upcoming Federal/Provincial/Territorial Health Minister's Meeting.

#### Related Links:

- Advocacy meetings to discuss unmatched medical graduates and physician resource planning on May 29, 2018 guiding document and policy asks: <https://goo.gl/znmBEV>
- CFMS pre-budget submission on unmatched medical graduates: <https://goo.gl/cdMY22>

#### Local Initiatives

There are many grassroots advocacy events organized by local GAAC reps that allow for tremendous impact at the level of our individual members. Highlights of local events this year include provincial lobby days in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, and Quebec, as well as municipal lobby days in multiple cities. Topics of these lobby days included: improved mental health services and access for youth and children, youth mental wellness funding, universal coverage of an abortion pill (Mifegymiso), family medicine retention, improving immunization coverage, and universal drug coverage. These lobby days continue to demonstrate the strong voice of medical trainees and the impacts we have when exercising our voice collectively and strategically. A few examples of successes include:

- Medical Students of the Schulich Political Advocacy Committee at Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry were successful in advocating London City Hall for including naloxone kits alongside AEDs in municipally-operated facilities. This was the work of Schulich medical students' second annual Municipal Lobby Day.
- Medical Students at Memorial University successfully advocated for universal coverage of Mifegymiso in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Medical Students at the University of Saskatchewan were successful in their efforts to advocate for increased spending for child and youth mental health care (2018) and successful in adding their voice to the call for universal coverage of HIV medications (2017 topic, announced in provincial budget 2018).

#### Committee on Health Policy

The purpose of Committee on Health Policy (COHP) is to help set the overarching policy goals of the CFMS. Members of COHP are familiar with CFMS policies through reviewing existing position papers and policy statements, and would then be able to identify gaps and areas to focus on in conjunction with medical students within the CFMS membership. Moreover, the COHP is a regular venue whereby CFMS representatives from different constituencies (e.g. global health, education) would regularly liaise between General Meetings, during which resolutions and papers are passed by the assembly. COHP provides support in the preparation and implementation of position statements and policy papers, to be discussed on the floor of these General Meetings. The COHP is chaired by the National Officer of Health Policy.

The COHP has had a number of subcommittees, covering topics of: refugee and migrant health, solitary confinement and health delivery, the position paper task force (formally known as resolutions task force), homelessness strategy, national seniors strategy, and the neurosciences task force. These teams have completed many objectives, and are continuing onwards to further their research, writing, and advocacy. The NOHP accepted new students into COHP throughout the year, to bring forth new ideas and increase productivity on these teams. COHP plans to bring forth a policy statement to AGM 2018.

The NOHP still must work with the IT team in finalising the new online tool. The webpage includes new resources created by the Position Paper Task Force. The Advocacy Tracker was updated to reorganize the papers and publicize recommendations, as well as add a platform for papers that were "in progress". This "in progress" tool must be put more to use. This will act to better inform students of the advocacy and

policy work happening within CFMS and provide more opportunities for those who would like to get involved. A significant goal of the NOHP was to increase student awareness of these papers and guiding documents, as well as the potential of recommendations and professional consultation in improving student advocacy.

### Position Paper Process

Through the Position Paper Task Force (PPTF), the Committee on Health Policy (COHP) took a concerted effort to implement a new process to support writers in development of impactful position papers. Through widespread consultation throughout the CFMS, the PPTF designed a new process, published guides (a protocol document) for authors and evaluators and also developed new website content. Among its other successes this year, the PPTF also formalized a follow-up process for position papers, clarified definitions in concert with the Ontario Medical Students Association (OMSA), and took steps to make the Advocacy Tracker more user-friendly and inclusive of in-progress writing efforts. Efforts looking towards the summer months, include commissioning an animated video marketed at interested guiding document writers as well as reassessing the new guiding document writing/feedback process at the 6-month mark.

### Opioids Crisis

We held our National Lobby Day (now re-branded as Day of Action) on the Opioids Crisis in February 2017, bringing medical students from across Canada to Ottawa to ask the federal government for the passing of Bill C-37, increased access to multidisciplinary chronic pain centres, and increasing investment in research investigating the interactions between mental illness and opioid misuse. We became a proud signatory on Health Canada's and the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse's Joint Statement of Action in commitment to working on the opioid crisis collectively and collaboratively. Over the past two years, our local leaders at each medical school ran opioids crisis education and naloxone kit training events at nearly every school. We have also contributed to work on competency-based curricula in pain management, substance abuse, and addictions with the AFMC. As an organization, we have also funded two summer studentships to continue addressing the opioid crisis. Most recently, we have formed an Opioids Task Force (OTF) of CFMS medical students to look at creating a formal position paper. We are proud to be part of the national Opioid Response Team meetings of organizations working on the issue at various levels and approaches. The OTF has developed an adopted position paper in response to the current opioid crisis in Canada. The OTF aimed to further the momentum that was created at the 2017 CFMS National Lobby Day on the Opioids Crisis. This team, comprised of medical students from coast to coast to coast, has worked to update the research from Lobby Day, including updated recommendations based on the most recent available data and progress to-date, to produce a position paper representing the stance of the CFMS on the issue. Most importantly, this document includes specific recommendations for next steps that will be needed to address the opioid crisis at the national level. Moving forward, we will be putting together a letter-writing campaign to Members of Parliament to advocate for these recommendations and to re-emphasize the commitment and responsibility of medical students on this issue. The campaign will be coming to all medical schools later this year.

