



# IFMSA General Assembly August 2019

## CFMS Delegation Report

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This year, the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) sent 10 delegates to the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) General Meeting held in Taipei, Taiwan from August 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, also known as the IFMSA August Meeting 2019 (AM2019).

The IFMSA represents and engages with over 1.3 million medical students from 125 countries. The CFMS is one of the 135 national member organizations that make up the IFMSA. The IFMSA general assemblies are held twice a year in March and August. These meetings hope to inspire the next generation of future physicians to become leaders and advocates through exchange of ideas, networking and learning from the various programming sessions, such as:

### President and Standing Committee Sessions

The standing committee and president sessions ran in parallel, each attended by one of our CFMS delegates. During these sessions, the current issues of the IFMSA were discussed and proposals for changes (such as policy statements and bylaw changes) were made. The CFMS delegates for each of the sessions were as follows:

- Presidents Sessions: Fatemeh Bakhtiari
- Standing Committee on Public Health (SCOPH): Aaron Rainnie, Kelan Wu, and Yseult Gibert
- Standing Committee on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights Issues including HIV/AIDS: Wendy Yao
- Standing Committee on Medical Education (SCOME): Vivian Tan
- Standing Committee on Rights & Peace (SCORP): Alexander Wong and Mimi Deng
- Standing Committee on Professional Exchanges (SCOPE): Charlotte Coleman
- Standing Committee on Research Exchanges (SCORE): Emre Islam

### Regional Meetings

During the regional meetings, all delegates from the national member organizations (NMO) of the region met to discuss pertinent issues for the region. The CFMS belongs to Americas Region, which includes NMOs from both North and South America. At the regional meeting, CFMS contributed numerous bylaw changes to ensure consistency and accuracy in the Regional bylaws. The Americas Regional Director can be contacted at [rdamericas@ifmsa.org](mailto:rdamericas@ifmsa.org).

### Theme Event

The theme event for MM2019 was “Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Healthcare”.

### Plenary Sessions

The plenary is the highest decision making body in the IFMSA. During these sessions, all proposals related to membership, governance, by-laws, finances, reports, operations, and policies are debated and voted upon.

Thank you for taking the time to read about the work done by the CFMS delegates at the IFMSA AM2019. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Quaye, Director of Global Health, at [globalhealth@cfms.org](mailto:globalhealth@cfms.org).

## TAIPEI AUGUST MEETING 2019 REFLECTIONS

*“The Contracts Fair was very eye-opening regarding the exchange process and interest level of other NMOs to participate and work with CFMS for exchanges. We found that multiple NMOs wanted a lot more contracts with us, and we were limited by the # of bilateral contracts we could give out due to the number of spots available by hosting LC’s.”*

*“This meeting is the occasion for more than one thousand medical students all around the globe to meet and work together towards a more healthy world, whether it is by sharing projects and ideas, propose motions and position papers, or train each other during the Standing Committee Sessions.”*

*“I am so grateful to have been part of this amazing opportunity, I went home with my mind filled with ideas, inspiration and ambition to honor IFMSA’s : think global, act local. I would encourage anyone, passionate or just curious, to get involved and apply for the next meeting, as it is a wonderful and rewarding experience that will make you a better healthcare professional, but also a better person. IFMSA is the vibrant heart of tomorrow’s global health, a place of exchange, partnerships and support, a place where you can almost believe anything can happen.”*

*“What I loved during this Meeting besides exchanging with the other NMOs, was the different skill training sessions we had during the week. So many were offered, it was hard making a choice as all seemed more interesting than the others. The two highlights of those trainings for me were the ones on Advocacy and Debating. I was able to learn useful tools to improve my advocacy skills but also be able to teach them to my fellow medical*

*“The IFMSA General Assembly was a wonderful learning experience and provided opportunities to network with members of CFMS and other national organizations. I would like to thank CFMS for providing me this opportunity and supporting me on this adventure.”*

