

NATIONAL OFFICER REPORT

*Angie Hu, National Officer of Research Exchange
2022 Annual General Meeting
September 15-17, Vancouver, BC*



I. ACTIVITIES

National Officer & Committee Description:

The CFMS National Exchange Officers (NEOs) and National Officers of Research Exchanges (NOREs) are responsible for facilitating and managing both incoming and outgoing exchange opportunities through the International Federation of Medical Student (IFMSA) Exchange program. Exchange opportunities include clinical placements through the IFMSA Standing Committee on Professional Exchange (SCOPE) and research placements through the IFMSA Standing Committee on Research Exchange (SCORE). NEOs and NOREs collaborate with National Officers in IFMSA partner countries to develop exchange partnerships and work with Local Exchange Officers (LEOs) at CFMS-member schools to coordinate exchange programs at the local/university level. The Exchange Committee (EC) is composed of NEO/NOREs, LEOs, and other medical students interested in supporting the CFMS exchange program.

Exchange Updates as of September 2022:

The CFMS exchange program has been paused since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since January 2022, the exchange team has been focusing on reviewing exchange policies and protocols, evaluating the status and operation of exchange programs in other IFMSA-member countries, and examining the feasibility of re-starting and running an exchange program during current global circumstances.

The NORE was part of the CFMS Delegation to the IFMSA General Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey (August 2022). Some notable sessions focused on exchanges included international mobility and global health education, advocacy and recognition in exchanges, research educational activities, and voting on regulation policy changes. The culminating event was the exchange fair, where National Member Organizations (national medical school organizations) from around the world showcased their exchange programs. The IFMSA August Meeting provided an exceptional opportunity to connect with medical student representatives from around the world and allowed the exchange team to take away insights for restructuring and improving the CFMS Exchange program, ideas for new projects and initiatives, and international contacts for future exchange partnerships. These learnings and networks will greatly aid the upcoming process of rebuilding the exchange program and reinitiating the exchanges for the next exchange season.

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How CFMS medical students can get involved:

CFMS Fall Recruitment is open and we are currently recruiting for a new team of National Exchange Officers. If you are interested in coordinating exchanges at a national level, working with medical students around the world, and participating in IFMSA training opportunities, please consider applying. This is an especially important and exciting role during this crucial and pivotal period of exchange re-initiation!

Additionally, if you are interested in being involved with coordinating exchanges at the local/university level, keep an eye out for upcoming opportunities to apply to become a Local Exchange Officer at your school!

II. MEETINGS ATTENDED

January 4 2022	IFMSA Overview Meeting	Online
January 5-9 2022	IFMSA Americas Regional Meeting	Online
January 7 2022	Global Health National Officer Meeting	Online
January 12 2022	Global Health National Officer Orientation	Online
January 19 2022	IFMSA AmRM Debrief Meeting with IFMSA Quebec	Online
January 24 2022	GH NO - Weekly Planning Meeting #2	Online
January 31 2022	GH NO - Weekly Planning Meeting #3	Online
February 7 2022	GH NO - Weekly Planning Meeting #4	Online
February 9 2022	Global Health National Officer Monthly Meeting	Online
February 12 2022	IFMSA Delegation Co-Leads Meeting	Online
February 15 2022	Exchanges Team Meeting	Online
February 27 2022	IFMSA Delegation Co-Leads Meeting	Online
March 1st - 6th 2022	IFMSA General Assembly	Online
March 6 2022	Global Health National Officer Monthly Meeting	Online

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March 22 2022	IFMSA General Assembly CFMS-Canada Debrief	Online
March 29 2022	Global Health National Officer Monthly Meeting	Online
March 30 2022	Exchanges Transition Meeting with Past NEO	Online
April 2 2022	Exchanges Meeting with SCORE RA AP	Online
April 4 2022	CFMS Spring General Meeting Discussion	Online
April 5 2022	Exchanges Transition Meeting with Past NEO	Online
April 9 2022	Meeting with UofA LEOs	Edmonton, AB
April 21-24, 2022	CFMS SGM 2022	Calgary, AB
April 15, 2022	Exchange Team Meeting	Online
April 9 2022	Meeting with UofA LEOs	Edmonton, AB
May 2, 2022	Meeting with previous LEO/SCOPE exchangee	Edmonton, AB
May 11, 2022	Exchange Meeting with DGH	Online
May 19, 2022	CFMS Exchange Meeting with LEOs	Online
May 26, 2022	Meeting with SCORE RA Americas	Online
May 30, 2022	Exchange Contract Task Force Meeting	Online
Jun 8, 2022	Exchange Meeting with DGH	Online
Jun 26, 2022	Exchange Meeting with DGH	Online
August 1-7, 2022	IFMSA August Meeting	Istanbul, Turkey
September 12	Global Health Portfolio AGM Planning Meeting	Online
September 16-17	CFMS AGM 2022	Vancouver, BC

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III. CONCLUSIONS

Future Directions:

- Follow-up with international contacts established at the IFMSA General Assemblies and set the groundwork for future exchange partnerships and collaborations.
- Work with the IFMSA Exchanges International Team to ensure CFMS-Canada maintains active status for SCORE and SCOPE.
- Check-in with LEOs to ensure that each university has local representation to support exchange reinitiation.
- Prepare for establishing exchange contracts with IFMSA partner countries and operating the CFMS exchange program during the next exchange season.

NORE Reflection:

On a personal note, it has been a privilege serving as NORE this past term. I am extremely grateful and humbled to have been able to work with and learn from our incredible CFMS Global Health team. It has also been wonderful to be part of the IFMSA Dark Blue family – meeting and being inspired by so many Exchange Enthusiasts from around the world. Although our exchange team faced roadblocks and challenges throughout our term, this process has highlighted for me, all the more, the value and importance of international mobility opportunities for medical students. I have faith that our new team of motivated national exchange officers will bring the CFMS exchange program back to life, and we will soon be sending and receiving exchange students again!

Angie Hu (she/her), University of Alberta, Class of 2025