### Pharmacare

The Pharmacare Task Force (PTF) is a pan-Canadian medical student team with a diversity of experiences, including licensed pharmacists, researchers, and health advocates. With the creation of the Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare in February 2018 and expanding national discussion on a universal Pharmacare plan, we are currently writing a position paper to synthesize and analyze the continual output of governmental and academic reports. Updating previous CFMS position papers, this paper will respond to the current state, economic challenges, and social inequities of pharmaceutical coverage in Canada, define key benefits of a national and universal Pharmacare plan, and bring forth our vision and long-term recommendations to the federal government. We have created a discussion platform where Canadian healthcare professionals have shared their own stories on how the lack of adequate prescription drug coverage has impacted their patients' ability to manage their conditions. The PTF team has also been

represented at the Pharmacare federal roundtable discussion in Ottawa. Some of the potential work we are considering for the upcoming year includes: surveying Canadian medical students about their perspectives on Pharmacare and thus adding our voices to the public conversation; and building partnerships with organizations, such as Canadian Doctors for Medicare and Pharmacare2020, that are working diligently to promote Pharmacare and to collectively push for the medical system that Canadians want and deserve. The PTF is excited to be part of this conversation.

### Recreational Cannabis Legalization

The Task Force on Recreational Cannabis Legalization has produced an adopted position paper that reflects the considerations from medical students across Canada. This team has identified five areas of concern regarding recreational cannabis legalization (medical education, public consumption, harm reduction, public education, and minimum age) and has analyzed available literature and produced recommendations for each area. The task force believes that all Canadians should be able to experience the benefits of cannabis legalization while being protected from any detrimental health and/or social consequences and hope that this position paper can be used as the foundation for CFMS advocacy towards this vision.

### Health Research

The Health Research Task Force (HRTF) has been working since January 2018 to create a written statement to the Standing Committee on Health (HESA) which has been submitted this past summer, as they initiate a year long study investigating strategies to increase societal benefits resulting from federally funded health research. HRTF's report focuses on a variety of themes elucidated through research such as: removing silos, supporting physicians/scientists, rethinking career advancement, research in the medical school curriculum and the adoption of frameworks for evaluating research accountability. Translational research and a transition from bibliometric outcome assessments to more robust, industry-influenced outcome frameworks are emphasized throughout the report as strategies to achieve HESA's goals. The HESA study is projected to be taking place in mid-October.

### Rapid Response Team

The CFMS Rapid Response Team (RRT) was established under the Government Affairs portfolio to rapidly address time-sensitive, national political and health policy issues. This group of medical students, with representation from across Canada, is responsible for rapidly analyzing, reporting, and responding to policy issues and events that affect Canadian medical trainees and their future patients. The RRT also collaborates with other CFMS committees and task forces to ensure that medical students stay informed on relevant current events in health policy, and that their interests are best represented in a timely and impactful manner. Their work this year has been diverse, ranging from assisting with the CFMS response to the 2018 Federal Budget, to leading an investigation on accommodations for missed residency interviews due to inextricable circumstances. Now that they have an established team and workflow, the RRT will continue to advocate on behalf of Canadian medical students by quickly and effectively responding to important political and health policy issues. The Rapid Response Team had a great start in the 2017-18 year. The team, comprised of medical students from across Canada, was formed to quickly identify and respond to governmental policy announcements affecting health care and medical students. The RRT provided research, writing, and editing support to a number of CFMS press releases, including the response to the federal budget and the Standing Committee on Health's national Pharmacare program report; it also produced an internal CFMS memo on accommodation for stranded CaRMS interviewees. For the 2018/19 academic year, the team aims to refine its workflow and structure to more effectively provide policy and research support to the CFMS.