*“One of the other highlights at the conference was the Activities fair where we had the opportunity to learn about different initiatives different medical student associations were organizing in their respective countries. CFMS presented 4 projects at the fair including the Mife Campaign from Manitoba that won first place at the fair!”*

*“The importance of our continued engagement in the IFMSA meetings was a key takeaway from the Activities Fair. It goes to show the level of high quality work that is being done by Canadian medical students.”*



## PRESIDENT'S SESSIONS REPORT

Fatemeh Bakhtiari, CFMS Western Regional Director and Global Health Attaché, *University of Manitoba M.D. Candidate (2021)*

[western@cfms.org](mailto:western@cfms.org)

During these sessions all representatives from NMOs (referred to as NMO Presidents) come together to discuss the documents that will be tabled during the plenary session; the plenary is the highest decision-making body in IFMSA.

### Agenda Highlights

#### Day 1

- Participated in the Theme Event which was the “Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Health Care”
- Had Regional Session where we heard from all of the Americas Regional candidates
- Met with buddy group (including delegates from Honduras, Luxembourg, Zimbabwe and Catalonia)

#### Day 2

- Discussed bylaw change proposals
- First plenary session

#### Day 3

- Discussed and voted on the Americas Region bylaws
- Food and Drinks Fair

#### Day 4

- Contract Fair
- Executive board debates where candidates answered questions that IFMSA members had
- Discussion on plagiarism and position papers

#### Day 5

- Activities Fair
- Discussion of more controversial bylaw change proposals including IFMSA non-medical student members and adding additional and inclusive language to the IFMSA bylaws

### Selected Topics in Depth

#### Bylaw Change Proposals and Policy Changes

At each IFMSA meeting, the Executive Board, Team of Officials and NMOs are able to put forward bylaw change proposals for adoption. At this meeting, there were several bylaw change proposals that were brought forward. One particular bylaw change proposal that was brought forward was the addition of “prejudiced discrimination”, “assault”, and “harassment” to be added to the IFMSA bylaws to further keep the IFMSA accountable. Unfortunately, this bylaw did not pass. However, at the plenaries prior to voting, CFMS Canada made the following statement about the importance of having this bylaw change added:

“Dear NMO’s,

The terms “prejudiced discrimination”, “assault”, “harassment” are not found anywhere within the IFMSA Constitution and Bylaws. The bylaws also do not contain any direct reference to the Code of Conduct. The only place alluding to this is under 3.1 of the IFMSA Constitution, stating “The Federation pursues its aims without political, religious, social, racial, national, sexual or any other discrimination”. This is commendable, but very general. Adding points i and j to paragraph 6.6 will make situations where the Supervising Council can take action against Officials more clear. These changes are not redundant as they make the language within this by-law stronger and less open to interpretation. This change increases the ability of the Supervising Council to foster a culture of inclusion and safety within IFMSA.

Thank you,

CFMS-Canada, AMSA-Australia, IFMSA-Quebec, IMCC-Denmark, NMSA-Norway, IFMSA-Chile”

### Statement on IFMSA Position Papers

At the March meeting in Slovenia, both CFMS-Canada and NMSA-Norway noticed that some position papers had paragraphs copy and pasted from various sources without any references or that some papers didn’t have proper citations. At this meeting, we again noticed that position papers had improper citations and a few paragraphs that were plagiarized. With this in mind, we worked with the NMO president of Norway to come up with a statement to read at the plenaries to address this issue and voice our concerns. Norway read the first part of the statement and I read the second part. We had support from several NMOs including Sweden, Australia, IFMSA-Quebec, Chile and more!

### Food and Drinks Fair

The National Food and Drinks Party (NFDP) is an event that occurs at each IFMSA meeting where almost every delegation brings a traditional food to share. Typically, there are traditional candies, snacks and alcohol. At this meeting, CFMS Canada decided to forgo bringing alcohol and instead we gave out Canadian flag temporary tattoos to delegates. It was a HUGE hit! There was a line up for the tattoos and many delegates asked us to bring them back for the next meeting. This was an amazing opportunity for CFMS Canada to build relationships with other NMO’s delegates.

