

# EXECUTIVE REPORT

*Michelle Quaye, Director of Global Health  
2019 Annual General Meeting  
September 20-22nd, 2019, St. John's NL*



## I. ACTIVITIES OF DIRECTOR GLOBAL HEALTH

The CFMS Director of Global Health is responsible for overseeing global health projects that develop at a national level via National Officers, and supporting projects at the local level via Global Health Liaisons. The Director of Global Health is a liaison between these parties, as well as external persons and organizations such as the International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA).

As per the CFMS bylaws, the Director of Global Health shall, in addition to the person's other duties within the Board, direct the delivery of the Global Health Program (GHP) and support the activities of the constituency on matters pertaining to global health, international development, and public health.

I am pleased to discuss here the activities conducted within the Director of Global Health Portfolio for the term of 2019-2020.

### 1. Overseeing Global Health National Officer Portfolios

The national officers have been very independent in carrying out the great work being done in their respective portfolios. Please see their National Officer Reports (uploaded to the CFMS website) for details of the work they have carried out throughout the term. Over the summer, Fatemeh and I worked together with the National Officers to interview and select successors for their roles. National Officers were given the final say in who they felt would be best for the role, as they are most familiar with the skills and abilities needed to succeed in their positions. The National Officers also prepared handover reports to ensure their successors are adequately prepared to start their terms at AGM. Incoming National Officers will be attending an introductory session prior to AGM to orient them to the CFMS. I am intending to give them time to brainstorm with GHs and other global health-interested folks at AGM Global Health Roundtable to help them plan out their terms.

I would be remiss to miss recognition to a specific subgroup of the Global Health Portfolio that has seen much success since its inception. The Health and Environment Adaptive Response Task Force (HEART), led by chair Dr. Finola Hackett, has been doing great work on climate change and health advocacy over the past year. HEART has established a relationship with the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE), and is currently collaborating regarding the Doctors for Future campaign in support of the Fridays for Future global climate strikes. Their members have launched Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts, with a combined following of nearly 300 individuals. Through HEART's leadership, the CFMS has signed on to CAPE's Call to Action on Climate Change and Health. They have developed climate change and health competencies and are advocating for inclusion of these competencies within the medical curriculum. HEART has also strengthened the CFMS relationship with IFMSA-Quebec through our combined advocacy for climate change and health inclusion in the medical curriculum, with the intent of continuing conversations with the AFMC Global Health Network and

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starting conversations with CACMS. The work of HEART was presented at the IFMSA August Meeting 2019 by the SCOPH representatives, and was very well-received, with several NMOs asking CFMS delegates how they can advocate for inclusion of climate change in the medical curriculum in their own countries.

## 2. Serving as CFMS NMO President to the IFMSA

CFMS has made great strides in engaging with the IFMSA throughout my term as CFMS-Canada NMO President. My main responsibilities in this role are to participate with other National Member Organizations (NMOs) on the IFMSA server, and to represent CFMS to the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA). In this role, I led the CFMS delegation to the IFMSA March Meeting in Portorož, Slovenia, where our delegation provided extremely valuable contributions on behalf of the CFMS, including receiving awards for participation in their respective standing committee sessions, presenting CFMS student-led initiatives at the Meeting's Activities Fair, and giving statements on key issues on behalf of the CFMS. Please see the March Meeting 2019 report I have put together for more details on this.

Based upon feedback received from the March Meeting delegation, selection for the August meeting delegation began early, and numerous teleconferences were held in advance of the meeting to ensure participants felt prepared. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend this meeting, however, the Global Health Attaché Fatemeh served as head of delegation to the meeting. Furthermore, selecting the delegation with more time to spare enabled greater participation in the meeting. Four of the ten delegates presented CFMS student-led activities to the general assembly, and the presentation on Manitoba's Mife campaign was awarded first place in the activities fair, a great accomplishment. In addition to presenting, myself and several others in the delegation were a part of the policy commissions for the policy papers up for adoption at the meeting. The policy commissions are tasked with ensuring optimal quality of the papers being voted upon at the meeting. CFMS members were part of more policy commissions at this meeting than any other NMO. The delegation again participated extremely well during the meeting and their contributions were greatly appreciated by other NMOs. I have prepared an August Meeting 2019 report where you can review this in more detail.

Beyond the general assemblies, CFMS was privileged to send two board members to the America's Regional Meeting held in Quito, Ecuador in January 2019. That meeting enabled CFMS to build on our engagement with the IFMSA at the regional level, and foster working relationships with other NMOs that may be useful in regional advocacy efforts to organizations such as PAHO. I would be happy to share the report from this meeting with anyone who is interested in accessing it.