### National Seniors Strategy

The National Seniors' Strategy Task Force (NSSTF) was created in April of 2018 in response to the approved motion by the CFMS to support a National Seniors' Strategy. This task force has diverse representation from medical students from various medical schools across Canada. Since its inception, the task force has begun consultation processes with institutions nation-wide to evaluate the current medical curriculum relevant to



geriatric and palliative care. The NSSTF is engaged in establishing partnerships with the Canadian Medical Association as well as the National Seniors' Strategy to further refine our focus, which includes a National advocacy campaign and several official policy documents.

#### Clinical Neuroscience

The Clinical Neurosciences Task Force is dedicated to advocating for changes within medical education and policy regarding the clinical neurosciences, be they anything from psychiatric to neurosurgical. This year, the task force will be addressing the lack of coverage of myoelectric prostheses as well as more technologically advanced prosthetics. These devices are sold for tens of thousands of dollars, often crippling middle-class families attempting to purchase these. While advances in the field of prosthesis and neuroprosthesis are made, the foundations for providing even low-grade care are not laid—health care and insurance coverage for these devices is extremely poor. As advances are made, we are helping lay the foundations to be built upon, allowing people access to life-changing care. This task force will also be planning an approach to Clinical Neuroscience-related issues across Canada and undertaking these initiatives.

#### Homelessness

The Task Force on Homelessness aims to contribute to a nationwide medical student effort to improve healthcare access and delivery in homeless populations. The task force was established by a resolution passed at the 2018 Spring General Meeting. The purpose of this group is to: 1) Extensively research the current state of healthcare access, delivery, and resources in homeless populations across Canada, 2) Develop an advocacy framework that combines research evidence with the experiences of grassroots advocacy efforts and organisations across the country, 3) Propose a strategy for medical students to operationalize this framework within their individual communities/curricula. This team is working on a policy statement in response to the Open letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on following through on the government's commitments for proper housing in Canada. Our team also focuses on the medical curricula and its coverage on health impact and considerations when looking at housing access.

#### Criminal Justice Reform

The Task Force on Criminal Justice Reform has been working since July 2018 to develop a position paper. The team has developed an outline that models a typical encounter with the justice system. Research, analysis, and recommendations will be provided at each stage of the justice system. Areas of focus include the decriminalization of illegal substances, prison conditions, access to addiction management, and amnesty for simple possession charges. The task force will advocate for the introduction of equitable correctional practices and policies for marginalized populations. In addition, the impact of the criminal justice system on health outcomes will be explored. The completed position paper will be presented at the 2019 CFMS Spring General Meeting.

#### AFMC eHealth Infoway Subcommittee

This group aimed to develop an AFMC-Infoway physician-in-training eHealth curriculum. The first phases of the project conducted an environmental scan of eHealth curriculum, increased capacity among educators, and expanded resources for teaching. The project entered phase four which primarily involved building a web platform for eHealth resources to serve as a toolkit for building an eHealth curriculum. The web platform allows anyone to find curated resources such as eHealth fundamentals, detailed information on types of technology, communication and leadership. New resources submitted by anyone can also be published following review. This toolkit has been presented at CCME 2018 in Halifax and is in the final stages.

#### CMA Ethics Committee

Issues and topics explored over the past few months include: finalizing the revision of the CMA Code of Ethics, policies of organ donation, physician's health and end of life care resources.

## **IV. REFLECTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

Humbled. I am so truly humbled that I get to work and learn from so many passionate medical students with such strong refined values, morals, and dedication to their cause. I have seen medical students mobilize and join voices and efforts to be allies on issues of public importance. Learners and advocates, students and professionals, providers and citizens, all at the same time.

This work is important as it not only defines us as allies in something greater, but also is a testament to the shift in the profession to one that is grounded in values of social accountability and responsibility. This is the work that grounds many of us and provides some solace in the chaos of medical training and practice – to never stop learning, to think deeper, have difficult and uneasy conversations, and ask ‘What can we do?’ To do work that fulfills you and provides you with energy and meaning in working with colleagues and patients. To take time to reflect and think to be inspired for a better and more just world that inherently breeds equity rather than the opposite.

I have seen and heard of great work and changes in the medical learner community, and I for one, am hopeful and excited for what we can accomplish together. Let’s organize, mobilize, speak up and out, and create and demonstrate a profession and reality we want to see. This report and the work done to date would not have been possible without the dedication and passion of the leaders and the members of the various committees and task forces. I draw so much inspiration and motivation from all those that I have the pleasure to interact and work with.

My deepest appreciation and gratitude to all those that put in the time and effort in the advocacy/government affairs portfolio over the past year. This has been a tremendous and unforgettable experience so far to work with everyone. I am truly humbled and appreciative to have had the opportunity and honour to learn from and work with you all.

With sincere gratitude,



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