### Successful candidates

#### **Newly Elected Executive Board Members**

- Vice-President for Finances: Gabriela Cipriano Flores (Peru)
- Vice President for Members: Paulina Birula (Poland)
- Vice-President for Capacity Building: Hayder Noori (Iraq)
- Regional Director Americas: Maria Jose Jaramillo (Ecuador)

## ACTIVITIES FAIR

The activities fair is an opportunity for IFMSA members to showcase and learn about the various initiatives and advocacy efforts that NMOs are doing across the world. Several presenters from the various NMOs bring posters, leaflets, brochures, PowerPoint presentations, stickers and other promotional material about the activities, events, and campaigns taking place in their countries.

The CFMS presented four initiatives at the activities fair. All 4 presentations were well received and garnered significant attention from the IFMSA community. The initiatives presented include:

- “The Surgical Skills and Technology Elective Program (SSTEP)” – Presented by Charlotte Coleman
- “MUN MED 3D” – Presented by Aaron Rainnie
- “NORTH | A student-run, interdisciplinary, social determinants of health clinic and community service learning program” – Presented by Mimi Deng
- “Mife Campaign” – Presented by Fatemeh Bakhtiari, **awarded first place in the activities fair!**



# SCOPH SESSIONS REPORT

## Agenda Highlights

- Universal Health Coverage
- Anti-Microbial Resistance
- Global Health in Exchanges
- Climate Change

### **Aaron Rainnie, Memorial University of Newfoundland, M.D. Candidate (2022)**

As part of the CFMS Delegation to the IFMSA General Assembly I learned a variety of important information about global healthcare and initiatives, especially relating to Public Health during my SCOPH sessions. Some topics that were discussed were about the exchanges, policy papers, antimicrobial resistance, climate change, and tuberculosis. I believe that some of my biggest learnings came from these topics.

One of the administrative topics that was discussed, and heavily promoted, were the IFMSA Public Health exchanges (SCOPH) that are now being offered in addition to SCOPE and SCORE exchanges. Although they were frequently promoted, there was minimal discussion on the content or regulation of these exchanges. I think this could be an excellent opportunity for CFMS but should be researched more fully. Additionally, I found that there was a lot of discussion about creating new exchanges (SCOPE, SCORE, and SCOPH), but minimal discussion about the regulation or maintenance of these existing exchanges.

Another important topic during the general assembly was in relation to policy papers. There were several policy papers put forward, including many that were passed. I was part of the policy commission for Organ, Tissue, and Marrow donation, which we decided to withdraw due to issues of plagiarism. At the general assembly it appeared that this was a frequent concern and something that CFMS and Norway actually spoke about. This is also an excellent area for members of CFMS to become involved to bring expertise from our own policy papers to the international stage.

Some of my other memorable learnings at the IFMSA General Assembly are not as applicable to CFMS, however it is always important to be aware of public health concerns around the world as well as steps that are being taken to address these concerns. Firstly, the topic of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was frequently discussed in presentations, small working groups, and other sessions. Due to some of the statistics being presented it is understandable why AMR is receiving extensive national attention.

Another common topic of discussion was climate change and the effect it has on healthcare. As Canada is becoming warmer there are risks for new infections to spread into our country, changes to our agriculture, and risks to our coasts. This was an important topic internationally, and I was very pleased at how CFMS approached this issue with the HEART Task Force that was well represented at the general assembly.

**Yseult Gibert, McGill University, M.D. Candidate (2022)**

From August 1st to 7th 2019, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations held its annual August Meeting in Taipei, Taiwan. In the Standing Committee of Public Health (SCOPH), more than thirty-five hours of trainings in different facets of public health were held for representative students all around the world. Even if all of Public Health could never be covered in that limited amount of time, the Standing Committee still exposed us to the huge diversity of subjects and issues related to it.