While participation in IFMSA general assemblies is limited to a certain number of individuals each year, CFMS has also greatly increased our member engagement with the IFMSA in promoting our members to apply for IFMSA delegations to high-level meetings hosted by organizations such as the UN and the

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WHO. A coordinated effort between myself, the Communications Portfolio and the National Officer of Partnerships has led to an uptick in individuals applying for these opportunities to be part of IFMSA delegations (>50 applications throughout my term), and has resulted in six CFMS members being selected to attend high-level meetings as IFMSA delegates and CFMS representatives. The meetings CFMS members have been selected to attend include:

- WHO Executive Board Meeting (January 2019)
- United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (March 2019)
- World Health Assembly (May 2019)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Bonn Climate Change Conference (June 2019)
- UNHCR-NGO 2019 Annual Consultations (July 2019)
- 57th Directing Council, 71st Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas (September 2019)

The Global Health Portfolio Fund has enabled the CFMS to support these individuals as they participate in these opportunities. We have also made use of these opportunities to have CFMS members do takeovers of the CFMS social media accounts and better inform others of the great opportunities available through the IFMSA. In addition to attending meetings as members of IFMSA delegations, CFMS members having been becoming increasingly involved in small working groups and task forces of the IFMSA, further strengthening CFMS-IFMSA relations.

### 3. Implementing Strategic Plan Goals and Milestones

The main strategic plan goal that I focused on throughout my term is to collaborate with the IFMSA. This is outlined in the previous header. My strategic work over my term has been to envision the next three years of the CFMS global health portfolio. In 2016, the General Assembly approved the 2016-2019 GHP strategic plan. As that time period comes to a close, I reflected upon the milestones we have reached, and where we have fallen short. I was pleasantly surprised to see all that myself and my predecessors in the Director of Global Health role had accomplished over such a short period of time. With that in mind, I felt inspired to continue creating ambitious goals for the Global Health portfolio. Through production of a Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats (SWOT) Analysis, and consultation with National Officers in the Global Health Portfolio (those ending their terms and the incomings), Global Health Liaisons, the Global Health Attaché, and the President-Elect, I have created a Global Health Strategic Plan for 2019-2022. It is my hope that this document will provide guidance for Directors of Global Health to come and will lead the Global Health to further growth and expansion of this massive portfolio. I particularly think this will be useful as the 2019-2020 CFMS board prepare to create portfolio-specific strategic plans.

## II. MEETINGS ATTENDED

Date	Meeting	Location
September 23, 2018	Handover Meeting at CFMS AGM 2018	Montreal, Quebec

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October 22, 2018	Meeting with Global Health National Officers	Teleconference
October 26 – 28, 2018	Fall Board Meeting	Ottawa, Ontario
November 14, 2018	Meeting and Check-in with Stephanie (President)	Telephone
November 18, 2018	CFMS Board Meeting	Teleconference
December 1, 2018	Meeting with National Officer of Reproductive and Sexual Health	Telephone
December 2, 2018	World Health Assembly Canada Youth Delegate Selection Meeting	Teleconference
December 2 – 7, 2018	IFMSA March Meeting Delegation Interviews	Telephone
December 12, 2018	Board Member Check-in with Henry (Past-President)	Telephone
December 16, 2018	CFMS Board Meeting	Teleconference
December 27, 2018	Meeting with National Officer of Partnerships	Telephone
December 28, 2018	Meeting with National Exchange Officer – Outgoing	Telephone
December 28, 2018	Meeting with National Exchange Officer – Incoming	Telephone
December 29, 2018	Meeting with National Officer of Human Rights and Peace	Telephone
December 30, 2018	Meeting with National Officer of Global Health Education	Telephone
January 2, 2019	Meeting with National Officer of Reproductive and Sexual Health	Telephone
January 2, 2019	Meeting with National Officer of Indigenous Health	Telephone
January 3, 2019	Meeting with IFMSA America's Regional Meetings Attendees	Telephone
January 4-6, 2019	Winter Board Meeting	Toronto, Ontario
February 5, 2019	Meeting with IFMSA March Meeting 2019 Delegation	Teleconference
February 9, 2019	Meeting with Global Health National Officers	Teleconference
February 10, 2019	CFMS Board Meeting	Teleconference
February 11, 2019	Meeting with National Officers of Global Health Education	Telephone
February 18, 2019	Meeting with IFMSA-Quebec	Teleconference
February 20, 2019	IFMSA March Meeting 2019 Submissions Webinar	Webinar
February 22, 2019	Meeting with IFMSA NMO Buddy Group	Videoconference
February 25, 2019	Global Health Roundtable Meeting	Telephone
March 1-7, 2019	IFMSA March Meeting 2019	Portoroz, Slovenia
March 17, 2019	CFMS Board Meeting	Teleconference