From Universal Health Coverage (UHC), to Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR), and Mental Health to Climate Change, each country had an experience and vision to share on the subject, how they were advocating against or for it, what were the specific obstacles encountered in their country (stigmas, the culture, finances, the government, etc). It was like a giant international brainstorming of ideas and solutions; a palpitating beehive of brilliant minds coming together to reflect and share on the global and local health issues of our planet.

Meeting people from all delegations, I was very rapidly introduced to the diversity of medical curriculums all around the world, but also to how students are all fighting to improve them. Canadian medical students are very lucky to have a comprehensive curriculum in terms of public health. Even if there is always some progress left to be made, it was quickly evident that not all NMOs around the world had a curriculum as extensive as us in terms of public health. And this is where we can truly see the beauty of IFMSA, because as I had the honour of presenting the HEART initiative at the meeting with my colleague Kelan Wu, multiple NMOs came to see us after the presentation to ask about how they could, like us, advocate for planetary health to be integrated in their curriculum. I also had the chance to discuss with the Estonian and Taiwanese delegations on their projects to fight against Climate Change and sensitize medical students as well as patients on its effect on health.

This leads me to the Capacity Building sessions and plenaries where I had the chance to represent CFMS. During those sessions, it was interesting to learn about health behaviours and health economics, two subjects I hadn't had the chance to hear much about in my classes. Throughout the CB plenaries, we engaged actively in the discussions, especially on time regulations for trainings. It is almost impossible for us in Canada to organize 44 hours (more than 4 days!) long trainings as the students can't miss so many days of class. Thankfully, by partnering with Norway and other NMOs, we were able to diminish that number to a reasonable one, which will hopefully enable CFMS and IFMSA-Qc to organize more trainings, and allow more Canadian students to participate.



**Kelan Wu, McGill University, M.D. Candidate (2022)**

Touching your heart. That was the motto from IFMSA-Taiwan, host of the 2019 IFMSA August Meeting. Truly, they were right. Being a delegate for the CFMS was a unique opportunity. Since starting medical school at McGill University, I have been involved with many local and provincial opportunities with the IFMSA but was always looking for a way to open a door in international projects. As the McGill VP of Global Health, I was already prepared for many of the hot topics being discussed at the meeting.

Taiwan was my first IFMSA general meeting. I was thrilled to start my international involvement within the IFMSA in Asia. Going in as a general delegate and member of the Standing Committee on Public Health (SCOPH) with a presentation in hand about CFMS' HEART initiative, I had the objective of familiarising myself as much as possible on the various projects ongoing around the world and be inspired to bring some of these ideas back. Now looking back at it, I believe I achieved more than what I expected.

In a mere 7 days, while sacrificing sleep time, we were able to treat many different aspects of public health in a global setting. Through the plenaries, we were able to connect and share our experiences with members from various NMOs. With the IFMSA-Qc, we were able to act together and share our resources to bring an impact at the general meetings as Canadians. We all explored common interests on the effect of climate change on health, the threat of antimicrobial resistance and the importance of universal healthcare. Of course, new friendships were formed within the CFMS delegation and with delegates from other NMOs.

From the SCOPH, we went through many topics in the area of public health. As the CFMS brought a lot to the table with the HEART presentation, many NMOs were also interested in creating a similar initiative in their respective countries. However, through discussions I had with the delegates, we all agreed that the cultural differences between NMOs need to be considered as it might be the biggest challenge we face to make a project efficient using the same recipe. On another note, many NMOs are leading in the fight against AMR with Morocco presenting on their national effort that was recognized many times by local and regional governments. I was able to present to their delegates the Choosing Wisely campaign that is thriving in medical education and the medical world in North America and we had discussed the potential to include Choosing Wisely within the IFMSA; this idea is also shared by members of IFMSA-Qc, laying the groundwork to more collaboration between the CFMS and the IFMSA-Qc in the upcoming months. Among other NMOs, Germany is also a country that is looking to develop more relationships with the CFMS in terms of resource sharing in the organization and the promotion of nationwide projects. Both NMOs faces similar challenges with distances and the lack of efficient communication within the NMO. Overall, I believe that within the scope of public health, the CFMS is seen as a leader in climate initiatives and an NMO that has the potential to influence others. I think it is a great moment to use this momentum to push the global health portfolio of the CFMS towards more involvement in the IFMSA.

I am very glad that I decided to give it a shot and apply to be part of the CFMS delegation. Being able to meet and find people from across Canada and from around the world with the same interests and the same values regarding global and public health was truly a blessing as it offered a platform and a network to share our ideas and resources to work towards our common goals. In the near future, I am looking forward to developing my skills within the IFMSA and the CFMS with the objective of making global health accessible for all.

# SCORA SESSIONS REPORT

Wendy Yao, *University of Calgary, M.D. Candidate (2021)*

## Agenda Highlights

- Obstetrical Violence
- Gender Equality
- Comprehensive Sexuality Education

SCORA sessions is a key platform for Canadian students to contribute expertise on an international scale. From my SCORA sessions, we covered issues from obstetrical violence, to gender equality, and sexual education. What stood out to me was the expertise CFMS members have to offer in the policy arena—many of the small group activities had heavy policy components and engaged materials beyond the level of many medical students starting out in a lot of countries (given the direct entry system from high school). Sessions also included engaging discussions on sexual education curriculum which I found to be very educational and valuable. Discussing the common elements and unique challenges across countries made me more passionate and inspired about innovative ways to bring the ideas I learned back home to Canada.

Beyond the SCORA sessions, Canadian delegates had the chance to witness the induction of Palestine as a member country of the IFMSA. As a historical moment, this was definitely a highlight for me in the way that we all got to witness advocacy for representation on an international scale, and appreciate the role that CFMS has to play in these historical moments. As such, as a voting country, it is imperative that we continue to engage strongly with the IFMSA as we are now—these meetings are not only ways for students to come and meet others across the globe, but rather also places where we advocate for issues we believe in as an organization.

# SCOME SESSIONS REPORT

Vivian Tan, *Dalhousie University M.D. Candidate (2021)*

## Agenda Highlights

- Interprofessional Education
- Meaningful Student Involvement
- Evolution in Medical Education

In August 2019, I had an opportunity to represent the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) as a General Delegate at the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) August Meeting 2019 in Taipei, Taiwan. The IFMSA envisions a world in which all medical students unite for global health and are equipped with the knowledge, skills and values to take on health leaderships roles locally and globally.

I represented the Standing Committee of Medical Education (SCOME) which aims to provide medical students worldwide to share, learn and contribute to the development of medical education. I had voting rights representing Canada-CFMS during the SCOME plenary. The SCOME sessions/workshops included:

- Medical Education Systems: compared and contrasted various medical curriculums/structures around the world (emphasis on adopting small group teaching)
- Interprofessional Education: Interesting talk by Dr. Janusz Jancaukowicz (AMEE) regarding widening the perspective on healthcare interprofessional education (mentioned that many medical schools are starting to adopt CANMEDS as a model in their curriculum)
- Meaningful Student Involvement: provided training on how to become involved in IFMSA, how to develop SCOME within our associations and how to effectively advocate for medical education within your local school community
- External Organization Talks from AMEE and the World Federation of Medical Education
- SCOME Plenary: Voted on various agenda items including a long list of SCOME bylaws, criteria to become active SCOME NMO and criteria to become TMET (Training Medication Education Trainers) trainers/facilitators.
  - TMET are workshops that educate medical students regarding the basics of medical education. The goal of these workshops are to train medical students so that they can advocate in their country. I believe the CFMS is already doing outstanding work in terms of advocacy