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April 8, 2019	CFMS Board Meeting	Teleconference
April 11, 2019	CFMS Board Meeting	Niagara Falls, Ontario
April 11, 2019	Global Health National Officer Meeting	Niagara Falls, Ontario
April 12-13, 2019	CFMS Spring General Meeting 2019	Niagara Falls, Ontario
April 14, 2019	AFMC Global Health Network Meeting	Niagara Falls, Ontario
May 7, 2019	Debrief with CFMS Member of IFMSA Delegation	Telephone
May 7, 2019	Meeting with CFMS Member to discuss Global Health Opportunities	Telephone
May 8, 2019	Meeting with CFMS Member to discuss Global Health Opportunities	Telephone
May 8-12, 2019	IFMSA August Meeting Delegation Interviews	Telephone
May 12, 2019	CFMS Board Meeting	Teleconference
May 20, 2019	Meeting with IFMSA August Meeting 2019 Head of Delegation	Telephone
May 29, 2019	Meeting with IFMSA August Meeting 2019 Delegation	Teleconference
May 31-June 2, 2019	Summer Board Meeting	Halifax, Nova Scotia
June 6, 2019	Midterm Board Review	Telephone
June 11-12	National Officer Interviews	Telephone and Videoconference
June 25, 2019	Meeting with IFMSA August Meeting 2019 Delegation	Teleconference
July 7, 2019	Meeting with CFMS Member to discuss Global Health Opportunities	Telephone
July 7, 2019	Meeting with CFMS VP Communications-Elect	Telephone
July 9, 2019	Debrief with CFMS Member of IFMSA Delegation	Telephone
July 10, 2019	Meeting with Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment	Teleconference
July 14, 2019	IFMSA August Meeting 2019 Submissions Webinar	Webinar
July 17, 2019	Meeting with IFMSA August Meeting 2019 Head of Delegation	Telephone
July 20-21, 2019	National Officer Interviews	Telephone
July 21, 2019	IFMSA August Meeting 2019 Updates Webinar	Webinar

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July 21, 2019	CFMS Board Meeting	Teleconference
July 24, 2019	Meeting with Global Health National Officers	Teleconference
July 27, 2019	National Officer Interviews	Teleconference
August 7, 2019	Meeting with CFMS Member to discuss Global Health Opportunities	Telephone
August 11, 2019	CMA Awards Gala	Toronto, Ontario
August 12, 2019	CFMS Board Meeting	Toronto, Ontario
August 12-13, 2019	CMA Health Summit	Toronto, Ontario
August 13, 2019	Debrief with IFMSA August Meeting 2019 Head of Delegation	Toronto, Ontario
August 13, 2019	CAPE/CMA Joint Meeting	Toronto, Ontario
August 14, 2019	Meeting with CFMS Member to discuss Global Health Opportunities	Telephone
August 14, 2019	Meeting with CFMS Member to discuss Global Health Opportunities	Telephone
August 18, 2019	CFMS Board Meeting	Teleconference
August 20-21, 2019	National Officer Interviews	Telephone
September 8, 2019	CFMS Board Meeting	Teleconference
September 9, 2019	Meeting with CFMS Member to discuss Global Health Opportunities	Telephone
September 14, 2019	Global Health Roundtable Meeting	Teleconference
September 20-22, 2019	CFMS Annual General Meeting 2019	St. John's, Newfoundland

### III. CONCLUSIONS

The Global Health Portfolio is one of great breadth and depth and it has been an honor to serve as Director of Global Health over the past year. There are several promising initiatives currently in progress within this portfolio and I am excited to see the outcomes of these initiatives. I am particularly looking forward to the continued growth that occurs in the portfolio as my successor takes on the role.

The work of the Global Health portfolio would be impossible without the effort from all the individuals who make the Global Health Portfolio what it is. I would like to thank the eight National Officers within my portfolio who I am truly grateful for:

- Michaela Ryan – National Officer of Reproductive and Sexual Health
- Charlotte Coleman – National Exchange Officer (Outgoing Exchanges)
- Hillary Pearson – National Exchange Officer (Incoming Exchanges)
- Julia Sawatzky and Ruth Habte – National Officers of Global Health Education
- Emily Fong – National Officer of Partnerships
- Asha Behdinan – National Officer of Human Rights and Peace
- Joshua Nash – National Officer of Indigenous Health

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Along with the national officers, I would like to thank each and every local officer involved with the global health program at their own schools, who have been doing the work educating colleagues and faculty about global health and its importance to the medical curriculum. And of course, my thanks to the dozens of CFMS general members who are passionate about global health and making a difference on a local, national and international scale, who have inspired the work of this portfolio over the past year. This portfolio is greatly assisted by the Global Health Attaché, Fatemeh Bakhtiari, who shared what was at times a heavy load, and brought her passion for equity and social justice to the portfolio. And finally, thank you from the bottom of my heart to the rest of the CFMS board, who has been shown me what true support looks like, and with whom I have established friendships that I will always cherish. It has been an honour for me to serve on the 2019-2020. Thanks to all for giving me this opportunity.

I am happy to answer any further questions or comments regarding my portfolio's activities.

Best regards,

**Michelle Quaye**

M.D. Candidate (2020), Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

CFMS Director of Global Health

Canadian Federation of Medical Students | Fédération des étudiants et des étudiantes en médecine du Canada

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations

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