One of the main events that occurs during the IFMSA general assemblies is the adoption of new policies. I was on the policy commission for the policy paper on “Technological Innovation in Healthcare.” The paper included topics such as artificial intelligence, electronic health records, mHealth, health technology assessment and digital health literacy. There was also a discussion on the ethics, safety and regulation of health technology. In addition, the paper included calls to actions for governments, WHO, universities, healthcare institutions, etc. and explored the role of youth in health technology. There are a few takeaways from the policy that I believe that the CFMS can pursue including developing initiatives that increase digital literacy in medical students and in the general population. The CFMS can also provide support for members pursuing medical innovation.

# SCORP SESSIONS REPORT

## Agenda Highlights

- SCORP Strategy 2018-2021
- Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law (Policy paper passed)
- Healthcare in Danger

### **Mimi Deng, *University of Ottawa M.D. Candidate (2021)***

At the IFMSA meeting, the candidatures for the new Standing Committee of Refugees and Peace (SCORP) director were presented. The General Assembly was tasked with voting in 1 of 2 candidates for SCORP-D. We read their candidature documents in details and attended their candidate speeches. In the end, Mahmood Al-Hamody (NMO: Egypt) was voted in. In voting, the CFMS wanted to select a director for SCORP that represents the interests of CFMS and other NMOs. The CFMS should connect students who are interested in human rights and refugee health with the SCORP email list.

In SCORP sessions, we discussed more technicalities of governance by revising the SCORP Strategy 2018-2021, and more interestingly, we drew inspiration from the world. One of the moments that will continue to resonant with me is the deception of first impressions. In our first introductory small groups, there were students from the Middle East, Africa, Baltic nations, to Oceania. We bonded over long flights, Taipei's humid welcome, and during a 5 min break, we danced together to the song "Timber" by Ke\$ha and Pitbull. No matter where we were in the world, there was a common social language, and an etiquette of acceptance and celebration of differences that transcended cultures.

A sense of similarity developed, but it vanished just as quickly with a single question "What are the social issues experienced in your country." The young Sudanese woman with soulful eyes, whom I just shared laughs with over a mishap in the care of contact lens, revealed that she had been out of school for over six months due to the ongoing uprisings. The gentleman with round glasses and Louis Vuitton sneakers provided a somber update of the increasing fatalities due to ISIS invasion of Kurdistan. Slowly, more of these stories surfaces; the type of stories that make listeners' insides churn, eyes water, and guilt-ridden. As I reported on Canada's missing and murdered indigenous women, I recognized a dichotomy. The atrocities that plague each of the nations was all too easily disguised by the general assembly participation T-shirt, or a smile at the mention of lunch. And yet whenever difficult questions arose, a new darker world emerged.

Just as we shed light on the heart-breaking events around the world, I appreciated the SCORP international team showcasing the success of grass-roots advocacy. From Undress522, a movement that overturned the Lebanese law that exonerated rapists if they marry their victim, to Never Again MSD, a student-led committee for gun control, the message was simple - our voices mattered.

From the SCORP sessions, I believe that CFMS can do more with human rights training and advocacy. Attending and participating in SCORP fair myself, I can attest to how much effort other NMOs have devoted to protecting and encouraging the sanctity of human rights, inclusivity, and peace. Global Health Advocates is a fantastic start, and it would be truly powerful to mobilize a national campaign. There are violations of basic human rights happening in our backyard, from the lack of access to clean water on First Nations reserves to rehabilitation of street communities. Think global, act local, it's a common phrase because it's absolutely true.

**Alexander Wong, University of Alberta M.D. Candidate (2021)**

At this meeting, I represented CFMS on the IFMSA Standing Committee on Human Rights and Peace (SCORP). The objectives of the sessions were to share ideas about student-led projects involving human rights happening across the globe, and facilitate discussions about human rights issues. There were various educational presentations, small working group activities, and strategic planning sessions about the future work of the committee.

Day 1 was the introduction to the committee and time to network with committee members from other national member organizations (NMOs). There was discussion around “Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law” - a new major focus area of the committee and the IFMSA as a whole. Possible theme for this year’s theme for the Global Health Advocacy Program – will consult with GHAs at local school. While the topic is not as relevant for Canada as compared to some other countries with different systems of government, could be an interesting topic for CFMS to examine in terms of advocacy on a more global scale. There were also small group discussions regarding how human rights developed and key pieces of legislation (e.g. Universal Declaration of Human Rights), along with what the definition of “universality” means. Possible topics to add to the Human Rights and Peace section of CFMS website, or to Pocket Card Series.

On day 2 there was a small working group regarding how to make the social programs at IFMSA more inclusive for people of all backgrounds and cultures. We discussed the challenges the prevalence of alcohol at IFMSA poses for delegates who do not drink. CFMS did not bring alcohol this year to the National Food and Drink Party because of this, and we should continue to avoid so in the future. We also discussed issues regarding assault and harassment occurring at IFMSA social events and need for stricter policies or monitoring from Code of Conduct committee. In addition, there was discussion about voting topics for the SCORP plenary on the last day – mostly an overview of the SCORP strategic plan (main points: continue capacity building through SCORP camps and training sessions, improve communications with NMOs and on website). There was a poster session for SCORP, but many presenters were missing.

On day 3 there was an educational session on refugees and migrants (key definitions, type of migration, causes of displacement, statistics, challenges for both countries of origin and destination). I will review CFMS Pocket Card series on Refugee and Migrant health to see if any additions can be made. Another session was held regarding interplay between politics and human rights movement. Countries shared examples of social media and student-led campaigns. I will reflect on how to incorporate this into advocacy training for this year’s GHAs. There were discussions about obligations of health professionals during times of war and humanitarian crises. Also on this day, candidates for SCORP positions held Q&A session to inform voting during evening plenary. I shared my impressions from this with the rest of the Canadian delegation.

Day 4 was the SCORP Plenary, where I represented CFMS’ vote. A motion to adopt SCORP strategic plan was passed. CFMS can consider writing position statements or policy papers on some of the topics raised during the SCORP discussion sessions: nuclear disarmament, neutrality and protection of healthcare workers in conflicts, democracy and rule of law.

# SCOPE SESSIONS REPORT

Charlotte Coleman, *Queen's University M.D. Candidate (2021)*

## Agenda Highlights

- Exchanges Fair
- SCOPE Regulations Changes

This August, I had the pleasure of representing the CFMS and our exchange program at the International Federation of Medical Students Associations' (IFMSA) August Meeting. This meeting was the second I have attended this year as the National Exchange Officer for our outgoing students. Overall, it was a good week for the CFMS and our exchange program. Although some of the SCOPE discussions and bylaw changes were not ideal for the CFMS, we spoke out about the issues discussed at CFMS general meetings and exchange feedback forms. Further, I was able to reconnect with some of the important issues discussed at the March Meeting and continue to foster future exchange connections.

At Exchanges Fair we discussed the different contracts for the Summer 2020 season. Our strict requirements for international students and our limited spots made it difficult to invite more students to Canada. Interestingly, in a small working group on increasing incoming spots, I was the only one for whom the limiting factor was elective spots (the most common issue was housing). Although many National Member Organizations (NMOs) were disappointed that their students could not come to Canada, several offered to take our students without sending anyone. They explained that they have a set number of incoming students needed to fund their organization and that Canadian students were usually a pleasure to host. We limited outgoing spots by language spoken, travel advisories, and exchange requirements. In the end, we signed 100 SCOPE contracts and 23 SCORE contracts. I am working on a more complete pre-departure package to help prepare our students going abroad.

There is a push in the IFMSA to ensure exchanges are community-specific and in some of the examples given, I was concerned about volunteerism. During the small working group discussion, I raised my concerns, but they were not universally shared. Many NMOs thought that volunteering while on exchange was a productive way to help the community. I stressed that if we (as in the IFMSA) were to encourage these programs, we have to ensure that we evaluate them for ethical issues, such as leaving a community worse than at the beginning. We want to ensure that no exchange student is encouraged to participate in an ethically questionable activity.

I believe, that the CFMS has a stronger role to play in the policy papers that the IFMSA produces. In general, the policy papers were written about important topics and I could see their use for the IFMSA. Given the strength of our own papers within the CFMS and the global reach of many of the issues we discuss, I can see a mutual benefit if the CFMS were to get more involved with the IFMSA papers. Position papers written by our students could be presented at the international level, to organizations such as the World Health Organization. Further, writing these papers would give our students the qualification to represent medical students at international conferences and think tanks. We should connect with NMOs facing similar issue and try to submit a position paper for the next IFMSA meeting.

# SCORE SESSIONS REPORT

Emre Islam, *University of Saskatchewan M.D. Candidate (2022)*

## Agenda Highlights

- Contracts Fair
- SCORE Plenaries

During IFMSA AGM2019, there were 3 significant SCORE exchange related issues/events that I personally think were relevant to the CFMS and can affect medical students' experience with the IFMSA exchanges.

At Contracts Fair, we signed 32 bilateral and 71 unilateral SCOPE contracts and 15 bilateral and 8 unilateral SCORE contracts in total. A lot of NMOs were open to signing as many unilateral contracts (to their countries) as possible, which was something that was potentially financial beneficial to them but also could be a deterrent for medical students as the academic might decrease when there's an overload of exchange students at each LC. A lot of NMOs also had specific language requirements which affected our decisions on signing contracts with them. We are expecting around the same # of participants matching to exchanges compared to those who applied as last year, around ~30%. We signed most of the contracts with NMOs that had good feedback from previous exchanges to keep the academic quality and social experience high for the outgoing exchanges, while also signing a few contracts with new NMOs to gauge their programs for future as well. CFMS should continue to encourage medical schools to host incoming students for bilateral contracts to showcase Canada's academic quality without diluting it by taking in too many students, and should also encourage the National IFMSA exchange task force committee to look into the academic quality and ethics of the exchanges to potentially encourage more medical schools to be open to host incoming students.

Also at the meeting, there was a resolution at SCORE plenaries for outgoing medical students to receive card of acceptance (CA) earlier by 2 weeks for their exchanges. The resolution failed, so medical students still receive their CA 8 weeks before their exchange date instead of the proposed 10 weeks. CFMS was in favor of the resolution as medical students have found that getting their exchanges confirmed only 8 weeks prior have been a little stressful for planning their exchanges (ex. flights, etc). Unfortunately, it did not pass, however, it could be brought up again at future IFMSA meetings due to it being a close vote and a prominent issue for other NMOs as well.

CFMS will be investigated for not being able to fill out 70% of the evaluation forms (EF) by the incoming students to Canada once they were done their exchange. We have compiled all evidence/screenshots/emails of our efforts to make sure the 70% of the evaluation forms were filled, by contacting the students themselves, their NEOs, etc, multiple times. Unfortunately, it was still not reached for the SCORE program, so we have made sure to make it mandatory for the LEOs this year to make sure the students fill it out before they leave at the end of their exchange and prevent this from happening in future. CFMS should propose a resolution at future IFMSA meetings to change this requirement as it is something that is not in the hands of the NMO but on the incoming students, yet the penalty can affect the NMO. Other NMOs were affected by this as well, so CFMS could propose and perhaps install a change in SCORE regulations for future exchanges. In the meantime, all LEOs will be instructed to ensure completion of EFs before the incoming students leave.